

# The New York Times

## Women in China, Loath to Turn Back the Clock



Gilles Sabri  for The New York Times

### To the Editor:

Re “China’s Male Leaders Signal to Women That Their Place Is in the Home” (news article, Nov. 3):

Although Mao Zedong proclaimed that “women hold up half the sky,” the weight of thousands of years of Chinese culture held back — and continues to hold back — many from attaining their full potential.

My mother, born before the 1949 Communist takeover of the government, was prohibited from going to school by her father, but even decades later suffered limited choices, gender discrimination and the societal stigma of having only daughters.

Now that Chinese women have tasted power, freedom and independence, they are not going to go back to being merely wives, mothers and caretakers any more than American women, as evidenced by the recent U.S. elections, are going to give up their hard-won reproductive rights to satisfy the wishes of right-wing conservatives.

Men on both sides of the globe are going to find that turning back the clock is a lot harder than they thought.

Qin Sun Stubis  
Bethesda, Md.

*The writer is a newspaper columnist and author of “Once Our Lives,” a historical saga about four generations of Chinese women.*