Tech Know-How Modernizes China’s Old-Industry City

By: Wang Jinye, Wang Hongfeng and Li Laifang

The political parties that once dominated Western democracies have been challenged in a number of countries. The rise of “neoliberal populism”, which first emerged in the United States, has since spread to other countries, targeting those who feel shut out from the benefits of globalization.

The political landscape has undergone profound changes in recent years. Traditional parties have faced a decline in support as new movements have emerged. These include nationalist, anti-establishment, and anti-immigrant parties across Europe and Asia. The rise of populism has challenged the established order and posed a significant threat to established political systems.

In this context, China’s industrial cities are facing a similar challenge. The economies of these cities are heavily dependent on traditional industries, such as steel and coal, which have been in decline. As a result, many of these cities are experiencing economic difficulties and social instability.

For example, the city of Tangshan in Hebei province is a once-thriving old-industry city. It has a long history as a steel-producing hub, but with the decline of the steel industry, the city has struggled to find a new path forward. In recent years, Tangshan has taken measures to modernize its economy, including the development of new industries and the promotion of tourism.

However, there are significant differences between China and other countries experiencing similar challenges. One key factor is the role of the government. In China, the government plays a more active role in promoting economic development and social stability. This has allowed the government to implement policies that are designed to address the specific challenges faced by old-industry cities.

For instance, the government has invested heavily in the development of new industries, such as advanced manufacturing and high-tech industries. These industries are seen as having the potential to create new jobs and stimulate economic growth. The government has also taken steps to promote tourism, which is seen as a way to generate revenue and increase employment.

In addition, the government has implemented policies to promote social stability. For example, it has implemented a number of measures to address the issue of pollution, which is a significant concern in old-industry cities. These measures include the closure of high-pollution factories and the promotion of clean energy.

These policies have had a positive impact on Tangshan. The city has seen a reduction in pollution levels, and the quality of life for residents has improved. In addition, the city has seen an increase in tourism, which has generated revenue and created new jobs.

In conclusion, China’s old-industry cities face significant challenges, but they also have the potential to overcome them through the implementation of effective policies. By promoting new industries and addressing environmental concerns, these cities can create a new path for economic growth and social stability.

A Grassroots Antidote to Populism

By: Ismael Elamrani and David Maluccio

The political challenges facing China are complex and multifaceted. The country is facing rapid economic growth, urbanization, and demographic changes, all of which are shaping the political landscape.

In this context, it is important to consider the role of grassroots organizations in promoting social stability and economic development. These organizations can provide a platform for citizens to voice their concerns and work towards solutions.

One example of a grassroots organization is the Chinese Red Cross Society (CRCS), which has been active in promoting community development and social welfare services.

The CRCS has a strong presence in China’s old-industry cities, where it provides a range of services, including health care, education, and social welfare. These services are designed to address the specific needs of the local community and promote social inclusion.

In addition, the CRCS has been involved in promoting economic development. For example, it has supported the development of new industries, such as tourism, which has generated revenue and created new jobs.

In conclusion, grassroots organizations can play a significant role in promoting social stability and economic development in China’s old-industry cities. By providing a platform for citizens to voice their concerns and work towards solutions, these organizations can help to address the specific challenges faced by these cities and promote a more inclusive and sustainable future.

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