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**Project Title:** China's Household Registration System (*hukou*) and its Socioeconomic Impacts

**Abstract:**

On March 1, 2010, thirteen major Chinese newspapers published an unprecedented joint editorial demanding the government to dramatically reform the country's household registration system (*hukou*). The *hukou* system serves as one of the lynchpins of China's political economy and it has tremendous impact on the lives of all Chinese citizens. Every citizen or household must register with the government and obtain a certain type of *hukou*, which, directly or indirectly, determines access to health care, education, mobility, and other socioeconomic factors. This paper researches the macro impacts of the *hukou* system on the Chinese society and economy through analyzing the system's role in perpetrating the country's uneven spatial development. On a micro level, this work uncovers personal stories of individual citizens affected by the *hukou* system. Results support previous literature's argument for a fundamental reform and eventual elimination of the *hukou* system.