

Contents



List of Illustrations	xi
Abbreviations	xxi
Preface	xxiii
1 Research Issues: Resource Distribution in Post-reform Rural China	1
Resource distribution and socio-economic transformation in rural China	2
The modes of resource distribution	2
Socialist redistribution and recent transition in rural China	3
What modes of resource distribution exist in post-reform rural China?	9
The research topic of this book	15
Analytical framework for research on resource distribution	17
The new institutionalist approach	18
The theory of practice	20
The analytic framework	23
An outline of the book	24
The research method	24
Concepts	25
Thematic structure	29
2 A Sketch of the Fieldwork Villages	31
Selection of the fieldwork villages and conduct of the interviews	31
Selecting the fieldwork villages	31
Conducting the interviews	32

Geographic conditions and the people	34
Geographic and physical conditions	34
The people	36
Resource distribution and rural development	38
Resource distribution before the rural reforms	38
The rural reforms	40
Rural development since the reforms	42
Conclusions	46
3 Marriage Transaction and Marriage Forms: Implications for Resource Distribution	47
Literature on marriage transaction	48
Marriage transaction in Nanying and Shizhuang	50
Historical evolution and current features of marriage transaction	51
Implications of endowment from the groom's family for resource distribution	54
Household industry, market economy and direct dowry	58
Social stratification and marriage transaction	62
Concluding remarks	63
Marriage institution in other forms: the poor vs. the rich, and men vs. women	64
Marrying a non-local woman	65
Uxorilocal marriage	67
Remarriage	70
Bachelors (guanggan)	72
Conclusions	75
4 Household Division and Provision for the Elderly	77
Concepts and perspectives	77
Household division	78
Inter-generational relationships	79
Household division and provision for the old in Nanying and Shizhuang	82
Household division	82
Provision for the aged	85
Strategies and manipulation	89
Inter-generational strategies	89

	Intra-generational strategies	94
	Discussion and conclusions	98
5	Kinship Relations and Resource Flows	105
	Studies of Chinese kinship	105
	Patrilineal kinship and resource distribution	108
	Patrilineal kinship groups in Nanying and Shizhuang	109
	Impact of agnatic kinship on resource flow	110
	Integration and parallelism: the different strategies in reaction to political and economic transformations	117
	Affinal ties and resource distribution	124
	Mutual assistance among affines	124
	Traditional institutions and the market economy	127
	Conclusions	132
6	Network of Social Relationships in Resource Distribution	135
	Peasants' networks of social relationships	135
	Community identity	138
	Extension of social networks of peasants	142
	Fictive kin relationships	142
	Friendship	144
	Networks of social relationships and resource allocation	146
	Support for household economies	147
	Life-cycle rituals and gift exchange	150
	Disputes and their solution	157
	Discussion and conclusions	159
7	Resource Distribution: the State, Local Government and Peasants	163
	The state-peasant relationship	163
	How the harvest is divided	167
	Implementation of the family planning program	174
	Construction of 'villages with comfortable living standards'	178
	Behind the framework of resource distribution between the state, grassroots government and peasants	182
	The relation between the state and local government	182

Strategies of grassroots leaders 184

Reaction of the peasants 191

8 Involvement of Peasants in the Markets and Resource

Distribution 195

Involvement of villagers in the commodity market 195

Nanying 196

Shizhuang 199

Comparison 203

Involvement of villagers in the credit market 204

Involvement of villagers in the labour market 207

Market involvement and resource distribution 211

9 Conclusion: Resource Distribution and Social

Practice 217

Institutional integration in resource distribution 218

Mutual possession between peasants and the social
world 222

Power, entitlement and social practice 226

Resource distribution and social transformation 230

Notes 235

Bibliography 255

Index 271

List of Illustrations



Plates

1.	A village shrine. Nanying	xv
2.	A village shrine. Shizhuang	xv
3.	The god of wealth (<i>caishen</i>) is always placed on a less visible corner of the storeroom. Nanying	xvi
4.	A village doctor in his clinic. Shizhuang	xvi
5.	Organised by Wangjiazhuang township government, the village cadres were inspecting the ravages of the severe drought	xvii
6.	Villages were repairing this motor pump during the drought. Nanying	xvii
7.	The local construction team was working on the roof of this half-built house one year after its foundation and walls were built. Nanying	xviii
8.	Township incomes and expenses being publicised in the main hall of Chenzhuang township government	xviii
9.	A street peddler and villagers. Nanying	xix
10.	The site of Qinghe Labour Market	xix

Maps

Map 2.1	The People's Republic of China	35
Map 2.2	Hebei Province	35

Tables

Table 2.1	The proportion of each surname in Nanying and Shizhuang	37
Table 2.2	Labour force by the main occupation in Shizhuang	45
Table 3.1	Costs of endowment from grooms' families in Nanying	55

Table 3.2	Comparison of uxori-local marriage with virilocal marriage	69
Table 3.3	Causes for men remaining single	72
Table 4.1	Household formation in terms of economic activities in Shizhuang	83
Table 4.2	Household formation in Nanying and Shizhuang	86
Table 4.3	Living arrangements of the elderly in post-household division	87
Table 5.1	Surname distribution of village cadres in Nanying and Shizhuang	111
Table 5.2	Structure of off-farm occupations in Nanying in terms of the surnames	116
Table 5.3	Sources of household credit in Nanying	125
Table 5.4	Frequency of visits to parents by married daughters in Nanying and Shizhuang	126
Table 5.5	Marriage distance of women in Nanying and Shizhuang	128
Table 6.1	Occupations of Shi Hongchang's comrades-in-arms	145
Table 6.2	The Lu family's gift list, 1997	153
Table 6.3	The Sui brothers' gift list, 1998	154
Table 6.4	Compositions of personal networks of Lu family and Sui brothers	155
Table 7.1	Tax income and expenditure of Wangjiazhuang township government, 1996	170
Table 7.2	Subsidies and responsibilities of Nanying cadres	172
Table 7.3	Changes in the household sizes in Baixiang and Qinghe counties	176

Figures

Figure 3.1	Comparison between income and cost of marriage endowment in Nanying and Shizhuang	53
Figure 3.2	Different modes of endowment to the new couple's home	53
Figure 3.3	Parental strategy of cashmere processing households	61

Figure 3.4 Proportions of the costs of the direct dowry in
both direct and indirect dowry 62

Figure 5.1 Residential configuration of Nanying, 1984 114

Figure 5.2 Residential configuration of Shizhuang, 1985 115

Figure 5.3 Patrilineal groups of Duan Laoqin 118

Figure 5.4 Patrilineal groups of Duan Laowen and Duan
Laoming 120

Figure 5.5 Radius of marriage for Nanying 129

Figure 5.6 Radius of marriage for Shizhuang 129

Figure 7.1 Structure of Wangjiazhuang township
government and the number of staff members
in each office 186