

## 04.28-Urbanisation

### Urbanisation

#### Some are more equal than others

China's need for a new urbanisation policy **reaches** a critical point  
Jun 1st 2013 | SHENZHEN | From the print edition

#### Vocab

1. **urbanization** n. 城市化; 都市化 **Urbanization** is the process of creating towns in country areas.

2. **reach** v. to arrive at a particular point or stage of sth after a period of time 达到 (某点); 进入 (某阶段)

e.g. He first reached the finals in 2000. 他于 2000 年第一次进入决赛。

FOR many migrants who do not live in factory **dormitories**, life in the big city looks like the neighbourhood of Shangsha East Village: a **maze** of **alleys** framed by illegally constructed apartment buildings in the **boomtown** of Shenzhen, near Hong Kong. There are at least 200 buildings, many of them ten storeys tall (see picture). They are **separated** by only a metre or so, hence the name “**handshake** buildings” — residents of neighbouring blocks can reach out from their windows and high-five.

#### Vocab

1. **dormitory** n. a room for several people to sleep in, especially in a school or other institution 宿舍; 学生宿舍

2. **maze** n. 迷宫 A **maze** is a complex system of passages or paths between walls or hedges and is designed to confuse people who try to find their way through it, often as a form of amusement.

e.g. The palace has extensive gardens, a **maze**, and tennis courts. 这座宫殿有几座大花园、一处迷宫和几个网球场。

3. **alley** n. a narrow passage behind or between buildings (建筑群中间或后面的) 小街, 小巷, 胡同

e.g. a **narrow/ dark alley** 狭窄的/黑暗的小巷

4. **boom town** n. (通常由于工业或商业的发展而迅速形成的) 新兴城市, 发达城市 A **boom town** is a town which has rapidly become very rich and full of people, usually because industry or business has developed there.

e.g. Brisbane has become the **boom town** for Australian film and television. 布里斯班由于澳大利亚电影和电视业的发展而迅速变成了一个繁荣的都市。

5. **separated** adj. no longer living with your husband, wife or partner (和某人) 分居的

e.g. Her parents are separated but not divorced. 她父母分居但没离婚。

6. **handshake** n. an act of shaking sb's hand with your own, used especially to say hello or goodbye or when you have made an agreement 握手

The buildings are China's **favelas**: built illegally on collectively owned rural land. Rents are cheap. An eight-square-metre (86-square-foot) flat costs less than \$100 a month. They **symbolise** both the success of the government's urbanisation policy and also its **chronic** failures. China has managed a more **orderly** system of

urbanisation than many developing nations. But it has done so on the cheap. Hundreds of millions of migrants flock to build China's cities and manufacture the country's exports. But the cities have done little to reward or welcome them, investing instead in public services and infrastructure for their native residents only. Rural migrants living in the **handshake** buildings are still **second-class** citizens, most of whom have no **access** to urban health care or to the city's high schools. Their homes could be **demolished** at any time.

### Vocab

1. **favela** n. **=shanty town** a poor area in or near a Brazilian city, with many small houses that are close together and in bad condition (巴西城市或边缘的) 棚户区, 贫民窟
2. **symbolize** v. **=represent** to be a symbol of sth 象征; 是...的象征; 代表  
e.g. The use of light and dark symbolizes good and evil. 用光明与黑暗来象征善与恶。
3. **chronic** adj. lasting for a long time; difficult to cure or get rid of 长期的; 慢性的; 难以治愈 (或根除) 的  
e.g. the country's chronic unemployment problem 该国长期存在的失业问题
4. **orderly** adj. **=tidy** arranged or organized in a neat, careful and logical way 整洁的; 有秩序的; 有条理的  
e.g. vegetables planted in orderly rows 一行行栽种整齐的蔬菜
5. **handshake** n. an act of shaking sb's hand with your own, used especially to say hello or goodbye or when you have made an agreement 握手  
**golden handshake** n. a large sum of money that is given to sb when they leave their job, or to persuade them to leave their job (一大笔) 退職金, 解雇费
6. **second-class** adj. 二等的; 无足轻重的; 地位低下的 If someone treats you as a **second-class** citizen, they treat you as if you are less valuable and less important than other people.  
e.g. Too many airlines treat our children as **second-class** citizens. 太多的航空公司把我们的孩子当作二等公民对待。
7. **access** v. ~ (to sth) the opportunity or right to use sth or to see sb/ sth (使用或见到的) 机会, 权利  
e.g. Students must **have access** to good resources. 学生必须有机会使用好的信息资源。
8. **demolish** v. to pull or knock down a building 拆毁, 拆除 (建筑物)

China's new leaders now say this must change. But it is unclear whether they have the resolve to force through reforms, most of which are **costly** or opposed by powerful interests, or both. Li Keqiang, the new prime minister, is to host a national conference this year on urbanisation. The **agenda** may reveal how **reformist** he really is.

### Vocab

1. **costly** adj. costing a lot of money, especially more than you want to pay 花钱多的; 昂贵的; 价钱高的  
e.g. Buying new furniture may prove too costly. 购买新家具可能会花钱太多。
2. **agenda** n. a list of items to be discussed at a meeting (会议的) 议程表, 议事日程  
e.g. For the government, education is now **at the top of the agenda** (= most important).
3. **reformist** adj. wanting or trying to change political or social situations 主张改革的; 改革派的; 改良主义的

## WHICH WORD? 词语辨析

### agenda / diary / schedule / timetable

▷ A book with a space for each day where you write down things that you have to do in the future is called a **diary** or a **datebook** (*NAmE*) (not an *agenda*). You may also have a **calendar** on your desk or hanging up in your room, where you write down your appointments. A **diary** or a **journal** is also the record that some people keep of what has happened during the day. 记事簿用 diary 或 datebook (美式英语), 不用 agenda。记录约会等事宜也可用台历或挂历 (calendar)。diary 或 journal 亦指日记、日志：  
The Diary of Anne Frank 《安妮·弗兰克的日记》

▷ In *BrE* your **schedule** is a plan that lists all the work that you have to do and when you must do each thing and a **timetable** is a list showing the fixed times at which events will happen. 在英式英语中, schedule 指工作计划、日程安排, timetable 指时间表、时刻表：

a bus/train timetable 公共汽车 / 火车时刻表

In *NAmE* these are both called a **schedule**. 在美式英语中, 上述两种含义均用 schedule。

He will have no **shortage** of suggestions. An unusually public debate has **unfolded** in **think-tanks**, on microblogs and in state media about how China should improve the way it handles urbanisation. Some propose that migrants in cities should, as quickly as possible, be given the same rights to services as urban **dwellers**. Others insist that would-be migrants should first be given the right to sell their rural **plot** of land to give them a deposit for their new urban life. Still others say the government must allow more private and foreign competition in state-controlled sectors of the economy such as health care, which would expand urban services for all, including migrants. Most agree the central government must bear much more of the cost of public services and give more power to local governments to **levy** taxes.

### Vocab

1. **shortage** n. a situation when there is not enough of the people or things that are needed 不足；缺少；短缺

e.g. **There is no shortage of** (= there are plenty of) things to do in the town. 城里不愁找不到活儿干。

2. **unfold** v. 展现；呈现；逐渐明朗 If a situation **unfolds**, it develops and becomes known or understood.

e.g. **The facts started to unfold** before them. 真相开始在他们面前显露出来。

3. **think-tank** n. a group of experts who provide advice and ideas on political, social or economic issues (政治、社会、经济问题的) 智囊团, 智库, 专家小组

4. **dweller** n. 居民; 居住者 A city **dweller** or slum **dweller**, for example, is a person who lives in the kind of place or house indicated.

e.g. **The number of city dwellers is growing...** 城市居民的数量正在增长。

5. **plot** n. 尤指作特殊用途的) 一小块 (土地) A **plot of** land is a small piece of land, especially one that has been measured or marked out for a special purpose, such as building houses or growing vegetables.

e.g. **I thought that I'd buy myself a small plot of land and build a house on it...** 我想我该给自己买

一小块地，在上面建一座房子。

**6. levy v. ~ sth (on sb/ sth) to use official authority to demand and collect a payment, tax, etc.** 征收；征（税）

e.g. a tax levied by the government on excess company profits 政府对公司超额利润征收的税

### Sentence

Still others say the government must allow more private and foreign competition in state-controlled sectors of the economy such as health care, which would expand urban services for all, including migrants.

主干：Still others **say** (that)

从句：the government must **allow** more private and foreign competition which would expand urban services for all 先行词是 health care including migrants 这里是指 all 的对象

Any combination of these options would be likely to raise the income of migrants, help them to integrate into city life and narrow the gap between the wealthy and the poor, which in China is among the widest in the world. Such reforms would also spur on a slowing economy by boosting domestic consumption.

### Vocab

**1. combination n.** the act of joining or mixing together two or more things to form a single unit 结合；联合；混合

e.g. The firm is working on a new product **in combination with** several overseas partners.

**2. be likely to adj.** 可能（做...）的；有（...）倾向的 If someone or something is **likely to** do a particular thing, they will very probably do it.

e.g. Once people have seen that something actually works, they are much more likely to accept change. 一旦人们看到有些东西确实奏效，那他们可能会更容易接受变化。

**3. spur v. ~ sb/ sth (on) (to sth/to do sth) to encourage sb to do sth or to encourage them to try harder to achieve sth** 鞭策；激励；刺激；鼓舞

e.g. I was **spurred into action** by the letter.那封信激励我行动起来。

### Sentence

Any combination of these options would be likely to raise the income of migrants, help them to integrate into city life and narrow the gap between the wealthy and the poor, which in China is among the widest in the world.

主干：Any combination of these options **would be likely to**....

help them to integrate into city life... 这里其实是和 raise 并列的，即 be likely to raise... 和 be likely to help them

which in China is among the widest in the world. 这里的先行词是 the wealthy and the poor 说明中国是世界上贫富差距最大的国家

Officials know, too, that the longer reforms are delayed the greater the chances of social **unrest**. “It is already a little too late,” Chen Xiwen, a senior rural policy official, said last year of providing urban services to migrants. “If we don’t deal with it now, the conflict will grow so great that we won’t be able to **proceed**.”

### Vocab

**1. unrest n.** a political situation in which people are angry and likely to protest or fight 动荡；动乱；骚动

e.g. **industrial/ civil/ social/ political/ popular unrest** 工业/平民/社会/政治/民众动乱  
2. **proceed v.** (活动、过程或事件) 继续, 持续, 连续不断 If an activity, process, or event **proceeds**, it goes on and does not stop.

e.g. **The ideas were not new. Their development had proceeded steadily since the war...** 这些并不是什么新思想, 自从战争开始就一直稳定地发展演变。

Yet Mr Li, the prime minister, would do well to **dampen expectations**. The problems of migrants and of income **inequality** are deeply **entrenched** in two **pillars** of **discriminatory** social policy that have stood since the 1950s and must be dealt with before real change can come: the household **registration** system, or hukou, and the **collective ownership** of rural land.

### Vocab

1. **dampen v.** to make sth such as a feeling or a reaction less strong 抑制, 控制, 减弱 (感情、反应等)

e.g. None of the setbacks could **dampen his enthusiasm** for the project. 任何挫折都不能减弱他对这个项目的热情。

2. **expectation n.** ~ (of sth) | ~ (that...) a belief that sth will happen because it is likely 预料; 预期; 期待

e.g. **Contrary to expectations**, interest rates did not rise. 出乎意料的是利率并未上升。

3. **inequality n.** (社会地位、财富、机会等) 不平等, 不均等 **Inequality** is the difference in social status, wealth, or opportunity between people or groups.

e.g. **People are concerned about social inequality...** 人们很关注社会不平等问题。

4. **entrench v.** to establish sth very firmly so that it is very difficult to change 使处于牢固地位; 牢固确立

e.g. Sexism is **deeply entrenched** in our society. 性别歧视在我们这个社会根深蒂固。

5. **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

e.g. the central pillar of this theory 这一理论的核心支柱

6. **discriminatory adj.** unfair; treating sb or one group of people worse than others 区别对待的; 不公正的; 歧视的

e.g. **discriminatory practices/ rules/ measures** 不公正的做法/规定/措施

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

e.g. the registration of letters and parcels 信件和包裹的挂号

8. **collective ownership n.** • 集体所有 (制) [*mass noun*] ownership of something, typically land or industrial assets, by all members of a group for the mutual benefit of all

Who will pay?

The hukou **perpetuates** a **rigid caste** system. Children of holders of rural hukou inherit their parents' second-class status, even if they are born in cities. Many urbanites want to keep this system in place, to protect their preferential access to jobs, education and health care.

### Vocab

1. **perpetuate v.** to make sth such as a bad situation, a belief, etc. continue for a long time 使永久化; 使持久化; 使持续

e.g. This system perpetuated itself for several centuries. 这一制度维持了几个世纪。

2. **rigid adj.** (of a person 人) not willing to change their ideas or behaviour 固执的; 僵化

的；一成不变的

e.g. rigid attitudes 固执的态度

3. **caste** n. the system of dividing society into classes based on differences in family origin, rank or wealth 社会等级制度

4. **urbanite** n. a person who lives in a town or city 城市居民

5. **in place** 适当，适当的；在适当的地方，在恰当的位置

6. **preferential** adj. giving an advantage to a particular person or group 优先的；优惠的；优待的

e.g. Don't expect to get **preferential treatment**. 不要指望受到优待。

### Sentence

Many urbanites want to keep this system in place, to protect their preferential access to jobs, education and health care.

主干：Many urbanites **want** to keep this system in place

preferential access to jobs, education and health care 优先获得 jobs, education and health care 的权利

City governments, meanwhile, cannot afford to extend public services to migrants. Zheng Zhijie, president of state-owned China Development Bank, estimated in May that cities would require 50 **trillion** yuan (\$8.2 trillion) in investment by 2020 to **accommodate** 100m new migrants and provide increased benefits to those already there. Shanghai's schools give a sense of the scale of the problem: the city had 170,000 students enrolled in high school in 2010, all holders of Shanghai hukou; more than three times that many children—570,000 migrant children aged 15 to 19—were living in the city in 2010 without Shanghai hukou, most of them unable to attend those schools.

### Vocab

1. **trillion** NUM 数词 1 000 000 000 000; one million million 万亿；兆

2. **accommodate** v. (有足够的空间) 容纳，接纳 If a building or space can **accommodate** someone or something, it has enough room for them.

e.g. The school in Poldown was not big enough to **accommodate** all the children... 波尔登的学校不够大，容不下所有的孩子。

### Sentence

Shanghai's schools give a sense of the scale of the problem: the city had 170,000 students enrolled in high school in 2010, all holders of Shanghai hukou; more than three times that many children—570,000 migrant children aged 15 to 19—were living in the city in 2010 without Shanghai hukou, most of them unable to attend those schools.

句子很长，可以拆分 第一部分主干：Shanghai's schools **give** a sense of the scale of the problem

第二部分主干：the city **had** 170,000 students **enrolled** in high school in 2010

all holders of Shanghai hukou 是对着 17万学生的解释

第三部分主干：more than three times that many children **were living** in the city... 其中插入成分—570,000 migrant children aged 15 to 19 是对 many children 的解释

The **collective** control of rural land by local officials also **impedes** social **mobility**, by allowing local governments and developers to **dispossess** farmers of the land they lease—and to pay them far below market value for it. Yu Jianrong, a researcher on rural China, calculated in 2010 that the government had **expropriated** 6.7m hectares

(16.5m acres) of rural land over a 20-year period, paying farmers 2 trillion yuan (\$326 billion) less than market value.

### Vocab

1. **collective** adj. done or shared by all members of a group of people; involving a whole group or society 集体的；共有的；共同的

e.g. **collective leadership/ decision-making/ responsibility** 集体领导/决策；共同责任

2. **impede** v. 妨碍；阻碍；阻止 If you **impede** someone or something, you make their movement, development, or progress difficult.

e.g. **Fallen rock is impeding the progress of rescue workers.** 坠落的石头阻滞了救援人员的救援进程。

3. **mobility** n. the ability to move easily from one place, social class, or job to another (住处、社会阶层、职业方面的) 流动能力

e.g. **social/ geographical/ career mobility** 社会地位/区域/职业流动性

4. **dispossess** v. 剥夺，夺去(土地、房屋等) If you **are dispossessed of** something that you own, especially land or buildings, it is taken away from you.

e.g. **...people who were dispossessed of their land under apartheid...** 在种族隔离政策下被剥夺了土地的人们

5. **expropriate** v. 征收，征用(私人财产) If a government or other authority **expropriates** someone's property, they take it away from them for public use.

e.g. **The Bolsheviks expropriated the property of the landowners.** 布尔什维克征收了地主的财产。

At the same time, housing prices in cities are increasingly out of reach for migrants. The central government has encouraged the **construction** of low-cost housing in cities with limited success, since only local hukou holders are eligible.

### Vocab

1. **construction** n. the process or method of building or making sth, especially roads, buildings, bridges, etc. 建筑；建造；施工

e.g. Our new offices are still **under construction** (= being built). 我们的新办公楼尚在修建中。

2. **eligible** adj. 有资格的；符合条件的；有能力的 Someone who is **eligible to** do something is qualified or able to do it, for example because they are old enough.

e.g. **You could be eligible for a university scholarship.** 你也许有资格获得大学奖学金。

### Sentence

since only local hukou holders are eligible

这里 **since** 是因为的意思

local hukou holders 是指当地居民，即城市户口的人

The discriminatory policies continue to **take their toll on** migrants. China has 163m migrant workers who have left their home **township** (another 99m people are classified as migrants even though they have only given up farming without moving away). A higher proportion of those were **co-renting** apartments with others in 2012 than four years earlier (19.7%, up from 16.7%), according to data released this week by the National Bureau of Statistics. And fewer migrants are becoming **homeowners**—0.6% in 2012, down from 0.9% in 2008.

## Vocab

1. **IDM** **take a heavy 'toll (on sb/ sth) | take its 'toll (on sb/ sth)** to have a bad effect on sb/ sth; to cause a lot of damage, deaths, suffering, etc. 产生恶果；造成重大损失（或伤亡、灾难等）

e.g. The recession is taking its toll on the housing markets. 经济衰退使住房市场遭受着重重大损失。

2. **township** n. (过去南非的)黑人城镇，黑人居住区 In South Africa, a **township** was a town where only black people lived.

e.g. ...the South African **township** of Soweto. 南非黑人城镇索韦托

3. **co-renting** n. 合租

4. **homeowner** n. a person who owns their house or flat/ apartment 房主

## Sentence

A higher proportion of those were co-renting apartments with others in 2012 than four years earlier (19.7%, up from 16.7%), according to data released this week by the National Bureau of Statistics.

主干：A higher proportion of those were co-renting apartments

with others 表示和其他人合租

according to 现在分词引导的非限定性定语从句，可以还原为 which accord to...

Some scholars say a solution lies in the handshake buildings of Shenzhen. Tao Ran of Renmin University in Beijing says the government should legalise such buildings around the country—allowing rural dwellers near cities to develop them and rent out flats to migrants—and then levy taxes and fees to pay for expanding services. It sounds like a reasonable **proposal** that would increase the supply of affordable housing and help more migrants become **proper** urban residents.

## Vocab

1. **legalize** v. 使合法化；使得到法律认可 If something **is legalized**, a law is passed that makes it legal.

e.g. Divorce was **legalized** in 1981. 离婚合法化是在1981年。

2. **rent** v. 出租；租给 If you **rent** something **to** someone, you let them have it and use it in exchange for a sum of money which they pay you regularly.

**Rent out** means the same as **rent**. **rent out** 同 **rent**

1. •He **rented out** his house while he worked abroad...他在国外工作期间把自己的房子租了出去。

2. •He repaired the boat, and **rented it out** for \$150.他修好了那条船，然后把它以150美元的价格租了出去。

3. **proposal** n. ~ (for sth) | ~ (to do sth) | ~ (that...) a formal suggestion or plan; the act of making a suggestion 提议；建议；动议

e.g. to **submit/ consider/ accept/ reject a proposal** 提交/审议/接受/拒绝一项建议

4. **proper** adj. that you consider to be real and of a good enough standard 真正的；像样的；名副其实的

e.g. When are you going to get a proper job? 你想什么时候去找一份正经的工作呀？

## Sentence

Tao Ran of Renmin University in Beijing says the government should legalise such buildings around the country—allowing rural dwellers near cities to develop them and rent out flats to migrants—and then levy taxes and fees to pay for expanding services.

主干: Tao Ran says (that)...

从句: the government should legalise such buildings around the country

—allowing rural dwellers near cities to develop 这里其实就是非限定性定语从句, 把破折号看成逗号即可

But local governments will have none of it, Mr Tao says, as they will fight to **retain** control over land, their chief source of revenue. Other **vested interests**, he says, will fight, too. The road to equality for China's migrants will continue to be a hard one.

### Vocab

1. **retain** v. to keep sth; to continue to have sth 保持; 持有; 保留; 继续拥有

e.g. She retained her tennis title for the third year. 她第三年保住了网球冠军的头衔。

2. **vested interest** n. a personal reason for wanting sth to happen, especially because you get some advantage from it 既得利益

e.g. They have a vested interest in keeping the club as exclusive as possible. 他们希望俱乐部尽可能地限制会员加入以从中受益。

From the print edition: China

## Urbanisation Some are more equal than others

### 城镇化: 有人比他人更平等

(译者注: 语出政治寓言体小说《动物庄园》:

All animals are equal but some animals are more equal than others.

所有的动物都平等,但有些动物比其他的动物更平等。

China's need for a new urbanisation policy reaches a critical point.

中国到了需要新型城镇化政策的关键节点。

FOR many migrants who do not live in factory dormitories, life in the big city looks like the neighbourhood of Shangsha East Village: a maze of alleys framed by illegally constructed apartment buildings in the boomtown of Shenzhen, near Hong Kong. There are at least 200 buildings, many of them ten storeys tall. They are separated by only a metre or so, hence the name “handshake buildings”—residents of neighbouring blocks can reach out from their windows and high-five.

对于许多不住在工厂宿舍的城市外来人口来说,大城市的生活就像是在深圳上沙东村一样。在深圳这座临近香港的新兴城市里,一栋栋违章建筑编织成迷宫般的巷子。那里有二百多栋的楼房,许多在十层以上。它们之间的间隔仅有一米左右,相邻两栋楼上的邻居能透过窗户击掌,因而也被称作“握手楼”。

The buildings are China's favelas: built illegally on collectively owned rural land. Rents are cheap. An eight-square-metre (86-square-foot) flat costs less than \$100 a month. They symbolise both the success of the government's urbanisation policy and also its chronic failures. China has managed a more orderly system of urbanisation than many developing nations. But it has done so on the cheap. Hundreds of millions of migrants flock to build

China's cities and manufacture the country's exports. But the cities have done little to reward or welcome them, investing instead in public services and infrastructure for their native residents only. Rural migrants living in the handshake buildings are still second-class citizens, most of whom have no access to urban health care or to the city's high schools. Their homes could be demolished at any time.

这些建筑就是中国的贫民窟。它们违法建造在集体所有土地上，租金便宜，一间八平米的公寓月租不到一百元。这既体现了中国城镇化政策的成功，也体现了其根源上的失败。比起许多发展中国家，中国的城镇化进程更有序，但也廉价。数亿外来人口涌入城市，支撑着国家的城市建设和出口制造业。但城市没有回报甚至没有欢迎他们，转而在本地城镇居民的公共服务和基础设施注资。生活在握手楼里的城市外来人口仍然是二等公民，他们中大多数人享受不到城镇医保，子女不能上城市高中，他们住的房子也随时有可能被拆除。

China's new leaders now say this must change. But it is unclear whether they have the resolve to force through reforms, most of which are costly or opposed by powerful interests, or both. Li Keqiang, the new prime minister, is to host a national conference this year on urbanisation. The agenda may reveal how reformist he really is.

如今，中国的新一届领导人表示，这种现象必须改变。但是尚不清楚他们是否有将改革进行到底的决心，因为许多改革措施要么花费巨大，要么遭到强大的既得利益者反对，甚至二者兼具。新任总理李克强今年将主持召开全国城镇化会议，会议的议程将会表明他到底多有改革精神。

He will have no shortage of suggestions. An unusually public debate has unfolded in think-tanks, on microblogs and in state media about how China should improve the way it handles urbanisation. Some propose that migrants in cities should, as quickly as possible, be given the same rights to services as urban dwellers. Others insist that would-be migrants should first be given the right to sell their rural plot of land to give them a deposit for their new urban life. Still others say the government must allow more private and foreign competition in state-controlled sectors of the economy such as health care, which would expand urban services for all, including migrants. Most agree the central government must bear much more of the cost of public services and give more power to local governments to levy taxes.

李总理将会收到不少建议。一个关于中国如何改善城镇化的公开大讨论已在智囊团、微博和官方媒体上展开。有人建议，应当尽快给予外来人口和城市居民同等的权利；另外一些人坚持，迁往城市的外来人口应首先有权出售其在农村的宅基地，以筹集其城市新生活的起步资金；还有一些人认为，政府应允许私人资本和外资参与竞争国家控制的经济领域——比如医疗，这样就能将城市服务覆盖至包括外来人口在内的所有人；绝大多数人都认同中央政府应承担更大的公共服务开支，并给予地方政府更大的征税权利。

Any combination of these options would be likely to raise the income of migrants, help them to integrate into city life and narrow the gap between the wealthy and the poor, which in China is among the widest in the world. Such reforms would also spur on a slowing economy by boosting domestic consumption.

目前中国是世界上贫富差距最大的国家之一，上述任意方式的组合均能提高城市外来人口的收入水平、帮助他们融入城市生活、缩小贫富差距。同时，这样的改革还能促进内需，为放缓的经济发展注入活力。

Officials know, too, that the longer reforms are delayed the greater the chances of social unrest. "It is already a little too late," Chen Xiwen, a senior rural policy official, said last year of providing urban services to migrants. "If we don't deal with it now, the conflict will grow so great that we won't be able to proceed."

官员们也都明白，越拖延改革，社会不稳定的风险就越大。在去年谈及向城市外来人口提供服务时，农村政策高级官员陈锡文表示：“已经有点儿太晚了。如果我们现在不处理，冲突将扩大到我们无法处理。”

Yet Mr Li, the prime minister, would do well to dampen expectations. The problems of migrants and of income inequality are deeply entrenched in two pillars of discriminatory social policy that have stood since the 1950s and must be dealt with before real change can come: the household registration system, or hukou, and the collective ownership of rural land.

然而，李总理最好能降低人们的期望。二十世纪五十年代以来，城市外来人口问题和收入不平衡问题深深地植根于两项歧视性政策当中：户口制度和农村土地集体所有制。必须先处理这两项制度，改变才能到来。

The hukou perpetuates a rigid caste system. Children of holders of rural hukou inherit their parents' second-class status, even if they are born in cities. Many urbanites want to keep this system in place, to protect their preferential access to jobs, education and health care.

户口制度是僵化的社会等级制度的延续。即便出生在城市里，持农村户口父母的子女仍继承父母二等公民的身份。许多城里人为了保护自己在就业、教育、医疗方面的优先权利，想要保持这种制度。

City governments, meanwhile, cannot afford to extend public services to migrants. Zheng Zhijie, president of state-owned China Development Bank, estimated in May that cities would require 50 trillion yuan (\$8.2 trillion) in investment by 2020 to accommodate 100m new migrants and provide increased benefits to those already there. Shanghai's schools give a sense of the scale of the problem: the city had 170,000 students enrolled in high school in 2010, all holders of Shanghai hukou; more than three times that many children—570,000 migrant children aged 15 to 19—were living in the city in 2010 without Shanghai hukou, most of them unable to attend those schools.

同时，城市政府也无力向城市外来人口提供公共服务。五月份，中国国有银行——国家开发银行行长郑之杰估计，到2020年中国城市需要投入50万亿人民币（8.2万亿美元），来容纳一亿新增城市外来人口，还要为原有居民提供更好的福利。上海的学校给我们体现了问题有多严峻：2010年，上海市高中入学17万人均为本地户口，而当年住在上海的非沪籍15-19岁外来人口子女有57万，为上海本地学生的三倍之多，他们中大部分无法在上海就读。

The collective control of rural land by local officials also impedes social mobility, by allowing local governments and developers to dispossess farmers of the land they lease—and to pay them far below market value for it. Yu Jianrong, a researcher on rural China, calculated in 2010 that the government had expropriated 6.7m hectares (16.5m acres) of rural land over a 20-year period, paying farmers 2 trillion yuan (\$326 billion) less than market value.

同样阻碍社会流动的还有地方政府控制的农村集体土地所有制。这一制度允许地方政府和开发商以低于市场的价格，剥夺农民承包地。据中国农村问题研究员于建嵘2010年的计算，在过去的二十年间政府征用了670万公顷农村土地，支付价格低于市场价值2万亿。

At the same time, housing prices in cities are increasingly out of reach for migrants. The central government has encouraged the construction of low-cost housing in cities with limited success, since only local hukou holders are eligible.

同时，城市房价上涨高出了城市外来人口承受能力。中央政虽然鼓励城市经适房建设，但由于房源仅面向城市户口居民，收效甚微。

The discriminatory policies continue to take their toll on migrants. China has 163m migrant workers who have left their home township (another 99m people are classified as migrants even though they have only given up farming without moving away). A higher proportion of those were co-renting apartments with others in 2012 than four years earlier (19.7%, up from 16.7%), according to data released this week by the National Bureau of Statistics. And fewer migrants are becoming homeowners—0.6% in 2012, down from 0.9% in 2008.

歧视性政策一直在伤害城市外来人口。中国有1亿6千万农民工背井离乡（另有9千9百万人只是放弃耕地，而未迁徙，也被归为了城市外来人口）。根据国家统计局本周公布的数据显示，2012年城市外来人口中，合租比例从2008年的16.7%增至19.7%，房产拥有率从0.9%降至0.6%。

Some scholars say a solution lies in the handshake buildings of Shenzhen. Tao Ran of Renmin University in Beijing says the government should legalise such buildings around the country—allowing rural dwellers near cities to develop them and rent out flats to migrants—and then levy taxes and fees to pay for expanding services. It sounds like a reasonable proposal that would increase the supply of affordable housing and help more migrants become proper urban residents.

一些学者认为，解决方案就是深圳的握手楼。人民大学陶然认为，政府应在全国将这种违章建筑合法化，允许城市周边的农村居民开发这种房产，并将他们租住给城市外来人口，同时对此征税来支付增加的公共服务。这听起来是个不错的建议，既能有廉价住房，又能使更多的外来人口成为真正的城市居民。

But local governments will have none of it, Mr Tao says, as they will fight to retain control over land, their chief source of revenue. Other vested interests, he says, will fight, too. The road to equality for China's migrants will continue to be a hard one.

陶然同时也表示，土地是地方政府财政收入的主要来源，这样一来地方政府将得不到任何好处，为了控制土地他们会表示反对，其他的既得利益者也会极力反对。中国城市外来人口的平等之路仍将漫长而艰难。