

What Do Events of Demolition via Eminent Domain Mean to Ordinary Citizens in China?

This project is entitled “What Do Events of Demolition via Eminent Domain Mean to Ordinary Citizens in China?” As one of the required assessment components for CHIN100C, it is worth 20% of your final grade. The project will take you four weeks to complete and it involves teamwork. For this project, you and three other members of the class will work as a news reporting team to report in Chinese on a recent event of demolition via eminent domain in China.

As you know, unlike the United States, land ownership works differently in China. The land in China belongs to the state and the collectives and an ordinary citizen can only obtain the land use right without any claim to the land or resources in or below the land. Since the adoption of Deng Xiaoping’s open-door policy in 1978, China’s economy has been expanding rapidly and there has been a nationwide need for land to build high-rise buildings, highways, high-speed rails, parks, shopping malls, high-tech companies, etc. However, there is no clear official guideline in China regarding what amount of payment should be appropriate for what size of land when the Government expropriates a certain piece of land from individuals for the above-mentioned purposes. This situation has led to abuse of power by some government officials and citizens’ land use rights have been a center issue in many demolition events via eminent domain in China.

The websites provided to you below contain detailed information about some of the events of demolition via eminent domain that happened recently in China. Since the description of these events is meant for native speakers of Chinese, providing a detailed analysis of these events will undoubtedly pose challenges for you at your current level of Chinese. This project is thus designed with the consideration of your proficiency level and with the purpose of exposing you to the target use of Chinese in a real world at the same time.

For this project, each team is required to choose one demolition event to work on from the eight events provided below. To ensure a successful completion of your project on time, you are expected to follow the timeline suggested below. At the end of each week, you are expected to submit your weekly work to the course site for teacher feedback and you will earn points, as shown below, for each week’s work.

Week one: Extract the basic information from the event that your team has chosen (40 pts)

You should decide as a team which event you want to work on and then start to extract the basic information from the detailed description of the event with the help of an online Chinese popup dictionary. You need to write down your answers in Chinese to these questions: 1) Where did the event occur? 2) When did the event occur? 3) What was the event about? 4) Who were involved in the event? And 5) What did each participant represent, an individual citizen or a government official?

Week two: Spatial ethnography questions (40 pts)

Interpret the event by focusing on answering the following questions in Chinese: 1) What did the individual citizen/citizens in the event say? 2) What did the individual citizen/citizens do? 3) What did the government official/officials say? 3) What did the government official/officials do? 4) How did individual citizen/citizens feel? 5) Why did they feel that way? And 6) What did individual citizen/citizens plan to do, if applicable?

Week three: Your fotonovela news report (60 pts)

Synthesize your findings and create a fotonovela news report about the event through use of photos and captions in Chinese (see a sample report below). Present your news report to the class within 6-8 minutes and then answer questions from your fellow students.

Week four: Write a passage in 300 Chinese words discussing your views on the event (60 pts)

Work as a team and reach a consensus about your views on the event you have chosen. Then write a short passage in 300 Chinese words discussing your views on the event. Your passage is expected to demonstrate your ability to interpret, analyze and synthesize the information you have gathered from studying the authentic resources and is expected to be coherent, logical and free of grammatical errors.

Websites of demolition events in China for the past few years

1. A. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dz_A49ImLVk the video clip of an event in Anhui 安徽阜阳事件视频
B. <http://news.sohu.com/20150616/n415140332.shtml> the news report on the event in Anhui 安徽阜阳事件文字报道
2. <https://www.takefoto.cn/viewnews-1790194.html> an event in Beijing 北京海淀事件
3. https://k.sina.com.cn/article_6405349098_m17dc9deea03300rau4.html?from=estate an event in Shanghai 上海事件
4. <https://www.takefoto.cn/viewnews-697061.html> an event in Shanxi 陕西省商南县富水镇事件
5. <https://www.takefoto.cn/viewnews-836757.html?from=timeline&isappinstalled=1> an event in Hunan 湖南长沙事件
6. <https://cn.ntdtv.com/gb/2017/05/23/a1325903.html> an event in Wuhan 湖北武汉迁拆维权事件
7. <https://www.ntdtv.com/gb/2020/01/08/a102748042.html> an event in Shanghai 上海强拆视频
8. <https://www.chinatimes.net.cn/article/63304.html> an event in Hubei 湖北事件

A sample fotonovela report on the event happed in Guangdong 广东迁拆事件



这是发生在中国广东省的故事。图片里的房子有三层楼，房子的主人叫陈润新。2012 年省政府要征用这块土地，修高铁。陈先生因为补偿问题没有和政府谈拢，所以拒绝了政府要他们搬家的要求。This story happed in Guangdong. The owner of the house is called Chen Runxin. In 2012 the government wanted to expropriate the land to build a high-speed rail. The owner refused to move as he disagreed with the amount of payment offered by the government.



有一天，当地的领导带着拆迁工程队来到了陈家的居所的门前，其中一个穿着西装的人用高音喇叭喊话，对陈家说他们那天必须要搬出自家的房子。One day a local government official brought demolition workers to Chen's resident without prior notice. He used a loud speaker to order Chen's family to move out of their house that very day.



当时房子的主人不在家，所以没有人回答领导的问话。于是领导命令工程队想办法进入陈家，并让他们把房里的家具一件一件地搬到屋外。Nobody was at home that day, therefore, nobody responded to the official's order. The official then ordered the demolition workers to get into the Chen's house and start to move their furniture out.



后来赶到的陈家的三女儿很生气，她出来和领导理论，并想用自己的身体来阻止工程队拆她家的房子。这时候，法院派来了执法人员，她们抓住陈家的三女儿，不让她靠近推土机。Chen's daughter later arrived and started to reason with the official. She wanted to lay down in front of the bulldozer to stop the demolition process, but she was stopped by two guards sent there by the court.



最后，房子的主人陈润新通过女儿和政府达成了协议，同意拆迁，陈润新点头后，推土机就立刻把他家的三层楼拆掉了。In the end, the official spoke with the owner over the phone. Mr. Chen finally agreed to the amount of payment offered by the official and the demolition process began.