

## City Size Distributions: The Chinese Case

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This study of China explores how the city size distributions in different historical periods fit in the Zipf's Law. It also demonstrates how policy and institutional factors affect the changes of city size distributions overtime and across regions in the country. It argues that the rapid industrialization process during the past 50 years in China has contributed to the concentration of small-and-medium size cities. A development strategy for a more service-based economy would require a policy and institutional environment conducive to reallocating major manufacturing centers to suburban areas. Land policy would play a key role in this process.