China’s Terracotta Warriors: The First Emperor’s Legacy


An exhibition of rare works of art from one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of our time arrives at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA) this fall. “China’s Terracotta Warriors: The First Emperor’s Legacy” features more than 120 astonishing objects excavated from the magnificent tomb complex of Qin Shi Huang (259–210 BCE) and other sites, now housed in more than 13 Chinese museums. Chief among these works are ten examples of the “Ghost Warriors,” terracotta sculptures meant to protect the Emperor in the afterlife.

In 1974, Chinese farmers were drilling a well in a location almost one mile from the First Emperor’s tomb mound in the present-day Shaanxi. They were astonished to discover fragments of terracotta figures. Shortly thereafter, Chinese archaeologists excavated three pits containing more than 7,000 terracotta warriors of different ranks, together with horses and chariots. The works of art have been subsequently shown in Chinese museums, and several touring exhibitions, but the excavation continues and new finds are emerging every day. Unlike previous exhibitions, which focused primarily on the terracotta army, “China’s Terracotta Warriors” emphasizes the importance of the most recent archaeological discoveries from the tomb complex and other sites. Artifacts in the exhibition, excavated in 2005, include a group of four bronze water birds—a crane, a swan, and two geese—all life size.

Driven by his eagerness for immortality, the First Emperor began to plan his burial from the moment he ascended the throne at the tender age of 13. Building the tomb took almost 38 years. The complex plan and symbolic content of the mausoleum, as

Terracotta Warriors continues on page 3

Chinese government basics

Editor’s Note: Former China Insight staff writer Lisong Liu wrote a series of five articles about the government of China. The articles were first published in China Insight from September 2003 to January 2004. All of the articles appear in this issue of China Insight. Statistics mentioned throughout the articles were current as of the date of the initial publication.

About the author: Lisong Liu, PhD earned his doctoral degree from the University of Minnesota. He is currently Assistant Professor of History and Coordinator, Asian Studies at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania.

State Structure of People’s Republic of China (PRC)

By Lisong Liu, Staff Writer

This article was first published in the September 2003 issue of China Insight.

Based on public documents, and serving as an objective description of Chinese political systems and state organs, this short article will outline the state organs and their functions including the National People’s Congress (NPC), the Presidency, the State Council, the Central Military Commission (CMC), the Supreme People’s Court (SPC), the Supreme People’s Procuratorate (SPP), and the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). First, however, it is necessary to look at how the state organs are defined and related to the Constitution and the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Constitution and the Communist Party of China (CPC)

The existing Constitution of China was adopted at the fifth session of the 5th National People’s Congress on December 4, 1982 and was amended in 1988, 1993 and 1999. The Constitution defines the socialist system as the basic system of China, and establishes the goal of the leadership of CPC in China, which is to lead people to build socialism with Chinese characteristics. The Constitution defines the fundamental rights and duties of citizens, the National Flag, the National Emblem and the Capital, as well as the state structure at both central and local levels.

Constitution of the Communist Party of China (CPC)

The CPC is the sole party in power in China. Established in 1921, CPC now has a total membership of more than 60 million belonging to more than 3 million grassroots organizations. The central leading organ of the Party is the National Party Congress (NPC) and the Central Committee it elects. NPC is held once every five years.

The leading organs of power in the Central Committee include the Politburo, its Standing Committee, and the general secretary of the Central Committee. The Secretariat is the principle administrative body of the Politburo and its Standing Committee. The central organs of the Party also include the Central Military Commission and the Central Commission for Discipline Inspection.

Structure of the State National People’s Congress (NPC)

According to the Constitution, the NPC is the highest organ of state power. Deputies to the NPC are elected from the provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the central committee and the armed forces. The NPC is elected for a term of five years, and meets in session once a year.

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The fall season is a time to prepare for winter and enjoy the annual ritual of watching the emergence of fall colors as nature does it thing. This being an election year, this annual change of seasons will be fraught with political intrusions that will test our patience and tolerance level to try to win our vote. In a democratic society as the United States of America, we are fortunate to be able to exercise our constitutional right to vote in a democratic presidential election every four years. This year China will also be experiencing a change in government leaders that takes place every 10 years but follows a much more different process.

While most Americans understand the structure of the U.S. Government and its democratic election process, less is known about how the Chinese government is structured and how it functions. To assist our readers to better understand how China is governed, we are presenting an article written by Antony James (page 12) and a series of articles by Lisong Liu (beginning on page 12) to provide some insights on the shift in power that these two countries will be experiencing this fall.

Also taking place this fall is the celebration of Halloween. Again, most of you know about the Halloween tradition, which is primarily a holiday for children, however it is not quite as popular in China. While other Western holidays like Christmas have made it over the Pacific, Western-style Halloween celebrations haven’t caught on in China.

In China, Halloween is a religious festival which signifies the connection between the living and the dead. It began about 2,000 years ago, during the rule of Han Dynasty in China. Halloween is celebrated on the fourteenth night of the seventh lunar month according to the Chinese calendar. It is believed that the spirits revisit the mortal world on this day, Halloween in China is also known as the Ghost Festival, Teng Chieh, Zhugyuan Jie, etc. Teng Chieh is the name of one Halloween festival in China. At Teng Chieh families celebrate the lives of their relatives who have passed away before them. In honor of these family members their relatives place food and water in front of their photographs. They also light the way for these souls to return to earth through the lighting of bonfires and lanterns.

During the Halloween season, Chinese citizens also have a festival called The Feast of the Hungry Ghosts. These ghosts are referred to as “hungry” because they were not given a proper burial when they passed away. The belief is these souls come from people who have passed away due to unnatural causes and those that were not given a proper burial by their family members. The story goes that these souls feel they have been abandoned and look to take it out on the living.

There is also a Festival of the Hungry Ghosts. This is an attempt to make the angry spirits feel welcome and to subdue their antagonistic feelings. To do this the citizens of China offer the spirits joss sticks, food and gifts. These gifts are designed to remind the spirits of items they might have had when they were living and to make the spirits feel comfortable. The hope is that this display will subdue the ill feelings of the spirits and ease their desire for revenge. To welcome the ghosts, there are fires lit in China in celebration of Halloween and the festivals it inspired.

As you can see, China does not celebrate Halloween in the same way that the children and adults of the United States. For some families in China it is a time to remember their loved ones who have passed away over the years. For others it is a religious holiday. Finally, for others it is a way to welcome the spirits of those who have passed away back to earth among the living.

Regardless of how you choose to celebrate Halloween, unlike the people of China, you can exercise your right to vote in a democratic election for our president, and make a choice between a “trick or treat” and cast your VOTE!

As always, the staff of China Insight appreciates your support and welcome any suggestions as to how we might better serve the community and encourage you to VOTE in the upcoming elections. Not only is voting your right, it is a privilege that has been protected by the men and women of our armed services.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Hugh
CEO-Publisher

U.S./China policy come election time...

By Anthony James
Gao Hong joined by Grammy-winning performers in “Lutes Around the World”

World-class Chinese pipa player and composer Gao Hong will headline a star-studded concert featuring two Grammy-winning performers, one of the nation’s foremost authorities on Arabic music, and performances on seven members of the lute family of musical instruments. In one concert, you can experience powerful music from five world traditions as well as groundbreaking collaborations in both world and U.S. premiere pieces. Joining Gao Hong will be 4-time Grammy winner George Kalamuk, Jr. from Hawaii on slack key guitar and ukulele, Grammy-winning banjo player Alison Brown - accompanied by fiddler Darol Anger and bassist Garry West, Lebanese-born oud master Bassam Saba, one of the nation’s leading experts on Arabic music who performs regularly with Yo-Yo Ma’s Silk Road Ensemble accompanied by Arabic percussion extraordinaire April Centrone, and classical guitar legend Jeffrey Van.

The concert, presented by International Friendship Through the Performing Arts, will take place on Sunday, Oct. 7, 2012 at 3 p.m. at The O’Shaughnessy Auditorium at the University of St. Catherine, 2004 Randolph Avenue, in St. Paul. Tickets are US$20 at-the-door, US$18 in advance, US$15 for students and seniors, and US$12 for groups of ten or more. For ticket reservations or more information call 952-210-3628 or e-mail wmpros@yahoo.com.
Learning in Style holds first annual Festival of Learning fundraiser

By Greg Hugh, Staff Writer

Learning in Style (LIS), a non-profit organization established in 1994 to provide community support to adult immigrants in achieving their educational goals, recently held the first annual Festival of Learning fundraiser at its facilities at 2200 Nicollet Avenue South in Minneapolis. Since many immigrants from China have received help from LIS, members of the Chinese community lead by David and Helen Fong showed their support by attending the fundraiser.

Proceeds from the “Festival of Learning” will be used for student programming needs, as well as student supplies and faculty development. Sysco/Asian Foods, the primary sponsor of the event, donated most of the food that was prepared by University Buffet. Alice Poon, the owner of University Buffet, benefited from the services provided by LIS. Attendees were invited to visit all of the facilities and classrooms where citizen activists, English and math classes are held along with a computer lab. In addition to enjoying a variety of food, attendees were able to enjoy entertainment that included performances by Luke Warm and the Cool Hands, Hani Sahardid, Jackie Lawson and Chinese Opera.

To better understand the services provided by LIS, one needs to know its history. In the fall of 1994, Learning in Style opened its doors at St. Stephen’s Parish in South Minneapolis. The school welcomed students whose previous experience with education was unsuccessful, but who now, as adults, needed to complete at least the equivalent of secondary education. The mission of Learning in Style was to offer learning and success to those who had fallen between the cracks in the public school system.

Within two years, however, it became clear that there was another need in the neighborhood. Many new immigrants from around the world had come to the United States unable to speak English. They were not equipped with the language skills necessary to secure employment and take their place in this society. At this point, the composition of Learning in Style’s student body became mostly non-English-speakers. LIS had evolved to a new mission - the English language education of adult immigrants. They rented a larger space at Calvary Baptist Church nearby.

In the years since they were started, Learning in Style:
- Registered over 5,600 students from over 76 countries that range in age from 18-96
- Increased faculty and staff from 4 to 20
- Moved into the newly renovated CSJ Ministry Center at 2200 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn.
- Has two fully equipped computer labs
- Has a Children’s Room where students’ children can stay while students are in class

At any given time there are about 200 students enrolled.

Over the years, the faculty of LIS has always included many Sisters of St. Joseph and Consecrates, most of whom already had long professional histories in education. Several School Sisters of Notre Dame and other valued friends with teaching experience have joined the faculty in recent years.

Included on the staff are former elementary, secondary and college-level teachers and administrators as well as people with experience in other fields such as technology, communications and social work.

In the 1990-2000 school year, LIS joined the Minneapolis Public School Consortium of Adult Basic Education (ABE). Membership in the Consortium allows access to state and federal funding for this important work. This funding allows them to offer programs to students at no charge. It also affords them access to the latest research and learnings in the fields of adult education and English Language Learning.

Since the 2009-2010 school year LIS has occupied most of the CSJ Ministry Center located at 2200 Nicollet Avenue in South Minneapolis.

In addition to a regular staff of 20 individuals, LIS presently has almost more volunteers than staff who help in a number of ways. The volunteers provide help with conversation classes, building maintenance, substitute teaching, reception desk duties and in the office with data management tasks and aiding teachers in the classroom and the computer room. The volunteers teach the citizenship class, help students with a variety of individual needs, provide a network of resources, purchase food supplies, maintain the Web site and help out in a wide variety of other ways. They also share their expertise, their talents and their opinions, contribute to the décor, add to the richness of the staff and allow LIS to better serve the immigrant population of students that attends each year.

Since 1994 Learning in Style has provided a rich learning experience for newcomers to the Twin Cities community. The emphasis at LIS is on building literacy and citizenship skills in a supportive, affordable and respectful environment that is open to all who want to learn. In both mission and ministry, Learning in Style functions from within the charisma, tradition and expertise of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and Consecrates of the St. Paul Province.

Classes are offered at no cost to students.

LIS has posted a current wish list on its Web site that includes: small countertop refrigerator, small coffee cups or mugs, bus cards, book bags, kitchenwares, gift cards from grocery and discount stores, baby strollers and Vietnamese, Amharic, Chinese, Spanish and French dictionaries. Though not on the wish list, the tour of their facilities show that computer monitors and other electronic devices would be welcome items.

If you would like to provide your support for the work of Learning In Style, please visit their Web site at www.learninginstyle-school.org for more information on donating or volunteering. ■
Character Study:
Place Strict Standards on Oneself in Public Service

By Jodi Yim James, Staff Writer

With leadership change in China and a presidential election in the U.S., it’s an appropriate time to an ancient Chinese idiom about honorable public service. This Chinese proverb expresses how one should act as a government official.

For those who wish to see our public officials would hold themselves to higher standards, make a scroll of this idiom and send it to your favorite candidate in the November elections. If they win and are elected, let’s hope they will hang it in their office.

For our characters study, we look at the hanzi character for gōng, meaning public, and the hanzi character for gōng, meaning share. Together, gōng gōng mean publicly shared, like a MTC bus or a municipal park. We list here vocabulary with each gōng and with gōng gōng together.

Teach English in China
Teach English and learn about China

Preferred Qualifications:
1. Native speaker of English
2. Physically and psychologically healthy
3. Love teaching and care motive students
4. Have some teaching experience
5. Younger than 60 years of age
6. Ambitious to learn about China

Benefits:
1. Salary commensurate with experience
2. Room and board
3. Flexible schedule
4. Short work week
5. Reimbursement of airfare

A rare opportunity to combine your desire to learn more about one of the world’s oldest civilizations and teach others about your American English language and culture. While teaching English in China to university students you’ll combine an unforgettable experience with a rewarding job. You can learn Mandarin, travel the country and meet fascinating people while you gain valuable teaching experience.

There are a limited number of positions available at several universities in China that can be customized to suit your schedule. Interested, you should send a current resume along with a brief essay as to why you would like to teach English in China and send it to Richard He, r.he@chinasight.info or call (612) 987-6540 for additional information.

教外语
增加收入
提高个人能力
结交来自世界各地的朋友

公共 gōng – public
• public, state-owned, or collective
• common, or general
• international, or metric
• impartial, fair, just, honorable
• an official business
• father

公共厕所 Where are public restrooms? 公共厕所

共 xìng – share
• common
• general
• together
• in all, altogether

公共汽车 public transit, mass transit

教外语
增加收入
提高个人能力
结交来自世界各地的朋友

公共厕所 Where are public restrooms? 公共厕所
**A Global Education on Steroids**

**Two countries + two cultures = dual diplomas**

By Jodi Yim James, Staff Writer

Steads at St. Paul American School in Beijing gather for a school photo

High school students in Beijing

ESL and CTL: English as a Second Language and Chinese as the Third

By Jodi Yim James, Staff Writer

What is it like to come to an international school in the United States to improve English and then also learn Chinese? What is it like to be a local Minnesotan studying Chinese?

We decided to find out by asking a Chinese language class at St. Paul Preparatory School (SPP) located in downtown St. Paul which has students from more than 48 countries in addition to local Minnesotans.

Students must be highly qualified to study at this unique high school, and when they take another language, it is often their third, or fourth, or fifth language. Usually, they are already in another culture - the United States - and yet they want to expand their cultural horizons further by studying Mandarin Chinese. Huong Tran, a young lady from Vietnam, Homin, a young man from South Korea; and Alexia from our own Twin Cities, all shared thoughts, feelings, and experiences about Mandarin Chinese, China, and the United States.

Huong Tran

“My name is Huong Tran. I first came to the United States from Vietnam in 2011. There were certain shocking experiences for me when I got here. The first thing I noticed was the difference in the food. Americans love butter and cheese. They put these in all of the dishes, which I was not used to. The second thing is the winter in Minnesota. That was the first time I saw snow. At first, I was so excited about it, but later, it turns out that the feeling did not last long. I kept falling down in the snow and ice, just wishing there would be no more winter here. But the application of English in the content areas. Students who are not native speakers of English receive scaffolded or differentiated English language support in their AP courses, to increase their success in the advanced curriculum. Additional TOEFL classes, SAT practice, and college prep courses are available as well. St. Paul Preparatory School, a private high school located in downtown St. Paul, Minn., is celebrating its 10th year of educating students from around the world. The school is an Advanced Ed accredited college preparatory school, and recently opened a second branch campus on the grounds of St. Paul Prep school is so nice for me because of the food. However, after six months, I became very comfortable. However, the language (English) is still hard for me. If I want to express something, then I can just express 60 percent - that is all. By the way, nowadays, I am feeling that the USA is more comfortable for me than my own country, South Korea. Also, here, St. Paul Prep school is so nice for me because I like to meet new people from different cultures. Now I am just in 10th grade so I have about three more years here until I graduate from SPP. Before I graduate, I will make so many friends from different countries! Essentially, I have a roommate from China so I am not at all afraid to learn Chinese but it is still hard. I love Chinese culture. The Chinese are so amazing, surprisingly so. I have never been to China but hopefully, I will go to China next summer as my roommate's friend. Learning Chinese is going to help my life in the future for sure because about 50 percent of the people in the world are using Chinese. I love the language and culture!”

Alexia

“My name is Alexia and I am from the Twin Cities. Growing up in this day and age, knowing Chinese is so important. America and China have such a close relationship, that if you plan on doing anything involving an international career, it’s almost crucial to learn the Chinese language. For me personally, I want to be in International Business for a profession; I also plan on studying in Beijing next year. To take Chinese while in school and to throw myself into their culture is scary. It is so incredibly different from my lifestyle and my normal day. When I started class earlier in the week and my teacher Yim “laoshi” (teacher) was speaking Chinese, I knew I was going to be challenged in so many different ways, not only by the pronunciation, but with the writing, the grammar, the everything! But this is one challenge I want to take head on and not look back!”

Homin

“My name is Homin and I am from South Korea. This year is my second time coming to the United States. Of course, the first time staying here it was so hard to accept the American culture, especially in the first six months, I became very comfortable. However, the language (English) is still hard for me. If I want to express something, then I can just express 60 percent - that is all. By the way, nowadays, I am feeling that the USA is more comfortable for me than my own country, South Korea. Also, here, St. Paul Prep school is so nice for me because I like to meet new people from different cultures. Now I am just in 10th grade so I have about three more years here until I graduate from SPP. Before I graduate, I will make so many friends from different countries! Essentially, I have a roommate from China so I am not at all afraid to learn Chinese but it is still hard. I love Chinese culture. The Chinese are so amazing, surprisingly so. I have never been to China but hopefully, I will go to China next summer as my roommate's friend. Learning Chinese is going to help my life in the future for sure because about 50 percent of the people in the world are using Chinese. I love the language and culture!”

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Fresh and flavorful from Hong Kong: Hong Kong Noodle Restaurant

By The China Insight Restaurant Review Committee

A
s of August 31, 2012, construction of the new light rail Central Corridor or Green Line connecting downtown Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul was 68% complete. Construction should be 75% complete by the end of 2012 with a projected operating date in early 2014. Along the Green Line, which runs through the University of Minnesota on Washington Avenue and through St. Paul on University Avenue, at least one restaurant has already been forced to close due to a severe drop in business. However, the Hong Kong Noodle Restaurant in Stadium Village at the University of Minnesota is thriving even while the street in front is closed to traffic. The China Insight Restaurant Review Committee recently and witnessed a packed house. The Committee was at Hong Kong Noodle Restaurant and 12 members noted that the mango smoothie was confusing. Most, however, enjoyed this dish coats of crushed vegetables with large shrimp on a Friday evening - even though they have never before enjoyed tofu! The question that kept coming up was, “How does Hong Kong Noodle get the tofu to be exactly the right consistency - not too firm like a brick and yet it does not fall apart in a mush either!”

Our first course was Japanese fried rice. This was a delicately seasoned fried rice with large whole shrimp. Unlike most fried rice, it was not overly drenched with soy sauce. Rather, the flavors of the ingredients such as eggs, bits of Chinese sausage, green onion and white pepper, came through. All committee members loved this dish although one comment was that the large shrimp did not have a lot of shrimp flavor (maybe the shrimp had been frozen?). Nevertheless, the dish was still delicious.

Secondly, five spicy golden fish fillets were served with a bowl of steaming white rice on the side. This is a generous platter of lightly breaded deep fried white fish fillets that are then coated in a mixture of crushed and whole red peppers, five spice and garlic. The mixture is piled high over shredded lettuce on the platter. This dish has one hot chili pepper on the menu, and deservedly so. It has a kick and goes well with the white rice. We enjoyed the fillets, however, noted that if someone does not like spice, this is not for them. During our meal, we noticed other tables being served this dish; it is indeed popular.

Our final dish was likewise new to some committee members. It was also was the top choice of one guest: beef chow fun. The flat rice noodles, bean sprouts, and thinly sliced beef strips all stir fried together and coated with just the right amount of sauce was spot-on. The salty-sweet sauce coating the beef chow provided the perfect contrast for the rice noodles.

Committee members concluded that all noodles served were authentic and fresh. All meats are cooked and served with Hong Kong-style excellence. The menu is expansive and a board on the wall announces daily specials written in English and Chinese characters. The facility looks welcoming and tidy (with the exception of the carpet, which could use cleaning or replacement - after construction?). Just don’t look down during your visit; the great food will distract you from the floor anyway. Large windows bring in sunlight, create a large atmosphere in the small dining room, and provide street-watching for diners. A patio off of the side street facade provides outdoor seating during the warmer months. In the back is free parking.

The online reviews reflect our experience exactly: Hong Kong Noodle Restaurant is a gem with genuinely delicious and authentic Cantonese-style cuisine! Like the gentleman waiting for take-out when we arrived, our committee members will be back on a regular basis! Thank you Eric and Jennifer for finding your way to Minnesota from China!
My wife Linda and I recently returned to our hometown - Chicago's Chinatown - over the Labor Day weekend to join many of our old acquaintances in celebrating Chinatown's 100th Anniversary and hold a reunion. Former residents of Chicago's Chinatown came from California, Arizona, Texas, Florida, Virginia, Ohio, Wisconsin, Minnesota and other parts of the country to reminisce with locals and family members during the three-day celebration organized by Helen (Tomatoes) Moy, to whom we all owe a great “thank you!” We know it wasn’t an easy task, and arranging for John Moy to be the “official” photographer was a bonus.

We arrived several days before the official events to have extra time to visit family and old friends, and we didn’t waste any time by arranging to have dinner with my old boss and owner of the Kow Kow Restaurant on the north side of Chicago where I worked during my high school years. Several other friends and family members joined us for what would be the beginning of too much eating and many conversations. Linda, along with my sisters and sister-in-law, spent the next day shopping and came home with some great Italian food.

Because of the dining and visiting the night before, we got a late start on Friday during which we had planned to do some sightseeing since it has been years since I was able to do any. Before the reunion activities, we were able to squeeze in only a visit to Navy Pier, where I went very often during the late 60s and early 70s where many trade shows were held. It was a surprise to see how it had been converted into an entertainment complex, complete with its own Ferris wheel, but the US$25.00 cost to park was perhaps the greatest shock of all!

Our next stop was the St. Therese Church basement in Chinatown where the first reunion activity, a social gathering, was held. This was the first time many of us met so there was a lot of greeting and hugging taking place while many of us shared photo albums and enjoyed the extensive snacks that were provided. On a sad note, there were three poster-sized cards listing many of the people that were no longer with us, but many of whom were represented in the photo gallery on display that represented a chronology of the history of St. Therese Church/School that many of us attended. No one seemed to mind the lack of air conditioning in the basement. Nobody wanted the evening to end, but finally said “good night”, knowing we would meet again the next day for dinner.

Prior to the dinner on Saturday, there were optional activities planned. We opted to visit the library where a photo exhibit of works by local photographer Eugene Kung were featured. After this, many of us visited the Chinatown Museum to view the different displays and watch a video of Chinatown’s 100th Anniversary.

A traditional Chinese banquet was held at Cai Restaurant located in the Chinatown Square. As expected, the abundance of food enabled many of those in attendance to take home to enjoy later. As at each event, everyone was taking photos and organizing group photos was always a challenge. After the dinner, individual groups made plans to meet somewhere else to continue catching up on old times before calling it a day.

The next event on the reunion program was a picnic at Ping Tom Park located on the banks of the Chicago River that included two different eating sessions during the day. Quite a few more people who had not attended the earlier two events stopped by to say hello. Although rain had threatened to hamper the festivities, the reunion was not to be deterred and actually enjoyed gorgeous weather that enabled the reunion to close on a grand note.

Since Labor Day was the next day, many of the out-of-towners made plans to visit the cemetery to pay their respects to family members. I attended a picnic hosted by my niece for most of our family members and a few close friends.

While we had our choice of eating at an all-you-can-eat Chinese or Polish buffet on Tuesday, Linda and I had had enough eating and opted for a simple lunch before heading to the airport for our return trip. Although it was an exhausting trip, it also was great to visit with many old friends, some of whom we had not seen in more than 50 years! Hope we can do it again in five years!
Zibo, a City with Tales to Tell
By Wu Meiling
The history of how Zibo tells a story of its prosperity.

Linzi in Shandong Province first rose to prominence in China as the capital of Qi, a vassal state during the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods (770-221 B.C.), when it became a regional cultural, economic and political center. Its Jixia Academy, often compared with its contemporary Platonic Academy in Athens, Greece, incubated almost all the leading figures in the many schools of thought that contended with each other 2,000 years ago. Today Zibo is an important transportation hub for rail, road and air services. Located in the heart of Shandong Province, it is [43.3 miles] from Jinan International Airport, and about [124 miles] from Qingdao International Airport and Qingdao Harbor. Convenient transportation allows visitors easy access to the area's rich historical and cultural attractions and splendid natural scenery. Neighboring Mt. Tai in the south and the historic Fuyang River in the north, Zibo enjoys the beauty of mountains and plains. The city is a high-tech center as well, with many national level technological innovation credits.

With its past prosperity and cultural inheritance, Zibo is more than ready to make its mark in the world.

Respect Talent and Value Merit: the Heritage of a 3,000-year-old Civilization
The history of the State of Qi is central to an interpretation of this seat of a 3,000-year-old civilization. After the Western Zhou Dynasty (1046-770 B.C.) the new duke didn't exact revenge for his predecessor's death. Though in his late 30s, Qi brought in a series of new policies to develop the area. According to historical records, he followed local customs but added, “These five will help you establish a system of supervisory and advisory affairs.” Guan Yu was better than me, so please appoint him commander of armed forces; in terms of agriculture; in terms of maneuvering fairs; in terms of cultivating wasteland and increasing the population, Ning Qi is better than me, so please appoint him minister of foreign affairs; in terms of settling a lawsuit reasonably and fairly, separating the innocent from the criminal, Bin Xiuwa is better than me, so please appoint him chief of the judiciary; in terms of giving straightforward advice regardless of his own interests, Dongguo Ya is better than me, so please appoint him to be in charge of supervision and advisory affairs.” Guan added, “These five will help you establish a rich and strong state, but if you want to be the most powerful duke of an entire era, Guang Zhong, should be retained here.” Xiao Bai followed Guan’s suggestion and eventually achieved the historical supremacy he desired.

In the fourth century B.C., Qi entered another golden age under the leadership of Duke Wei, who carried forward the tradition of respecting the talented and meritorious. At that time, society showed less vitality as the state was controlled by noble families under a feudal system. Breaking with tradition, Duke Wei appointed Zou Ji as prime minister, Tian Ji as general and Sun Bin as military counselor. They undertook political reforms in several areas, including the legal system and the talent selection process. The state began to grow in strength, and finally achieved victory in two historic battles with its rival state Wei.

Duke Wei also paid great attention to education. Jixia Academy was founded in the vicinity of Linzi and became a cultural center for all of China as a parade of outstanding scholars were invited to lecture there and participate in political decision-making. In the late years of Duke Wei’s reign, Qi became one of the most powerful states in China.

The respect of talent and promotion based on merit guaranteed the supremacy of Qi, the prosperity of its economy and survival of its culture. Before the Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220), Linzi became one of the largest and richest cities in the country.

Records show that there were over 40,000 households with a population of 200,000 in the early fourth century B.C., and 500,000 to 600,000 residents in over 70,000 households were estimated to exist in the late fourth century B.C. In the second century B.C., Linzi was even “larger than Chang’an (modern Xi’an), capital of the Western Han, the regime that ruled the city at the time. Like an old saying goes, ‘Chang’an in the west and Linzi in the east,’ Linzi was the only city in ancient China to be on an island surrounded by the capital, and the city was always placed in the hands of the beloved princes.

Linzi is regarded as the birthplace of Chinese commercial interests. Guan Zhong was a “sage of policies,” conspicuously advocating for commerce, like reduced taxes. “Merchants all came to Qi like rivers to the sea.” Guan also came up with a form of macroeconomic theory, which was recorded in Guanzi, a work celebrating the Chinese commercial spirit, which earned him the unofficial title of “father of Chinese commerce.”

Commerce brought vast wealth to Linzi, and its affluent citizens developed an array of interesting pastimes. Strategies of the Warring States Period and Records of the Grand Historian both wrote that the city of Linzi liked to play instruments and indulged in games like cock-fighting, gambling and football. This is the earliest record of football being played in China, and Linzi is regarded as its birthplace.

Prosperity also boosted the development of academic thought. Jixia Academy attracted the most gifted scholars and intellectuals of the day. Coming from different backgrounds and schools of thought, their exchange of ideas facilitated the first large-scale enlightenment and flourishing of cultural cohesion in China. In this sense Jixia Academy is regarded as a great contribution to human civilization as the Platonic Academy of Western civilization in its time. Sun Tzu’s Art of War and Sima Rangju’s Sima Law, fruits of this enlightenment movement, are still widely used in contemporary army and business management, and show how the legacy of a 3,000-year-old civilization can be revived in modern times.

Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio: A Work of Chinese Folklore
China’s literary masterpieces are noted for their diverse styles. For instance, the novels Outlaws of the Marsh and Romance of the Three Kingdoms are liked to bardic spirits, while A Dream of Red Mansions can be compared to fine wine. Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio written by Pu Songling tastes like tea. Only a land of rich culture like Zibo can produce such a remarkable work of literature.

Late at night, Pu Songling scribbled away about what he had learnt from the public and his own perspectives on society. Over 30 years of hard work resulted in Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio, published posthumously.

During Spring Festival in 1715, Pu Songling passed away at the age of 84. Fifty years later his collection of tales became wildly popular among the public. Depicting humanized flower goddesses and fox fairies, the tales display eastern social values, expressing their concerns for fairness and faithfulness while despising viciousness, akin to those of Western countries encouraging people to be kind-hearted. The book is popular in both the east and the west.

Being one of the world’s greatest short story books, Strange Stories from a Chinese Studio has been translated into various languages including Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, English, German, Russian, Italian, Chinese, and Polish. More than 100 versions have been printed and some 160 films, dramas and TV series have been based on the works.

Pu Songling never got the chance to see his collection of tales become wildly popular among the public. Depicting humanized flower goddesses and fox fairies, the tales display eastern social values, expressing their concerns for fairness and faithfulness while despising viciousness, akin to those of Western countries encouraging people to be kind-hearted. The book is popular in both the east and the west.

Zhoucun, an Ancient Commercial Hub with Modern Cultural Attractions
It once enjoyed the glorious title of the “golden village.” Ascribed the “golden village” bestowed by Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795), and was also dubbed “Golden Village” and “Land Port.” Currently, Zhoucun is a burgeoning modern district of Zibo City. Although its travel
Zibo, a City with Tales to Tell

For more of the last century Zibo was a heavy industry town. During the recent industrial upgrading, Zibo transformed itself into a high-tech base.

In 1997 the predecessor of Dongyue Group Ltd., was founded, with only 38 workers and two second-hand machines. Now it is a leading manufacturer of fluorine and silicon products. After 20 years of effort, the company has established a complete production chain of hi-tech fluorine and silicon products, with processes that employ new environmental protection measures, new materials and new energy sources.

On the technological competitiveness list of the top 500 conglomerates in China, Dongyue ranks fourth. In the 2010 top 100 chemical enterprises in China, Dongyue ranks 25th. In recent years, top Chinese leaders including President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao and Vice Premier Li Keqiang made inspection trips to Dongyue, and had high praise for the company’s major independent innovations in fluorine and silicon materials, particularly its research and development of ion membranes.

Its geographic advantage encourages Zibo to exploit its new material industry. During the next five years, the city will strive to expand the production value of the emerging industry to over RMB 500 billion, and increase its share in the whole industrial sector to 50 percent. Meanwhile, Zibo is actively participating in the establishment of the Yellow River Delta High-Efficiency Ecological Economic Zone and Jinan Metropolitan Region, an economic alliance covering the provincial capital and neighboring cities.

People in historic Zibo are determined to build a green city with a brilliant future. ■
Power Shift: The 2012 China and U.S. Elections

By Anthony James, Staff Writer

Fall is here, and unless you have been keeping yourself away from the television, newspapers, radio, or even been wearing your underwear, there is a chance you will catch the presidential election season again in the United States. Though some of us (such as me) feel very inclined to step into the political arena, this year has seen a flurry of speculation considering the fact that election coincides with China’s major change in power. There might not be an utterly unique occurrence, as all the planets in our solar system aligned, but it does offer a rare opportunity to compare how two of the most powerful countries in the world decide their next political leaders.

China’s ruling political arm is the Communist Party of China (CPC). In its center is the National People’s Congress, an elected group of more than a million individuals representing all regions of the People’s Republic of China. The Congress, in turn, selects the State Council, the President, and the Vice President to serve as chief and nominal heads of the entire state. The President, Vice President, State Council, and every member of the National People’s Congress is elected to serve a five-year term. As in the United States, the President cannot serve more than two terms. Because of age and term limits, the 18th National Congress in October will see seven of the nine top political leaders of China change. In the United States, the re-election of Barack Obama and the Senate will likely keep the status quo, with the economy still on the rocks and unemployment still fairly high, many supporters of the Republican Party see the election as an opportunity to take back policies enacted by the Democratic president. Though the political process is fairly passive, vehement polarization of each side often makes the U.S. elections an intense transition.

In contrast, China’s goal in this year’s political shift is to be anything but intense. While the National People’s Congress remains largely unified toward a peaceful and uneventful changeover, there are many schools of thought on how policies will change in response to the country’s growing economy and rising global power. One pertinent situation is the exit of President and General Secretary Hu Jintao, who is a member of a populist coalition of the party represented by officials originating from the Communist Youth League. His opposition in the party was mainly from the Jiang Zemin clique, an elitist coalition which fought against Hu’s and Premier Wen Jiabao’s policies toward slowing down infrastructure growth and overheating in the real estate sector. With the new leadership after the 18th National Congress, these policies could be overthrown if the elitist coalition gains a majority within the State Council. Incidents such as former party rising star Bo Xilai’s exit from politics over a scandal of a British businessman’s death remain an issue in China’s political transition. Bo was a charismatic figure within the elitist coalition until this past spring. The struggle for each clique to gain appointments this year may ultimately decide China’s economic and political future.

The outlook of both the United States and China’s political future is unknown as this paper goes to print. For the United States, the re-election of Barack Obama would retain much of the same political system any drastic changes. In China this might be true as well if the new president and state council hold much of the same policy vision as their predecessors. On the flip side, if the Republican candidate Mitt Romney wins and if the different policymakers make it into China’s higher circles of power, there could be major changes in the international economy. As two of the most powerful countries in the world, what happens in China and the United States impact each other greatly as well as other countries in terms of trade, manufacturing and other relations. In light of these circumstances, come November the world might find itself witnessing the birth of a new political era.

Chinese Government Basics: State Structure of People’s Republic of China (PRC)

Continues from Page 1

Among NPC’s main functions and powers are formulations of laws, delegating authority, policy formulation, and supervision of other governing organs.

The Standing Committee

The Standing Committee of the NPC convenes once every two years. It is composed of the Chairman, Vice Chairmen, Secretaries-general and other members, currently 153 in total. The terms of office of the Standing Committee correspond with that of the NPC. The Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee shall not serve more than two consecutive terms. Currently there are eight permanent special committees representing the NPC.

Presidency

The presidency of PRC exercises the power of the head of the state according to decisions of the NPC and its Standing Committee, and is the supreme representative of China both internally and externally. To be elected, the candidate must be citizen of the PRC and must have reached the age of 45. The power of the president includes promulgating statutes adopted by the NPC, appointing and removing members of the State Council, proclaiming martial law, declaring a state of war and issuing orders of mobilization, etc. There are six men that have held the office of presidency of the People’s Republic of China: Mao Zedong, Liu Shaoqi, Li Xiannian, Yang Shangkun, Jiang Zemin, and currently, Hu Jintao.

State Council

The State Council is the highest executive organ of state power. It is responsible for carrying out the principles and policies of the CPC, as well as the political and economic laws adopted by the NPC. It deals with a variety of affairs like China’s internal politics, finance, economy, culture, education, diplomacy and national defense. It is composed of a Premier, Vice Premiers, State Councilors, ministers in charge of ministries and commissions, the Auditor-general and the Secretary-general. The term for the position in the State Council is five years, and the incumbents cannot be reapppointed after two successive terms.

The Central Military Commission (CMC)

The CMC is the highest state military organ, commanding the entire armed forces in the country. It is composed for a term of five years and can be reelected. The primary organs under the Commission include: Ministry of Defense, which is the organ for military affairs; General Staff; Headquarters of the General Staff; General Political Department; General Logistics Department; General Armament Department; headquarters of the various branches of the armed forces; and headquarters of the various military commands, which is the highest commanding bodies of consolidated military forces in each strategic region. China now has a 3 million armed forces headed towards normalization and modernization.

Supreme People’s Court (SPC)

The SPC is the highest judicial organ in China. According to the Constitution, its responsibilities include trying cases that have the greatest influence in China, supervising the work of local courts and special courts at every level, and giving judicial explanations of the application of laws in the judicial process that must be carried out across the nation. The President of the SPC is elected by the NPC with each term of five years, and can not be reelected after two successive terms. The SPC is composed of a judicial committee (the highest judicial organization, consisting of the president, vice presidents, presiding judges, vice presiding judges and judges), and various courts. China’s trial system follows a two-hearing system in the trial process.

The Supreme People’s Procuratorate (SPP)

The people’s procurators in SPC are law supervision organs of the state, including the Supreme People’s Procuratorate (SPP), local people’s procuratorate and military procuratorate. The main tasks of the SPP are to exercise leadership and ensure the unity and correct implementation of state laws. There are 15 functional departments in the Supreme People’s Procuratorate.

The Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC)

Under the Constitution, the system of multi-party cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the CPC is a basic system in China, and shall continue to exist and develop. The CPPCC is an organization of the patriotic united front of the Chinese people. It is composed of the CPC, other political parties, mass organizations, different ethnic groups and representatives from all walks of life, as well as representatives of compatriots of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao as well as returned overseas Chinese and other specially invited people. The National Committee of the CPPCC serves for a term of five years and holds a plenary session once a year. Its Standing Committee presides over the work of the National Committee, and is composed of the Chairman, Vice Chairmen, Secretary-general and other members. There are 13 units including CPC and the other 8 parties that took part in the past 10th CPPCC National Committee.
National People’s Congress of China (PRC)

By Lisong Liu, Staff Writer

This article was first published in the October 2003 issue of China Insight.

The National People’s Congress (NPC) is the highest organ of state power in China. It was established in 1954 and is based on the Soviet Union’s Supreme Soviet. China has convened ten NPCs up to now, respectively 1954, 1959, 1964, 1975, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, and the most recent from March 5 to 18, 2003, which elected a new political leadership and approved important changes in the organization of government. During the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), NPC like many other state organs was hardly at work; after that NPC gradually restored its power and progressed with the political and economic reform in China. The 1982 Constitution redefined its organizations and increased deputies’ influence over public affairs. NPC restored and expanded its working organs, and some new committees were created such as the National and Judicial Affairs Committee in 1988 and the Environmental and Resources Protection Committee in 1993.

II. Functions and Powers of NPC

The Constitution defines that NPC and its Standing Committee exercise the legislative power of the state. The functions of NPC include:

1. Amending and supervising the enforcement of the Constitution.

2. Enacting and amending basic statutes such as the President, Vice-President, Premier, Vice-Presidents, State Councillors, Ministers, Auditor-General, Secretary-General, Chairman of the CMC, President of Supreme Court, and President of SPP.

3. Elections, approving or removing the heads of the government organs such as the President, Vice-President, Premier, Vice-Presidents, State Councillors, Ministers, Auditor-General, Secretary-General, Chairman of the CMC, President of Supreme Court, and President of SPP.

4. Examining and approving the plan for national economic and social development and the reports on its implementation; the state budget and the report on its implementation.

5. Approving the establishment of provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities directly under the Central Government; deciding on the establishment of special administrative regions and the systems to be instituted there.

6. Deciding on questions of war and peace.

7. Exercising such other functions and powers as the highest organ of state power should exercise.

III. Structure and Operation of NPC

A. Plenary Sessions and Presidium

The deputies for NPC are elected by the people’s congresses of provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities directly under the central government, the People’s Liberation Army, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the Macau Special Administrative Region. Deputies to the congresses at and under the country level are directly elected. Deputies are elected by an absolute majority vote, and the number of deputies is normally based on the population of its constituency, while national minorities and PLA tend to be over-represented. Also, because of the imbalance between the rural and urban population, 10% of deputies are represented by one rural deputy as compared to one represented by one urban deputy.

NPC has nearly 3,000 deputies, who are elected for a term of five years. NPC convenes annually, and its Standing Committee, serving as the permanent organ of NPC, convenes with NPC once a year, normally in March.

At every plenary session, deputies elect a 16-member presidium as well as a number of executive and standing chairpersons who will preside over the successive meetings of the session and deal with the daily business of the Standing Committee. Selected by the Communist Party, they can serve up to two terms.

B. Standing Committee (SC)

The SC is also elected for 5 years. Its 155 members include the Council of Chairmen, which comprises of 1 chairman, 15 vice-chairmen and 1 secretary general, and 162 ordinary councilors. The chairman of NPC is normally a key member of the Politburo Standing Committee of the Party. Officially, he is third in the power structure of the state, following the President and the Premier. The Council of Chairmen meets at least once a month, and its core members meet every week. Most ordinary councilors only come to the NPC every two months for the weekend meetings or when their specialized committees meet.

The Party leaders in the Council of Chairmen form the Party Core Group. Headed by the Chairman of NPC, the Group supervises CCP members in NPC and instructs them in their work. The Group has the authority to put bills on the agenda of NPC or its Standing Committee.

The administrative body of the Standing Committee of NPC is comprised of the Secretariat, the General Office, the Legislative Affairs Commission (LAC) and the Budgetary Affairs Commission (BAC). The Secretariat is responsible directly to the Chairman of NPC and coordinates the activities of BAC, LAC and other specialized committees. There are 11 bureaus in the General Office dealing with the issues like issuing NPC’s news releases, liaising with foreign parliaments and local people’s congresses, researching the parliamentary system, recruiting staff for NPC, etc. The LAC, set up in 1979, works directly under the Standing Committee instead of the NPC Law Committee and conducts some law-drafting work. The BAC was set up in 1999 and its main purpose is to assist the NPC Financial and Economic Committee on the issues such as examining the budget plan, enforcement and amendments, government financial accounts and related bills and laws. There are also 9 special committees under the Standing Committee. Each has 20-30 members, and meets once a month. Members of the committees are always former official or scholars in the particular field.
The institutional reform adopted by the 10th NPC in March 2003, the restructuring of the new government this year reduced the number of ministerial-level departments from 29 to 28. Though the restructuring seems to be mild in the sense that it keeps the general government structure unchanged, its main objectives are to clarify bureaucratic responsibilities, achieve streamlined decision-making and take government further away from micromanaging the economy.

CSASA
The Commission of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration (CSASA) was created in the reform. It is expected to bring the oversight of State assets between the central government and the State Economic and Trade Office and the State Economic and Trade Commission of the former State Development Planning Commission (SDRC) integrates the functions of the former State Economic and Trade Commission and that of the former Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Co-operation. Lee Fuayou, now 58 years old, is the first commerce minister.

SDRC
The State Development and Reform Commission (SDRC) integrates the functions of the former State Development Planning Commission, the Structural Reform Office and the State Economic and Trade Commission. The Commission is the highest national planning organization. The Chinese Government Basics articles are from Wikiemedia Commons.

Chinese Government Basics: China’s Central People’s Government: the State Council

2. Institutional Reforms
A. Reforms in history
The institutional reform adopted by the 10th NPC is in fact the fifth large-scale government restructuring since the 1980s. The first one took place in 1981 approved by the 5th NPC, reduced the agencies of the State Council from 100 to 61, while the staff number in the State Council decreased from 51,000 to 30,000. The second government restructuring in 1988 and the third one in 1993 further reduced the numbers of agencies under the administration of the State Council. In the third restructuring the Taiwan Affairs Office and Information Office of the State Council were added.

The fourth institutional reform in 1998 was also a dramatic one. It cut the number of State Council departments from 40 to 29, and staff numbers were cut in half, from 32,000 to 16,700. Similar reforms also were carried out in local government agencies. The key inherent theme of these reforms was to adapt the state planning apparatus to the needs of economic reform and development, to concentrate administration from enterprise management and to improve government management and its style of working.

b. The restructuring of the new government in 2003
Adopted by the 10th NPC in March 2003, the restructuring of the new government: the State Council was added. In the third restructuring the Taiwan Affairs Office and Information Office of the State Council were added. In the third restructuring the Taiwan Affairs Office and Information Office of the State Council were added.

The newly elected Premier Wen Jiabao, in a meeting with the press during the 10th NPC, put the work of his new cabinet in a democratic spirit and push forward the realization of democratic politics in China. CAPD was founded in Shanghai in December 1945, aiming “to carry out the democratic spirit and push forward the realization of democratic politics in China.” CAPD currently has around 65,000 members, mainly intellectuals in the fields of education, culture, science and publishing.

2. Eight Democratic Parties
A. China Association for Promoting Democracy (CAPD)
CAPD was founded in Shanghai in December 1945, aiming “to carry out the democratic spirit and push forward the realization of democratic politics in China.” CAPD currently has around 65,000 members, mainly intellectuals in the fields of education, culture, science and publishing.

B. China Democratic League (CDL)
CDL’s predecessor is China League of Democratic Political Organization which was founded in October 1941 and composed of a few parties and non-party individuals and organizations. The League held a national congress in Chongqing in 1944 and decided to transform itself into a single party with the new name of CDL. Before the Cultural Revolution the CPCC was maintained as the organization of the national anthem. On June 15, 1979, Deng Xiaoping, then the chairman of the Fifth CPCC National Committee, announced during the opening of the Second Session of the Committee the alliance of socialist laborers and patriots in support of socialism under the leadership of the workers and on the basis of the alliance of workers and farmers. In 1988, the seventh CPCC National Committee decided to establish 13 special committees to make the political consultation and supervision a system. In 1994, the constitution of CPCC was revised to include participation in the deliberation and administration of state affairs into the main functions of CPCC. As the Head of Chinese people, CPCC has also widely conducted exchanges with foreign countries at various levels in the last few years. CPCC is elected for a term of five years and holds a plenary meeting every year. It convened the First Session of the 10th National Committee in this March and its current leader is Jia Qinglin.

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3. “Four phrases” of the new government
The newly elected Premier Wen Jiabao, in a meeting with the press during the 10th NPC, put the work of his new cabinet in a nutshell of “four phrases”: “achieve one goal,” “implement two key policies,” “solve three major economic problems” and “promote reforms in four major areas.”

 The one goal is to maintain a sustained and comparatively rapid development of the national economy and improve people’s living standards.

 The two key policies are to realize the strategic economic restructuring and complete opening up to the outside world. The three major economic problems include how to solve unemployment and social security system, how to increase fiscal revenue and cut public spending, and how to correct and standardize the economic order.

 The “reforms in four major aspects” include the reform of the rural economy, the reform of state-owned enterprises, the reform of financial system and the reform of governmental agencies.

U nlike the state organs we introduced in previous issues, such as the National People’s Congress and the State Council, which could easily be understood in the National Day, the five-star design of the CPCC is kind of a political institution and a part of the party system “with remarkable Chinese characteristics.” It was established during the Civil War in the late 1940s, while the relations between the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the democratic parties within CPCC trace back even to the War of Resistance Against Japan in the 1930s. CPCC could be said to be the witness of the tremendous transformation of China in the last century.

1. Brief History of CPCC
CPCC was founded in 1949 (right before the foundation of the PRC) jointly by the CPC, various democratic parties, democrats with no party affiliations, people’s organizations and public figures from all walks of life. Such a broad membership had gained CPCC the title of “the patriotic United Front of the Chinese people.”

With the victory over the Nationalist Party (KMT) expected ahead, CPC issued a call on April 30, 1948 for proposing a new political consultative conference (as compared to the “old” one convened in Chongqing in 1946 led by KMT) to set up a democratic coalition government. Two preparatory meetings for the conference were held in Beijing in June and September, 1949, respectively, followed by the First Plenary Session of the CPCC on September 21- 30, 1949. Attended by 662 delegates, the Conference adopted the Common Program of the CPCC which served as the provisional Constitution of the nation. It also adopted the Organic Law of the Conference, elected the leaders of the Central Government, chose Beijing as the new capital, October 1 sailed to Shanghai, declared the opening of the national flag and March of the Volunteers as the national anthem.

CPCC exercised the functions and powers of the National People’s Congress until the latter was established in 1954. After that, CPCC was maintained as the organization of the United Front. In his article “On Ten Relationships,” Mao Zedong in 1956 wrote the principle of the CPCC to define the relationship between CPC and the other democratic parties: “Long-term co-existence and mutual supervision.” In January 1982, the National United Front Working Conference added “sincere treatment with each other and share of weal and woe” to the principle.

CPCC restored its work after the Cultural Revolution. On June 15, 1979, Deng Xiaoping, then the chairman of the Fifth CPCC National Committee, announced during the opening of the Second Session of the Committee the alliance of socialist laborers and patriots in support of socialism under the leadership of the workers and on the basis of the alliance of workers and farmers. In 1988, the seventh CPCC National Committee decided to establish 13 special committees to make the political consultation and supervision a system. In 1994, the constitution of CPCC was revised to include participation in the deliberation and administration of state affairs into the main functions of CPCC. As the Head of Chinese people, CPCC has also widely conducted exchanges with foreign countries at various levels in the last few years. CPCC is elected for a term of five years and holds a plenary meeting every year. It convened the First Session of the 10th National Committee in this March and its current leader is Jia Qinglin.

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Chinese Government Basics continues on Page 15
Chinese Government Basics


cultural products and directly operated nu-
melous theaters, galleries, performing arts
agencies and arts education institutes. But
the booming cultural market and growing
diversity of cultural producers as well as
products increasingly challenged the ability
of the Ministry to control and restrain them.
Former Minister of Culture and writer Wang
Meng told an audience in the United States
in 1998 that if all 90,000 books published
annually in China went through a strict
screening process, the government could
do nothing but read books.

The Ministry of Culture consists of
around 10 departments or bureaus including
the Department of Policy and Legislation,
Department of Education, Science and Tech-
tology and the Department of Social Culture
and Libraries. As for cultural exchange, the
two most important departments are the
Bureau for Cultural Relations with Foreign
Countries and the Department of Cultural
Marketing.

China Federation of Literary and
Arts Circles (CLFAC)

CLFAC works directly under the supervi-
sion of the Propaganda Department of the
Communist Party of China. It consists of
over fifty national cultural groups such as
Chinese Artist’s Association, Chinese
Writers’ Association and China Theater Association. It has the
authority of inviting and sending foreign writers’ and artists’ delegations without having to be permit-
ted by the Ministry of Culture.

Other Agencies by Field

Besides the above central cultural agencies, there are many other agencies in various fields. Regarding performing arts, for example, there are China Performing Arts Agency, China Century Performance Corporation, China’s Central Conservatory of Music, and Academy of Chinese Tradi-
tional Culture and so on. Regarding visual and media arts, there are the China National Art Gallery, China International Exhibition Association and so on. Regarding film, television and radio, there are China Media Group (formally launched under SARFT’s auspices in December 2001 by merging China Cen-
tral Television, China National Radio, China Radio International, China Film Group, and several other institutions, with the hope of maintaining its market power after China entered the WTO), Beijing Film Academy, Hong Kong Film and Television Market (Hong Kong Filmart), etc.

As to writing and publishing, China has around 590 publishing houses and publishes about 100,000 Chinese-language titles an-
nually. Among the publishing houses is the
significant China Publishing Group, which includes such leading agencies like Xinhua Bookstore and China National Publications Import and Export Co. The State Press and Publications Administration plans to further restructure the publishing houses into five to
seven major publishing groups by 2005.

Cultural Exchange between
China and the U.S. in the past
thirty years

The cultural exchange between P.R. China and the [United States] began with the rapprochement between the two countries since late 1970s. With this American people were first impressed by dazzling Chinese gymnastic ability and bicycling skills, and President Nixon watched Chinese operas in Beijing, an audience of 8,800 Chi-

ese were overwhelmed by a performance of Beethoven's masterpieces by the Philadel-
phia Orchestra in 1973. Cultural exchange encouraged and played an irreplaceable role in political negotiation and communication in U.S.-China relations in the ice-breaking era. A contract on cultural exchanges in 1979 was among the first of three official documents in the Sino-American Joint Communique, which modern cultural exchanges have been on the rise, and a report in 2002 showed that since its founding in 1957, the China Performing Arts Agency had hosted 1,623 American artists performing for Chinese audiences totaling up to 500,000, and sent 3,346 Chinese art-
ists to 850 American cities and regions with audiences of 20.5 million. In 2000, the theme of “2000 U.S. Tour of Chinese Culture,” sponsored by the Infor-
mation Office and the Ministry of Culture of China, was a large-scale cultural exchange project by the Paris China Cultural Week. In his speech during the event, Zhao Qizheng, the Minister of the State Council Information Office, stressed the sincerity of Chinese people in cultural exchange with the [United States] and in fostering U.S.-China friendship. He offered some examples like the film made by China, Lover’s Grief Over the Yellow River, which features an Ameri-
can pilot fighting Japanese on Chinese soil, and the success of American films in China such as The Patriot, Titanic and the Disney cartoon Mulan.

The increasing cultural exchange between China and the [United States] is re-
markable in the globalization era along with China’s increasingly progressive reforms
and open market. The prominent role of the state in cultural market is declining, and
agents in cultural exchange become more
diverse. China is making great efforts to fulfill its commitments in cultural industry for the entry into WTO: within three years of WTO entry, 40-50 motion pictures will be
imported for theatrical release on a revenue-sharing basis; foreign service suppliers can construct and/or renovate cinema theater, with foreign investment at up to 49 percent; within three years of WTO entry, China will begin opening wholesale and retail sale of books to foreign companies; and so on. In 2003, regulations around which perform-
ing arts agencies were authorized to invite foreign groups were being loosened. In 2002 and 2003, four non-mainland television broadcasters, namely TVB, ATV, etc., which had been granted permission to broad-
cast in Guangdong Province. There is every reason to believe that with China’s steady
development and reform, cultural exchange between China and the [United States] will
be more and more fruitful and beneficial for both countries as well as the world.
Thank You Fans

We come together and unite around one team, your team, the Minnesota Twins. We thank each and every one of you for the continued support throughout the season.