

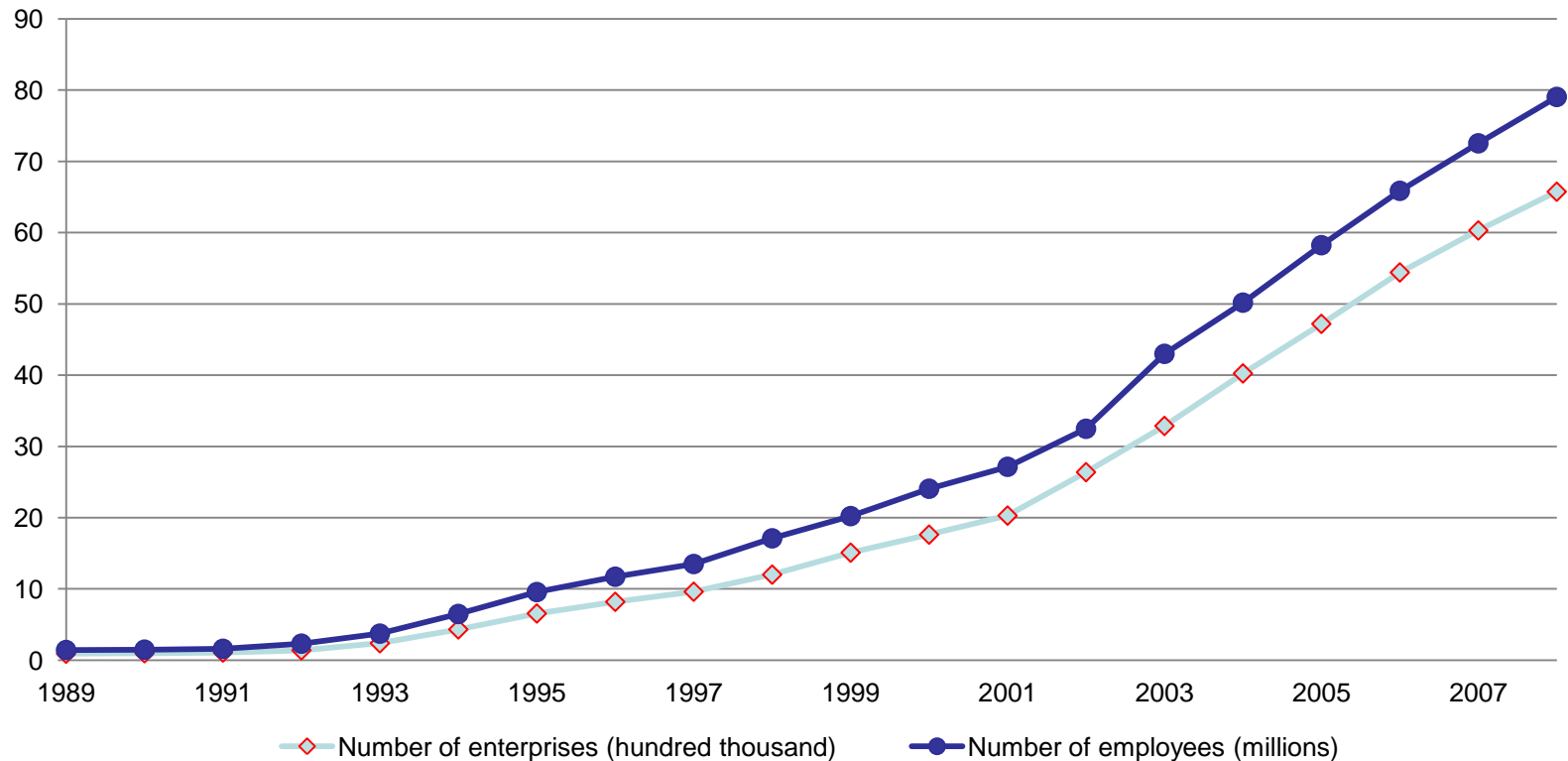
# Which side are you on? China's Communist state between the capitalists and the workers

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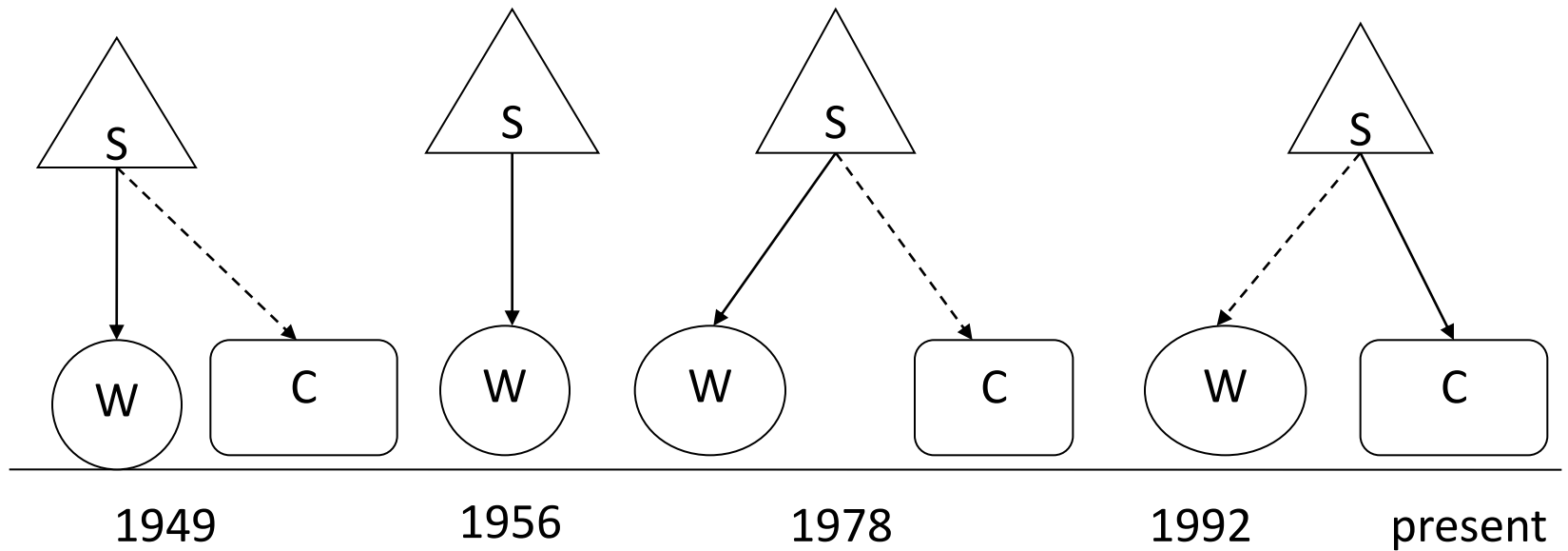
# Overview

- Questions:
  1. How have the relationships between the Chinese (Communist) state, the workers, and the capitalists (old and new generations) changed in the past six decades?
  2. How does the state justify its changing policies towards the capitalist and the workers?
  3. Where do state officials stand when there are disputes between the workers and their bosses?
- Plan:
  1. Background
  2. Changing state policies and ambiguities
  3. The increasing number of labour disputes
  4. Strategies of the state, the workers, and the capitalists
  5. Concluding remarks

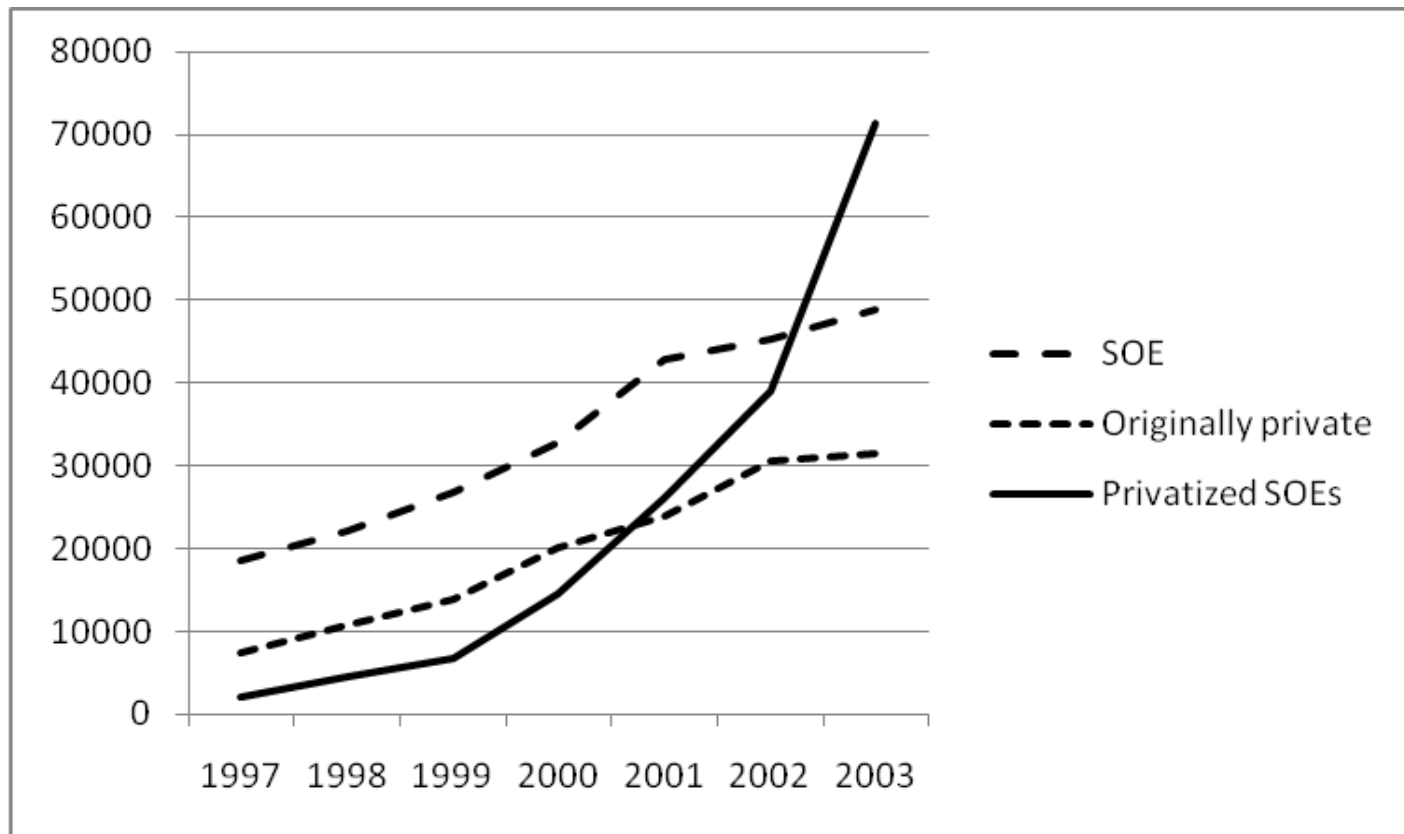
# The new capitalists and the 'crowd of the dispossessed'



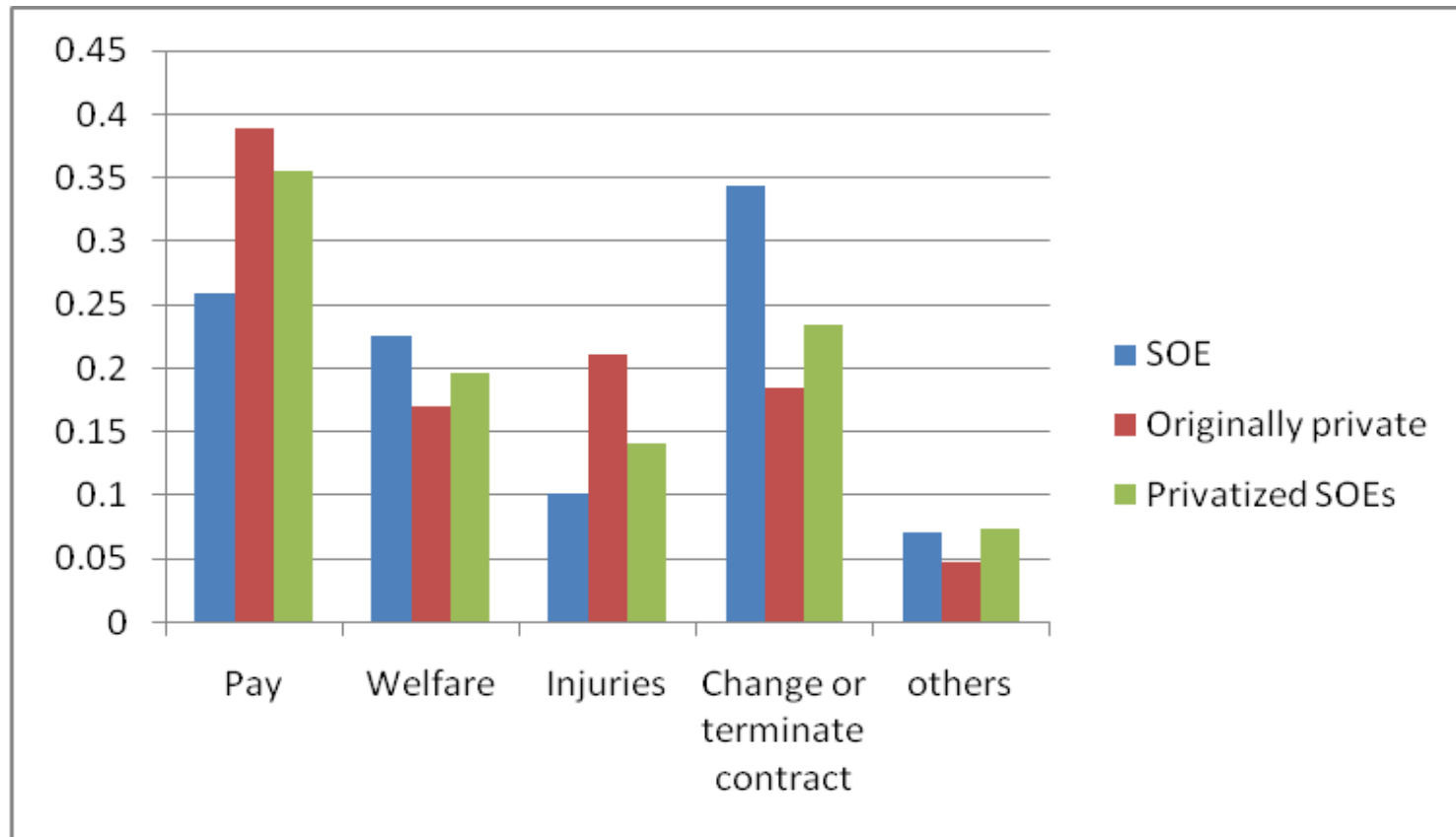
# Changing relations between the Chinese state, the workers, and the capitalists



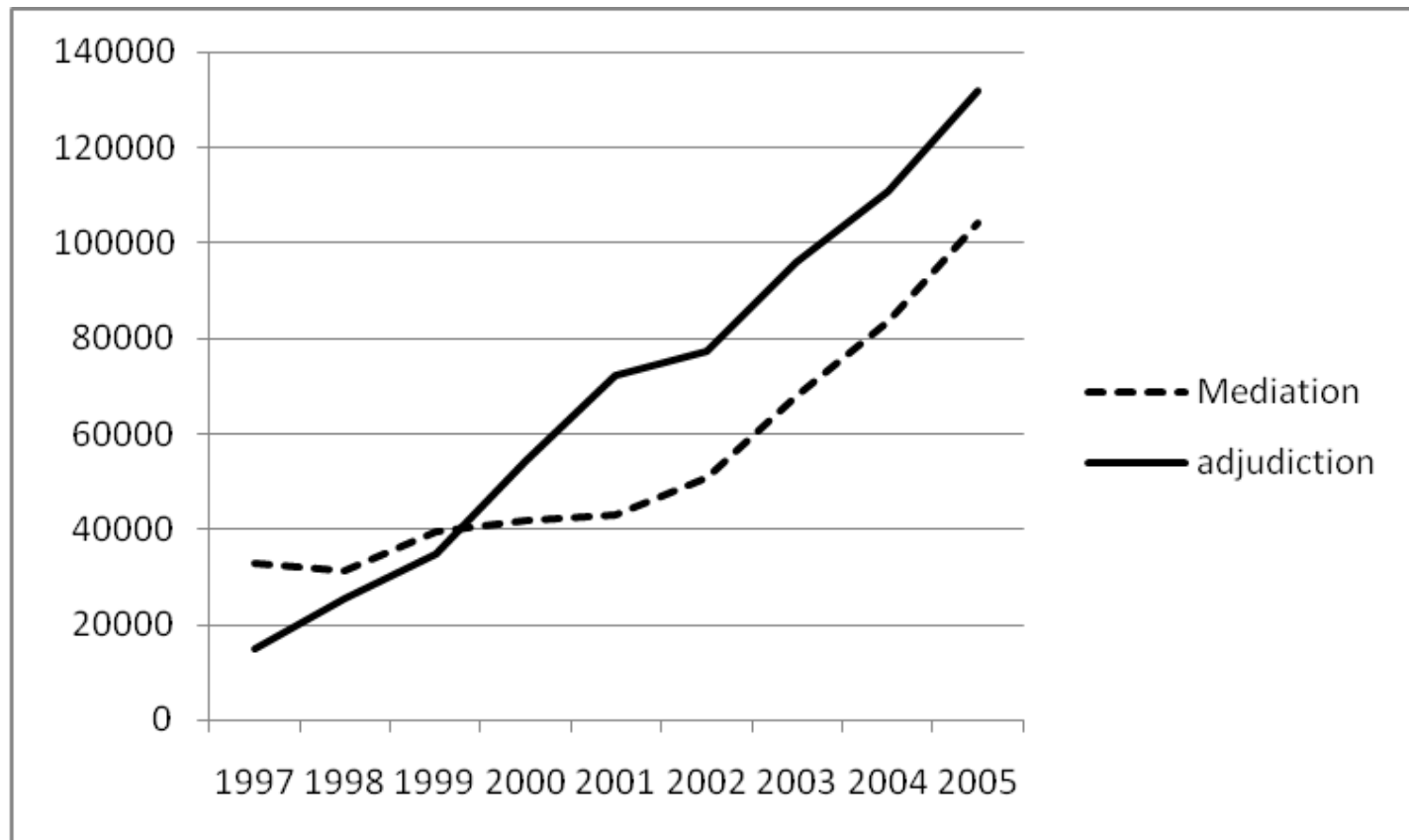
# Number of employment disputes in China, 1997 – 2003



# Sources of employment disputes by ownership in China, 2003



# Resolution of employment disputes in China, 1997 – 2005



# ‘A new type of employment relations’: a win-win solution?

- Legislation: lack of awareness and reinforcement;
- Lack of or weak supply of institutional mechanisms
  - Tri-party mechanism
  - Trade unions in private enterprises
  - CCP committees in private enterprises
- Intervention by state officials in labour dispute cases → lack of trust of the legal system
- Workers’ tactics:
  - The power of numbers
  - A mass without leaders
  - Non-violent



# Concluding remarks

- The tension between ideology and pragmatic considerations in the history of the PRC.
- A great challenge to the Communist state: representing and reconciling diverse and conflicting interests of different groups; the absence of a vision, resulting in
  - Normative confusions
  - Tactics on a case-by-case basis
  - Loss of trust
  - Potential risk of uncontrollable events
- How far can the current practice go without loosening up its grip on power?