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Professor Qian was born in Beijing and graduated from Tsinghua University in Mathematics. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University after earning an M.Phil. in Management Science/Operations Research from Yale University and an M.A. in Statistics from Columbia University.

He was on the economics faculties at Stanford University, the University of Maryland, and the University of California, Berkeley. He was the Dean of the School of Economics and Management at Tsinghua University in 2006-2018.

Professor Qian was elected as Fellow of the Econometric Society in 2012 and as inaugural Distinguished Professor of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at Tsinghua University in 2018. He was a recipient of the Sun Yefang Prize in Economic Sciences in 2009 and 2021 and the inaugural China Economics Prize in 2016. His main research areas include comparative economics, institutional economics, economics of transition, the Chinese economy, and the education in China.

He is the author of the book *How Reform Worked in China: The Transition from Plan to Market* (The MIT Press) and has published articles in international journals such as *The American Economic Review*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, and *The Review of Economic Studies*.