

Economic Growth, Social Movements and Transformation of Official Discourses in China (1978-2003)

MACS 30200 Project
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Introduction

“De-radicalization” and “de-ideologization” of the official discourses of the Chinese state since the 1980s have been observed by many scholars (Misra, 1998; Ding, 2006).



“Take a firm stand against the **bourgeois liberalization**” *People's Daily* (1987)



“Celebrate national day, build up **Chinese Dream** together” *People's Daily* (2014)

Research Questions

Why and how did the official discourses in China become less radical after the death of Mao in 1976?

- The radical ideology, like Maoist ideology, is a burden for the **economic reform** since the late 1970s (Dirlik and Meisner, 1989; Selden, 1993; Fewsmith, 1994).
- The recurrent **social movements** in the 1980s contributed to the legitimacy transformation of the Chinese state (Zhao, 2000 and 2014).

However, the transformation of the Chinese official discourses are only explored by qualitative method in the current literatures.

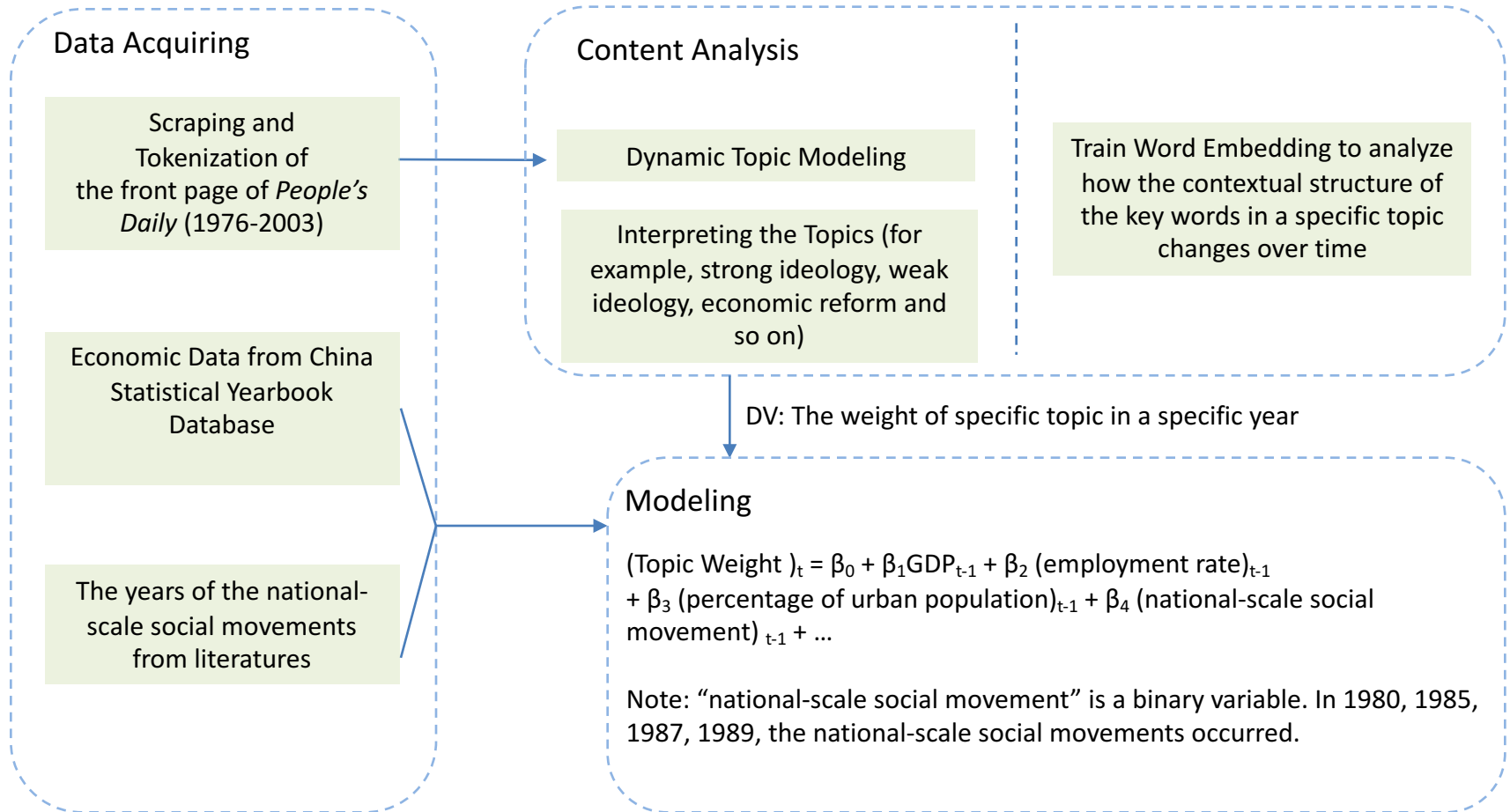
Research Questions

More specifically, how did the economic growth and social movements influence the official discourses on *People's Daily*, the mouthpiece of the Chinese Communist Party, from 1976 to 2003?

Hypothesis 1: as the economy grows, the official discourses of the Chinese state becomes less radical, and the strong ideological topics decline (Dirlik and Meisner, 1989; Selden, 1993; Fewsmith, 1994).

Hypothesis 2: the social movement influences the pattern of the official discourses (Zhao, 2000 and 2014).

Data and Methods



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SI, WI and EP's Occurrence in the People's Daily (Monthly Summary)

January 1986 to December 1990

