

Goedde (2011) concludes that the success of Human rights lawyers in Korea, in terms of their historical significance and legal mobilization achievements, was largely attributed to the supportive legal regime under the democracy movement in 1987. Zhu (2018) distinguishes between the concepts of “law-oriented lawyering” and “political lawyering”, and highlights the challenges faced by Chinese rights lawyers due to China's rigid constitutional models and legal systems compared to the more liberal political environment in Taiwan and Korea. This has resulted in a bottleneck for the Chinese rights lawyer movement, as it has struggled to extend its reach beyond socio-economic issues and engage with political matters. In my opinion, Chinese rights lawyers can play a crucial role in enlightening people and fostering the collaboration among grassroots communities.

I concur with Dr. Zhu's view that China's Party-State system severely obstructs any avenues for Chinese rights lawyers to actively pursue liberal democracy through direct participation in legislation or legal movements. The decline of weiquan movements since 2005-2006 demonstrates that lawyer-led approach could not be a feasible method for achieving liberal transformation in China. Instead, grassroots mobilization should serve as a necessary catalyst to lead China towards a liberal transformation of its legal and constitutional systems. The White Paper protests is a good example, initially aiming at opposing restrictive Covid policies implemented by the Chinese government, but swiftly questioning of the legitimacy of the existing political system. The Chinese government managed to prevent the protests from escalating to a political movement by cancelling most of the Covid policies right away. The White Paper protests showcased the possibility that the Chinese government could make concessions when faced with sufficient public pressure.

In addition, the prevalence of social media platforms and the increasing accessibility of foreign sources of information have weakened the the Chinese government's control over its people. Despite the ongoing censorship of speech and manipulation of domestic press, these changes have created more space and opportunities for Chinese rights lawyers to expand their influence among the people and to foster the connections between different local communities.

In conclusion, as suggested by Dr. Zhu, Chinese rights lawyers should act as the middlemen in the contentious relationship between China's Party-State system and the civil society. I would further contend that Chinese rights lawyers should focus mainly on raising the awareness about liberal transformation among the civil society in order to encourage people to assert their rights and opportunity of participating in political issues.