

Macro Roundup Article

Headline: [Is It Me or the Economic System? Changing Evaluations of Inequality in China](#)

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Tweet: In 2014 well over 60% of Chinese believed lack of ability and effort explained poverty; in 2023 these factors fell to 31-33%, topped by unequal opportunity at 38% and an unfair economic system at 36%. @mazzocco_ilaria @KennedyCSIS

Summary: Between 2004 and 2014 respondents identified lack of ability, lack of effort, and low education as the main factors that explained poverty in China. Structural issues, such as unequal opportunities, ranked 5th, while an unfair economic structure ranked 9th. The originally low assignment of responsibility to systems changed dramatically in the 2023 survey. Instead, respondents in China now believe that structural factors are most important in explaining why people are poor. Unequal opportunity surged to being the number one reason why respondents believe people are poor, and an unfair economic structure jumped to number three. Education remained the second most important factor, but uneven access to education in China is in itself a source and a symptom of widespread and persistent inequality.

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Primary Topic: China

Topics: China, Database, Op-Ed/Blog Post, Politics

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