

Current Chinese Economic Report Series

Bing-lian Liu

Shao-ju Lee

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Xiang Li

Jian-hua Xiao *Editors*

# Contemporary Logistics in China

Consolidation and Deepening

 Springer

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Editors

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# Preface

This book is the third volume in the series entitled “Contemporary Logistics in China,” authored by researchers in the Logistics Center at Nankai University. In the spirit of the two predecessor volumes, published in previous years, this book carries on the ideal of providing a systematic exposition of the logistics development in China to the English-reading community at large. Our ultimate aim and desire is to present a timely portrayal of the rapid pace of growth of China’s logistics market and the status of its logistics industry’s evolution. In so doing, we strive to offer an in-depth analysis of the hot issues and the dilemma amid the ongoing dynamic and multifaceted development and a source of reference for interested readers in the academic and professional fields.

The present work is founded on the research findings of a score of scholars in the Logistics Center, in writing the most recognized “Annual Logistics Report in China” (referred to as the *Blue Book*), published in Chinese for the past ten years. The *Blue Book*, acclaimed by knowledgeable readers of the field as the most systematic and authoritative research report of its kind, prides itself in combining data integrity, analytic rigor, and fresh perspectives. This series of books in English, though created as a companion publication, possesses these unique characteristics in terms of themes, coverage of subjects, and orientations to afford the English readers a balanced view on the contemporary logistics of China.

This book comprises 13 chapters, organized into four sections. The introductory section, consisting of four chapters, depicts the current development status of the logistics environment, the logistics market, the logistics infrastructure, and the logistics policies. The first three chapters describe the relevant statistics in a 5-year rolling fashion and give a longitudinal view of the recent trend; they also discuss the latest logistics development in a rapidly changing economic and social environment. Chapter 4 focuses on the policy aspects as the Chinese Government heightens its emphasis on transforming and strengthening the logistics industry. Major policy issues put forward in the “12th Five-Year Plan” and the “National Nine-Guidelines” are outlined to give a glimpse of the mindset of the Central planning agencies.

Section 2 turns the attention to the logistics development of three regions—the Pearl River Delta, the Wuhan Metropolitan Cluster, and the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. The Pearl River Delta has played a locomotive role in China's booming economic growth in the past decades; it is now leading the way in integrating multiple modes of land, ocean, and river transport and international collaboration. The Wuhan Metropolitan Cluster, with its solid industrial base, inland ports, and sprawling transportation network, has become a key area which the Government is leveraging to bolster the overall development of the Central Region. The economic and logistics development in Inner Mongolia has witnessed a notable rise in recent years as its distinctive industries in energy, metallurgy, and agriculture have been enhanced; increased trade at border ports also points to further needs in improving the logistics channels.

The third section addresses the logistics characteristics of three rapidly expanding industries in China—the e-commerce industry, the chain business, and the medicine industry. The modes of logistics operations, the specific logistics requirements, the supply chain relationships, and the development trend of these industries are analyzed respectively as these industries grow and prosper in modern society. The final section, consisting of three chapters, discusses some hot logistics topics in China. Chapter 11 accounts the essential subject of logistics cost in China—the components and their relative weights, the upswing of logistics cost, and the plausible means of curbing the escalation. The next chapter is on the promulgation of coordinated development of manufacturing and logistics. This closer collaborative relationship, evolved gradually among firms in the two sectors, has been vigorously promoted by the Government recently. The chapter reports on some encouraging results from various pilot studies and notes certain points for improvement. The last chapter of this section presents the development of the cross-border logistics system of inland China. China has a long inland border with many neighboring countries and complex political and economic relationships. As logistics nodes and channels along the border have been established and improved, numerous operational modes of cross-border logistics are also being implemented.

Besides being unique in nature and comprehensive in content, this book possesses several outstanding features. Firstly, the topics in Sects. 3 and 4 are carefully chosen to reflect the current hot topics in China's logistics scene. Subjects on chain business, medicine industry, rising logistics cost, collaborative development of manufacturing and logistics enterprises, and cross-border logistics are studied and analyzed in depth to provide the readers a fair understanding and a solid basis for further research on these subjects. Secondly, Section 2 focuses on three key areas mentioned above as flourishing representatives in the Eastern, Central, and Western Regions; the placement, the traits, and the development status of the logistics industry in each region are critically explored. Finally, the analyses presented in this book are both quantitative and qualitative in nature. Relevant data are obtained via appropriate published sources, expert interviews, and market surveys; conclusions are drawn based on a careful analysis and synthesis of the objective and subjective information.

As much as we strive to make this series of books a useful source of information and a handy tool for grasping the vibrant logistics development in China, we are well aware of our limitations inherent in such an endeavor. We earnestly welcome your suggestions and comments in making this effort worthwhile for all our valued readers.

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