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### **What Make the Church Welcomed by the State? – Mapping the Trails of Christian Fundamentalism in Hong Kong**

When the Basic Law was being drafted in the mid-eighties, Hong Kong Christians were vocal in expressing their worries about the future handover of Hong Kong to China. Their wish to have their political rights protected under the new Basic Law met with stern warnings from the Chinese side that although Christians can still enjoy religious freedom under the red flag, they should uphold strictly the principle of the separation between the church and the state. It meant that the churches should not be used as a platform for any political activities. It was then widely seen as a strong signal to the Christian community that the strong presence of Christians in the emerging political movement, which yearned for freedom and democracy, was not really welcomed by the incoming Chinese authorities. However, twenty years later, we are now witnessing, especially in the last few years, a rapid change of relationship between the Christian churches and the political authorities in Hong Kong. The political establishment has been building strong relationships with some Protestant churches and Christian organizations on several moral and sexual issues in their collaborative advancement of a conservative agenda. I will in this paper account for such a conservative turn of the Hong Kong Christians by mapping the links to the importation of the American Religious Right's ideologies and practices into Hong Kong. My analysis will put Hong Kong's case against a wider context in which a global expansion of Christian fundamentalism is now underway.