There are more shipping containers loaded and unloaded off the coasts and rivers of China, than travel to or from all other territories put together. It is in China that more than three-quarters of this activity takes place. The majority of China’s shipping by implication appears to be ‘domestic’. The rest of the world put together only handles a third of what China handles. Thus at least half of all container shipping in the world involves China. The ships may bring goods to serve the domestic Chinese market, they may transport part-finished goods along the Chinese coast or down-river, or goods could simply be being transferred between container ships in a Chinese port.

 Territory size shows the proportion of all shipping containers being loaded and unloaded there.

“Mao claimed that China’s industrial output could overtake that of the United States and Britain within fifteen years.”

Jung Chang, 1991