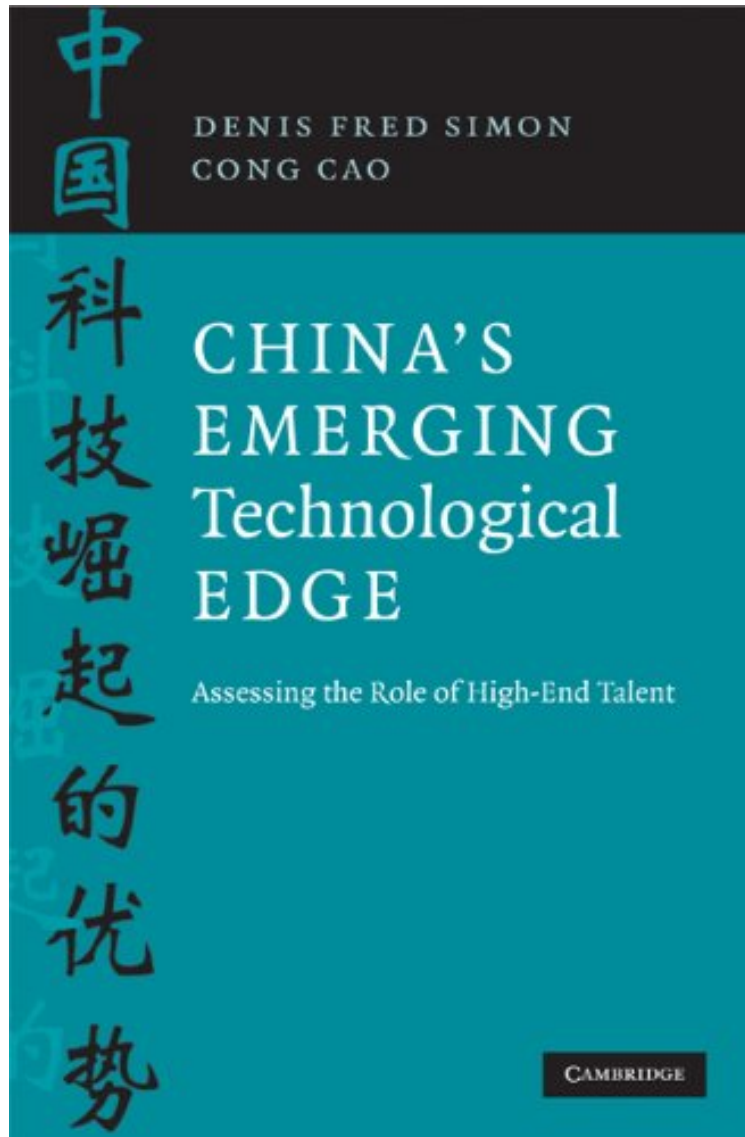


China's Emerging Technological Edge: Assessing the Role of High-End Talent

Denis Fred Simon, Cong Cao

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Denis Fred Simon, Cong Cao : China's Emerging Technological Edge: Assessing the Role of High-End Talent before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised China's Emerging Technological Edge: Assessing the Role of High-End Talent:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Role of Personnel in China's Advances in Science and Technology By A. Reader The controversy over the influential "Rising Above the Gathering Storm" report brought the

issue of China's science personnel to national attention. The Academy's "RAGS" report got the attention of the White House and Congress partly by pointing with alarm at huge and rapidly growing numbers of technical graduates in China. Then it was found that some of the data used was suspect, undercutting some of the basis for the American Competitiveness Initiative and the America COMPETES Act. Simon and Cao have performed a much needed service in compiling a defensible database and providing a comprehensive analysis of Chinese data on their human resources in scientific and technology (HRST). While their findings are much more nuanced than those in the RAGS report, they confirm that its general picture was true. Chinese HRST is growing rapidly in quantity and quality, contributing to a challenge to Western science leadership generally. While rapid growth has its problems, as the authors show, huge investments in science education are paying quick dividends to China's efforts to become an ST superpower. Unlike the West, there is no shortage in China of well-qualified students who want to train for science careers; with a population of 1.3 billion, China has more smart people than the US has people. Of course, the book's focus on HRST prevents detailed coverage of other factors contributing to China's sharp advance in ST. Your reviewer believes that huge and rapidly increasing direct investments in RD are even more important.

In less than thirty years, China has become a major force in the global economy. One feature of its rapid ascent has been an enormous expansion of the country's science and technology capabilities, leading to the emergence of a large and increasingly well-educated talent pool. Yet China finds itself engaged in an internal debate as to whether its full potential can be realised. At the heart of this debate lie a number of uncertainties surrounding the quality, quantity and effective utilisation of China's ST workforce. Written by two leading experts in the field, this book is the first in forty years to address these critical issues. Building on exciting new research and a plethora of comprehensive statistical materials, its findings will have significant policy implications both for China and the international community, especially in terms of issues relating to national competitiveness and innovation potential.