

03.23-Internal migration

Internal migration

Shifting barriers

The government reforms a socially **divisive** system, **warily**
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Vocab

1. **divisive** *adj.* 造成不和的;引起分歧的;制造争端的 Something that is **divisive** causes unfriendliness and argument between people.

e.g. A referendum would be **divisive**. 公投将产生分歧。

2. **warily** *adv.* 警惕地; 谨慎地; 留心地

e.g. The cat eyed him **warily**. 那只猫警惕地注视着他。

THE **pillars** of social control are **flaking** at the **edges**. First came the relaxation in October of **draconian** family-planning restrictions. Now it is the turn of the household-registration, or hukou, system, which determines whether a person may enjoy **subsidised** public services in urban areas—rural hukou holders are excluded. On December 12th the government announced what state media **trumpeted as the biggest shake-up in** decades of the hukou policy, which has **aggravated a huge social divide in China's cities and curbed the free flow of labour.** The **pernicious** impact of the system, however, will long **persist**.

Vocab

1. **pillar** *n.* a basic part or feature of a system, organization, belief, etc. (组织、制度、信仰等的) 核心, 基础, 支柱

2. **flake** *v.* (油漆等)剥落, 脱落 If something such as paint **flakes**, small thin pieces of it come off.

3. **edge** *n.* 边; 边线; 边缘 The **edge** of something is the place or line where it stops, or the part of it that is furthest from the middle.

4. **draconian** *adj.* extremely cruel and severe 德拉古式的; 严酷的; 残忍的

5. **subsidize** *v.* =**fund** to give money to sb or an organization to help pay for sth; to give a **SUBSIDY** 资助; 补助; 给...发津贴

6. **trumpet** *v.* ~ **sth (as sth)** to talk about sth publicly in a proud or enthusiastic way 宣扬; 鼓吹; 吹嘘

7. **shake-up** *n.* ~ (in/ of sth) a situation in which a lot of changes are made to a company, an organization, etc. in order to improve the way in which it works (机构的) 重大调整, 重组

8. **aggravate** *v.* =**worsen** to make an illness or a bad or unpleasant situation worse 使严重; 使恶化

e.g. Pollution can aggravate asthma. 污染会使气喘加重。

9. **pernicious** *adj.* 有害的; 恶性的 If you describe something as **pernicious**, you mean that it is very harmful.

e.g. I did what I could, but her mother's influence was **pernicious**...我已尽力了, 但是她母亲贻害颇深。

10. **persist** *v.* to continue to exist 维持; 保持; 持续存在

e.g. If the symptoms persist, consult your doctor. 如果症状持续不消除，就得去看医生。

Sentence

On December 12th the government announced what state media trumpeted as the biggest shake-up in decades of the hukou policy, which has aggravated a huge social divide in China's cities and curbed the free flow of labour.

主干: the government announced

what state media trumpeted as the biggest shake-up in decades of the hukou policy. 这里 what 引导的从句来解释宣布的内容，即 the hukou policy

which has aggravated a huge social divide in China's cities and curbed the free flow of labour. 这个非限定性定语从句的先行词是 the hukou policy 表明其加大了社会分化 (has aggravated a huge social divide in China's cities) 和抑制了劳动力自由流动 (curbed the free flow of labour.)

As with the adjustment to the decades-old family-planning policy (now all couples will be allowed to have two children), the latest changes to the hukou system follow years of **half-hearted tinkering**. They will allow migrant workers to apply for special residency permits which provide some of the benefits of an urban hukou (a booklet proving household registration is pictured above). If an urban hukou is like an internal passport, the residency permit is like a **green card**.

Vocab

1. **half-hearted** adj. **done without enthusiasm or effort** 不热心的；不尽力的；冷淡的

e.g. He made a **half-hearted attempt** to justify himself. 他没有尽力证明自己有理。

2. **tinker** v. **小修;小补;摆弄** If you **tinker with** something, you make some small changes to it, in an attempt to improve it or repair it.

e.g. **Instead of the Government admitting its error, it just tinkered with the problem...** 政府没有承认错误，只是敷衍了事地处理问题。

3. **green card** n. **a document that legally allows sb from another country to live and work in the US** 绿卡 (允许外国人在美国居住和工作的法律证件)

Sentence

As with the adjustment to the decades-old family-planning policy.

这里的 as with 表示：正如...一样

Under the arrangements, migrants will be able to apply for a permit if they have lived in a city for six months, and can show either an employment contract or a **tenancy** agreement. The document will allow access to state health care where the migrants live, and permit their children to go to local state schools up to the age of 15. It will also make other **bureaucratic** things easier, like buying a car. Such reforms have already been tried in some cities. They will now be rolled out nationwide.

Vocab

1. **tenancy** n. (土地、房屋的)租赁，租用 **Tenancy** is the use that you have of land or property belonging to someone else, for which you pay rent.

2. **bureaucratic** adj. 官僚式的；官僚主义的 **Bureaucratic** means involving complicated rules and procedures which can cause long delays.

3. **roll out** an occasion when a company introduces or starts to use a new product 新产品发布会；新产品的推出

Sentence

if they have lived in a city for six months 描述6个月，可以直接写成 for six months，既有6个月的

意思，也可以表达6个月或者以上的意思

They will now be rolled out nationwide. 这里 roll out 原意是新品推出，这里可以理解成推广到全国

For those who meet the requirements, the changes will bring two main benefits. They should allow some of the 70m children who have been left behind to attend school in their native villages to join their migrant parents. And it will allow migrants to use urban services without losing the main benefit of their rural hukou: the right to farm a plot of land. According to a survey in 2010 by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, 90% of migrants did not want to change their registration status because they feared losing this right.

Vocab

1. plot n. a small piece of land that is used or intended for a special purpose (专用的) 小块土地

e.g. She bought a small plot of land to build a house on. 她买了一小块地盖所房子。

2. Chinese Academy of Social Sciences 中国社会科学院

3. registration n. the act of making an official record of sth/ sb 登记；注册；挂号

Sentence

90% of migrants 90的移居者

Collar-colour counts

As with the two-child policy, though, there is less here than meets the eye. Most migrants are casual labourers. They rarely have any labour or tenancy contracts. The success of the reforms will also partly depend on funding. The government recently decided to tie schools' budgets to the number of their pupils. In theory this will cover extra demand. But the system is untested.

Vocab

1. than meet the eye PHRASE 短语 (事情) 比看起来复杂 You say 'there's more to this than meets the eye' when you think a situation is not as simple as it seems to be.

e.g. This whole business is very puzzling. There is a lot more to it than meets the eye. 整件事非常令人费解，远比看起来复杂。

2. casual adj. not permanent; not done, or doing sth regularly 临时的；不定期的

e.g. casual workers/ labour 临时工；零工

3. untested adj. not tested; of unknown quality or value 未经试验（或考验）的

Sentence

there is less here than meets the eye. 看到的比实际的少...表明不符合政策的人比实际的人少

There are other catches. In cities of between 500,000 and 1m people, applicants for urban hukou will need to have contributed to the government's social-insurance scheme for three years. In cities of 1m-5m, the minimum is five years. And the reforms do not really apply in the biggest cities. They set their own requirements.

Vocab

1. catch n. a hidden difficulty or disadvantage 隐藏的困难；暗藏的不利因素

e.g. All that money for two hours' work—what's the catch? 干了两小时的活就给那么多钱

——这里面有什么鬼？

2. **apply** v. (not used in the progressive tenses 不用于进行时) ~ (to sb/ sth) to concern or relate to sb/ sth 有关；涉及

e.g. What I am saying applies only to some of you. 我所说的只涉及你们中的一些人。

Sentence

In cities of between 500,000 and 1m people, applicants for urban hukou will need to have contributed to the government's social-insurance scheme for three years.

主干: applicants will need to have contributed to the government's social-insurance scheme.

状语: In cities of between 500,000 and 1m people 解释 applicants

跟前文一样表示至少3年 for three years

There are similar problems with the 13m people who have no hukou at all, which means they cannot obtain the identity card needed for everything from travelling by train or plane to obtaining a passport. About 60% of such people are “black” children, as they are often called in China, born **in contravention of** the one-child policy. On December 9th President Xi Jinping said those without hukou could obtain one. But it is unclear what kind of hukou they will get and whether a fine will still have to be paid for **violating** the **family-planning** rules.

Vocab

1. **contravention** n. **in contravention of** 违反，违背（法律、其他规定） in a manner contrary and disobedient to (a law or other ruling)

2. **violate** v. to go against or refuse to obey a law, an agreement, etc. 违反，违犯，违背（法律、协议等）

3. **family-planning** n. 计划生育 **Family planning** is the practice of using contraception to control the number of children you have.

Sentence

There are similar problems with the 13m people who have no hukou at all, which means they cannot obtain the identity card needed for everything from travelling by train or plane to obtaining a passport.

主干: There are similar problems

who have no hukou at all 这是 people 的定语从句

which means... 非限定性定语从句，先行词是 people

the identity card needed for everything from travelling by train or plane to obtaining a passport. 这里 needed for everything 是 which need for everything. 的省略

The government says it hopes 100m rural migrants (there are now about 250m of them living in urban areas) will have urban hukou by 2020. That seems unlikely. Many live in the biggest cities where, to judge by the reforms proposed by the city government of Beijing, changing status will get harder: the capital's requirements give precedence to people who have paid 100,000 yuan (\$15,500) in tax a year, far more than manual labourers earn.

Vocab

1. **precedence** n. the condition of being more important than sb else and therefore coming or being dealt with first 优先；优先权

2. **manual** adj. involving using the hands or physical strength 用手的；手工的；体力的

e.g. **manual labour/ jobs/ skills** 体力劳动/活儿；手工技巧

Sentence

Many live in the biggest cities where, to judge by the reforms proposed by the city government of Beijing, changing status will get harder: the capital's requirements give precedence to people who have paid 100,000 yuan (\$15,500) in tax a year, far more than manual labourers earn.

句子很长，主干很简单：Many live in the biggest cities

这里的 judge 是一个短语介词 to judge: **根据...判断；根据...来看** You use **judging by**, **judging from**, or **to judge from** to introduce the reasons why you believe or think something.

to judge by the reforms proposed by the city government of Beijing 即根据由北京市政府提供的改革方案来看 by 后面的先翻译，of 后面的修饰前面的

changing status will get harder 动名词作从句的主语

: the capital's requirements give precedence to people who have paid 100,000 yuan (\$15,500) in tax a year, 冒号后面的从句主干也很简单的，谓语是 give，who have paid... 的先行词是 people far more than manual labourers earn 修饰前面的钱

The hukou policy was introduced in the 1950s to prevent a rush of migrants that might **destabilise** cities. Since the 1990s, China has depended on migration to provide cheap labour for its manufacturing boom. But it still wants to control where labourers move. It worries that an **unregulated** flow, especially into the biggest cities, may fuel **discontent** among the urban middle classes who fear that public services will be **swamped**. The new reforms to the hukou system appear mainly designed to push migrants away from big coastal cities towards smaller ones **inland**. Zuo Xiuli, a house-cleaner who has worked in Beijing for ten years and earns 2,500 yuan a month, is not sure he will **bother** to apply. "Of course I hope to get a Beijing hukou," he says. "But it's impossible for me."

Vocab

1. **destabilize** v. to make a system, country, government, etc. become less firmly established or successful 使（制度、国家、政府等）动摇；使不安定；使不稳定

2. **unregulated** adj. 未受监控的；无管理的 not controlled or supervised by regulations or laws

3. **discontent** n. 不满；不满意 **Discontent** is the feeling that you have when you are not satisfied with your situation.

e.g. There are reports of widespread **discontent** in the capital. 有报道称首都弥漫着不满的情绪。

4. **swamp** v. to make sb have more of sth than they can deal with 使不堪承受；使疲于应对；使应接不暇

e.g. The railway station was **swamped** with thousands of families trying to flee the city. 火车站挤满了成千上万想要逃离这座城市的家庭。

5. **inland** adj. 内地的；内陆的 **Inland** areas, lakes, and places are not on the coast, but in or near the middle of a country.

6. **bother** v. to spend time and/ or energy doing sth 花费时间精力（做某事）

From the print edition: China

Internal migration Shifting barriers

内部迁移：迁移障碍

The government reforms a socially divisive system, warily.

政府小心谨慎地改革着（由于之前出现的户口制度）已经出现社会分化的系统。

The pillars of social control are flaking at the edges. First came the relaxation in October of draconian family-planning restrictions. Now it is the turn of the household-registration, or hukou, system, which determines whether a person may enjoy subsidised public services in urban areas—rural hukou holders are excluded. On December 12th the government announced what state media trumpeted as the biggest shake-up in decades of the hukou policy, which has aggravated a huge social divide in China's cities and curbed the free flow of labour. The pernicious impact of the system, however, will long persist.

政府对社会的控制从各个层面开始出现放宽。首先是严苛的计划生育政策在10月份出现松动，现在轮到家庭注册制度或者是决定了一个人是否能够享受城镇地区政府资助的公共服务，像持有农村户口的人就无法享受这些福利的户口制度。12月12日政府宣布，将要改革长期以来加剧中国各城市间巨大的社会分化、且限制了劳动力自由流动的户口制度。官方媒体将这一改革称为几十年以来最大的变动，然而户口制度造成的恶劣影响仍然持续着。

As with the adjustment to the decades-old family-planning policy (now all couples will be allowed to have two children), the latest changes to the hukou system follow years of half-hearted tinkering. They will allow migrant workers to apply for special residency permits which provide some of the benefits of an urban hukou. If an urban hukou is like an internal passport, the residency permit is like a green card.

正如对施行了几十年的计划生育进行的改革（现在允许每对夫妇生育两个孩子）一样，户口制度的新变动是多年微调后才出现的。他们允许外来务工人员申请一种特殊的居住许可，这可以让他们享受部分城市户口的福利。如果把城市户口本比作国内的护照，那么居住证就像是绿卡。

Under the arrangements, migrants will be able to apply for a permit if they have lived in a city for six months, and can show either an employment contract or a tenancy agreement. The document will allow access to state health care where the migrants live, and permit their children to go to local state schools up to the age of 15. It will also make other bureaucratic things easier, like buying a car. Such reforms have already been tried in some cities. They will now be rolled out nationwide.

按规定，如果在城市里居住了超过六个月且能出示雇佣合同或租赁合同即可申请这一许可证。该文件能够让外来人口在居住地接受国家医疗，同时允许他们的孩子到当地公立学校上学直到15岁，这使买车这类需要繁琐官方审批的事情也就变得简单起来了。类似的改革在一些城市很久前已经开始试行，现在也开始推广到全国了。

For those who meet the requirements, the changes will bring two main benefits. They should allow some of the 70m children who have been left behind to attend school in their native villages to join their migrant parents. And it will allow migrants to use urban services without losing the main benefit of their rural hukou: the right to farm a plot of land. According to a survey in 2010 by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, 90% of migrants did not want to change their registration status because they feared losing this right.

新出台的改革方案对于那些符合标准的人来说有两个好处：方案允许7000多万留守儿童到他们父母移居的城市去上学，同时方案让外来人口在享受城镇服务的同时，不会失去他们农村户口带来的主要权利——分得土地，耕作养殖。据中国社会科学院2010年进行的调查显示，90%的外来人口不想更改他们的城乡身份，因为他们担心会失去这一权利。

As with the two-child policy, though, there is less here than meets the eye. Most migrants are casual labourers. They rarely have any labour or tenancy contracts. The success of the reforms will also partly depend on funding. The government recently decided to tie schools' budgets to the number of their pupils. In theory this will cover extra demand. But the system is untested.

但就和二孩政策一样，符合条件的人没有那么多。大多数外来人口是自由劳动力，他们很少有劳动合同或房屋租赁合同。该改革方案成功与否一部分取决于政府的拨款，政府最近决定将学校预算与学生人数关联起来，从理论上讲，这样做能够解决对教育的额外需求，但这样的制度没有经过检验。

There are other catches. In cities of between 500,000 and 1m people, applicants for urban hukou will need to have contributed to the government's social-insurance scheme for three years. In cities of 1m-5m, the minimum is five years. And the reforms do not really apply in the biggest cities. They set their own requirements.

改革方案中还包含着几个隐藏的困难：在人口50万到100万的城市中，加入该城市户口的申请人需要向政府缴纳3年以上的社保金；人口100万到500万的城市，最低缴纳年限为5年。而且改革方案没有涉及规模最大的那些城市。这些城市都有各自的要求。

There are similar problems with the 13m people who have no hukou at all, which means they cannot obtain the identity card needed for everything from travelling by train or plane to obtaining a passport. About 60% of such people are "black" children, as they are often called in China, born in contravention of the one-child policy. On December 9th President Xi Jinping said those without hukou could obtain one. But it is unclear what kind of hukou they will get and whether a fine will still have to be paid for violating the family-planning rules.

1300万没有户口的人面临着类似的问题，例如他们没有办法获得身份证，而生活从乘火车或飞机旅游到获取护照的各个方面都需要用到身份证。其中约60%无户口人员是违反计划生育政策出生的儿童，在中国这些儿童通常被称为“黑户”。12月9日，习近平主席称要让没有户口的人都能获得户口，但他们会获得什么样的户口以及他们会不会面临违反计划生育的罚款都是未知数。

The government says it hopes 100m rural migrants (there are now about 250m of them living in urban areas) will have urban hukou by 2020. That seems unlikely. Many live in the biggest cities where, to judge by the reforms proposed by the city government of Beijing, changing status will get harder: the capital's requirements give precedence to people who have paid 100,000 yuan (\$15,500) in tax a year, far more than manual labourers earn.

政府称在2020年前1亿农村外来人口（现在有2.5亿农村人口居住在城市地区）有望获得城市户口。这看上去不太可能实现。从北京市政府公布的改革方案来看，许多住在一线城市的人更改户口会更加艰难：其中要求每年缴纳10万元人民币（约合1.55万美元）的税款，这远超一个手工劳动者的收入。

The hukou policy was introduced in the 1950s to prevent a rush of migrants that might destabilise cities. Since the 1990s, China has depended on migration to provide cheap labour for its manufacturing boom. But it still wants to control where labourers move. It worries that an unregulated flow, especially into the biggest cities, may fuel discontent among the urban middle classes who fear that public services will be swamped. The new

reforms to the hukou system appear mainly designed to push migrants away from big coastal cities towards smaller ones inland. Zuo Xiuli, a house-cleaner who has worked in Beijing for ten years and earns 2,500 yuan a month, is not sure he will bother to apply. "Of course I hope to get a Beijing hukou," he says. "But it's impossible for me."

户口政策于20世纪50年代开始实施，目的是防止出现大量外来人口涌入城市造成社会不稳定。自90年代以来，中国制造业的蓬勃发展有赖于外来务工人员提供的廉价劳动力，但政府依然希望控制劳动力流动，因为他们担心，劳动力没有规律地流动会引起那些担心公共服务被占用的中产阶级的不满，特别是在大型城市。户口制度的改革似乎主要是想将外来务工人员从沿海城市推向内地小城市。左修力是一个在北京工作了10年，每月工资为2500元的清洁工，他也不确定自己会不会申请城镇户口。“当然我也想有个北京户口，”他说，“但对我来说是不可能的。”