

Abstract

Chongqing was designated as the fourth centrally-administered municipality of China in 1997. Since then it has shouldered the responsibility to develop the west, to resettle more than one million Three Gorges residents, and, at the same time, to act as the economic growth pole in the upper reach of Yangtze River. This is not easy. Chongqing has inherited large numbers of armament industries and other heavy industries from the past, making it the largest heavy industrial base in the southwest. Most of these industries are state-owned enterprises with out-dated facilities. This industrial pattern co-exists side by side with a vast rural area in which 15.32 million farmers struggle to make their ends meet. A dual spatial structure exists in the largest city in China. To integrate the two spaces, the rich city and the poor village, the Chongqing Municipal government has paid strenuous effort to urbanize the region, transfer redundant farm workers and alleviate poverty. However, the effort is hampered by the city's past industrial development. Moreover, the current large-scale projects are economically feasible only with the support of the central government. Whether the development of Chongqing can be sustainable or self-perpetuating is highly questionable.

Keywords: Duality, fragmentation, rescaling, Chongqing, southwest