



Researching Public Trust in Local Government in China - perspectives of public officials

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Outline

1. The whole picture of research during the PhD period
2. Research aims for this paper
3. Research methods for data collection and analysis
4. Preliminary Results

1. Whole picture of PhD research

Public trust in local government in China

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graph TD; A[Public trust in local government in China] --> B[Section one: Participants: 5001 citizens (2875 urban citizens+ 2126 rural citizens); Method: Questionnaire]; A --> C[Section two: Participants: 30 public officials in local government; Method: semi-structured interview];
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Section one:

Participants: 5001 citizens
(2875 urban citizens+
2126 rural citizens);
Method: Questionnaire ;

Section two:

Participants: 30 public officials in
local government;
Method: semi-structured interview

2. Research aims for paper

This research aims to examine the trust pattern in multi-level of government in China, and identify the key drivers influencing public trust in local government in China from the perspective of public officials

3. Research methods for data collection and analysis

Data Collection:

- a:** Semi-structured interview with 30 public officials;
- b:** Officials of Bureau of Culture, Bureau of Complains, Bureau of Education, Public Health Bureau, and other officials at three different levels of local government (sub-district/town, district/county and municipal government)
- c:** Each interview lasting for approximately 1.5 hours;
- d:** Tape recording for 30 officials (27 accepted and 3 refused).

Data Analysis:

- a:** Grounded theory method (Strauss and Corbin,1998)
- b:** Nvivo 9 software

4. Preliminary Results

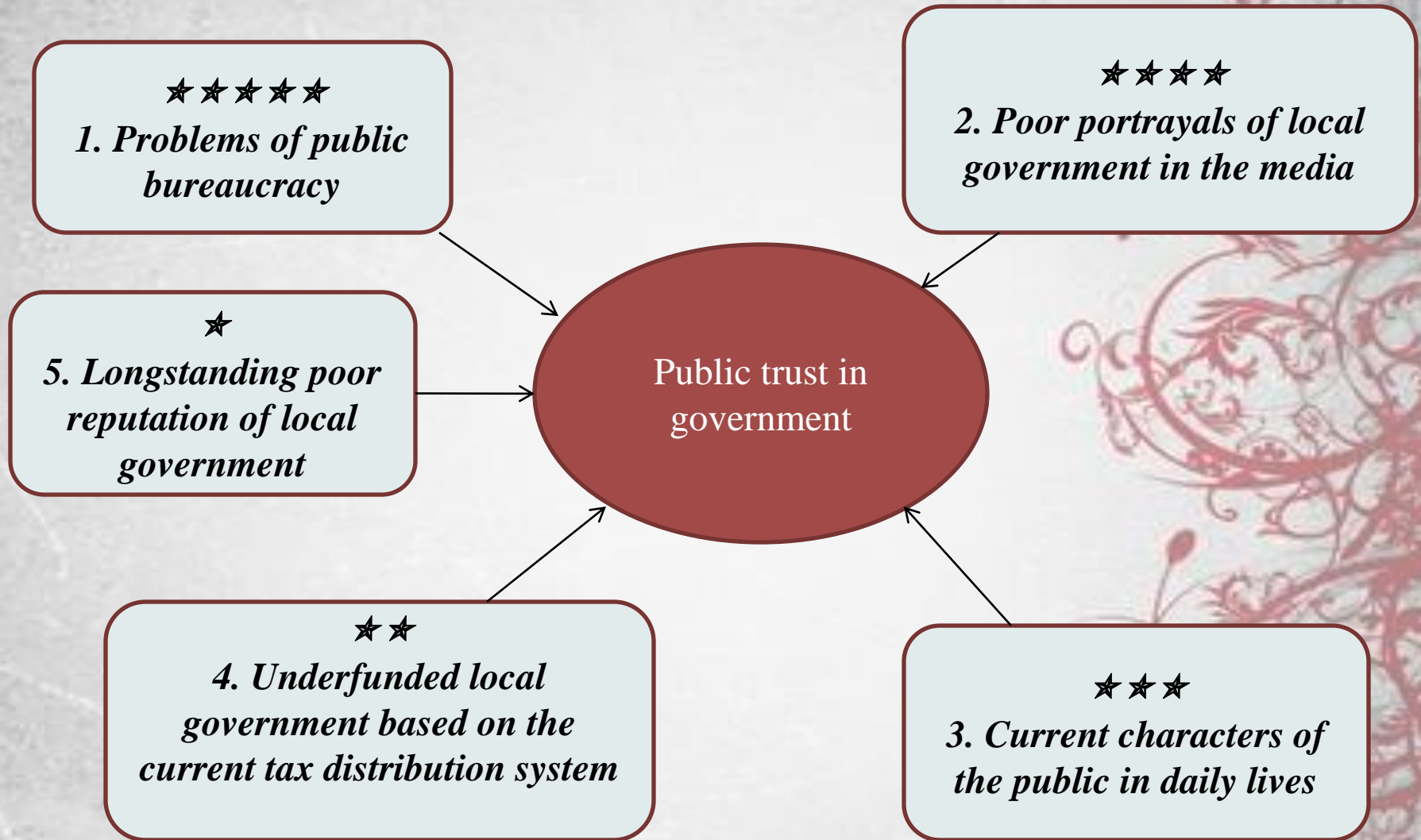
Result one: *trust patterns*

Pattern one: *hierarchical trust pattern in local government----the higher the level of local government, the higher the level of public trust;*

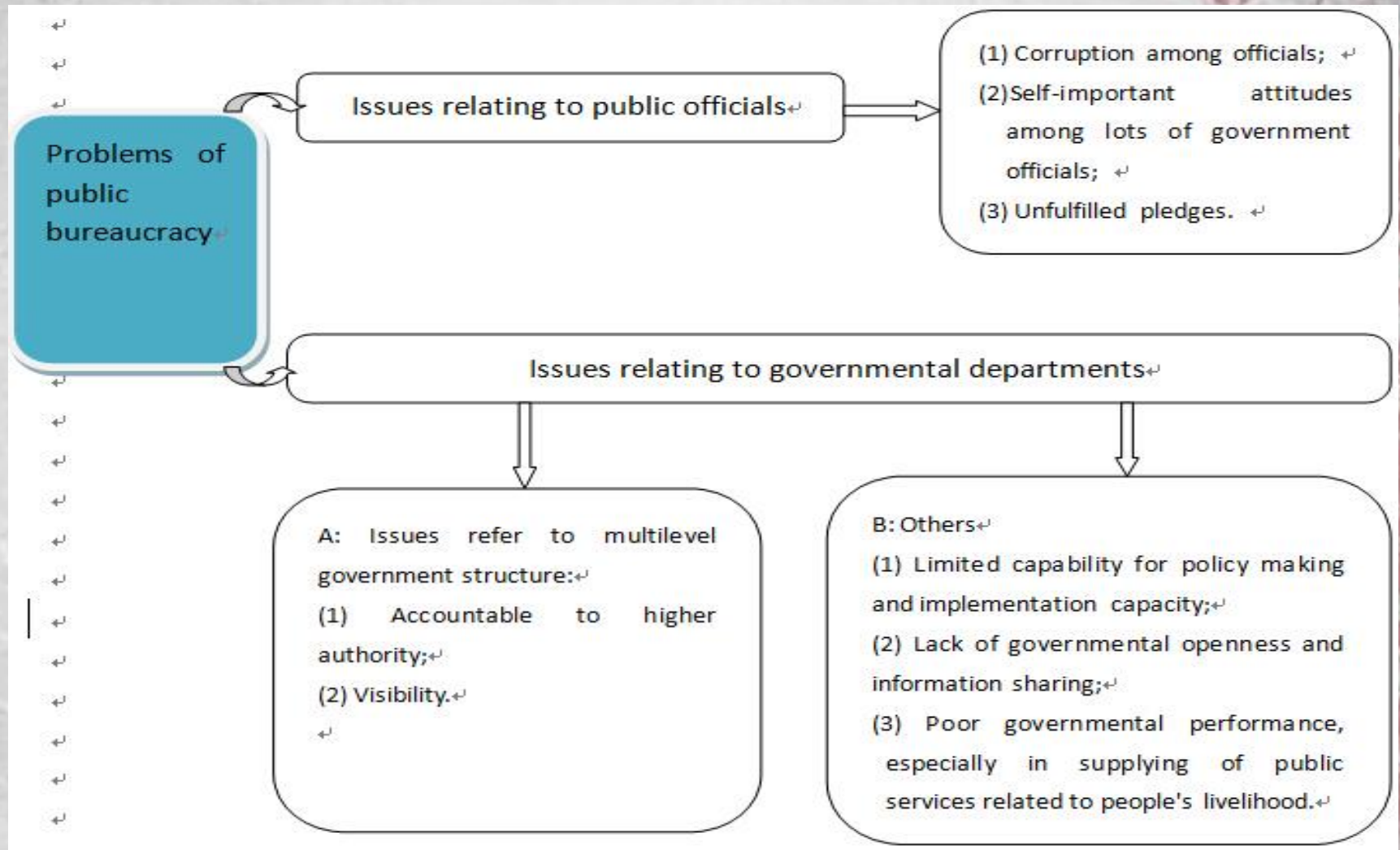
Pattern two: *downward trend of trust in local government-----public trust in local government has been experiencing a downtrend in recent years;*

Pattern three: *deference pattern in local government----- which emphasizes the expectation on the public to trust local government through the deference to the political system of China.*

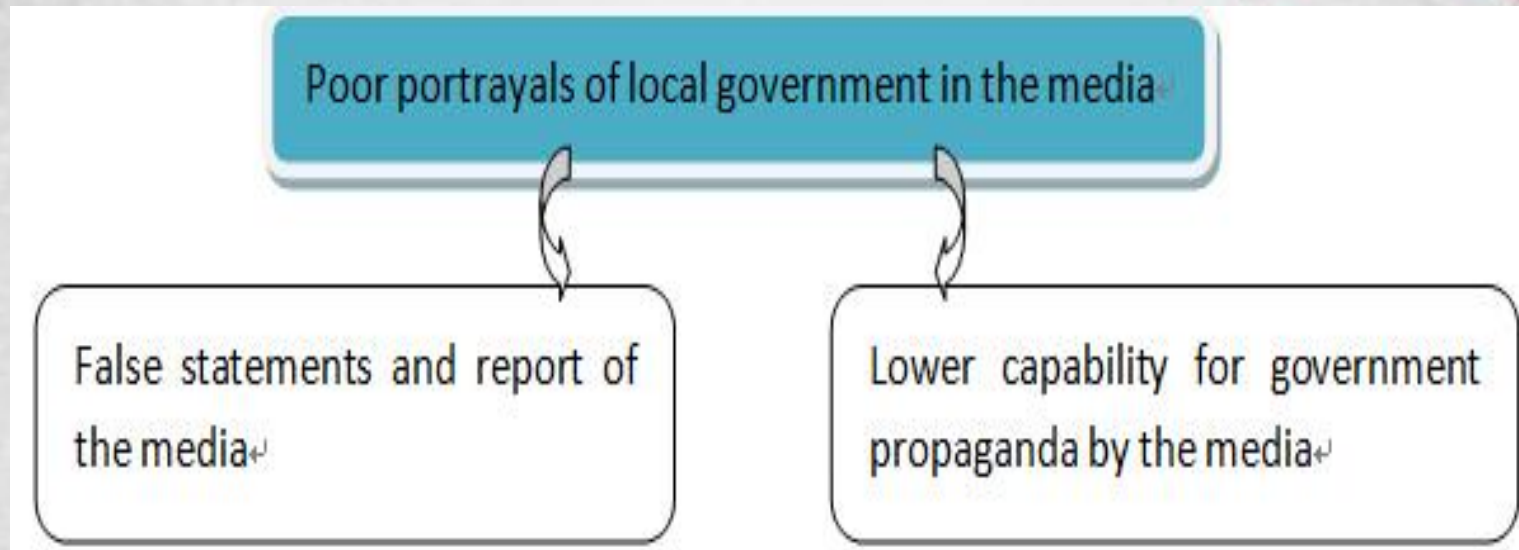
Result two: five main factors affecting public trust in government



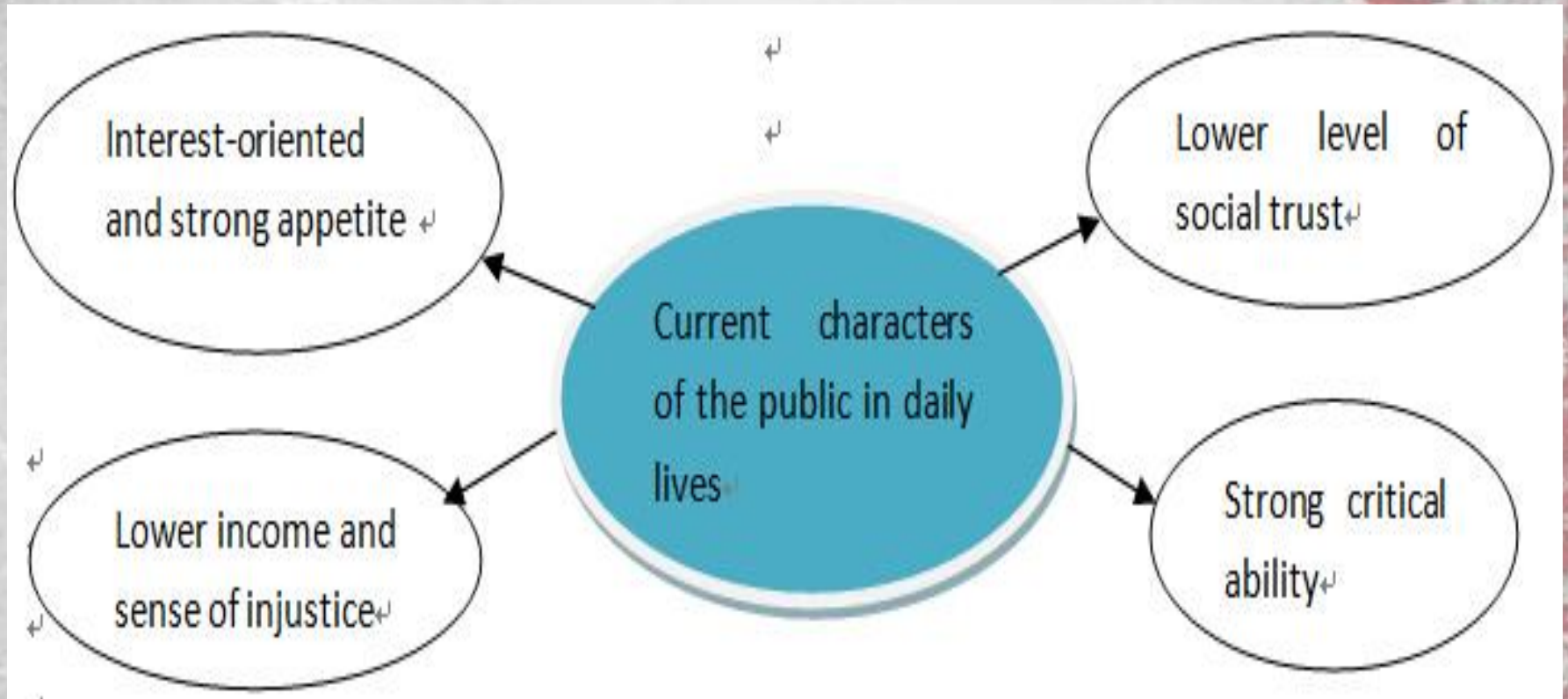
Factor one: Problems of public bureaucracy



Factor two: poor portrayals of local government in the media

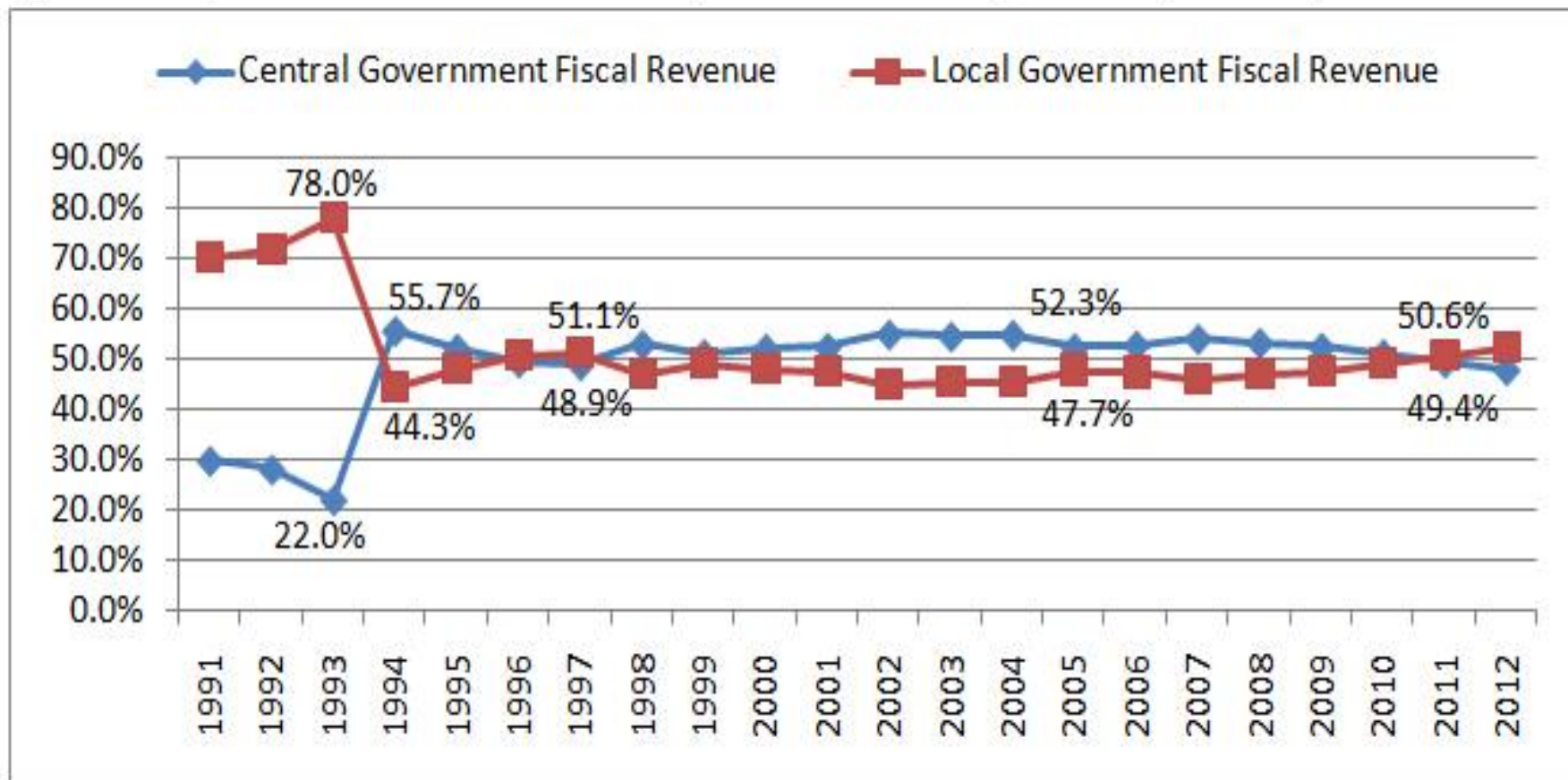


Factor three: current characters of the public in daily lives



Factor four: underfunded local government based on the current tax distribution system

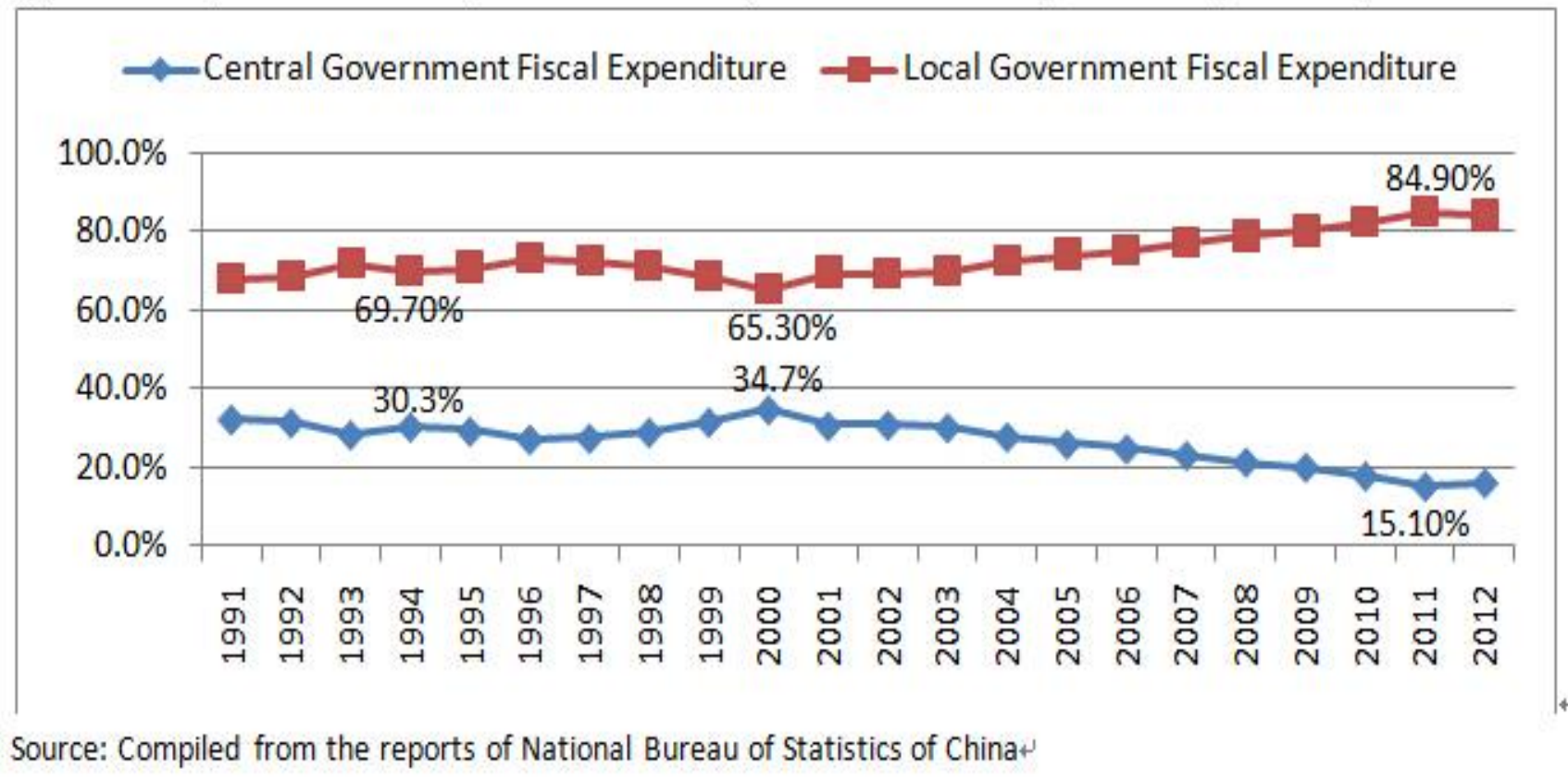
Figure one: Proportion of fiscal revenue of central government and local government (1991-2012).⁴



Source: Compiled from the reports of National Bureau of Statistics of China⁴

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Figure two: Proportion of fiscal expenditure of central government and local government (1991-2012).⁴



Factor five: longstanding poor reputation of local government

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The End!

Thank you!