

The swing of the political pendulum in Hong Kong

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“One country, two systems” is never going to be easy for Hong Kong under Chinese sovereignty, given the SAR’s colonial past and social heterogeneity and the Mainland’s ongoing but perhaps protracted struggle to become a modernised superpower.

Professionals are playing against amateurs in an asymmetric game. Now the political pendulum is swinging back after a period of reigning in and framework setting. The ball seems to be in the court of those whom Beijing doesn’t really like or trust but is no longer too wary about, as most of their trump cards have been revealed. My guess is that they will have a relatively free go for some time. The idea is to extract a historical lesson: you guys do the dirty work and let’s see if you could perform any better.

A pendulum being a pendulum, further swings are likely in the future. But first the concept needs to sink in.