

Derrida as a Lever of Power: On the Translation of *Ghosts of Marx* in China

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The French philosopher Jacques Derrida, founder of the influential post-structuralist deconstruction movement, was one of the most controversial personalities of the 20th century. Our paper will attempt to show how his work was altered when it first paved his way into China.

The first work on Derrida published in Mainland China was an article by the expert in comparative literature 张隆溪 Zhang Longxi published in 《读书》 *Dushu* in 1983, with quotations from *Writing and Difference* and *Of Grammatology*. However, it is striking to see that China first encountered Derrida's original work through the 1997 translation by 李朝晖 Li Zhaohui (specialist of social sciences from Peking University) of a "Review of Fukuyama's "The End of History and the Last Man"", the second chapter of *Ghosts of Marx*, which was published in the journal 《马克思主义与现实》 *Marxism and Reality* owned by the Compilation and Translation Bureau of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. This initiative (as well as the publications that followed) wrongly used Derrida to criticize anti-Marxism and capitalism by omitting part of his speech and simplifying his position on the matter.

After an introduction to Derrida's work and a look at its translation into Chinese through an historical point of view, we will further investigate how *Ghosts of Marx* was adapted by the Chinese translator to accommodate to China's political agenda, thus using the Western philosopher's voice to assert its own ideological power.