



Formosa Betrayed: A thrilling drama set to engage audience in Taiwan's political history

By Albert Leung, Staff Writer

Taiwan's fight for independence has been ongoing since the island was occupied by Japan prior to World War II. Its tumultuous political history and current political situation continues to be a misunderstood and widely unknown issue among those in the United States.

In the upcoming film *Formosa Betrayed*, the movie hopes to shed light and incite discussion on Taiwan's political past and its struggle to be recognized as an independent and sovereign country. The film, directed by Adam Kane, is based on true events and depicts FBI agent James Kelly's (James Van Der Beek) investigation into the murder of Chicago college professor and political activist Henry Chen. Kelly's investigation leads him to the two suspected murderers who flee to Taiwan for refuge after realizing the FBI was on their trail.

Agent Kelly is dispatched to Taiwan to



James Van Der Beek in a scene from *Formosa Betrayed*

continue the investigation. Upon arriving, he quickly finds himself clashing with the local U.S. State Department, Taiwanese government and investigators, and Chinese Mafia. As his search for the killers continue abroad, Kelly uncovers the brutal techniques once employed by the Republic of China

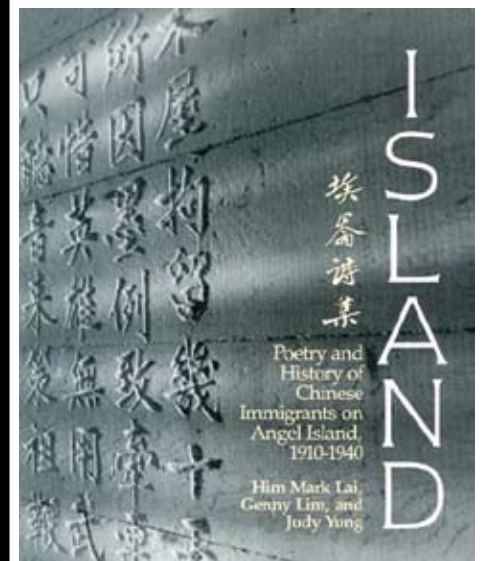
government in Taiwan to quell dissent against the government and their desire to reunite the island with mainland China.

"One reason why I wanted to tell this story is because I feel like the Taiwan situation is poorly understood. Frankly not just in the U.S. but also in Taiwan and China," said co-star, co-producer and story writer Will Tiao. "This is a part of history that we feel isn't that well known so we wanted to portray it so people can feel and understand where these emotions are originating for the Taiwanese."

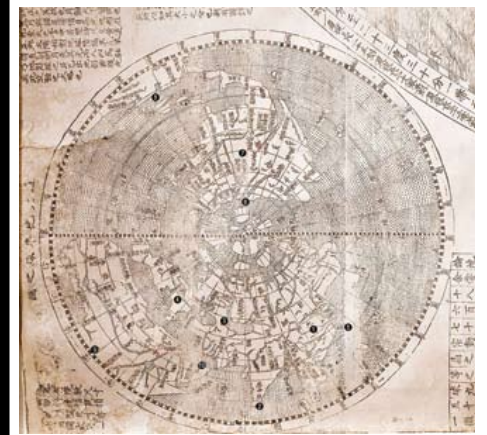
Tiao handle multiple responsibilities for this film and was the main catalyst behind the making of the movie when he first began writing the story in 2005. Tiao also established the film production company

Formosa continues on Page 6

HISTORY



Culture



Minnesota QUARTERLY EXPORT STATISTICS

Data on Manufacturing Industries for Third Quarter 2009 – Published Dec. 2009
For More Information: Kirsten Morell (651-259-7161), Communications Office

positively Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

Minnesota exports drop by 17 percent in third quarter

Reflecting a weak world economy, Minnesota's manufactured exports were valued at US\$3.7 billion in the third quarter of 2009. Exports fell by 17 percent (US\$757 million) since the third quarter of 2008. U.S. exports fell by 21 percent.

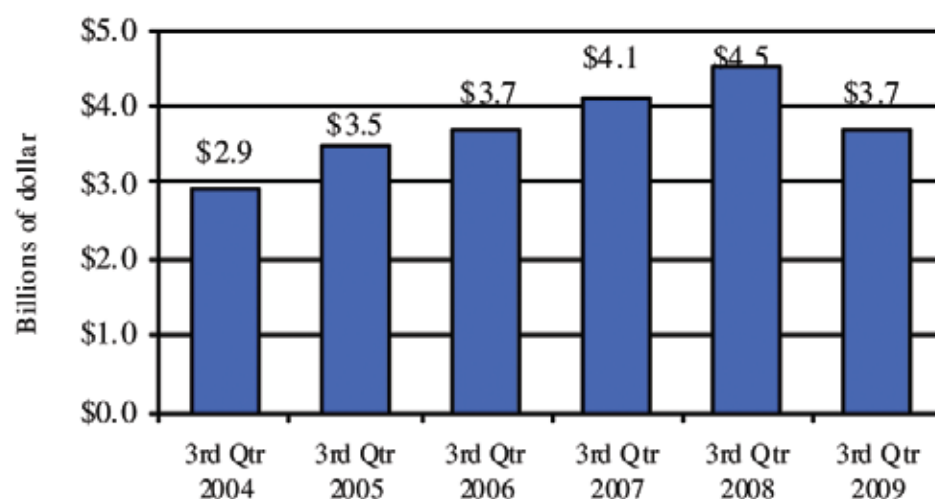
Among the 20 largest exporting states (Minnesota ranks 20th), Minnesota had the fifth-smallest export decrease, behind Kentucky with the smallest decline (2 percent), and Texas, Indiana and Tennessee with the next-smallest declines (15 percent). Utah (14 percent growth to US\$2.7 billion, ranked 26th) and Wyoming (4 percent to US\$242 million, ranked 47th) were the only states to experience positive export growth during this period.

Year-to-date, Minnesota exports have shrunk 18 percent, while U.S. exports have fallen 23 percent.

Export Growth to Three of Minnesota's Top 10 Markets

* Exports grew to three of the state's top 10 markets – Japan (up 3 percent), Korea (up 7 percent) and Australia (up 7 percent) – while those to China were stable compared with this period in the previous year.

Minnesota's Quarterly Manufactured Exports



* The overall 24 percent decline in exports to Minnesota's main export market, Canada, was the result of declines in the major exports to this country – transportation equipment (down 24 percent or by US\$77 million), machinery (down 22 percent or by US\$37 million), food (down 15 percent or by US\$22 million), and computers and electronics (down 22 percent or by US\$30

million) – and in petroleum-related goods (down 71 percent or by US\$63 million).

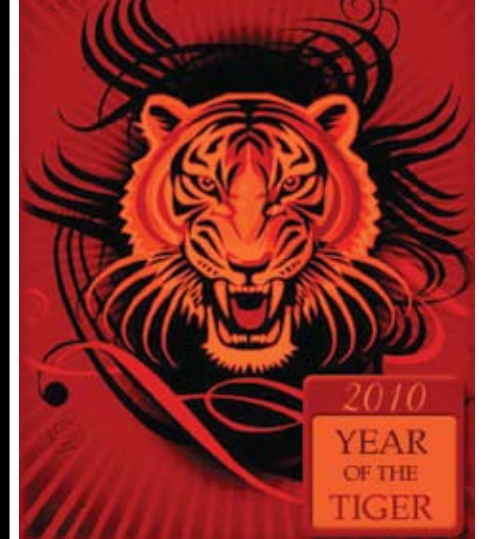
* The Philippines dropped to the state's 11th-largest market as the dominant export, computers and electronics, plunged 47 percent. Similarly, declining exports to Ireland were driven by a 24 percent drop in the main exported industry, miscellaneous products

Exports continues on Page 13

Chinese New Year



GUNG HAY FAT CHOY!



ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

- Announcements / 2
- History / 3
- Education / 4
- Culture / 5, 8 & 12-15
- Arts / 6 & 7
- Chinese New Year / 9 & 16
- Economy / 10
- Business / 11

Making it easier for Americans to support Haiti



President Obama Signs Legislation Providing Immediate Tax Deductions for Haiti Charitable Contributions January 22, 2010. (Official White House Photo by Pete Souza)

In the days since the earthquake in Haiti, Americans have shown their generosity with millions of dollars in donations. [On Jan. 22] President Obama signed a bill into law that makes it easier to give. This legislation

will allow taxpayers to receive the tax benefit from donations made to the Haiti effort in this tax season, rather than having to wait until they file their 2010 tax returns next year. Specifically, cash donations to charities for the Haitian relief effort given after January 11 and before March 1 of this year may be treated as if the contribution was made on December 31 of last year so that the contribution can be deducted from 2009 income. This measure applies to monetary donations, not goods or services.

One way to contribute is the Clinton Bush Haiti Fund. To donate, visit Clinton-BushHaitiFund.org or text "QUAKE" to 20222 to charge a [US]\$10 donation that will be added to your cell phone bill. To learn more about the situation in Haiti and what you can do to help, visit WhiteHouse.gov/HaitiEarthquake. ■

Source: The White House Blog

(www.WhiteHouse.gov/blog)

Posted by Macon Phillips on January 22, 2010 at 07:17 PM EST



Edeline B. Clermont weeps in the Little Haiti area of Miami as she talks to her sister after both were unable to contact relatives in Haiti (Alan Diaz/Associated Press)

The Guthrie presents Yellow Face by David Henry Hwang

A Mu Performing Arts production

The Guthrie presents a Mu Performing Arts production of Yellow Face by David Henry Hwang. Directed by Rick Shiomi, Yellow Face will be performed in the Dowling Studio Feb. 4 to Feb. 21, 2010.

In classic David Hwang fashion, Yellow Face is a head-spinning comedy that delivers poignancy with a punch. Following the playwright's alter-ego DHH, the play takes us from the pinnacle of his Tony Award with M. Butterfly downward through the

Miss Saigon controversy and a landscape of missteps, broken relationships and political investigations. In this 2008 Pulitzer Prize finalist, Hwang turns his own travails into humorous insights and warns us that good intentions do not necessarily make the world go round.

For more information about Mu Performing Arts, visit www.muperformingarts.org.

Ticket prices range from US\$18 to US\$30. There will be a post-play discussion of Yellow Face after the 1 p.m. performances on Sunday, Feb. 7 and Sunday, Feb. 14. American Sign Language interpretation and audio description will be provided at the 7:30 p.m. performance on Friday, Feb. 19. ASL interpreters will be Cathy Mosher and Carrie Wilbert. The play will be described by Cynthia Hamre. ■



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About CHINA/INSIGHT

CHINA/INSIGHT is a monthly English language newspaper fostering business and cultural harmony between China and the U.S.

CHINA/INSIGHT is a Member of The Minnesota Chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA).

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CHINA/INSIGHT welcomes guest articles and mail for the Letters to the Editor column. Correspondence should be addressed to:

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THE WHITE HOUSE



Office of the Press Secretary

National Angel Island Day, 2010

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

One hundred years ago, the Angel Island Immigration Station in San Francisco Bay opened for the first time, and an important chapter of the American narrative began. It would be written by those who walked through the station's doors over the next three decades. From the cities, villages, and farms of their birth, they journeyed across the Pacific, seeking better lives for themselves and their children. Many arrived at Angel Island, weary but hopeful, only to be unjustly confined for months or, in some cases, years. As we remember their struggle, we honor all who have been drawn to America by dreams of limitless opportunity.

Unlike immigrants who marveled at the Statue of Liberty upon arrival at Ellis Island, those who came to Angel Island were greeted by an intake facility that was sometimes called the "Guardian of the Western Gate." Racially prejudiced immigration laws of the time subjected many to rigorous exams and interrogations, as well as detention in crowded, unsanitary barracks. Some expressed themselves by carving poetry and inscriptions into the walls in their native language – from Chinese, Japanese, and Korean to Russian, German, and Urdu. These etchings remain on Angel Island today as poignant reminders of the immigrant experience and an unjust time in our history.

If there is any vindication for the Angel Island immigrants who endured so many hardships, it is the success achieved by those who were allowed entry, and the many who, at long last, gained citizenship. They have contributed immeasurably to our Nation as leaders in every sector of American life. The children of Angel Island have seized the opportunities their ancestors saw from across an ocean. By demonstrating that all things are possible in America, this vibrant community has created a beacon of hope for future generations of immigrants.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim January 21, 2010, as National Angel Island Day. I call upon the people of the United States to learn more about the history of Angel Island and to observe this anniversary with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twentieth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand ten, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fourth.

BARACK OBAMA

Angel Island revisited: a place of hope and despair

By Greg Hugh, Staff Writer

The U.S. Immigration Station, a National Historic Landmark, located on Angel Island in San Francisco bay, near the Tiburon peninsula, recently observed its 100th anniversary and was commemorated by a Proclamation issued by President Barak Obama.

What Ellis Island symbolizes to Americans of European heritage who immigrated to the East Coast, Angel Island symbolizes to Americans of Asian heritage on the West Coast. It was like Ellis Island in New York, but with a major difference since Ellis Island was more of a welcoming gateway to European immigrants, and we always celebrated the immigration story of that island but the majority of people coming from Asia were not welcomed.

Most of the first Chinese immigrants arrived in the United States during the California Gold Rush (1849-50) and were then recruited as a major source of labor to build the railroad and the economic development of the western frontier. With the passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, Congress restricted the immigration of Chinese laborers and prohibited Chinese immigrants, already in this country, from becoming American citizens. Exempted were merchants, diplomats, ministers, travelers, students, and children of American citizens. Many Chinese attempted to immigrate under these exempt categories which prompted U.S. officials to scrutinize all Chinese immigration documents.



Emigration station, Angel Island, CA

In the years that the Immigration Station operated on Angel Island (1910-40), it has been estimated that approximately one million people were processed through the station. Out of this number, approximately 250,000 Chinese and 150,000 Japanese immigrants were detained at the Station. Small numbers of immigrants from other Pacific Rim countries, including Russia, Korea, and the Philippines were also detained at the Station, but only briefly.

The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 provided tough entry restrictions, so many immigrants waited on the island for as long as two years while they exhausted appeals. Upon arrival at Angel Island, Chinese immigrants were held in detention barracks for weeks or months until their paperwork was approved. The Chinese Exclusion Act was repealed in 1943 when China became an ally of the United States during World War II.

During their long wait on Angel Island, some Chinese men, confined in the barracks, expressed their bitterness, frustration, and despair with poems carved in the redwood walls. Constructed in 1908, the barracks soon had poems written with Chinese ink

brushes on its walls. The walls were then painted which covered up the first generation of poems. Subsequently, the detainees began to carve their poems into the walls. These poems reflect and record the hardship endured, and the indignity suffered by the early Chinese while establishing roots in America.



A Chinese poem carved on the wall at Angel Island. Contemporary photograph by Chris Huie. Reproduced from the cover of *Island: Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island, 1910-1940*

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Some of the people who passed through Angel Island had false papers, claiming in many cases to be sons and daughters of Chinese American citizens, a ticket for admission under the era's restrictive laws. These so-called "paper sons" had spent considerable time studying the background of their supposed ancestors, and the job of the immigration officers was to ferret out these "paper sons" through extensive interrogation sessions. If they were caught, they were shipped back to China; if they succeeded they were admitted. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of immigrants got through the process using false papers.

When immigration laws were relaxed in the 1950s and '60s, the government offered amnesty to people who had used false papers. Many accepted, but there are probably many more paper sons and daughters who did not confess. Likely many of them did not trust the U.S. government, particularly in the era before the United States normalized relations with what many conservatives called "Red China."

The Immigration Station was closed after a fire in 1940. Angel Island is now a state park, and the Immigration Station buildings have been restored. In 1962, the Chinese American community successfully lobbied the State of California to designate the Immigration Station as a State Landmark. Today, the Angel Island Immigration Station is a federally designated National Historic Landmark. It was renovated by the California State Parks and reopened on February 16, 2009.

For more information visit www.angelisland.com/immigration_station/index.php

"When we see persons of worth, we should think of equaling them; when we see persons of a contrary character, we should turn inwards and examine ourselves."

...Confucius

Yinghua Academy enters Q Comp

The 31st charter school to enter professional development and achievement-based pay system

Minnesota Commissioner of Education Alice Seagren announced [Dec. 7] that Yinghua Academy will implement Minnesota's nation-leading Q Comp performance and professional pay program. The school will receive US\$59,280 in total revenue for the 2009-10 school year for implementation.

"I commend Yinghua Academy on their decision to participate in this important education reform," said Commissioner Seagren. "Q Comp will give participating teachers an opportunity to enhance their skills and take part in real-time, research-based professional development, which will help raise student achievement."

In 2005, Governor Tim Pawlenty proposed and the state legislature approved Minnesota's Q Comp program. Q Comp provides up to US\$86 million for districts that join the program. The Q Comp program has funds available for school districts, school sites and charter schools to implement a program for the 2009-10 school year. This funding is available on a first-come, first-served basis until all available funds have been exhausted.

Q Comp is designed to advance the teaching profession by providing structured professional development and evaluation, as well as an alternative pay schedule that compensates teachers based on performance, not just seniority. The program brings together career advancement, professional development and compensation linked to academic achievement. It includes a locally agreed-upon peer evaluation process for every teacher that is based on skills, responsibilities and student academic growth. This plan is voluntary and will add up to an additional US\$260 per student in participating districts.

"Our program, which focuses on the development of intellectual curiosity and critical-thinking skills, is dependent on dedicated, high-quality teachers," said Betsy Lueth, Yinghua Academy executive director. "This is achieved through embedded professional development and incentive programs for high-performing teachers. As a leading Chinese immersion charter school in the nation, we want to establish a model for language immersion and rigorous academics. Q-Comp will help us support this initiative."

The Q Comp program gives participating schools the flexibility to meet local needs within a comprehensive model of improved teaching and learning. The Yinghua Academy administration and teacher representatives have agreed to the following:

Provide career ladders or career advancement opportunities for teachers

The career ladder includes eight positions with various duties and compensations. These positions are:

* **Professional Educator:** responsible for providing resources to all grade level and specialist staff, participating in Curriculum and Instruction team meetings, conducting triannual review of teacher's lesson plans and providing feedback and suggestions to the Academic Director, and field-testing new instructional strategies.

* **Instructional Leader:** serves as the department coordinator and instructional leader for the grade level team in his/her designated area.

* **Problem Solving Team (PST) Leader:** serves as the team leader and conduct monthly team meetings.

* **Curriculum and Instruction Team (CIT) Leader:** coordinates schoolwide professional development and conduct monthly team meetings.

* **Evaluation and Assessment Team (EAT) Leader:** participates in individual evaluations, conducts monthly team meetings, reviews the quality of student testing tools, helps coordinate student testing requirements and participates in staff evaluations.

* **PST Member:** meets with teachers experiencing chronic behavior or academic problems with their students, provides resources and solutions for general education interventions, and offers ways to objectively track interventions by providing data to encourage student progress in problem areas.

* **CIT Member:** reviews grade level curriculum map progress triannually and reports to Academic Director, determines needs for professional development, prepares recommendations and coordinates schoolwide professional development, evaluates grade level curriculum needs and reports to Academic Director.

* **EAT Member:** reviews the quality of student testing tools, help coordinate student testing requirements, helps teachers build Individual Development Plan (IDP) and participates in staff

Job-embedded professional development

As the focus for the Q Comp plan, the school has selected the following student achievement goal from the Educational Improvement Plan (EIP):

* At least 80 percent of students consistently enrolled for three years in grades taking the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA-II) reading test will earn a score at the proficiency level (Meets the Standards or Exceeds the Standards) in 2009.

* At least 85 percent of students consistently enrolled for three years in grades taking the Minnesota Comprehensive Assessment (MCA-II) mathematics test will earn a score at the proficiency level (Meets the Standards or Exceeds the Standards) in 2009.

Teachers will meet weekly for 60 minutes in collaborative grade level teams of two to four teachers. In addition, teachers will be expected to participate in the following once monthly meetings as well:

* One 60-minute curriculum meeting with a focus in instructional content areas.

* One 60-minute assessment meeting with a focus on instructional content areas.

* One 60-minute staff meeting with a focus on classroom management, differentiation and curriculum alternating as the monthly theme.

Teacher Observation/Evaluation

Each teacher at Yinghua Academy will be observed and receive formative evaluations three times per year by multiple trained evaluators/observers. The three formative evaluations of each teacher will be conducted in the following formats:

* One formal observation in the fall of the year, which will be completed in October.

* Three informal walk-through observations conducted between November and January, which will be reported to the teacher as a formative observation in February.

* A second formal observation will be

conducted in May by the Academic Director or School Director and at least one member of the EAT.

Teachers must earn an average score of 2.5 to 4.0 to earn full performance pay for the evaluations or an average score of 1.5 to 2.4 to earn half of the performance pay.

Performance pay

A teacher's compensation will be based on the following factors:

20 percent (US\$180) for schoolwide student achievement gains based MCA-II performance.

* Full compensation is paid to all teachers if at least 80 percent of students achieve proficiency on the Reading MCA-II and at least 85 percent of students achieve proficiency on the Mathematics MCA-II.

* Half compensation paid if 60 percent or above of the students achieve proficiency on both the reading and mathematics MCA-II assessments.

40 percent (US\$360) for measures of student achievement based on Northwest Evaluation Association Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) or the Student Oral Proficiency Assessment (SOPA) performance.

50 percent (US\$180) for meeting the following mathematics goal on either the NWEA MAP for Primary Grades or the NWEA MAP test is available to all classroom teachers in grades K-5:

* Full compensation if 85 percent of the individual class is at grade level.

* Half the compensation if 70 percent are at grade level.

50 percent (US\$180) for meeting the following English goal for grades 3-5 or Chinese goal for grades K-5.

* English teachers at all grades are eligible for full compensation if 80 percent of the individual class is at grade level.

* English teachers at all grades are eligible for half compensation if 60 percent of the individual class is at grade level.

* Chinese teachers at all grades are eligible for full compensation if 85 percent of the individual class is at grade level and tracking to the level of Junior Intermediate Low (JIL) by fifth grade on the SOPA.

* Chinese teachers at all grades are eligible for half compensation if 70 percent of the individual class is at grade level and tracking to JIL by fifth grade on the SOPA.

40 percent (US\$360) for teacher evaluation based on the average score earned at the end of the three observations.

* Full compensation for an average evaluation score of 2.5 to 4.0.

* Half compensation for an average

evaluation score of 1.5 to 2.4.

Alternative professional pay schedule

The school awards contracts annually to employees meeting the performance standards. There is not a steps and lanes salary system in place.

Yinghua Academy is the 31st charter school to be approved for the Q Comp program. The other charter schools to implement Q Comp are: Dugsi Academy, Nova Classical Academy, Noble Academy, Harvest Prep Academy, The Best Academy, Cyber Village Academy, Paideia Academy, Seven Hills Classical Academy, Academy for Science and Agriculture, HOPE Community Academy, Lakes International Language Academy, Crosslake Community School, New Visions School, TRIO Wolf Creek Charter School, Emily Charter, El Colegio Charter School, STRIDE Academy, Minnesota Transitions Charter Schools, Northfield School of Art and Technology (ARTech), Beacon Academy, Duluth Public Schools Academy, Sojourner Truth Academy, Ridgeway Charter School, E.C.H.O Charter School, Hmong Academy, Tarek ibn Ziyad Academy, Birch Grove Community School

School districts that began implementing the Q Comp program during the 2008-09 school year: Annandale, Mahtomedi, North Branch, Edina, Minneapolis (various sites), Chisago Lakes

The following districts were approved for Q Comp during the 2007-08 school year: Princeton, Rosemount-Eagan-Apple Valley, Roseville (three sites), Orono, Forest Lake, Minneapolis (various sites), Brooklyn Center

School districts that began implementing the Q Comp program during the 2006-07 school year: Grand Meadow, Albert Lea, Alden-Conger, Brainerd, Wayzata, Eden Prairie, Red Rock Central, International Falls, Le Center, St. Louis Park, Osseo, Lac Qui Parle, North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale, Clearbrook-Gonvick, Proctor, Burnsville, St. Anthony-New Brighton, Minnetonka, Delano, Centennial, Pine River, Brandon, South Washington County, South Saint Paul, Farmington, Roseville (various sites), Minneapolis (various sites)

School districts that started implementing the Q Comp program during the 2005-06 school year: Minneapolis (various sites), Hopkins, St. Francis, Mounds View, St. Cloud, Fridley, La Crescent-Hokah, Marshall

Several schools and districts have indicated they are planning to submit Q Comp applications. ■

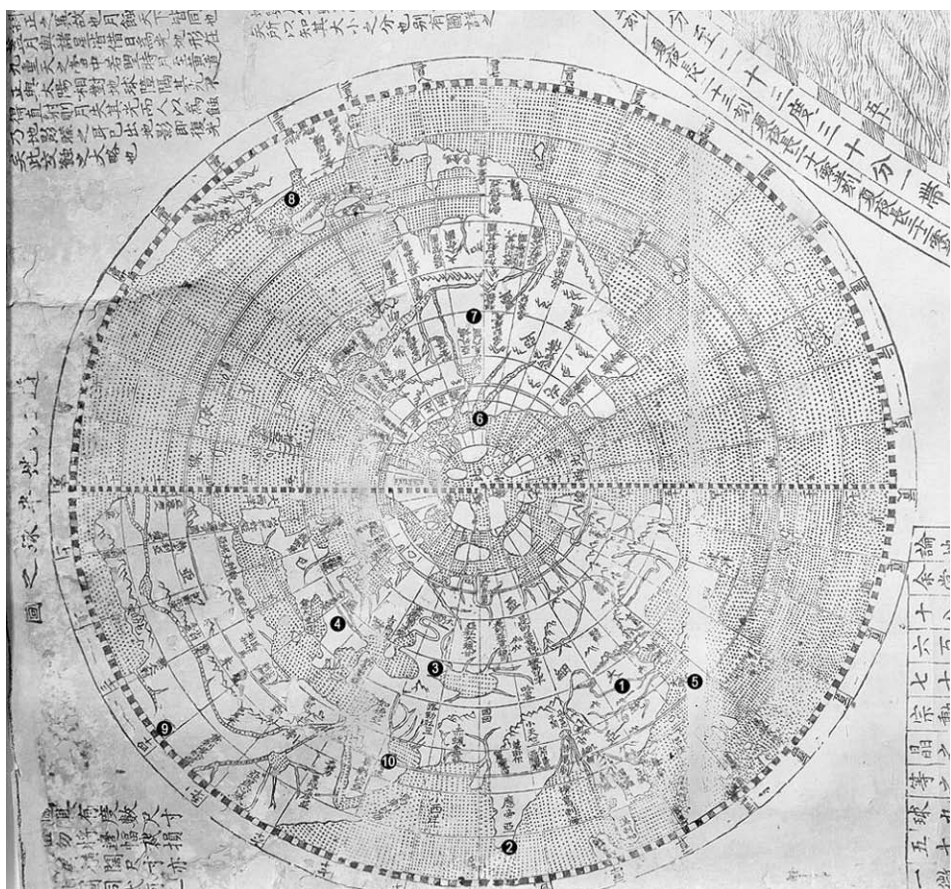
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China displayed at the center of the world in rare 1602 World Map



The 17th Century Ricci Map. 1: China - 2: India - 3: Russia - 4: Europe - 5: Japan - 6: Canada - 7: US - 8: South America - 9: Africa - 10: Middle East)

A rare, 400-year-old map that displays China at the center of the world will be on exhibit at the Library of Congress from Jan. 12 to April 10, before it heads to its intended home at the James Ford Bell Library at the University of Minnesota. The map is on loan from the James Ford Bell Trust.

The Matteo Ricci World Map, the first in Chinese to show the Americas, will be on exhibit for the first time in North America, joining the Library of Congress' cartographic gem, the 1507 Waldseemüller World Map, in the ongoing exhibition "Exploring the Early Americas." The exhibit is free and open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, in the Northwest Pavilion on the second floor of the Thomas Jefferson Building, 10 First St. S.E., Washington, D.C.

After the three-month display, the Library of Congress Geography and Map Division will digitally scan the 1602 document and make the electronic image available to scholars and students for research.

"When the James Ford Bell Trust asked the Library to be the site for unveiling the Ricci map in North America, I was delighted," said Deanna Marcum, associate librarian for Library Services. "The Ricci map, the first map in Chinese to show the Americas, will be placed near the Library's Waldseemüller Map of 1507, the first document to name America and to depict a separate and full Western Hemisphere. These two maps will 'talk' to each other, offering a unique perspective on East-West linkages."

The 1602 map was drawn by Jesuit priest Matteo Ricci (1552-1610), a missionary in China, and measures 5.5 feet tall by 12.5 feet wide. It was designed to be mounted on a folding screen.

The James Ford Bell Trust purchased

the map for US\$1 million from the firm of Bernard J. Shapero, a noted dealer of rare books and maps in London, for the benefit of the James Ford Bell Library.

When the map returns to Minnesota, it will be displayed for a limited time at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. Afterward it will move to its intended home in the James Ford Bell Library at the University of Minnesota.

The James Ford Bell Library documents the history and impact of international trade prior to 1800. Its premier collection of rare books, maps and manuscripts illustrates the ways in which cultural influences expanded worldwide, with a special emphasis on European interactions.

Founded in 1800, the Library of Congress is the nation's oldest federal cultural institution and the largest library in the world, with nearly 145 million items in various languages, disciplines and formats. The Library serves the U.S. Congress and the nation both on-site, in its reading rooms on Capitol Hill, and through its award-winning web site at www.loc.gov. Many of the Library's rich resources and treasures may also be accessed via interactive exhibitions on a personalized web site at myLOC.gov.

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Daughter-in-law with a difference

By Zhang Lingling

Three decades earlier most Chinese people would have regarded a romantic relationship with a foreigner as something beyond their imaginations, even actively seeking to avoid such a taboo scenario. However, as the opening-up and reforms nudged China into interacting with the outside world, society has begun to view this as a normal occurrence. Expats are no longer exotic and mysterious to ordinary Chinese people, and interracial couples have risen out of China's increasingly internationalized society.



Interracial couples are becoming more ubiquitous in modern Chinese society

During the initial years of the reform and opening-up, cross-cultural marriages were left to the realm of a few "vanguards." Today, with increasing numbers of foreigners coming to visit, study or work in China, and with more and more Chinese people following suit in the opposite directions, these romantic worlds were bound to collide. Top that off with a greater access to the Internet, it is no wonder that the idea of international marriage has become a commonplace in our daily lives. However, I never imagined that one day an American girl would join my family.

A few years ago my son went off to the U.S. to study, and ended up working there after receiving his doctorate degree. Soon he married an American girl, and they had a baby daughter. Last year they invited my husband and I to the U.S. for a family reunion during the Spring Festival.

To my surprise, on New Year's Eve, my American daughter-in-law prepared a cornucopia of delicious Chinese dishes for us. We sat around and chatted with each other, enjoying some wonderful wine and soaking in the joy. As per tradition I handed a "red envelope" bearing money to my granddaughter. She replied politely in her cute Chinese tinged with an English accent: "Thank you for the gift, dear grandma."

After dinner my daughter-in-law turned on the TV. Suddenly the familiar hosts and hostesses of China Central Television (CCTV) appeared on screen. "Wow! How is it that we can watch CCTV in the U.S.?" I asked my husband, sort of half surprised and half filled with a childlike pleasure. Immediately I realized that it was due to a concerted effort made by my son and daughter-in-law to make sure that we could enjoy the CCTV Spring Festival Gala, which almost all families watch in China on the day. Half a month

before the holiday, my daughter-in-law got wind of the fact that Chinese TV channels would be available on their cable system in the U.S. They immediately purchased the package, and ordered the equipment. But in order to save money they decided to install it themselves. My amazing daughter-in-law, who has a background in wireless technology and engineering, was able to tackle that project and get it all going.

While sharing some traditional snacks that I brought from my hometown, our family watched the star-studded performance on TV as we do every year, humming familiar tunes and laughing over the comic dialogues and skits. Even though we were in the U.S. we felt as though we were home. When my daughter-in-law suggested: "Why not send our festival greeting message to the broadcast?" We happily obeyed, and fired off an E-mail. Moments later the CCTV hostess announced: "We have received hundreds of congratulatory messages from all over the world." I felt so elated because I knew that one of them was ours. Our message read: "Best wishes for our country's peace and unification, thriving and prosperity." These are hopes that represent the common aspirations of all Chinese people no matter where in the world.

In the following days my daughter-in-law took us around to tourist sites and shops, just as a Chinese wife would do. I could see she was deeply in love with my son. But she adhered to her "rules" in their daily lives, which she thought crucial for a lasting healthy relationship. For example, she insisted that she and my son manage their incomes separately. So, when it comes to paying for their dinners out, rent, furniture or car, they share the cost equally. But when it comes to personal commodities such as clothes or cosmetics, they cover it individually, as needed. In the beginning my son had a tough time with this, as he believes in the Chinese tradition of unified family saving and spending. But he eventually decided to respect her opinions and try a new way of thinking.

I was glad to learn from my son that his American wife is thrifter than many from China, where frugality is traditionally a meritorious trait. When they go out for dinner, my son often orders more dishes than they can finish. My daughter-in-law always insists on taking the leftovers back home, and lectures my son for being so wasteful.

"After living together with a foreign husband for such a long time, I realized that it is essential that both parties in any intercultural marriage understand each other, and accept each other's cultural differences, traditions and habits. Both should regard the other as best friend without any sense of superiority. This is the only way to sustain the affection between them," said my daughter-in-law.

I hope that my son and his American wife continue their respect and passion toward each other forever, and the same for other couples like them. I also look forward to seeing stable and strong growth in the Sino-U.S. relations and increasing understanding between the two peoples in the coming years. ■

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The Fifth Chinese Bridge: U.S. High School Student Chinese Speech Contest

The Fifth Chinese Bridge: US High School Student Chinese Speech Contest gives students the opportunity to test their skills against the best high school Chinese language students in the United States. This contest, held on April 24, 2010, is open to non-heritage Mandarin speakers studying Chinese as a foreign language in an American Public or Private High School. To apply for the 5th Annual Chinese Bridge: US High School Chinese Language Speech Contest, students must submit a speech of 3-5 minutes in Chinese based on the following theme: Learning Chinese Brings Me into the World Community

Contest sponsors, CLASS (Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools), HANBAN (Chinese Language Council International), and The University of Massachusetts China Institute, began this contest in 2005 to promote the teaching and learning of Chinese language and culture in American High Schools. Since the inception of the World Speech Contest in China, successful participants in the American Contest have placed highly -- winning year-long scholarships in China and many other prizes.

Participants will be divided into three categories based on language skill (as explained below): Group 1, Group 2, and Special.

Group 1: Students who have attended Chinese language classes for less than two academic years.

Group 2: Students who have attended Chinese language classes for more than two academic years.

Special: Students who have spent more than 6 months in China or had prolonged opportunities beyond the high-school sponsored learning experiences that provided opportunities to speak the language.

The Judges are invited to serve by representatives of Hanban, CLASS, and the University of Massachusetts China Institute. To protect the integrity of the contest and the privacy of the judges and contestants, the names of the judges will not be distributed. All contact with the judging panel must be directed to the China Institute.

The following are important dates leading up to the competition:

Feb. 28, 2010: Contest opens for submissions

March 6, 2010: Contest closes. No sub-

missions received after midnight (Eastern Standard Time) will be accepted.

March 30, 2010: Speech Contestants Finalist Notification

April 24, 2010: Speech contest is held in Marlborough, MA, USA.

Interested students should visit www.mandarincontest.com for complete contest rules and to apply.

About the Sponsors

CLASS (Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools)

CLASS is a highly respected professional associated for Chinese language professionals dedicated to providing information on Chinese language and culture. CLASS offers a platform for K-12 teachers to communicate with each other, exchange ideas, and network with members for the purpose of encouraging more students to learn Chinese. The main goal of CLASS is to ensure that the teaching of Chinese becomes an integral part of the mainstream American educational system.

<http://classk12.org>

HANBAN (Chinese Language Council International)

The Chinese Language Council International is composed of members of 12 state ministries and commissions in China. A non-governmental and non-profit organization affiliated to the Ministry of Education of China, Hanban is committed to making the Chinese language and culture teaching resources and services available to the world, to meeting the demands of overseas Chinese learners, and to continuing the formation of a world of cultural diversity and harmony.

<http://www.hanban.edu.cn/hbsm.php>

The University of Massachusetts China Institute

The purpose of the University of Massachusetts China Institute is to maximize the potential of the University of Massachusetts and the Commonwealth in responding to the emerging impact of China in the world. The China Institute works through The University of Massachusetts Confucius Institute at Boston to promote the teaching and understanding of Chinese language and culture and to support Chinese language education in Massachusetts.

<http://www.umasschinainstitute.org> ■

Formosa from Page 1

Formosa Films and began filming *Formosa Betrayed* under his new company.

"This movie is an attempt to tell the story of my parents' generation who are from Taiwan," said Tiao. "They had friends who were persecuted and some were cases involved murders. I went out and researched this material through congressional materials, past press coverage and the number of books that were written about the subject, and then created the story version of this movie."

Formosa Betrayed is a thrilling and engaging drama that will surely enthrall audiences in its active and unpredictable storyline. The film attempts to not take a political stance but it is easy to sympathize with those who are lobbying for Taiwan's independence.



The former television star James Van Der Beek delivers a strong silver screen performance in this film and showcases his more mature acting abilities. Hopefully his recognizable face and past fame will help convince American movie-goers to see *Formosa Betrayed* and not make it seem like a foreign film with difficult subtitles.

Having shown in numerous film festivals this past year, *Formosa Betrayed* has already garnered a bevy of awards including Best Feature Film and Best Actor at the 2009 San Diego Film Festival and the Audience Award for Best Narrative Feature at the 2009 Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival.

The film will surely help bring more awareness to the topic to the public once it hits theaters on Feb. 26 in Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco and Boston. Other cities across the United States and Canada will be announced later.

Understanding the Formosa Conflict

Editor's Note: While CHINAINSIGHT does not take a position on this topic, we feel it is important to understand the Taiwan (Formosa) situation so we are providing the following background information that was furnished to the media by the film's producers.

• What is Formosa?

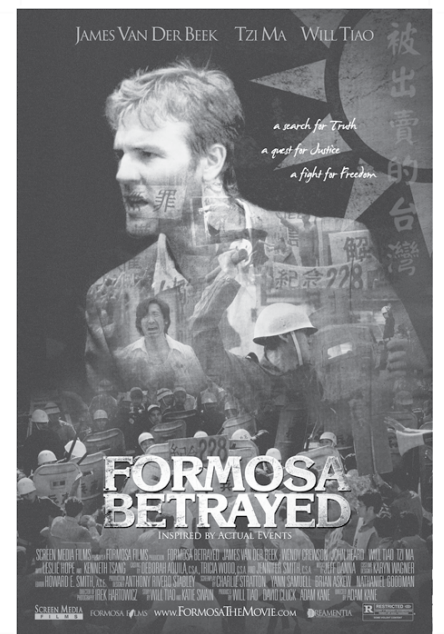
Formosa is the Portuguese word for 'island.' In 1590, a Dutch navigator aboard a Portuguese ship spotted the island of Taiwan and declared it "Ilha Formosa", meaning "beautiful island." Formosa became Taiwan's name for the next four centuries.

• What was/is Taiwan's relationship with China?

Taiwan and China do not have official relations, as China maintains that Taiwan is part of its territory. However, the Chinese government has never actually ruled Taiwan. China maintains hundreds of missiles pointed at the island of Taiwan as a threat against declaring its independence. Economically, trade flows between Taiwan and China are over \$100 billion.

• What was/is Taiwan's relationship with the United States?

The United States does not recognize Taiwan as a sovereign nation. It maintains a "One-China" policy, which states that there is one China, which Taiwan is a part of. However, under the Taiwan Relations Act, the United States is obligated to "help defend" Taiwan in case of attack from



mainland China.

• Does the Chinese government recognize the people of Taiwan as Chinese?

The Chinese government considers Taiwan as part of its territory, and thus considers all residents of Taiwan as Chinese. Many on the island of Taiwan disagree with this, and call for a separate identity as Taiwanese.

• Do Taiwanese consider themselves Chinese?

The issue of identity is complex in Taiwan. Roughly people in Taiwan can be divided into two groups – those who came with the KMT and Chiang Kai-Shek (and their descendents) tend to call themselves Chinese. Those whose ancestors have been in Taiwan for many generations tend to call themselves Taiwanese.

• What is the One-China policy and what is Taiwan's position regarding it?

The One-China policy states that the People's Republic of China (PRC) is the sole legitimate government of mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan. All countries seeking diplomatic relations with the PRC must acknowledge this policy and refrain from maintaining official relations with the Republic of China on Taiwan.

There are two different camps in Taiwan regarding the issue. Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) does not agree with the One-China principle and states that Taiwan and China are two separate countries. However the Kuomintang (KMT) is supportive of the One-China policy and moving Taiwan towards becoming an official part of the PRC.

• Why is the Taiwan-China issue still relevant today?

Because the fight for Taiwan independence is ongoing and poses a complicated problem for the world's nations seeking to create economic ties with both Taiwan and China's booming economies.

• What are the global implications of Taiwan declaring independence from China?

There are over 1500 missiles currently pointed from mainland China towards Taiwan, in case Taiwan declares independence. In 1996, when Taiwan held its first democratic elections, China lobbed 2 missiles near the island to warn it from declaring independence. President Clinton sent two U.S. battleships in the Taiwan Strait in the largest show of U.S. military force in Asia since the Vietnam War.

The threat of a military conflict over this issue is ongoing. The United States is obligated under the Taiwan Relations Act to "help defend" Taiwan if it is attacked. Taiwan independence is the most likely source of military conflict between China and the United States. ■

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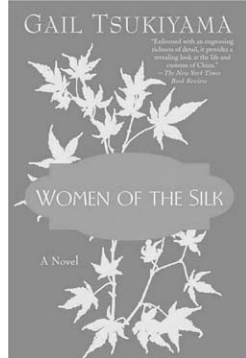
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BOOKS



Women of the Silk

By Gail Tsukiyama

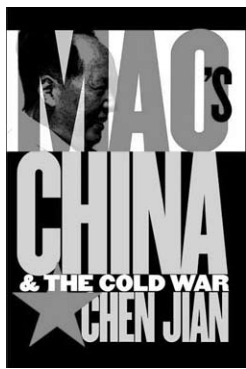


Synopsis
In *Women of the Silk* Gail Tsukiyama takes her readers back to rural China in 1926, where a group of women forge a sisterhood amidst the reeling machines that reverberate

and clamor in a vast silk factory from dawn to dusk. Leading the first strike the village has ever seen, the young women use the strength of their ambition, dreams, and friendship to achieve the freedom they could never have hoped for on their own. Tsukiyama's graceful prose weaves the details of "the silk work" and Chinese village life into a story of courage and strength.

Mao's China and the Cold War

By Chen Jian



Synopsis
This comprehensive study of China's Cold War experience reveals the crucial role Beijing played in shaping the orientation of the global Cold War and the confrontation between the United

States and the Soviet Union. China as a central actor--represented the only major "hot" conflicts during the Cold War period, making East Asia the main battlefield of the Cold War, while creating conditions to prevent the two superpowers from engaging in a direct military showdown. Beijing's split with Moscow and rapprochement with Washington fundamentally transformed the international balance of power, argues Chen, eventually leading to the end of the Cold War with the collapse of the Soviet Empire and the decline of international communism.

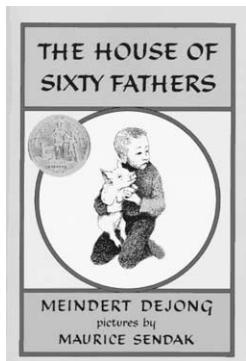
States and the Soviet Union.

The success of China's Communist revolution in 1949 set the stage, Chen says. The Korean War, the Taiwan Strait crises, and the Vietnam War--all of which involved

Based on sources that include recently declassified Chinese documents, the book offers path-breaking insights into the course and outcome of the Cold War.

The House of Sixty Fathers

By Meindert DeJong, Maurice Sendak (Illustrator)



Synopsis
Tien Pao was all alone in enemy territory. Only a few days before, his family had escaped from the Japanese army, fleeing downriver by boat. Then came the terrible rainstorm. Tien Pao was fast asleep in the little sampan when the boat broke loose from

its moorings and drifted right back to the Japanese soldiers. With only his lucky pig for company, Tien Pao must begin a long and dangerous journey in search of his home and family.

'A vividly realistic story of China during the early days of the Japanese invasion [which tells of young Tien Pao's journey to find his family].' —C.

'Valuable as enrichment literature for elementary students involved in Chinese studies.' —Scholastic Teacher.

Source: barnesandnoble.com

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...Confucius

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OPINION: Dance Review

Way to Go, TCCDC!

By Hua Chen

The Twin Cities Chinese Dance Center (TCCDC) has always been my favorite art institute. However, since the previous artistic director, Qiang Yang, left Minnesota, I haven't heard much about TCCDC's activities. That's why I was so excited to learn that TCCDC just invited their new artistic director from China. I drove 50 minutes to Eden Prairie to see their first show on Dec. 19th.

The opening dance "Drumming Awakens Spring" brought us great atmosphere of pleasant and new spring! The beautiful girls danced with the drums by young men, I feel like being back to my hometown again. Throughout the countryside, rollicking percussion echoes the thundering energy of spring. These young dancers grow up in the United States, they do not have the direct experiences of this very traditional and authentic Chinese Han culture, this must be a great challenge for the artistic director. I was amazed by the fantastic work done by the artistic director that those young dancers' movements brought me back to my motherland.

The following dance "Girls behind Banana Leaves" and "A Yao Folk Song" expressed the joyful life of girls in different minorities in China. These kid dancers [were] like angels on the stage!

"Martial Arts Dream" is a master piece combining with both Chinese classical dance techniques and Martial Arts. No one can tell that those dancers who with accurate steps and sprits grow up in the United States. TCCDC's effort of promoting Chinese culture is highly appreciated.

"Pursuit of Dream" is another classical style dance. This Han dance reflects the strength of Chinese women who break through the traditional social norms to fully realize their potential. "Peach Fairy" is another style of classical dance; it depicts a bride's hope to grow a family that thrives like the blooming peach trees. "Shao Duo Li" performed by three wonderful girls put the daily life activities of Dai, one of the minorities in southern China, into graceful steps with Dai music.

The Jiangnan dance of "Footsteps in the Spring Rain", "Enchanting Jasmine" and the western Chinese dance of "Fiery Red Girls", "Kazakh Swans" and "Happy Uyghur Girls", all these dances make us feel so warm in the cold winter of Minnesota. I believe this is the magic of dance! I also enjoyed the song, "A Kashgar Lady", by the well-known Chinese singer in Minnesota, Mr. Huashao Zhou.

I met with the artistic director, Ms. Huanru Zhang, after the show on the back stage. She seems so humble and peaceful. Facing all these flowers and praises from the audiences, she just slightly smiled. "We still need a lot of improvement! Advices are welcome." I learned from the parents of some young dancers that it only took her three month[s] to prepare for the show! I believe that under the lead of Ms. Huanru Zhang, TCCDC will present us with more fantastic shows. Like the last dance "Beyond Your Dreams", TCCDC can also go beyond its dream! ■

The attributes and artistic elements of Chinese dances

By Huanru Zhang, TCCDC Artistic Director



China is a multi-cultural country, with 56 different ethnicities. Each of these ethnicities has their own folk culture and dances. Chinese classical dance incorporates dance elements from these ethnic dances, Chinese operas, Chinese martial art forms and folk dances. Over time these have merged, forming the unique system that we call Chinese classical dance today. It has been refined, redeveloped and rejuvenated over thousands of years.

Attributes of Chinese Dances

The lineage of many of the dances can be traced back to the Royal Court dances of the culture of the Zhou, Tang, and Song Dynasties 5,000 years ago, where the character of the nation was expressed through dance, incorporating movements influenced by folk stories, historic figures and classic myths and legends, and expressing society's respect for morality, compassion, loyalty, wisdom, and trustworthiness. It represents a unique system with diversity of movement, refinement of form, and richness of character and culture.

Chinese dance requires the dancers to undergo strict physical training. Actions and movements called "body techniques" need to be accurate and precise, and every action, movement and look needs to follow the preset rules. The body techniques stress beauty in various forms like "twist, tilt, round, curve, lookup, stoop, turn, roll". Furthermore, it emphasizes that inner spirit should initiate body movements. Performers not only need to master the techniques of Chinese dance, but also perfect their moral character and willpower in order to portray the fundamental inner meaning of the Chinese culture.

It is not hard to trace an evolving line of succession from the many relics of ancient times that bore images of dancers from various dynasties. Historical evidence can be seen in unearthed tomb figurines and the Dunhuang frescoes. Signature movements in Qin and Han Dynasty dance figurines

highlighted "crouching". During the Tang Dynasty dance highlighted the curves of a female body. Chinese dance has also incorporated from traditional folk dance such as Jiaozhou Yang Ge the twist, turn and soft yet hard stomps. It has also adopted the ocean wave like, reach, block and twist steps from Ocean Yang Ge and the tilted body from Flower-drum Lantern dance famous in FengYang. From Chinese Opera, it incorporated Zi Wu look, YingYang face and the body twists unique to Chinese dance.



You can also see the Dragon and Monkey styles from Chinese Martial Arts. Every element of the body techniques in Chinese dance from Curving, Turning, Twisting, Tilting and Rounding, when combined well, demonstrates the beauty of the human body. Every body part including head, neck, chest, waist, hips, shoulder, elbow, wrist, arm, palm to knee, ankle and foot all have their own specific requirements for movement.

ShenYun, roughly translated as body rhythm, is the most important Chinese classical dance performance technique. It focuses on "Shape, spirit, strength and pattern" as the four basic elements of body rhythm and form. Shape refers to the external action, gesture and movement connect-



ed with the movement line. Spirit means internal senses and mind playing the role of leading the thinking and determining movements. Strength is the force, guiding the severity, urgency, strong vs. weak, long vs. short, rigid vs. flexible part of the movement. Pattern indicates the execution by defined dance standards. These four elements integrated together yield an internal and external unity where the heart can be

combined with the mind; the mind can be combined with energy; energy combined with the strength and strength combined with shapes.

People often say that "the eyes are windows into the soul". While the eyes of "gather, put, condensate and close" does not mean that the eye movement itself, but rather is subject to the domination of internal psychological connections and the rhythm of internal spirit. "Before the movement takes shape, there has to be spirit first; when the shape has vanished the spirit lingers". The Chinese dance theory combined with the dance elements of body techniques formed a high degree of unity, harmonization, composition and dance aesthetic theory with unique Chinese characteristics.

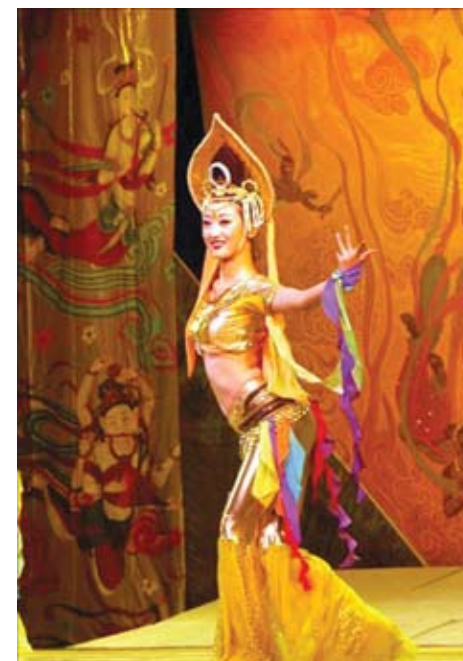
Rhythm is very prominent in Chinese classical dance and has an inseparable connection with Chinese music. Compared with Western music which has more regular uniform tones, Chinese music is heavier in pulse-like rhythm, generally expressed as flexible combination of rhythm and the characteristics of points and lines. Reflected in the rhythm, mostly like point (stretch - in time), or cut points (in time - stretch), or two stretch the middle of rush, or two catch in the middle stretch, or the tight playing then slow, or slow to tight playing and so on. Therefore, the formation of the internal rhythm of movement, such as soft vs. tough, fast move vs. sudden freeze, slow vs. rush, put vs. collect, breath in and out, cadence, combined points and lines, etc., results in the dynamic law of Chinese music's particular characteristics and sense of rhythms.

Artistic Elements of Chinese Dances

Chinese dance originated from people's life. It also stays very close to daily life. It combines entertainment with performing art. It is one piece of great treasure of the Chinese history and culture.

China is a geographically wide-spread country. The uniqueness of Mother Nature in the living environment, the religious and the history of each ethnic group has cultivated their specific culture. In turn, their unique culture has shown significant impact on their different forms of art, including their dances. We could almost say their dances are the showcases of each ethnic group. Different costumes, different props, and different expression of feelings are apparent in their dances. Different instruments and different languages are clear as well. All these features make Chinese dance very colorful and entertaining. However, they also make the dance techniques very delicate and challenging. Thus, teaching Chinese dance and dancer training is a very specialized area because dancers are not only trained in body movements, dancing techniques, but also need to be trained to understand the different cultural backgrounds and stories behind each dance. Dancers also need to tune to different style of music, some red hot, some very expressive and emotional.

For example, in Han ethnic dance, there is beautiful choreography combined with some interesting props that come from people's daily life, such as handkerchiefs, hats, umbrellas, chopsticks and plates. The step work sometimes requires power and firmness, while at other times require elegance. On top of that, the dancers always show special techniques using their props,



most of the times are very acrobatic such as continuously spinning of the handkerchiefs or sticks, balancing hats, plates, or umbrellas using their hands or heads while they dance. The styles are significantly different from one region to another. Dance in North Eastern China is very muscular, the energetic red ribbon and drum dance is found in Shaanxi Province (Central China), the feminine fan dance is in Southern China, and the very festive lantern dance is in Yunnan (South Eastern China). This list can go on and be endless.

If we expand to different ethnic groups, the Chinese dances become more splendid. In the Tibetan dance, male dancers dance with special ox tail costumes that are decorated with jingling bells. Female dancers hold special-made ox skin drums. The bells and the drums create strong rhythm to guide the dancers' footsteps. In Mongolian dance, dancers shake their shoulders and arms vigorously by following the music they create themselves using chopsticks hitting on different parts of their costume. The Uyghur style dance shows very elegant movement of the eyes, hands and neck. The Korean dance in North Eastern China features in dancers carrying the hourglass shaped drums in front of their body. By hitting the sticks on different parts of the drums, the dancers use their body to create very musical movements at the same time, sometimes slow, others fast; sometimes joyful, others sad.

In conclusion, Chinese classical dance has formed its own system, which has a strong national identity, emphasizing its nation's aesthetic character and aesthetic norms, with its own way of artistic expression. It is a dance system that can be replaced by no other. ■



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Place: North Star Ballroom, St. Paul Student Center, University of Minnesota
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2:30 p.m. Admission

3 p.m. Performances: Lion dance, Chinese dances, Chinese music,
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**The U.S. and China:
A relationship marred by misperceptions**

by *Burton Levin*

Former Ambassador to Burma & Consul General in Hong Kong

Wednesday, February 10, 2010

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6:00 p.m. Reception & Chinese New Year Celebration

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The Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture

Burton Levin, Former Ambassador to Burma and Consul General in Hong Kong, will present *The U.S. and China: A relationship marred by misperceptions* for the ninth annual Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture at the China Center at the University of Minnesota.

The U.S.-China relationship has been marked by misconceptions, unfulfilled expectations and a high degree of emotionalism. This mix has produced dramatic swings in the way these two nations have viewed and dealt with each other. Friendship has alternated with hostility, with resultant major and at times disastrous consequences for both the Chinese and American peoples. China's growing political and economic weight is evident in a more active and assertive Chinese role on the international scene. How China and the United States relate to each other under these changing circumstances will have a great bearing on the fate of the two nations and on the global order. In treating this major issue, Levin will highlight the underlying and persistent factors that have made Sino-U.S. relations so special and, at times, so difficult.

6:00 p.m. Reception

Place: Great Hall, Coffman Union

Cost: Free and open to the public
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Griffin Lecture Series

Building a legacy for their children and for Minnesota, Bob and Kim Griffin donated US\$500,000 to the China Center to create an endowment fund to establish the Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture. The Griffin's gift reflects their commitment to promoting mutual respect between the two cultures and their passion to connect people with China.

Bob Griffin is president of Griffin International Companies, which he founded in 1997. Under Griffin's leadership as president, Griffin International Companies has become one of the Twin Cities' leading import firms, focusing on custom products developed in the U.S. and sourced from Asia.

Past Lectures

The Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S.-China Bridges Lectures have featured many outstanding speakers and China experts

Time: Wednesday, February 10, 2010
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Griffin continues on Page 15

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Dessert: Sesame Rice Balls

GUNG HAY FAT HOY from **CHINA INSIGHT**

Top 10 economic forecasts

China Today's editors predict how China will grow its economy in 2010

China Today Editor's Note: Since the beginning of 2008, China's GDP growth has shown a perfect "V" shape, indicating a solid recovery from the global economic slump. There is no doubt that China has achieved the goal of 8 percent GDP growth in 2009, but how will the economy grow this year? Our editors have made the top 10 forecasts for how China will grow its economy in 2010.

1. Restructuring the economy

Thanks to the central government's massive stimulus package and prompt loans, there is no doubt that China has achieved its goal of 8 percent GDP growth in 2009. Economists suggest that adjusting the economic structure should top the agenda in 2010 to address regional imbalances and production overcapacity.

2. Fine-tuning monetary policy

The Central Economic Work Conference in December decided to continue its "moderately loose" monetary policy this year, but the central bank will still have room for "fine-tuning" the policy. Now the

market is watching how the government will manage inflation while maintaining this monetary policy.

3. Fiscal investment in welfare

Experts believe central and local governments will fund the people's social welfare system and economic restructuring, as well as medical care reform this year. In addition, small and medium-sized companies and under-developed regions will receive more fiscal support.

4. Exports to recover

China's foreign trade is expected to pick up about 10 percent year-on-year in 2010, due to the recovery of external markets and the support of domestic policies. However, some analysts warned exporters to be cautious in the face of increasing trade protectionism against China.

5. Boosting domestic demand

China adopted a series of policies to boost domestic demand in 2009, and analysts said the government's measures to boost consumption will contribute more to economic growth in 2010. Wang Bin, an

official from the Ministry of Commerce, predicted that retail sales will increase 16 percent to 14.6 trillion yuan in 2010.

6. Increasing residential income

Increasing the incomes of residents must be a part of economic restructuring to drive domestic consumption to grow the economy this year. Some experts propose that the government increase incomes of people, especially middle-class and lower-class residents, and also raise the individual income tax threshold.

7. Slowing housing price hikes

In 2009, the nation's booming housing sector became a pillar of the country's unexpectedly quick economic recovery from the global recession. Will property prices keep rising in the new year? Some experts said the real estate prices might rise in second-tier and third-tier cities, which face short supplies. However, the price increase in first-tier cities is expected to slow down this year.

8. Managing inflation

Consumer prices in November rose 0.6

percent from 2008 levels after falling for most of 2009, revealing a sign of potential inflation this year. The government is considering ways to manage the threat of inflation, with the greater liquidity triggering anticipations for a slow rise in consumer prices this year.

9. Rebalancing regional development

The central government approved nine regional development plans last year, more than the total of the previous four years, which showed its resolve to rebalance regional economies. China's competitive advantage demands cooperation among coastal areas and central, western and north-eastern regions.

10. Benefits for emerging industries

Some emerging industries in sectors such as new energy, building materials non-ferrous metal and chemicals are expected to benefit the most from China's economic recovery. ■

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Updated: 2010-01-14 06:10

Exports from Page 1

Country	Exports (millions)	3 rd Qtr 2008 to 3 rd Qtr 2009		Year-to-Date MN Change
		MN	US	
Canada	\$ 988	-24%	-20%	-26%
China	333	0%	-7%	-5%
Ireland	199	-14%	-12%	14%
Japan	195	3%	-26%	-12%
Mexico	177	-17%	-15%	-16%
U.K.	165	-8%	-10%	-19%
Germany	146	-22%	-24%	-12%
Korea	141	7%	-15%	-6%
Belgium	128	-21%	-28%	-11%
Australia	112	7%	-21%	-2%
Other	1,152	-21%	-26%	-24%
Total	\$ 3,736	-17%	-21%	-18%

Country	Industry	Exports (millions)	Value Change (millions)	Percent Change
U.K.	Fabricated Metals	\$ 42	\$ 37	705%
Malaysia	Computer/Electronics	51	27	110%
Japan	Misc. (incl. Medical)	48	19	66%
Singapore	Transport. Equip.	19	17	810%
Thailand	Computer/Electronics	31	17	120%

(including medical goods).

Exports of Paper and Fabricated Metals Rise, Although Most Industries Face Export Declines

* Minnesota exports of fabricated metals jumped 11 percent based on strong growth in the largest market, the United Kingdom. Exports to this market increased 705 percent to US\$42 million, accounting for 25 percent of the state's sales of these products and consisting primarily of arms and ammunition.

* Sales of paper goods grew strongly to Korea (up 97 percent to US\$15 million), Germany (up 453 percent to US\$7 million) and China (up 24 percent to US\$28 million). One of the growing paper areas was self-adhesive papers.

* Demand sharply decreased for three of the state's top four export industries – computers and electronics (down 19 percent or US\$207 million), machinery (down 21

percent or US\$154 million) and transportation equipment (down 21 percent or US\$111 million) – in the Philippines, Canada, Belgium and other countries.

Despite Sharp Drop in Integrated Circuits, Other Strong Segments Contribute Positive Growth

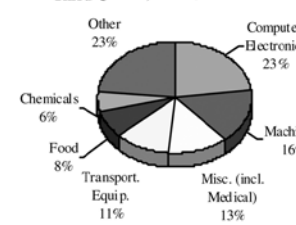
* Non-electrical medical and surgical instruments made up the second-largest four-digit product group with US\$219 million in exports (up 7 percent). Demand for needles and catheters was particularly strong in Ireland and China.

* The Philippines accounted for 67 percent of the drop in sales of integrated circuits (down 45 percent to US\$130 million).

* Malaysia (up 310 percent to US\$34 million) and Thailand (up 423 percent to US\$23 million) contributed the most to Minnesota's export growth of office machine parts, while China (up 37 percent to US\$24 million) and Korea (up 157 percent

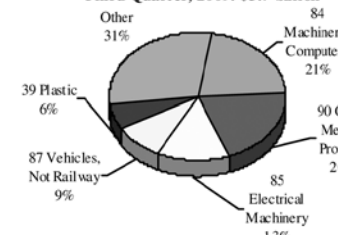
Industry	Exports (millions)	3 rd Qtr 2008 to 3 rd Qtr 2009		Year-to-Date MN Change
		MN	US	
Computers, Electronics	\$ 862	-19%	-18%	-20%
Machinery	584	-21%	-26%	-15%
Misc. (incl. Medical)	472	-4%	-11%	1%
Transportation Equip.	423	-21%	-26%	-30%
Food	311	-14%	-17%	-19%
Chemicals	209	-20%	-16%	-24%
Fabricated Metals	170	11%	-16%	-8%
Paper	167	16%	-12%	-9%
Electrical Equipment	151	-24%	-21%	-20%
Plastics, Rubber	109	-7%	-13%	-14%
Other	279	-34%	-28%	-32%
Total	\$ 3,736	-17%	-32%	-18%

Minnesota's Manufactured Exports Third Quarter, 2009: \$3.7 billion



Product	Exports (millions)	3 rd Qtr 2008 - 3 rd Qtr 2009	Value Change
9021 Orthopedic; Artificial Body Parts	\$ 239	-14%	\$ -38
9018 Medical, Surgical Instruments	219	7%	15
8703 Passenger Motor Vehicles	160	-23%	-47
8471 Computers, Components	149	-21%	-40
8542 Integrated Circuits	130	-45%	-106
8421 Centrifuges, Filters	123	-4%	-5
8473 Office Machine Parts	103	59%	38
3919 Self-Adhesive Material	102	26%	21
8800 Aircraft, Spacecraft Parts	71	-26%	-24
8424 Liquid-Sand Dispensing Machine	70	-33%	-35
Other	2,370	-18%	-535
Total	\$ 3,736	-17%	\$ -757

Minnesota Exports, by 2-digit HS Code Third Quarter, 2009: \$3.7 billion



to US\$12 million) contributed the most to export growth of self-adhesive materials.

Minnesota Quarterly Export Statistics is the most current resource available for tracking the state's manufactured export trends and is prepared for the Minnesota Trade Office (MTO) by the Department of Employment and Economic Development's (DEED) Analysis and Evaluation Office (Thu-Mai Ho-Kim, 651-259-7180). Past issues may be viewed at www.export-minnesota.com/itradestats.htm and results from manufacturing conditions surveys are located at www.deed.state.mn.us/facts/

manufacturing.htm on DEED's web site.

Industry-level export data based on North American Industry Classification System industries (NAICS) are collected by the U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC) and are distributed by the World Institute of Social and Economic Research (WISER). Product-level export data based on the Harmonized Tariff System (Schedule B) are collected by the USDOC and are distributed by the Global Trade Information Services. Product-level export data provide additional information and insights on the industry-level export data. ■

COMMENTARY: How to further boost consumption?

By Louis Kuijs, Senior Economist, World Bank Office, Beijing

Increasing the role of domestic consumption is one of the key objectives of China's 11th Five Year Plan. China's overall economic growth and development in recent decades has been truly impressive. However, it has been accompanied by some imbalances. A relatively low and declining role of consumption has been one of the key imbalances, together with increasing income inequality, intense use of resources and impact on the environment, and a rising trade surplus. The imbalances are largely an outcome of China's capital-intensive,

industry-led pattern of growth. The 11th Five Year Plan (2005-10) aims at redressing the imbalances, in large part by adjusting the pattern of growth.

Consumption has actually grown briskly in China in the last decade. Overall consumption (private plus public) rose by 7.8 percent per year on average since 2003, in real terms. The imbalances that the government is trying to address have arisen because consumption and services have lagged investment and industry for a long period. Real investment grew 11.9 percent per year

on average in this period.

When the global crisis broke out, China's senior leaders stressed that, with the outlook for exports more subdued in the "new normal," rebalancing and getting more growth out of the domestic economy has become even more important.

China's short term policy response to the crisis has mainly focused on investment, but it also helped in keeping up consumption growth. The RMB 4 trillion stimulus plan largely fueled infrastructure investment. But some policy measures have helped

consumption directly, such as subsidies for rural consumption, lower taxes, and higher pensions. And the government has been increasing its role in financing health, education, and social safety, which makes people feel less restrained to consume. The stimulus and its impact has also helped to contain the decline in consumer confidence during the global crisis.

But, more is needed to boost the role of consumption in China's economy on a sustained basis. With the economic recovery

Commentary continues on Page 15

Foreign investment doubles in December

By Ding Qingfen, China Daily

Foreign direct investment (FDI) to China more than doubled in December, in the latest sign of economic recovery in the world's fastest-growing economy.

FDI skyrocketed by 103.1 percent from a year earlier to [US]\$12.14 billion, compared to the 32 percent year-on-year growth in November, the Ministry of Commerce said on [Jan. 15].

The foreign investment, which excludes investment in the financial sector, jumped for five months since August.

However, if full-year data is taken into account, China's FDI and newly approved foreign enterprises fell by 2.6 and 14.8 percent to [US]\$90.03 billion and 23,435 respectively.

Ministry spokesman Yao Jian said the latest figure signals foreign investors' confidence in the Chinese market despite the financial crisis.

Last year, 52 percent of foreign investment went to the manufacturing sector and 42 percent went to the service sector. But Yao said the service sector will attract more investors, who are expected to resort to mergers and acquisitions more often.

Yao called China "a most attractive FDI destination" and said the country's investment situation is getting better.

Chinese analysts echoed Yao's claim.

"As China's economic growth gains speed, the nation gains more trust from global investors," said Li Jianfeng, a macro-economy analyst at Shanghai Securities.

"The global economic recovery is also helping push up the surge," he said.

China's GDP growth will probably increase to 10.8 percent during the last quarter of 2009, compared with the 8.9-percent in the third quarter, according to a median of forecasts by 12 economists polled by Dow Jones. They also believed the growth for 2009 would stand at 8.5 percent, 0.5 percentage points higher than the government's goal.

"The financial crisis made them (foreign investors) hold back, but now they are turning active again," said Jinny Yan, an economist from Standard Chartered.

The better-than-expected exports in December had already provided a clue to the FDI surge, Li said. Chinese exports rose by 17.7 percent year-on-year last month, the

first growth in the past 14 months. "The FDI will continue to grow during the first half of this year, but at a slow speed," Li said.

Google not a threat

Yao also said online search giant Google's recent intention to pull out of China will not hurt Sino-US trade or dampen investors' confidence.

"No matter what decision Google makes, it will not affect overall trade and economic relations between China and the United States," Yao said.

"The two countries have multiple communication channels. We are confident in the healthy development of economic and trade relations between China and the United States."

The world's largest Internet search company threatened to quit the Chinese market - which contributed less than 2 percent of its global revenue - citing concerns of censorship and cyber hacks.

A number of foreign investors said they would not follow Google's move.

In a Bloomberg interview on [Jan. 14], Microsoft Corp CEO Steve Ballmer said the

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company will not consider exiting China, citing the growth trend.

Similarly, the 2010 Business Climate Survey released by the American Chamber of Commerce in China this week showed its members remained optimistic about China over the medium- and long-term. ■

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Updated: 2010-01-16 07:50

Investing in U.S. and Chinese medical startups discussed by a serial entrepreneur and investor

By Greg Hugh, Staff Writer

The first 2010 meeting of U.S.-China Business Connections (UCBC) held in January at the Metropolitan Community and Technical College in Minneapolis, Minn. was attended by a capacity group that filled the packed meeting room.

Addressing the group was Dr. Hui Hu, whose impressive background makes him imminently qualified to discuss investing in U.S. and Chinese medical startups. Hui grew up in China where he attended Beijing University, received his PhD in Physics from the University of Utah in 1989, was professionally trained in the United States, developed products at GE Medical, had numerous publications and has launched and sold startups in the United States and China.

At the beginning of his presentation Hui stated that it is important for entrepreneurs and investors to set the right expectations whether operating in the United States or China. The primary goal is to be able to commercialize innovations and not to become a giant. It takes a lot of luck to succeed and the success rate is very low. The rate of success increases substantially when a new venture is complementary to or can partner with a much larger, established firm but such arrangements are difficult to set up.

As Hui continued with his presentation he stated that innovation can take several forms and identified them as market pull (unmet need) vs. innovation push (solution searching for problem), noting that the market pull is preferred everywhere. There are also differences in an existing/replace-market vs. a new market. Innovations that replace solutions in an existing market

have less market risk, thus are generally preferred. However, experienced investors/innovators also realize that a new market represents high risk but also provide high rewards when successful. Another distinction to keep in mind is in whether you are operating in a developed region like the United States or a developing region like China since the United States is more performance/feature-driven while China is more cost-conscious.

Hui then provided detailed examples of innovation commercialization in developed vs. developing regions with companies with which he has been personally involved. He noted that innovations tend to be accepted/commercialized in developed regions first and then in developing regions later. Some innovations are less likely to be accepted in developed regions due to timing/need mismatch and may have better chances in developing regions. He noted that some innovations out of favor in the United States may have chances to succeed in developing regions since the market there is still open for new comers. This is especially possible if the established competition here has not been established and the markets/distribution are segmented there where the patent base is larger and the growth rate is high. Hui went on to state that the unmet need may be quite different in developing regions which favor innovations that substantially reduce cost and certain diseases are more prevalent there which may be effected by local environment and government policies.

Continuing with this presentation, Hui noted that some innovations deserve parallel commercialization with a short delay between developed and developing regions

which he illustrated with several business models. This approach allows for entering the market of a developing region faster since clinical trials there may run faster as the patient population is larger and such trials may run faster than the FDA process in the United States.

According to Hui, about 40 percent of trial funding from the pharmaceutical industry has moved to Asia with a commitment to success in developing regions. Hui is the Founder and CEO of a Seattle based company called VPDiagnostics, which provides precision risk profiling for atherosclerosis management and stroke prevention. While the company is conducting a NIH-funded multi-centers clinical trial to be submitted for FDA approval for the U.S. market, it plans a similar trial for China market right now.

In the final part of his presentation, Hui discussed how improving Translational Research in developing regions. One of Hui's involvements is a U.S. non-profit organization called GlobalMD, which brings together FDA and SFDA (the Chinese counterpart of FDA) as well as medical Key Opinion Leaders in United States and China. For example, it organizes an unprecedented summit of Sino-American Symposium on Clinical and Translational Research this summer in Beijing, which will include prominent leaders from the National Institutes of Health, the Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, and approximately 600 clinicians and researchers at over 300 hospitals. The education and communication events like this will bridge the sophistication gap in translational medicine between developed and developing regions.

Concluding the presentation was a question and answer session.



Dr. Hu (l) answering additional questions after the presentation

February UCBC Meeting

The topic of the UCBC monthly breakfast meeting will be Chinese Financial Industry Partnerships to be presented by Pieter Tsiknas with Merrill Lynch.

UCBC meetings are held at Minneapolis Community & Technical College, 1501 Hennepin Avenue, Wheelock Whitney Hall, Room L3000 (3rd Floor), Minneapolis, MN 55403.

The fee is US\$25 per person. UCBC members and college students are free. To register, e-mail jls1273@hotmail.com or call Jim Smith at 612-865-6543.

For free parking at the MCTC Ramp, please mention your name for the UCBC meeting to the parking staff. The MCTC parking ramp is located at 1420 Hennepin Avenue (north side of Hennepin Ave). Additional information on parking: <http://www.minneapolis.edu/parking.cfm> ■

China's ethnic minorities

We continue our series on China's 55 ethnic minority groups. This month features the Mulam, Naxi, Nu, and Oroqen ethnic minorities.

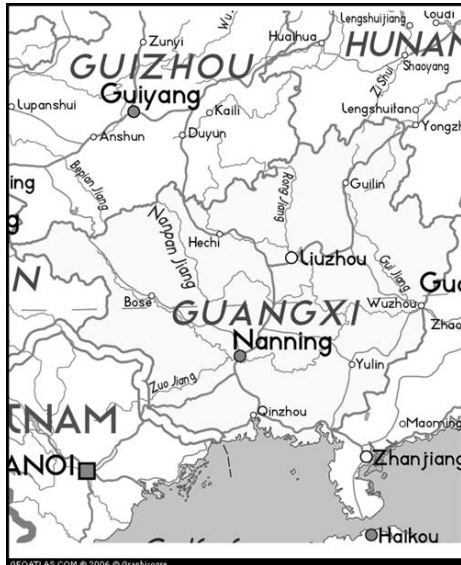
The Mulam ethnic minority

Population: 160,600

Major area of distribution: Guangxi

Language: Mulam

Religion: Taoism and Buddhism



The Mulam ethnic minority has a population of 160,600, of which the majority live in Luocheng County in the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region. Others are scattered in neighboring counties.

The Mulam language is a member of the Zhuang-Dong language group of the Chinese-Tibetan language family, but because of extensive contacts with the majority Han and local Zhuangs many Mulams speak one or both of these languages in addition to their own.



Their homeland is one of rolling hills interspersed with lush green valleys. The Wuyang and Longjiang rivers cross their territory, which has an ideal climate for growing paddy rice, maize, beans, potatoes, melons and cotton. The area is famous for its tea and medicinal herbs, as well as mineral resources such as coal, iron and sulfur.

History

Historical records trace the Mulam ethnic group back to the period of the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368), when their society seems to have been entering the feudal stage. The Mulam villages paid tribute in grain to the imperial court twice a year.

In the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) the Mulam areas were divided into "Li," under which were "Dongs" -- units of ten households.

The Dong chief was responsible for collecting taxes and law and order. The Dongs were mostly inhabited by families sharing the same surname. Later, when they increased in size, the Dongs were divided into "Fangs."

Economy

Even prior to 1949, the farming economy of the Mulams was comparatively advanced. Farming techniques, crop varieties and tools were basically the same as those of their Han and Zhuang neighbors. Oxen and water buffaloes were the main draught animals,

although horses were sometimes used also. Some 60 percent of arable land was taken up by paddy fields, and the Mulams had long known the use of manure fertilizer.

The Mulams' well-developed irrigation system, unfortunately, was under the control of the rich landlords, who channeled most of the water off for themselves. The encroachment of insects and wild animals was a serious problem for the Mulam farmers.

In the past, each household was a basic production unit. The division of labor between men and women was not strict, but plowing, carrying manure and threshing were usually men's jobs, while women did the rice transplanting, sowing and housework.

Also well developed were sideline products, which included collecting medicinal herbs, raising livestock, blacksmithing, making pottery and weaving cloth.

Prior to the founding of the People's Republic of China, land in the Mulam areas was heavily concentrated in the hands of the rich landlords, especially the most fertile parts. The landlords demanded that their tenants pay rent in kind and provide unpaid labor service. They also exploited the poorer peasants by means of usury.

Customs and Culture

Mulam houses consist of three rooms, usually one-storied, with mud walls and tile roofs. Inside, on the left of the door, the ground is dug away to form a cooking pit. The livestock are kept away from the living quarters.

Rice, maize and potatoes are the staple diet of the Mulams, who also enjoy eating hot peppers and glutinous rice. It is taboo to eat cats or snakes. Mulams who bear the surnames Luo and Wu are forbidden to eat dog meat or the internal organs of animals.

The Mulams used to be famous for their spinning, weaving and dyeing, and their favorite color is deep blue. Traditionally, men wore jackets with large buttons down the front, long, baggy trousers and straw sandals. Young girls wear their hair in braids, which is coiled up onto their heads after marriage. Women's jewelry includes silver earrings, bracelets and finger rings.

Early marriage arranged by the parents was common before 1949. Brides did not live with their husbands until the first child was born. Intermarriage with the Hans and Zhuangs was permissible, but weddings were costly affairs which drained the wealth of a family.

The Mulams used to be animists, and celebrated a festival every month, the most important of which was the Yifan Festival. At this celebration, pigs and sheep were slaughtered, dramas and lion and dragon dances were performed, and the shamans chanted incantations. The lunar New Year's Day was the Mulam's New Year, and the eighth day of the fourth lunar month was "Ox Birthday," when the oxen were given a rest and fed glutinous rice, and wine and meat were offered to the Ox God. On the fifth day of the fifth lunar month the Dragon Boat Festival was celebrated. Unlike the Han and Zhuang Dragon Boat festivals, the Mulams used to carry a paper boat into the fields and a shaman would chant spells to drive away insects and ensure a good harvest. The 15th day of the eighth lunar month was Youth Festival, when young people gathered to sing folk songs and make lovers' trysts.

Folk songs and "Caidiao" (a form of

local drama) are very popular among the people. The songs are antiphonal and sung in the Han language.

The Naxi ethnic minority

Population: 277,800

Major area of distribution: Yunnan and Sichuan

Language: Naxi

Religion: Dongba and Lamaism



The Naxi ethnic minority has a population of 277,800, most of whom live in concentrated communities in the Lijiang Naxi Autonomous County in Yunnan Province, the rest being scattered in Weixi, Zhongdian, Ninglang, Deqin, Yongsheng, Heqing, Jianchuan and Lanping counties in Yunnan Province, as well as Yanyuan, Yanbian and Muli counties in Sichuan Province. A small number live in Mangkang County of Tibet Autonomous Region.

The Naxi areas, traversed by the Jinsha, Lancang and Yalong rivers, and the Yunling, Xueshan and Yulong mountain ranges, have a complicated terrain. There are cold mountainous areas, uplands, basins, rivers and valleys, averaging [8,910 feet] above sea level. The climate varies from cold and temperate to subtropical. Rainfall is plentiful.

Agriculture is the main occupation of the Naxi people. The chief crops are rice, maize, wheat, potatoes, beans, hemp and cotton. The bend of the Jinsha River is heavily forested, and Yulong Mountain is known at home and abroad as a "flora storehouse." The extensive dense forests contain Chinese fir, Korean pine, Yunnan pine and other valuable trees, as well as many varieties of herbs including fritillary bulbs, Chinese caterpillar fungus and musk.

There are rich reserves of such non-ferrous metals as gold, silver, copper, aluminum and manganese. Water resources are abundant.

The Naxi language belongs to the Chinese-Tibetan language family. More than 1,000 years ago, the Naxi people had already created pictographic characters called the "Dongba" script and a syllabic writing known as the "Geba" script. With these scripts they recorded a lot of beautiful folklore, legends, poems and religious classics. However, they were difficult to master, and in 1957 the government helped the Naxi design an alphabetic script. Over the past few hundred years, as the Naxi people have come into closer contact with the people in other parts of China politically, economically and culturally, the oral and written Chinese has become an important means of communication in Naxi society.

History

According to historical documents, the forefathers of the Naxi people were closely related to a tribe called "Maoniui Yi" in the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-A.D. 220), "Moshu Yi" in the Jin Dynasty (265-420) and "Moxie Yi" in the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

Between the early 10th century and

the middle of the 13th century, production in the Lijiang area underwent marked changes, as agriculture replaced livestock breeding as the main occupation of the people. Scores of agricultural, handicraft, mineral and livestock products were turned out, and the county presented a picture of prosperity. During that period, a number of slave-owning groups in Ninglang, Lijiang and Weixi counties gradually grew into a feudal manorial lord caste.

In 1278 the Yuan Dynasty (1206-1368) established Lijiang Prefecture representing the imperial court in Yunnan Province. This resulted in closer links between the Lijiang area and the center of the empire.

In the early Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), the leader of the Naxi people, named Mude, was made the hereditary chieftain of Lijiang Prefecture, exercising control over the Naxi people and other ethnic groups in the vicinity. Throughout the Ming Dynasty, the hereditary chieftains from the Mu family kept taxes and tribute flowing to the Ming court in the form of silver and grain. The Ming, in turn, relied on the Mu family as the mainstay for the control of the people of various ethnic groups in northwestern Yunnan Province.

Later, with the development of the productive forces, buying, selling and renting of land began to take place in the Naxi areas, marking the beginning of a landlord economy.

From 1723, during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), hereditary local chieftains in the Lijiang area began to be replaced by court officials and the hereditary chieftain surnamed Mu thus became the local administrator.

Art and Literature

Naxi literature is rich in form and content. Besides works by Naxi scholars and writers, there is a repository of oral folk literature. "Genesis," "The Rich Steal Oxen," "Revenge" and "Song of Elopement" are characterized by simple and fresh expressions, and distinctive national flavor. The "Dongba Scripture," a religious work, dates back to the Tang Dynasty. Written in the pictographic script, it describes the various aspects of life of the Naxi people during their long transition from slavery to feudalism. It is extremely important for the study of Naxi literature, history and religion.

The Naxis are fond of singing and dancing, especially at weddings and funerals. The most popular songs are descriptive and short. They are sung at very high pitch and with strong rhythms, to the accompaniment of simple dances. The most common musical instruments are flutes, reed pipes and wind-string instruments. The ancient musical piece, "Baishaxiyue," which dates back to the Yuan Dynasty, was rediscovered and preserved after the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Naxi architecture, sculpture and painting have reached fairly high standards. Moreover, they are mixed with the traditional styles of the Hans and Tibetans. Some famous buildings preserved in Lijiang, such as the "Dabao Palace," "Glazed Hall," "Dading Pavilion" and "Five-Phoenix Chamber," were all built during the Ming Dynasty. All the murals in these buildings have the concise and harmonious strokes of Tibetan painting, and the style of Taoist and Buddhist paintings of the Tang Dynasty.

Minorities from Page 12

Modern Naxi painting has made fresh progress since 1949

Religion

Before 1949, most Naxi people were followers of the "Dongba" religion, which was a form of Shamanism. Sorcerers, called "Dongba," were invited to chant scriptures at weddings, funerals, the New Year Day and other festivals. Some of the Naxis were followers of Lamaism. Buddhism, Taoism and Christianity only had limited access to the Lijiang area.

Customs and Habits

Naxi women wear wide-sleeved loose gowns, with jackets and long trousers, tied with richly decorated belts at the waist. They often wear sheepskin slung over the shoulder, on which are seven stars exquisitely embroidered, with sun and moon symbols, one on each side. This reflects the Naxis' admiration for diligence -- "people start working early in the morning and do not stop until late in the evening." Women in Ninglang County wear short jackets and long skirts reaching the ground, with many folds. They wrap large black cotton turbans around their heads and wear big silver earrings. Men's garments are similar to those of the Han people.



The traditional festivals include the "Farm-Tool Fair" in January, "God of the Rain Festival" in March, and "Mule and Horse Fair" in July. There are also the Lunar New Year, the Pure Brightness Festival, the Dragon Boat Festival, the Mid-Autumn Festival and the Torch Festival -- all being the same as those of the Hans.

Cremation has been a tradition since ancient times, but in some of the Naxi areas the custom of burying the dead was adopted in the late Qing Dynasty. It was common in the past to chant scriptures at the funeral ceremony to expiate the sins of the dead.

The monogamous family under the feudal landlord economy was the main type of Naxi family in Lijiang, Weixi and Yongsheng counties before liberation. However, the man enjoyed a predominant status in the family while the woman had little say and was denied the right to inherit property. Young people's marriages were all arranged by their parents.

Among some of the Naxi people in Yongning County in Yunnan Province and Yanyuan County in Sichuan Province, there still existed remnants of a matriarchal family structure until the eve of the democratic reform after liberation. The pedigree of the family was traced back through the maternal line, and children lived with the mother. The woman was the head of the family, and the property was passed to the children through the mother, or to the nephews through the

mother's brothers. Women comprised the main labor force, respected at home and in outside society.

Social Economy

The Naxi communities had reached the stage of feudal society long before the nationwide liberation in 1949, though the stages of development were not the same. In Lijiang, southern Weixi and Yongsheng counties where a feudal landlord economy was prevalent, certain factors of capitalism began to take shape. In Jinjiang and Sanba in Zhongdian County the remnants of manorial economy could still be found. In northern Weixi and part of Ninglang counties in Yunnan Province and Yanyuan County in Sichuan Province, the main form of economy was manorial.

The level of agricultural production was higher in the landlord economy areas. The landlords and rich peasants, who accounted for 10 per cent of the population, owned 60 to 70 percent of the land. They exploited the peasants through land rent, usury and hiring them as farmhands. The rates of the rent ranged from 50 to 80 percent of the crops harvested and the annual interest rates of the usury reached as much as 300 percent. They also exploited the peasants through their privileges, with the backing of reactionary political rulers. They forced the peasants to work for them without pay, to present them with gifts, and to render various kinds of corvee labor.

In the manorial economy areas, the manorial lords owned almost all the land, water resources, grasslands and forests. In some places, each peasant had to do as many as 150 days of unpaid labor a year. The manorial lords in the Yongning area invented 35 pretexts to exploit the peasants. They included the so-called fish tax, water tax, firewood tax, death tax, and passer-by tax.

Under the manorial lord, the commoners were second-class citizens. Generally, the commoners did not own any land, and only after they had accepted merciless exploitation, such as heavy taxes and corvees, were they given a small piece of land. In this way they actually became serfs tied to the land of the lords. If they failed to pay their debts or committed crimes, they could be reduced to the status of household slaves. Completely under their masters' disposal, they could be sold, bought, exchanged or given as presents.

During the War of Resistance Against Japan in the 1930s and 1940s, foreign trade in China's southeastern coastal area came to a standstill and transport between China and Myanmar was blockaded by Japan. This resulted in an unprecedented boosting of Sino-Indian trade, and Lijiang became a trading center for India, Tibet and China's interior. Millionaire businessmen (some being Naxis) began to appear.

Lijiang County had a more developed handicraft industry than the other Naxi areas where landlord economy predominated. It covered iron, copper, carpentry, tanning, textiles, papermaking, tailoring, construction and sculpture. Copper articles and leather products were particularly famous.

The Nu ethnic minority

Population: 27,200

Major area of distribution: Yunnan

Language: Nu

Religion: Polytheism

The Nu ethnic minority, numbering some 27,200, live mainly in Yunnan Province's Bijiang, Fugong, Gongshan and Lanping counties, which comprise the Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture. Others are found in Weixi County in the Diqing Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture.



The Nu people speak a language belonging to the Tibetan-Myanmese group of the Chinese-Tibetan language family. It has no written form, and, like many of their ethnic minority neighbors, the Nus used to keep records by carving notches on sticks; educated Nus nowadays use the Han language (Chinese) for administrative purposes.

The Nu homeland is a country of high mountains and deep ravines crossed by the Lancang, Dulong and Nujiang rivers. The famous Grand Nujiang Canyon is surrounded by mountains, which reach 3,000 meters above sea level. Dense virgin forests of pines and firs cover the mountain slopes and are the habitat of tigers, leopards, bears, deer, giant hawks and pheasants.

The area is rich in mineral deposits and valuable medicinal herbs. In addition, with a warm climate and plentiful rain, it promises great hydroelectric potential.

Origins and History

In the eighth century, the area inhabited by the Nus came under the jurisdiction of the Nanzhao and Dali principalities, which were tributary to the Tang (618-907) court. During the Yuan and Ming dynasties it came under the rule of a Naxi headman in Lijiang. From the 17th century, rulers comprised various Tibetan and Bai headmen and Tibetan lamaseries. These rulers usurped the Nus' land and carried many of them off as slaves.

From the mid-1850s, the British colonialists who had conquered Myanmar pushed up the Nujiang River valley. They were followed by American, French and German adventurers. This caused friction with the Nu and other minority peoples in the area, such as the Lisu, Tibetan and Drung ethnic minorities. In 1907, these peoples banded together to stage a mass uprising against the encroachments of French missionaries.

Culture and Customs

Before the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, social development was uneven among the various Nu communities. The Nu people in Lanping and Weixi counties had long entered the feudal stage, and their methods of production and standard of living were similar to those of the Hans, Bais and Naxis. There were vestiges of primitive communalism in the Nu communities in Bijiang, Fugong and Gongshan, where private ownership and class polarization had only just begun.

Bamboo and wooden farm tools were the main implements of production, and

major crops were maize, buckwheat, barley, Tibetan barley, potatoes, yams and beans. Output was low, as fertilizer was not used and crop techniques were primitive. The annual grain harvest was some [220 pounds] short of the per capita need and the diet was supplemented by hunting and fishing using bows and poisoned arrows.

Industry was represented by handicraft products made on a cottage-industry basis -- linen, bamboo and wooden articles, iron tools, and liquor. Surplus handicrafts were bartered for necessities in the small markets.

Before China's national liberation in 1949, land ownership took three forms: primitive communal type, private and group-ownership. The older Nu villages in Bijiang and Fugong retained vestiges of the ancient patriarchal clan system; there were ten clan communes located in ten separate villages, which each had communal land. According to a 1953 survey, a landlord economy had emerged in Bijiang County, with an increasing number of land sales, mortgages and leases. In some places, rich peasants exploited their poorer neighbors by a system called "washua," under which peasants labored in semi-serf conditions. Slavery was practiced in a fraudulent form of son adoption.

Monogamy was the general practice, although a few wealthy landlords and commune headmen sometimes had more than one wife. After marriage, men would move out of the family dwelling and set up a new household with some of the family property. The new family, however, still retained a cooperative relationship with the parental family and the whole clan. The youngest son lived with his parents and inherited their property. Women had low social status, doing the household chores and working in the fields but having no economic rights at all.

The traditional burial forms dictated that males be buried face upward with straight limbs, while females lay sideways with bent limbs. In the case of a dead couple, the female was made to lie on her side facing the man and with bent limbs -- symbolizing the submission of the female to the male. When an adult died, all the members of the clan or village commune observed three days of mourning.

The Nus live in wooden or bamboo houses, each usually consisting of two rooms. The outer one is for guests and also serves as the kitchen. In the middle is the fireplace, with an iron or stone tripod for hanging cooking pots from. The inner room is used as a bedroom and grain storage, and is off-limits to outsiders. The houses are built by the common efforts of all the villagers and are usually erected in one day.

Until the mid-20th century, both men and women wore linen clothes. Girls after puberty wore long skirts and jackets with buttons on the right side. Nu women in Gongshan wrapped themselves in two pieces of linen cloth and stuck elaborately-worked bamboo tubes through their pierced ears. Married women in Bijiang and Fugong wore coral, agate, shell and silver coin ornaments in their hair and on their chests. For earrings they used shoulder-length copper rings. Besides, all Nu women like to adorn themselves with thin rattan bracelets, belts and anklets. Nu men wear linen gowns and shorts, and carry axes and bows and arrows.

The staple food of the Nus is maize and buckwheat. They rarely grow vegetables. In the past, just before the summer harvest they had to gather wild plants to keep alive. Both men and women drink large quantities

Minorities continues on Page 14

Minorities from Page 13

of strong liquor.

The Nus were animists, and objects of worship included the sun, moon, stars, mountains, rivers, trees and rocks. The shamans were often clan or commune chiefs and practiced divination to ensure good harvests. Apart from that, their duties also included primitive medicine and the handing down of the tribe's folklore. Any small mishap was the occasion for holding an elaborate appeasement rite, involving huge waste and hardship to the Nu people. In addition, Lamaism and Christianity had made some headway among the Nus before liberation.

The Nus practice an extempore type of singing accompanied on the lute, flute, mouth organ or reed pipe. Their dances are bold and energetic -- mainly imitations of animal movements.

New Life

China's national liberation came to the Nu areas in 1950. Local governments gave out free food grains, seeds, farm implements and articles of daily use to the Nu people to help them tide over their difficulties and boost production. In 1954 the Nujiang Lisu Autonomous Prefecture was established, which had under its jurisdiction the counties of Bijiang, Fugong, Gongshan, Lushui and Lanping (this last incorporated in 1957). On October 1, 1956 the Gongshan Drung and Nu Autonomous County was set up.

The pace of social reform varied in the different Nu areas. For instance, in the more-developed Lanping County, where feudalism had gained a strong hold, land reform was carried out, followed by the establishment of cooperatives in 1956. In Bijiang, Fugong and Gongshan counties, where vestiges of primitive communalism still survived, the government adopted a policy of first developing production and then gradually eliminating exploitation and primitive practices.

People from outside were sent in to promote advanced production techniques, and start up educational and public health projects. Special funds were earmarked for irrigation projects, land reclamation, paddy-field development and sideline production.

Light industries and mining, too, have gained a foothold among the Nus, and grain production has increased several times owing to the transformation of poor land into paddy fields. The formerly isolated Nu communities are now linked to each other by a network of highways, and some 20 chain bridges now span the Nujiang, Lancang and Dulong rivers.

At the time of the mid-20th century, only about 20 people of Nu origin had received primary education. Now there are primary schools in all townships and most villages, and a middle school in every county. The majority of Nu children are in school.

Four hospitals and a network of clinics and community healthcare centers have done much to control dysentery, typhoid, cholera and other epidemics.

The Oroqen ethnic minority

Population: 7,000

Major areas of Distribution: Inner Mongolia and Heilongjiang

Language: Oroqen and Han

People of the Oroqen ethnic minority group dwell in the forests of the Greater and Lesser Hinggan Mountains in Northeast China which abound in deer and other wild beasts the Oroqens hunt with shot-guns and dogs. The Oroqens, who lived in a primitive communal society four and a half decades ago, have leap-frogged several historical

stages to a socialist society in the years following the founding of the People's Republic in 1949.

With no written script of their own, the Oroqens have a spoken language belonging to the Tungus branch of the Manchu-Tungusic group of the Altaic language family. Most of them have learned to read and write the language of the Hans, the biggest ethnic group in China.

The Oroqen population, which stood at 4,000 in 1917, dropped to 3,700 in 1943. A census taken in 1953 showed that their number had plummeted to 2,250. The population has started to grow slowly but steadily since, and the census in 1982 showed that their number has reached 4,100. The 1990 national census showed 7,000.

Most of the Oroqens live in the [22,000 square-mile] Oroqen Autonomous Banner in the Greater Hinggan Mountains. Others have their home in several localities in Inner Mongolia and Heilongjiang Province. Situated in Inner Mongolia's Hulunbuir League, the Oroqen Autonomous Banner is 97 percent forested land. The seat of the autonomous government is Alihe, a rising town with highways, railways, cinemas, hotels, department stores, restaurants, electric lighting and other modern amenities.

History

For generations the Oroqens had lived a life of hunting and fishing in the forests. They went on hunting expeditions in groups, and the game bagged was distributed equally not only to those taking part in the hunt, but also to the aged and infirm. The heads, entrails and bones of the animals killed were not distributed but were cooked and eaten by all. Later, deer antlers, which fetched a good price, were not distributed but went to the hunters who killed the animals.

On the eve of the founding of the PRC in 1949, polarization was quite marked in some localities where horses, on which Oroqens rode on hunting trips, belonged to individuals. The rich owned a large number of horses and the poor owned a few. Horses were hired out to those hunters who needed them, and payment took the form of game sent to horse owners. Such a practice gradually developed into rent and exploitation of man by man.

The Oroqens are an honest and friendly people who always treat their guests well. People who lodge in an Oroqen home would often hear the housewife say to the husband early in the morning: "I'm going to hunt some breakfast for our guests and you go to fetch water." When the guests have washed, the woman with gun slung over her shoulders would return with a roe back. The Oroqens are expert hunters. Both the males and females are sharp shooters on horseback. Boys usually start to go out on hunting trips with their parents or brothers at the age of seven or eight. And they would be stalking wild beasts in the deep forest all on their own at 17. A good hunter is respected by all and young maidens like to marry him.

Horses are indispensable to the Oroqens on their hunting expeditions. Hunters ride on horses, which also carry their family belongings and provisions as well as the game they killed over mountains and across marshes and rivers. The Oroqen horse is a very sturdy breed with extra-large hooves that prevent the animal from sinking into marshland.



Oroqen women, who also hunt, show marvelous skill in embroidering patterns of deer, bears and horses on pelts and cloth that go into the making of head gears, gloves, boots and garments. Oroqen women also make basins, bowls, boxes and other objects from birch barks. Engraved with various designs and dyed in color, these objects are artistic works that convey the idea of simplicity and beauty. Taught by their mothers while still very young to rub fur, dry meat and gather fruit in the forest, Oroqen girls start to do household work at 13 or 14. Pelts prepared by Oroqen women are soft, fluffy and light, and they are used in making garments, hats, gloves, socks and blankets as well as tents.

The Oroqens, who led a primitive life, used to have many taboos. One prohibited a woman from giving birth in the home. She had to do that in a little hut built outside the house in which she would be confined for a month before she could return home with her newborn.

Customs

The Oroqens are a race of dancers and singers. Men, women and children often gather to sing and dance when the hunters return with their game or at festival times.

With a rich and varied repertory of folk songs, the Oroqens sing praises of nature and love, hunting and struggles in life in a lively rhythm. Among the most popular Oroqen dances are the "Black Bears Fight" and "Wood Cock Dance," at which the dancers execute movements like those of animals and birds. Also popular is a ritual in which members of a clan gather to perform dances depicting events in clan history.

"Pengnuhua" (a kind of harmonica) and "Wentuwen" (hand drum) are among the traditional instruments used. Played by Oroqen musicians, these instruments produce tunes that sound like the twittering of birds or the braying of deer. These instruments are sometimes used to lure wild beasts to within shooting range.

The Oroqens have many tales, fables, legends, proverbs and riddles that have been handed down from generation to generation.

Being Shamanists or animists, the Oroqens worship nature and their ancestors, and believe in the omnipresence of spirits. Their objects of worship are carefully kept in birch-bark boxes hung high on trees behind their tents.

The Oroqens have a long list of don'ts. For instance, they never call the tiger by its actual name but just "long tail," and the bear "granddad." Bears killed are generally honored with a series of ceremonies; their bones are wrapped in straw placed

high on trees and offerings are made for the souls of dead bears. Oroqens do not work out their hunting plans in advance, because they believe that the shoulder blades of wild beasts have the power to see through a plan when one is made.

Wind burials are practiced by the Oroqens. When a person dies his corpse is put into a hollowed-out tree trunk and placed with head pointing south on two-meter high supports in the forest. Sometimes the horse of the deceased is killed to accompany the departing soul to netherworld. Only the bodies of young people who die of contagious diseases are cremated.

Monogamy is practiced by the Oroqens who are only permitted to marry with people outside their own clans. Proposals for marriage as a rule are made by go-betweens, sent to girls' families by boys' families.

The Oroqens originally peopled the region north of the Heilong River and south of the Outer Hinggan Mountains. But aggression and pillaging conducted by Tsarist Russia after the mid-17th century forced the Oroqens to migrate to the Greater and Lesser Hinggan Mountains. There were then seven tribes living in a clan commune society. Each clan commune called "Wulileng" consisted of five to a dozen families descended from a male ancestor. The commune head was elected. In the commune, which was then the basic economic unit of the Oroqens, all production tools were communally owned. The commune members hunted together, and the game bagged was equally distributed to all families.

The introduction of iron articles and guns and the use of horses during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) raised the productive forces of the Oroqens to a higher level. This gave rise to bartering on a bigger scale and the emergence of private ownership. That brought about profound social, economic changes. Individual families quit the clan commune and became basic economic units. The clan commune had disintegrated, though members of the same clan did live or hunt together in the same area. Organized under the Qing Dynasty's "eight banner system," the Oroqens were compelled to enlist in the armed forces and send fur to the Qing court as tributes. Most soldiers sent to fight in Xinjiang, Yunnan, Taiwan and other places lost their lives.

After the fall of the Qing Dynasty in 1911 came the rule of warlords who effected some changes in the administrative setup of the "eight banner system." Oroqen youths were dragged into "forest guerrilla units," and Oroqen hunters were forced to settle down to farm. Most of them later fled back to hunt in the forests. A few whom the warlords had made officers became landlords who hired Oroqen, Han, Manchu and Daur laborers to open up large tracts of land for crops.

The Japanese troops, who occupied northeast China in 1931, pulled down the cottages and smashed the farm implements of the remaining Oroqen farmers and drove them into the forests again. Oroqen youths were press-ganged into "forest detachments" officered by Japanese. The Japanese occupationists introduced opium smoking to ruin the health of the Oroqen people, some of whom were used in bacteria experiments. All this, coupled with incidence of epidemic diseases, had so decimated the Oroqen population that only some 1,000 of them remained at the time of the Japanese surrender in 1945.

Over a long period of time, the Oroqens had fought alongside other ethnic groups in China against Tsarist Russian and Japanese aggression to safeguard national unity.

New Life After the Founding of PRC

Minorities from Page 14

The Oroqen ethnic group was saved from extinction and a new life began to dawn for this ethnic minority in the years following the conclusion of the Anti-Japanese War in 1945. Shot-guns, cartridges and supplies of food-grain, clothes, cooking oil and salt were sent to the Oroqens by the government in the early days after the establishment of the People's Republic of China. People sent by the government helped them to raise production as well as to set up local government.

Following the inception of the Oroqen Autonomous Banner on October 1, 1951, several autonomous townships were set up in places where the Oroqens live in compact communities. By 1981, government allocation for construction in these places had already amounted to 46 million yuan. Working at leading bodies at various levels are Oroqen functionaries.

While helping the Oroqens to promote hunting, the government made efforts to help them switch over to a diversified economy and to lead a settled life.

The building of permanent housing for the Oroqens got started in 1952 with government allocations. A dozen villages were built in the Heihe Area for 300 families that used to lead a wandering life in 51 widely-scattered localities. Another three villages were built for 150 families in 1958.

Taught by Han and Daur farmers, the Oroqens began to grow crops in 1956. And by 1975, the people in the autonomous banner became self-supporting in food-grain for the first time in Oroqen history.

With no industry whatsoever in the past, the autonomous banner has now established 37 factories and workshops turning out farm machinery, electric appliances, flour, powdered milk, furniture, leather, fur and candies. The banner also has built schools, department stores, hospitals, banks and cinemas.

All school-age children are enrolled in primary and middle schools. Every year a number of youngsters enter institutions of higher learning. The Oroqen people also have their own song and dance troupes, film projection teams, broadcast stations and clubs.

Diseases took a heavy toll in the old days and 80 percent of the women suffered from gynecological troubles due to the lack of doctors and medicine and ignorance. They have been put under control with the help of mobile medical teams sent by the government, the launching of disease-prevention campaigns and the popularization of the knowledge of hygiene. As a result the Oroqen population increased to 4,100 in 1982. ■

Commentary from Page 10

now consolidated, there is room to switch the policy focus from short term stimulus to structural reforms to rebalance the pattern of growth and get more growth out of the domestic economy. What is the best approach to achieve this?

In my view, increasing the role of consumption should be part of the overall rebalancing of the pattern of growth, towards less emphasis on industry and investment and more on services and consumption. Such a shift would result in more labor-intensive growth, with more urban job creation as well as more upward pressure on wages from the higher demand for labor. By boosting the share of wages and household income in GDP, this would increase the role of consumption in an economically sustainable way. By rebalancing the relationship between the expansion of production capacity and consumption capacity, it would also reduce the external imbalance (the trade surplus). More labor-intensive urban growth would help reducing surplus labor in agriculture as well, thus raising rural per capita income and therefore the capacity to consume on the countryside. Rebalancing would also make growth less intensive in energy and resources and be less detrimental to the environment.

What kind of policies are most suited?

Building on the substantial progress made in recent years, there is further room to increase the government's role in financing health, education, and social safety. In addition, structural reforms in two areas are key.

One important area of reform is measures to ensure that, as China's growth needs to be led more by services and less by industry, new resources are channeled to the growth sectors. This calls for making service sector production more attractive, compared to industrial production. This means removing the subsidies to industry by raising currently underpriced prices of inputs into industry such as land, energy, water, electricity, the

environment, and capital. It also means increasing private sector participation and removing entry barriers in several service industries. A stronger real exchange rate would also help improving the terms of trade for services (non tradables) compared to manufacturing (tradables). In the financial sector, further reform can improve access to finance for small and medium sized enterprises and service sector firms. Further SOE dividend reform can help channeling corporate earnings more efficiently, to either government consumption or investment in a growth industry. Removing the cap on deposit rates would support household income and consumption as well as efficiency (by raising the cost of capital).

The second main area of reforms is supporting more successful, permanent migration to the cities, to foster more labor-intensive, service sector-oriented, and consumption-based growth there. China's traditional migration pattern has meant that family members have often stayed in the rural areas, with migrants saving most of their income and sending it back to the country side. This pattern served well the traditional growth pattern centered around export-oriented manufacturing. However, a rebalanced pattern of growth requires adjustment to the migration pattern. If migrants are able to take their families with them to the cities, with their children able to go to normal urban schools, they will start to spend more of their income in the cities. This will set in motion powerful "feedback" effects boosting urban service sector activity, employment, and consumption. Much of the service sector activity generated this way will not be high brow. However, given the still very large gap between urban and rural productivity, such additional urban employment will boost overall growth. By improving the quality of education of children of migrants, such a migration pattern will also be good for long term productivity growth.



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More successful, permanent migration calls for further liberalization of the Hukou system and, relatedly, reform of the inter-governmental fiscal system that give local governments the means and incentives to fund the necessary public services. More rule-based transfers from richer to poorer areas would probably need to be part of this. But, allowing municipalities to benefit financially from migration, for instance via property taxes, would also help. Further land reform would both increase the mobility of migrants and, by facilitating land consolidation and mechanization, boost incomes and consumption on the countryside. ■

Source: World Bank
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- *2005 – Dr. Arthur Rolnick, a senior vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank, Minneapolis: Dollars vs. RMB: What Does Devaluation of the Chinese Currency Mean for the U.S. Economy?
- *2004 – Panel discussion with Mr. Michael Jemal, president of Haier America; Mr. Charles Lee, author of the book, Cowboys and Dragons: Shattering the Cultural Myths to advance Chinese/American Business; and Counselor Tian Jun of the Economic Affairs Office at the Chinese Embassy, chief negotiator of the China's Accession to WTO
- *2003 – Professor Jiang Zhenghua, vice chairman, Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China: China's New Leadership: China's Perspectives on U.S.-China Relations
- *2002 – Dr. David Aikman, a senior fellow at Washington's Ethics and Public Policy Center and a former senior correspondent of Time Magazine: U.S.-Chinese Relations in the Global Context
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