



## China Perspectives

2009/2 | 2009

1989, a Watershed in Chinese History?

---

# The Chinese Communist Party and June 4<sup>th</sup>

Or how to get out of it and get away with it

Michel Bonnin

---



### Electronic version

URL: <http://journals.openedition.org/chinaperspectives/4806>

DOI: 10.4000/chinaperspectives.4806

ISSN: 1996-4617

### Publisher

Centre d'étude français sur la Chine contemporaine

### Printed version

Date of publication: 1 June 2009

Number of pages: 52-61

ISSN: 2070-3449

### Electronic reference

Michel Bonnin, « The Chinese Communist Party and June 4<sup>th</sup> », *China Perspectives* [Online], 2009/2 | 2009, Online since 01 June 2011, connection on 28 October 2019. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/chinaperspectives/4806> ; DOI : 10.4000/chinaperspectives.4806

---

This text was automatically generated on 28 October 2019.

© All rights reserved

---

# The Chinese Communist Party and June 4<sup>th</sup>

Or how to get out of it and get away with it

Michel Bonnin

---

---

## ABSTRACTS

The spring 1989 democracy movement and the massacre of June 4th were a serious challenge to the legitimacy of the Chinese Communist Party. Twenty years on the Party appears to have successfully overcome it, but at the price of a return to the political fundamentals of a Leninist party-state and the use of nationalism as a replacement source of legitimacy. Despite all its efforts to conceal and deform the true history of the 1989 “disturbances” (as demonstrated in school and university text books), the party has not succeeded in ridding itself of this stain on its history. Questions about recognition of responsibility and a possible “reconciliation” continue to haunt it.

## AUTHOR

**MICHEL BONNIN**

Professor at the China Centre, EHESS, Paris.