

## Legal Regulation & Education: Doing the Right Thing?

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### Regulation of science and technology: a comparative study between ancient and contemporary China

China has emerged as the most powerful economic entity in world trade in the past decade. However, its complex history and philosophy of technology regulation has been less understood in the west society. In this paper I attempt to analyse the historical and political rationale of technology governance from ancient China of the Qin dynasty to that of the modern Communist party policy.

The first part will look into technology governance in the Qin dynasty. In the recent findings of the terracotta warriors in Xian, it is found that the civilisation of the military technology was achieved out of rigid commands combining control and legalism of the first Emperor, Qin Shi Huang. The rigid legalism has been criticised as ruthless and terrifying, it nevertheless ignited the power of China and built up the most dazzling heritages in this kingdom. Following the footsteps of the first dynasty of Qin, after centuries of the close-door policy, the modern communist China is now returning to the world stage to embrace its unprecedented economic miracles by means of its unique approach to governance – efficiency out of the rule of one man/party. The second part will then analyse China's recent science and technology reform in the Decisions on Major Issues Concerning Comprehensively Deepening Reforms, issued on 15 Nov 2013. The plenum document proposes an approach to 'combining science and technology research with the economy' and raises the possibility of setting up intellectual property rights courts, as well as passing relevant legislation to help the science and technology sector better meet the demands of the modern market economy. The third part of this paper will then make comparative studies of technology governance between the two and conclude with some preliminary remarks.