

# China Eye 友

SACU: The Society which has promoted understanding between the peoples of China and the UK since 1965

Summer 2021

Number 70



## Contents include:

China's National Minorities

Security in Xinjiang

Visit to Babaoshan Cemetery

Insignia of Rank Badges of Ming and Qing

China and the West

Two Taxis in Xinjiang

SACU News and Events

Sino File/Sinophile and China Eye Diary

# CHINA EYE

## Summer 2021 Issue No 70

**China Eye** is published by the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU), a registered charity No 294651 and a company limited by guarantee No 00876179.

SACU was founded in 1965 to promote understanding and friendship between the peoples of China and Britain and is open to all those interested in Chinese affairs and who are supportive of its aims, regardless of political affiliations.

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## SACU E mail Newsletter

SACU issues a monthly E mail newsletter providing details of events and news about China. Members are invited to send details of happenings to SACU. If you wish to receive this newsletter, please let SACU have your E mail address, which will be sent out bcc (blind copies). This means that nobody else can see your E mail address. SACU will not use your E mail for any other purpose other than SACU business. It will not be passed to anyone else without your permission and you can unsubscribe at any time. Please send details to Ros Wong, [membership@sacu.org.uk](mailto:membership@sacu.org.uk)

**The Autumn issue (Number 71) of China Eye will be available in early September 2021. Please send news or articles for inclusion before 20 August 2021 to Walter Fung, 11 Collyhurst Avenue, Walkden, Worsley, Manchester M28 3DJ. Tel 0161 799 6944, E mail; [walter.fung888@btinternet.com](mailto:walter.fung888@btinternet.com)**

**Front cover:** Prince Gong's Mansion, Beijing (WF)

**Back cover:** Rock Garden in Prince Gong's Mansion (WF)

**All photographs are by the authors except where stated.**

## Welcome

The US-China relations continue to cool and the Western nations, especially the UK which has a 'special relationship' with the US is particularly involved. SACU needs to try harder in the current climate. At present, it seems that nations are looking for factors which divide them rather than those which they have in common. The situation is likely to get cooler as China continues to rise. The US is trying to build a group of nations, 'who share our values' to 'stand up' to China. President Biden has declared that China will not overtake the US 'on his watch' because the US will continue to grow and expand its economy. US politicians emphasise democracy as practised by 'Western' nations. However, I can recommend the talks on Youtube by Daniel A Bell, who is a Canadian professor at Shandong University. The recent one entitled, 'A Vertical Model Political System' is concise and illuminating. Also recommended are the books; *China: Engage* by Vince Cable, Bite-Sized, 2020 and *The China Wave* by Zhang Weiwei, World Century 2011.

### Climate Change

Apart from Covid, the only factor nations have in common is Climate Change. The point is always made that China is the biggest polluter, which is true, but one crucial factor is generally omitted – that of *emissions per head of population*. China has a population more than four times larger than the US and is considerably larger than the US and the EU combined. Although China's emissions are twice that of the US, the emissions *per head* is only half that of the US. Also, China is still a developing country building infrastructure and housing. China has probably been more aware of the environment than many analysts and journalists know about. Please see the article on SACU's website.

<https://sacu.org/climate-change-and-china>

### Hate Crime against Chinese and Asians

Hopefully the coronavirus emergency is drawing to a close in the UK, but it has seen a significant increase in hate crime against Chinese people – or anybody who looks Chinese. There is evidence that it was encouraged by the former president of the US, with his constant referrals to the 'Chinese Virus', 'Kung Flu' and he even speaks about the 'plague unleashed by China'. He claims that China could have stopped it but did not and his secretary of state at one time claimed that there was 'proof' that the virus escaped from the Wuhan research facility. In the US there has been a 900% increase in hate crime and some people have been killed. What is of more concern is that there already was an undercurrent of anti-Chinese feeling both in the US and the UK and it did not take much to set off a significant increase.

Some steps have been taken to address this Anti-China feeling, including the formation of the Covid-19 Anti-Racism Group, (CARG) and an online petition. In the US, where the situation is much more serious, about ten incidents occur every day, some violent. The popular press plays its part in propagating suspicion and anti-Chinese feeling in simple but subtle ways. Regarding climate change, The Times issued the simple headline, 'MI5 will monitor Chinese emissions. The implication being that Chinese figures could not be trusted.

### China to send vaccines to poor nations

A report in The Times on 22 May, announced that the president of China yesterday promised £2.1 billion over the next three years to help them recover from the pandemic. He also proposed an international forum to promote 'fair and equitable distribution' of vaccines around the world. President Xi told the G20 Global Health Summit in Rome via Video link that China would supply as many vaccines to the world as it could and backed the waiving of intellectual property rights on vaccines as advocated by President Biden.

### Interest In China and Chinese people

It seems that the pandemic has some positive effects; it has aroused public interest in Chinese people. There has been a surge of awareness, especially their positive contributions to the UK. I can cite the following; - the article on Britain's Chinatowns in *Prospect Magazine*, May 2021 by Rebecca Liu, the 'Long Read' in the *Guardian* of 25<sup>th</sup> May, about the Chinese seamen who served in the Merchant Navy during World War Two, but were deported afterwards, even though some had the right to live here, the talk by Barclay Price on his book, *The Chinese in Britain*, which attracted much interest and a large online audience and finally, a resurgence in interest about the Chinese Labour Corps of World War One in various reports. Barclay Price's talk was arranged by Nottingham University, Royal Holloway University and CARG, of which SACU is a member.

### Racial Violence in the US against Chinese

The recent presidential acknowledgement and commemoration of the Tulsa incident of 1921 in which 300 black people were killed brings to mind the violence directed against Chinese in the US in the late 1800s. Many of the Chinese had built the railways in America. Several major incidents as well as numerous other horrific acts occurred over about four decades.

In October 1871, buildings in the Chinese quarter in Los Angeles were looted and burned and 18 Chinese were mutilated and lynched. In Hells Canyon, Oregon, 1887 at least 34 Chinese miners were tortured, mutilated and killed and in June 1876, an incident called the Truckee Creek Outrage' was the start of a decade long campaign using arson, violence and intimidation to drive the Chinese out of town. The Denver Chinese community, a few hundred strong, during October 1880 was attacked by an armed mob of 3,000 who looted and burned residences and beat up Chinese men and women. At Rock Springs, Wyoming in September 1885, at least 28 Chinese miners were 'scalped, mutilated, branded, dismembered and hanged'. (Ref; *Gordon H Chang, 'Ghosts of Gold Mountain', Mariner Books, Boston 2020*)

It is hard to imagine the hatred behind these incredibly cruel atrocities. There were some arrests but apparently very few convictions. The anti-Chinese feeling resulted in the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act, but this did not stop the attacks. The Chinese Exclusion Act was not lifted until 1943.

**Walter Fung**

## Can you contribute to SACU's Mission?

To promote friendship and mutual understanding between the peoples of Britain and China.

To provide facts and analysis about China – not uncritically but always from a firm basis of friendship.

To help the British people understand the meaning of China – past and present.

SACU Council strives to achieve these aims but needs the support of individual members. All SACU Council members are volunteers, nobody is paid. If you can help, please contact **Zoe Reed, SACU Chair**, on 07768 207702 or email: [chair@sacu.org.uk](mailto:chair@sacu.org.uk).

### New Membership rates from 1 October 2019:

Individual	£23
Retired/Unwaged	£18
Students (PDF only)	£10
Institutions and Libraries	£27
Overseas Airmail	£35
Overseas (PDF only)	£13

Please make cheques payable to 'SACU', but to reduce the administrative burden, please consider paying by standing order, or use Paypal via our website: [www.sacu.org.uk](http://www.sacu.org.uk)  
Send applications and renewals to SACU Membership Secretary, Ros Wong, 27 Portland Close, Bedford MK41 9NE. Mobile: 07906 956426, email: [membership@sacu.org.uk](mailto:membership@sacu.org.uk)  
Please be sure to include, full name, address, post code, telephone number and email address.

Your email address will be used only for SACU purposes. It will not be passed to anyone without your consent. In circulars such as the SACU Email newsletter your email details will be 'blind' and not visible to others.

The SACU Email newsletter is issued monthly and provides news and details of events involving China or Chinese culture. For your copy, please let the newsletter editor have your email address. Contact **Ros Wong** at [membership@sacu.org.uk](mailto:membership@sacu.org.uk)  
Please remember, you can unsubscribe at any time.

**Michael Sheringham and Fang Wang** compile the SACU email Newsletter. It is distributed by Ros Wong to whom information and enquiries should be directed.

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## Chinese Brush Painters' Society (Yorkshire)

This society provides a focus for all who are interested in Chinese Brush Painting. The society arranges workshops with Chinese and other experienced tutors and provides information and assistance to members on all aspects of the subject. The group produce a regular monthly newsletter packed with information. Meetings are however suspended during the coronavirus pandemic.

Further information from the Secretary, **Anne Allan**.  
Tel 01422 368482 or email [mail@anneallan](mailto:mail@anneallan)  
Website; [www.cbpsyorks.co.uk](http://www.cbpsyorks.co.uk)

## SACU: Online events

SACU, like other organisations, has suspended 'live' events because of the coronavirus pandemic. We are conducting internal meetings in the virtual world, using Microsoft Teams for Council and Executive Committee meetings. We are making increased use of our newsletter, social media and website to post articles and online events which inform and educate our members and readers about China and help counteract the many negative arguments currently appearing in the western media.

Our newly formed **Working Groups** are currently planning more Zoom online events so please do check our digital communications for details as they become available.

Website: [www.sacu.org.uk](http://www.sacu.org.uk)

Facebook: [facebook.com/sacu.uk](https://facebook.com/sacu.uk)

Twitter: [twitter.com@sacuuk](https://twitter.com/sacuuk)

YouTube: 1965 SACU

WeChat: ID: SACU1965

The Working Groups are:

- Public Education [UK], led by Zoe Reed
- Chinese and China Connections, led by Wang Fang
- Membership Support and Development, led by Ros Wong.

In 2021 the working groups will meet on SACU Council days and will also have independently convened planning meetings to programme more events. All meetings and events remain online.

**All groups would welcome more members to join, so if you would like to be involved, please contact us.**

**Ros Wong** [membership@sacu.org.uk](mailto:membership@sacu.org.uk)

And a reminder... here are a few informative websites about China

- [chinaexchange.uk](http://chinaexchange.uk) includes past events such as interviews with Xue Xinran, Yan Geling and Rana Mitter.
- [www.chinaminutes.com](http://www.chinaminutes.com) "China Minutes sets out to make sense of China and Chinese culture"
- <https://chinachannel.org/> The Los Angeles Review of Books with plenty of reviews of books both from and about China
- Laszlo Montgomery's history podcast series <https://www.teacup.media>
- <https://www.chinasage.info> "Your guide to all things Chinese" the website of SACU Vice President Rob Stallard.
- **TED Talk by Eric Li** (explanation of the system of government in China)

## Other SACU News

### Treasurer Council Vacancy

The treasurer looks after the society's finances and bank account. It is a responsible position, but not especially arduous or time-consuming. Anybody feels they can help with either of these posts, treasurer or secretary, please be in touch with Zoe Reed, SACU Chair.

## SACU EVENTS

**The SACU 2021 AGM is to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> September in London. Lockdown should be lifted by then, but if some restrictions are still in place, it will be conducted on Zoom.**

An important item to be proposed at the AGM is the transformation of SACU from a company limited by guarantee to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This proposal has been discussed by the Executive Committee and Council and it will be put to the members at the Annual General Meeting for approval. Acting as a CIO will provide certain advantages to SACU, including a new modern constitution and removing the obligation to make returns to Companies House.

The new SACU CIO constitution will replace the present constitution and is based on the model constitution provided by the legislation. It has been drawn up by Zoe Reed (SACU Chair) and Andrew Hicks, a SACU Council member who is a qualified corporate lawyer and it will be sent to members with the formal notice of the AGM.

### SACU ChinaChats and events to develop our understanding of China

The events being planned include; a forum to discuss the events in Xinjiang (24<sup>th</sup> July), a presentation on Chinese Health Protection, (based on Daoism and Traditional Chinese Medicine) and an explanation of the Chinese classic, *Yi Jing (I Ching)* – complete with Yarrow stalks.

The Reading Group is going ahead, there are sufficient interested members to make it viable, but please see below.

**Please look out for the SACU monthly e mail newsletter for more up-to-date details and how to participate.**

**General information of SACU's programme of events is available on our website [www.sacu.org.uk](http://www.sacu.org.uk)**

**The Online reading group on May Fourth New Literature organised by Michael Sheringham is to go ahead but there is room for two or three more.** The group will read the short stories and poems of the May Fourth/New Literature period (1920-30s). The reading material, would be disseminated online for participants to read before the discussions. Michael thinks that this group could 'meet' fortnightly. If you are interested in joining this group, please

contact him; [msheringham@hotmail.com](mailto:msheringham@hotmail.com)  
[membership@sacu.org.uk](mailto:membership@sacu.org.uk)

## China Eye Diary

This year (2020) is the Year of the Rat. Years are in a sequence of twelve animals: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig.

2021; Year of the Ox  
2022, Year of the Tiger  
2023, Year of the Rabbit,

### Chinese Festivals for 2021

14th June, Dragon Boat Festival  
14th August, Chinese Valentine's Day  
21 September, Moon Festival  
1<sup>st</sup> October, China's National Day (week's holiday)  
14<sup>th</sup> October Chong Yang (Chinese Elder's Day)

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## Standing up to Sinophobia (Zoom webinar on 6 April 2021)

The Zoom presentation was 'attended' by 132 people. A distinguished panel of experts each gave their views in short speeches. The panel comprised; Jenny Clegg (SACU), Diana Yeh, Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Associate and Dean of Arts and Social Services, City University, London) Anna Chen (writer, poet and broadcaster), Sabby Dhalu (Co-convenor of 'Standing up to Racism') and Yeow Poon, Chair of Birmingham Chinese Community Centre and a leading member of Covid-19 Anti-Racism Group (CARG)

Jenny Clegg explained that much of the racism stems from 'Fu Manchu' attitudes originating from the novels of Sax Romer, pen name of Arthur Ward. The series of novels featured Fu Manchu, a brilliant but evil Chinese 'master criminal' with horrific schemes to take over the world. People identified ordinary Chinese with Fu Manchu, the 'Yellow Peril'.

Diana Yeh believed that the problem should be recognised in a broader sense which involved all South-east Asian peoples. Non-Chinese people who look Chinese have been victims of racism i.e. Thai people, Philippine people, Singapore people. All forms of racism, not just one, must be addressed.

Yeow Poon believed Chinese should collaborate with other racial minority groups in the UK. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a serious effect on the businesses in Birmingham Chinatown. Hate crime has increased, but the media reporting has not helped. He said that racism is a 'multi-headed beast' which must be tackled from different points. More cooperation from the police should be forthcoming and the police and the Crown Prosecution Service should be held to account.

Sabby Dhalu recommends that society from the top to bottom should unite against racism. She mentioned the

effect of people like President Trump encouraging racism by using terms such as ‘Klung Flu’ and the ‘Chinese virus’. Unfortunately, his influence seems to be living on. When things go wrong, politicians look for scape goats.

In the Q and A session, other issues, information and suggestions arose. Anti-China entries on social media had risen by 900% over recent weeks. A letter writing campaign was suggested, directed to politicians, the media and the press. The press does respond to complaints, but the press is not always impartial and even the BBC seems to have its own agenda.

## No Cold War

This was not organised by SACU but is relevant to SACU’s interests. Jenny Clegg, a SACU Vice-president chaired the second half of the event.

This was the third webinar on this topic to detail events and express concern on the deterioration in relations between the US and China. The current situation was initiated by the US by trade sanctions on China, which have been escalated into a trade war and this with other developments are rapidly moving towards a new cold war.

The US has moved more warships into the west Pacific region and now seems to be attempting to expand NATO’s sphere of operations into this region; NATO has already been involved in Afghanistan. The UK is sending its new aircraft carrier into the area. It seems that even the G7 may be influenced in a pact of some kind to ‘defend democracy’ against China.

A new Asian ‘group’ of democracies, calling itself the ‘Quad’, US, Australia, Japan and India was formed a few years ago, but has been re-invigorated by Mike Pompeo of the US. The Biden administration is continuing Trump’s hard-line policies on China, believing China poses a threat. Speakers at the webinar thought there was no real evidence for this and believed ‘white supremacy’ was a factor in US efforts to block China’s rise. The Wolfowitz Doctrine was mentioned which details the US Security Plan intended to prevent the rise of another superpower to rival the US.

It is disturbing because some US hawks believe there is no hope of a co-existence with China. The US believes that it has a duty to ‘defend democracy’, and is influencing NATO to join this stance.

## Chinese on the Titanic

This was another webinar not organised by SACU, but it had some aspects relevant to understanding. Anti-China factions questioned why so many Chinese, six men out of eight on the ship, managed to survive. They suggested that the Chinese men disguised themselves as women to get priority admission to the life-boats. However, Tim Maltin, a historian who has studied the incident could find no proof that this happened. In fact, according to him, the Chinese helped the other survivors.

Afterwards having been rescued the Chinese were not allowed entry into the US in accordance with the 1882 Chinese Exclusion Act. They went on to Cuba instead. Some eventually came to England but left in 1920, because the country was in a recession and anti-migrant feelings were high.

## SACU ChinaChat; Interview with Neil Taylor by Linxi Li on 27 March 2021.

Neil reminisced the early days of SACU and in particular the early tours to China. At that time only organised parties were allowed into China and SACU was one of a small group of operators who could gain entry into the country. The first party comprised some distinguished scholars and the tours were very intense with little ‘free time’. There were no single rooms and air fares were very high.

## SACU ChinaChat; Your Stories with China; an interview with Michael Sheringham

Michael Sheringham was to have been interviewed by Linxi Li, unfortunately, Linxi was unable to make a connection from Beijing and so Michael gave a slide presentation of his teaching experiences in China at Beida (Beijing University) between 1972-76. His many photographs were fascinating; they showed how things have changed. They were in black and white as colour film was not readily available at the time.

Michael’s task was teaching spoken English to Chinese students. Other teachers taught written English and grammar. He lived in the Friendship Hotel in Beijing, but eventually moved into the students’ accommodation building. He had a single room, whilst students had to share. Michael preferred living close to his students as he was able to get to know them better and socialise. Some of his students were from North Korea and North Vietnam. He commented that they did not mix with other students and did not even mix amongst themselves.

More information on Michael’s time teaching in China, is on <https://sacu.org/living-and-teaching-in-beijing-in-the-1970s-by-michael-sheringham/>. the SACU website.

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There are innumerable presentations on China. You could almost spend your entire time on Zoom!

Some of the presentations I ‘attended’ included a history of London’s Chinatown by Freya Aitken-Turff CEO of the China Exchange; a webinar on overseas Chinese Museums organised by Westminster University, and a talk by SACU’s Frances Wood on Dr Sun Yatsen in the China Tourist Series (supported by SACU, The Meridian Society, the Chopsticks Club and the Ming-Ai Academy. Please keep your eye on the SACU monthly e mail newsletter. In addition, Eventbrite keeps you informed of events.

**Walter Fung**

## Visit to Beijing's Babaoshan Cemetery to honour China's "foreign friends" around Qingming 2021 sees large turnout

### Tamara Treichel

*Tamara is a regular contributor to China Eye. She lives in Beijing and is a cosmopolitan and creative writer who has had articles published in different Chinese media. She has been a member of SACU for several years. The photographs are by Tamara and her husband Liu Peng.*

The Babaoshan Cemetery is about ten miles west of central Beijing and is for Eminent People, Heroes of the Revolution and Foreign Friends.

As China marks the Qingming (Tomb-Sweeping) Festival at the beginning of April every year, an occasion to visit the tombs of one's deceased ancestors and loved ones, a second tour of Babaoshan Cemetery in Beijing, China was organized by SACU and Gung Ho member Michael Crook on April 7. Babaoshan Cemetery is the last resting place of some foreigners who are deemed by the Chinese government to have made outstanding contributions to the country in various fields – medical, media, political or otherwise.



### This year's visit saw a large turnout and beautiful weather

This event to pay respect to the "old foreign friends" of China who contributed to the building of the People's Republic was held under the aegis of Gung Ho; and three SACU members were present: Michael Crook, David Evans and Tamara Treichel, as well as journalists from the Chinese media outlets CCTV and *China Daily*, among others. President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and President of the China International Friendship Cities Association Lin Songtian was in attendance as well, and he placed white chrysanthemums at the foot of some graves.

As opposed to the first tour of Babaoshan hosted by Michael in autumn of 2019, this event was more formal due to the larger number of attendees and the presence of media.

Although the dress code was "decent casual," some participants opted to wear suits. The weather was glorious!

As COVID-19 is pretty much under control in China, such a large group event outdoors was not an issue, and everyone wore masks and scanned their Health Kit apps upon entering the cemetery. Rather surprisingly, we were patted down and had our bags checked by security upon entering, which was not the case last time, perhaps because the Tomb-Sweeping Festival sees more visitors to Babaoshan.

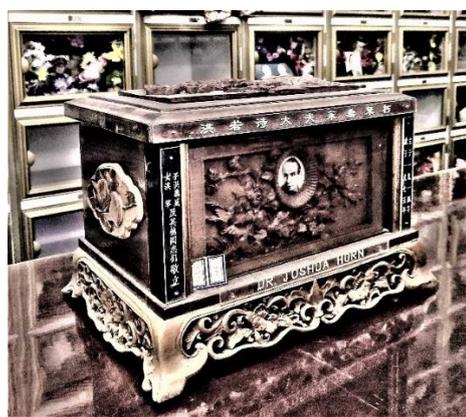


### Group photo. Michael Crook and David Evans are to the left and right respectively of the flowers in the centre.

A nice touch this time around was that some of the descendants and family members of Babaoshan's "foreign friends" were present as well to share memories about their loved ones: Eva and Emi Siao's sons, Leon 肖立昂 and Victor 萧维佳, German doctor Hans Mueller's (1915-1994) son, Israel Epstein's widow Huang Wanbi, and Jiang Guozhen, the widow of Doctor Richard Frey (Stein), who is not buried at Babaoshan, Michael informed me, but with the Canadian doctor Norman Bethune and Indian doctor Dwarkanath Kotnis in Hebei Province. Ms. Jiang, who was very much dedicated to preserving her late husband's legacy, gave some participants copies of her book she had written about her husband's medical contributions to New China, which contained a lot of historical photos.

Meanwhile, Leon explained more about his mother's life while standing at her headstone – Eva Siao (née Sandberg, 1911-2001), a woman of German-Jewish origin whose unposed black and white photographs of ordinary Chinese citizens became famous, married his Chinese father, a handsome Chinese writer/poet called Emi Siao, and now they are resting side by side. I was told Israel Epstein's widow Huang Wanbi, who was also present at the first Babaoshan cemetery tour hosted by Michael in 2019, placed a stone on Epstein's grave, as per Jewish custom. Epstein (1915-2005) was one of few foreigners to acquire Chinese citizenship and became a member of the Communist Party of China and editor-in-chief of the magazine *China Reconstructs* (later *China Today*).

Although the pace of this tour was quicker, Michael still found some time next to making general introductions to tell fresh anecdotes about Babaoshan's foreign friends while switching between English and Chinese – Agnes Smedley (1892-1950), an American activist writer who helped New China's cause with their favorable coverage of the country, had a fiery temper and danced with Zhu De, and Michael remembered photos of Douglas Frank Springhall (1901-1953), a British communist activist and champion of the working class, being taken by the ocean. This time again, Michael took out Dr. Joshua Horn's intricately carved wooden urn and told of his contributions to China and identified him as the author of *Away with all Pests*, which tells of the eradication of snail fever, a parasitic illness at that time. Horn (1914-1975), a brilliant accident surgeon, was involved in the training of China's "Barefoot Doctors," volunteer peasants who received very basic medical training and worked in villages to promote basic hygiene, preventive health care, family planning and treated common illnesses.



**Dr Joshua Horn's beautifully carved urn made another appearance**

Michael also hung a small basket of artificial flowers next to Betty Chandler Chang's urn. Chandler Chang (1915-2006) was a Canadian woman who supported China in the War of Resistance Against the Japanese, among other contributions.



**Michael Crook places flowers next to Betty Chandler Chang's urn**

The graves of George Hatem (1910-1988), a U.S. doctor of Lebanese origin who had contributed to healthcare in China by eradicating leprosy among others and Anna Louise Strong (1885-1970), an American activist and writer similar to Smedley, were also stops on this tour.

In a very considerate gesture, Michael organized group photos around select graves to send to the deceased foreign friends' descendants who were unable to make the tour.



**Leon (far left) talks about his mother Eva Siao's famous photographs. His brother Victor is to his right (partly obscured)**



**SACU members Tamara Treichel and Michael Crook place flowers at Douglas Springhall's grave**

David Evans, a SACU member since 1988 who came to work in Beijing in 1996, found the event enlightening. "Today's trip was a fascinating living history lesson," he said. "Michael fed us a feast of stories and anecdotes based on his personal experience, supplemented by contributions from the widows and children of those whose graves we were visiting.

It was inspiring to hear about the very varied lives and contributions of our predecessors as foreign residents in China. Talking to their relatives during the visit, it was

obvious how honoured and respected they feel here, which highlights how 'China never forgets its old friends.'"



**Michael Crook explaining a point to Lin Songtian, President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, who is holding white chrysanthemums**

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### **Preview of Tamara Treichel's forthcoming book: 'Detours, A Cross-Cultural Couple's Adventures in China'**

*Tamara describes her relationship and courtship with Jackie (Liu Peng), a Chinese national over a period of years. The two are very different in every way; she is an American woman from an upper-middle class background with a PhD in English, whilst he is a Chinese 'beipiao', a migrant worker, and a man of humble origin. However, they share a sense of adventure and whilst each pursue their own personal 'Chinese Dream' they come together in Beijing.*

Tamara has been a member of SACU for a number of years and has contributed several articles to *China Eye*. During the SACU 50 Years Anniversary Tour in October 2016, she joined the SACU party in Beijing for an evening meal. At this meal, Tamara met Andrew Hicks, a council member of SACU who was discussing his book (*A True Friend of China*) about Jack Jones and the Friends' Ambulance Service in wartime China. Tamara could see many parallels with the Jack Jones of Andrew's book and her boyfriend Jackie. They both did many and varied jobs, and had many detours before finding their true calling

Tamara has had a variety of different experiences as readers of *China Eye* will know, from her writings on a range of topics, her fondness for qipao dresses, to playing Joan Hinton in a film documentary. Jackie, her boyfriend of several years and now her husband really was a 'Jack-of-all-trades'. Since leaving his native city of Xi'an he has worked in many places in China, including Guangzhou, Shenzhen,

Shanghai, Hanzong and Beijing. He has had experience in hospitality as a waiter in restaurants and teahouses, as a security guard and as an actor in films. He even had a spell in the Peoples' Liberation Army.

With Jackie, Tamara learnt about the highly competitive and frustrating world of film making. You have to be extremely persistent and as Jackie put it, 'have a never give up attitude'. They met some famous actors and actresses. Tamara herself applied for some roles and was fortunate in obtaining a part playing Joan Hinton. (Joan was the sister of William Hinton, the author of the classic book on Chinese land reform, *Fanshen*). Tamara was qualified for the role in being a foreigner and having the ability to ride a horse. She wrote of her experience in *China Eye* No 55, Autumn 2017.

Jackie's persistence paid off when he was successful in obtaining work as Jackie Chan's accredited stand-in and he travelled to various places with Chan including Australia. Eventually, work with Chan took him to Beijing where he met Tamara. They muse that it was Jackie Chan who brought them together. Like many Chinese, Jackie is a firm believer in *Yuanfei*, 'fate' which brings two people together, whilst Tamara is a little dubious on the matter. However, in their case maybe there is something in it?

They toured China and explored historic parts of Beijing, including the Great Wall, Forbidden City and the hotel where Edgar Snow lived. During a three-year separation, Tamara, despite all the attractions and distractions of her life in the United States, frequently thought of Jackie. The pair wrote down on paper, an account of their experiences together. Jackie writing in Chinese, Tamara translating and writing the English. Tamara believed it improved her Chinese and the experience of joint authorship was, as Tamar put it a 'litmus test of our compatibility'.

Tamara and Jackie's book, *Detours, a Cross-Cultural Couple's Adventures in China*, is a personal tale of living and working in Beijing. It is of the locals and foreigners Tamara and Jackie met in China and of how they tripped and fell, but always picked themselves up again and again. It is about big sized embarrassments, medium sized misunderstandings and tiny triumphs with laughter, friendships, heartthrobs and heartbreaks. In short it is a tale of their enduring love affair with Beijing and China – a love that was reciprocated at times, but not at others.

It is a fascinating read telling a love story, but also providing an insight not only into everyday life in China but also on other more focused aspects such as tourism and the intriguing world of film making. When published, I am sure it will be a success and best seller.

**Walter Fung**

## China's National Minorities

### Walter Fung

Within China are 56 recognised ethnic groups, the largest being Han, which represents about 91.6% of China's 1.4 billion people. The other 8.4%, about 118 million people, are made up of 55 other ethnic minority nationalities. Fifty-three have their own language, 21 have written languages and they all have their own traditions, beliefs and festivals. Each Chinese currency note is written in six languages, Chinese characters plus pinyin, Manchu, Mongolian, Tibetan, Zhuang and Uighur.

The largest nationalities are; Zhuang, 18 million, Manchu, 11 million, Hui, 10 million, Miao, 9 million and Uyghur, 12 million. The areas which have the highest concentration of ethnic groups are Xinjiang AR with 47 and Yunnan province with 22. The Chinese bank notes are written in Chinese characters, Chinese pinyin (Roman alphabet) and also in the ethnic minority languages; Manchu, Mongolian, Tibetan, Zhuang and Uighur (which resembles Arabic).

With China there are five autonomous regions (AR) which are equivalent to provinces and which contain large concentrations of ethnic minority nationalities; Inner Mongolia AR (Mongolian), Ningxia AR (Hui), Tibet AR (Tibetan), Xinjiang AR (Uighur) and Guangxi AR (Zhuang). In addition, there are about 30 autonomous prefectures and 72 autonomous counties within provinces.

China respects the needs and concerns of its ethnic minorities. They make up about 7% of the Chinese Communist Party and they are represented on both the National Peoples' Congress (NPC), and the Chinese Peoples' Consultative Congress (CPCC). The number of delegates in each body, exceeds the proportion expected from the 8.4% of the population of China from ethnic minorities. In the NPC, about 14% are from ethnic minorities, the figure for the CPCC is about 11%. The NPC is regarded as China's parliament, the CPCC is an important advisory assembly in which all groups and factions are represented.

National minorities are also represented in prefectural and provincial assemblies. Ethnic groups have their own traditional costumes and dress. At the two national conferences, the National Peoples' Congress and the Chinese Peoples' Consultative Congress, many delegates from ethnic minorities sometimes wear their traditional dress. The single child policy did not apply to members of ethnic minorities and they enjoy other benefits such as lower tax thresholds and certain concessions when applying for entry into Chinese universities.

On the Scotland-China Association tour of Tibet in 2009, our young lady Tibetan guide had a Chinese father and a Tibetan mother. She had the choice of being classified as Han Chinese or Tibetan. She chose Tibetan because of the benefits she would be entitled to.

中华人民共和国成立五十周年 1949-1999  
民族大团结



All 56 Ethnic Groups of China commemorated in stamps. Each group is wearing their national costumes



Above and below; ethnic minority costumes in the Xinjiang Provincial Museum





A market in Yunnan Province which has many ethnic minorities



A doorway with 'guardians' and couplets in the Naxi national language written script



Road signs in Chinese and Uighur script in Xinjiang



Road sign in Tibet in Chinese and Tibetan

**پۇرگانجى ئېگىش قات-قات، ئۈچ بەشلىك تون چاچان كىيىمۇ**

ئۆزبېكلەردە ئەر-كېلەنچى ھەممىسى دېگۈدەك ھەر خىل ياشتا دۇنيا كىيىشى باغشى كۆرىمۇ. بۇنىڭ ئىچىدە داڭلىق بولغىنى «بادام دۇنيا» بولۇپ، ئۇنىڭدا قارا رەڭلىك دۇنيا بۇزىكە ئاق رەڭلىك بادامنىڭ نۇسخىسى كىيىلىنىدۇ. كېلەنچى بەزىدە دۇنيا ئۆستىدىن رەمەل ئارتۇقلىقى؛ ئۆزبېك كىيىمىدە ئىچىنىڭ پاسۇنى ئېگىش خىل بىر خىلنىڭ باغشى تۈز، يېشى بولۇپ بەشلىك چاچان بولۇپ، ئۆزبېكلەر ئۇنى «تون» دەپ ئاتايدۇ. ئۇنىڭ بىلگە كۆل كىيىلىدىغان ئۈچ بۇزىكە بەلباغ باغلىنىدۇ. كېلەنچى ئاستى پۇرسىلىك كەڭ ئۆزۈن «كۆڭلەك» كىيىشى باغشى كۆرىمۇ، ئۇنىڭ كۆكرەك تەرىپىگە ھەر خىل نەپىس كۆل نۇسخىلار ۋە رەڭلىك مارجان، پارچاق بايراقچىلار تۇتۇلغان. ئۇلار بەزىدە ئۆزۈن كۆڭلەكنىڭ ئۈستىگە ماسلاشتۇرۇپ رەڭلىك چىلىككە كىيىشىدۇ. بۇنداق بولغاندا نېچكىم كۆركەم ۋە نەپىس كۆرىنىدۇ.

**褶裙飘逸 长袍名“托尼”**

乌孜别克族不论男女都要戴各式各样的小花帽。著名的花帽称做“巴达木花帽”，在黑色帽圈的地面上绣有白色巴旦木图案。妇女有时在花帽外加戴头巾；男子穿的长袍有两种款式，一种为直领，无柱，在门襟、领边、袖口上绣有花边；另一种为斜领、右柱的长衣，乌孜别克族称为“托尼”，腰间系三角形绣花带。女性爱穿“魁纳克”，它是一种连衣裙，宽大多褶，胸前往往绣有各种精美图案，并缀有五色珠和亮片。有时在连衣裙外再穿各种颜色的坎肩，显得秀丽、典雅。

**Pleated Dress Elegant Long Robe Named“Tony”**

Uzbek people of all ages have special liking for all kinds of little caps. The famous flower cap is called badam caps of which white badam pattern is embroidered on black cap brim. Women sometimes wear a scarf outside of the floral caps. Long gowns men wear can be divided into two patterns; one is standing collar without rope and the edge of the placket, collar and cuffs are embroidered with lace. The other is long gowns with oblique collars with buttons opened at the right side and triangular belts tied on the waist with beautiful flowers, which is called Toni in Uzbek language. Women like to wear Konaq which is a wide long dress with curves and beautiful patterns are embroidered on the chest with colorful shining pieces. Sometimes, all kinds of colorful waistcoat reflects elegance and beauty.

Information notice in Chinese, English and Uighur in Xinjiang Museum, photographed October 2018

Reports saying the Uighur language is being ‘stamped out’ are incorrect. Uighur is seen over shops, on road signs and on information notices in public places and museums. The same situation applies in Tibet and other regions which have national minorities who have their own written language.

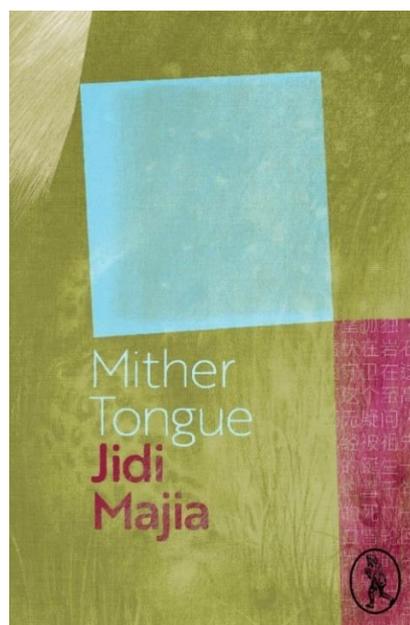


A chemistry lesson in Lhasa Middle School and below; a bust of Albert Einstein in the school grounds





Above a mosque in Ningxia Autonomous province and below a man of the Hui nationality



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**South-eastern Minzu University (Ethnic Minorities University)** This is in Chengdu near the Wu Hou Temple. It has 29,000 students and offers a wide range of subjects including studies in Tibetan and Yi culture. It was founded in July 1950. The Yi or Nuosu people are found in mainly Yunnan province (4.5 million) and southern Sichuan province (2.5 million). An informed colleague of a SACU Council member believes that the university is a model institution for respecting the ethnic minorities in China.

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## Security in Xinjiang

The detention of an estimated million Uighurs in Xinjiang AR is a major news item in the Western world. However, the news media invariably fails to explain the reason for this action, which is seen as deprivation of human rights. It is however, important to understand the reasons and to attempt to see the Chinese point of view. There are two issues; Uighur separatists who want an independent state and Islamist extremists.

Genocide is claimed, but the definition of genocide is mass killings. In a recent webinar, Sir Vince Cable maintained that the detentions are for security, and not genocide. Terrorist incidents in Xinjiang have been extremely common especially in the last two decades, when multiple incidents including at least five major attacks have resulted in 400 deaths and thousands of injuries at the hands of Uighur separatists and Islamic extremists. This information is from BBC Two, The Times, The Daily Telegraph and the Economist. There were probably more incidents which did not make the UK news.

A BBC Two documentary series (screened May/June 2006) included a report on Xinjiang where separatist terrorists had

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## Mither Tongue by Jidi Majia.

This collection of Jidi Majia's poetry in Chinese has been translated into the three strands of the Scots language: Lallans by Stuart Paterson, Doric by Sheena Blackhall and Shetlandic by Christine de Luca. These translations are on the opposite page to an English translation by the eminent translator from Chinese, Denis Mair, who has also written an afterword on the context of Jidi Majia's heritage and poetry. Jidi Majia's Scots translators have undoubtedly brought his vitality into alignment with the power of the Scots tongues, as does Denis Mair's excellent and erudite rendering into English.

Aimed at two linguistic communities and coming from a linguistic community at the other side of the planet, this collection presents a perfect symmetry in a globalised world where we need a dialogue not only between the powerful but also and perhaps even more rewardingly between the local and marginalised. The infinite is often to be encountered in the circumscribed.

Jidi Majia is a member of the Yi/Nuosu ethnic national minority in China and the volume is representative of Nuosu culture and encourages us to look into our own roots.

carried out over 200 attacks up to 2006. However, the most serious incident occurred in July 2009. The Times of 7 July 2009 reported 156 killed and 828 wounded in violent acts in Urumqi. A resident told the Times that many victims were trapped on buses by knife-wielding Uighurs. 'They chopped at people like crazy'. The July incident was further reported in the Sunday Times on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2009, which reported 197 dead and 1,600 injured in two days of riots. Following this incident there were widespread stabbings of Han Chinese with sharp objects.

The Economist of 12/9/09 reported that between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of September thousands of Han residents of Urumqi took to the streets to protest against the government for not protecting them. This issue of the Economist stated that 481 people had been stabbed or pricked by 2<sup>nd</sup> September, but this had risen to more than 600 by the time this edition had gone to press about a week later.

The Economist of 6 July 2013 reported a series of violent incidents resulting in many deaths. In Shanshan, western Xinjiang, 35 people were killed on 26<sup>th</sup> June. Two days later, in Lukqun near Turpan, 24 people were killed by knife-wielding attackers and in Moyu county, Khotan, about 100 people on motorcycles attacked a police station.

The Daily Telegraph on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 reported 29 civilians killed by knife wielding Uighurs outside Kunming railway station in Yunnan. The incident was particularly savage and shocked China; it was labelled 'China's 9/11'. The same report mentioned periodic incidents, bomb and knife attacks, in Xinjiang, which killed at least 100 people during 2013. This newspaper also mentioned the incident in Beijing when five people were killed by Uighur terrorists in Tiananmen Square in October 2013. The Xinjiang authorities have taken action and there have been no incidents reported within the last five years.

Islamic extremism has been a worldwide problem for many years with numerous incidents in several different countries in South-east Asia, the US (9/11/01, Twin Towers) and Europe including the UK. After 9/11 the US declared a 'War on Terror'.



**Poster to promote tourism to Yunnan. At Kunming railway station on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014, arrivals were met by knife-wielding Uighur terrorists who randomly killed 29 innocent people and horribly injuring many more.**

During a visit to Xinjiang in September 2007, we were told that in schools, Uighurs were taught the Uighur language

and the national language, Mandarin Chinese. Han Chinese students were taught Mandarin Chinese and English. Mandarin is important because it is the national language of China and used by all the 56 ethnic groups. It is also used by many overseas Chinese people and in Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan.

Central Asia appears to be a hot-bed of religious extremism. The Shanghai Cooperative Organisation (SCO, the 'Shanghai Five') was originally founded in June 2001 by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Kirgizstan, primarily to combat terrorism. Many of these countries have borders with Afghanistan. Uighur fighters have been held in Guantanamo Bay and reported in Syria.

The allegations of the use of torture, slave labour, rape and sterilisation of Uighurs seem to emanate mainly from just two sources; a German scholar named Adrian Zenz, who apparently operates alone from Minnesota in the US. An Australian organisation is also involved. The Chinese Government strongly deny these allegations.

The US, UK and the EU are the most vocal in the condemnations but no other nation has registered complaints, not even Turkey, whose inhabitants, the Turks, are ethnically related to the Uighurs.

The Times of 3<sup>rd</sup> April, tells of a French man, Maxime Vivas, who has written a book claiming that reports of genocide against the Uighurs result from a CIA inspired conspiracy. The book, *Ouighours, Pour en Finir avec les Fake News, (Uighurs, Putting an End to the Fake News)* was published three months ago in France.

**Walter Fung**

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## Two Taxis in Xinjiang

### Keith Lamb

*Keith Lamb is a China analyst with a background in international relations, Chinese studies and sociology. He has lived in China since 2004. His main interests are neoliberalism, socialism with Chinese characteristics and international relations of China.*

*This article originally appeared on the CGTN website on October 21 2020 and although Keith is now a member of SACU, the views expressed are his and not necessarily those of China Eye or SACU.*

Recently I wrote about my first-hand experiences with the Uyghur ethnicity in Eastern China and the different opinions they hold in regards to the Chinese state. I found there are those who felt they had been left behind developmentally while there were those that were taking full advantage of China's development and were supportive of the Chinese state.

The second group never gets mentioned in the Western press. Reporting on them would break the narrative that China purposely represses "Uyghurs for being Uyghurs". This is essentially the transposition of Western colonial

racism, which justified the shoddy treatment of other ethnicities based, on a hierarchy of racial superiority.

Clearly, from the benefits ethnic minorities get in China, such as easier entrance into university, there is no evidence for a crude transposition of historical Western injustices taking place against China's ethnic minorities.

My long trip to Xinjiang was sparked after a conversation with three Uyghurs, in 2015, who looked at me incredulously and denied the picture of Xinjiang I presented to them which had in turn been presented to me by the Western press. Eventually, they lost patience with my questioning and said "go yourself".

In 2016 I boarded a high-speed train travelling to Urumqi the capital of Xinjiang. I travelled around Xinjiang for three weeks and as with most of my trips, I'm more fascinated with observing the daily lives of the people than seeing tourist attractions. What I saw, and my many interactions confirmed two things. Firstly, the lack of development that I had previously heard about was rapidly being remedied. Secondly, the situation with the Uyghurs is extremely complex and what I observed in Xinjiang mirrored what I had encountered in the east of China. Namely, there are Uyghurs dissatisfied but also many who were steadfastly loyal to the state. Two taxi rides I took in Xinjiang sum up this complex state of affairs.

I have always found taxi rides a good place to feel out the "vibe" of a place. The driver, who knows the area well and comes across customers from all walks of life, is usually willing to chat for the duration of the journey. This, combined with not having any prospect of meeting the same customer again, can lead to very frank conversations.

Travelling around Xinjiang by train I decided to break my journey to Kashgar and look at the non-touristy parts of Xinjiang. I stopped at the small city of Aksu which I found to be as neat and clean as any in the east of China. What struck me here was that the policemen and local administrative staff were predominantly made up of the Uyghur minority, which is incongruous with Western media reports of racial subjugation. In contrast, during the ethnic tensions in Northern Ireland, few Catholics would have joined the police force and likewise in the U.S., it's not common to see predominant black policing in black areas.

In the taxi ride back to the train station I talked with a Uyghur driver about his life in Xinjiang and his political views. While his Mandarin was strained, he could make his point vividly understood. He told me that when he was younger a two-story building was rare and the donkey was the mode of transport.

Nevertheless, he personally was not enamoured with a greater Chinese identity even though he accepted the achievements of China as a whole. Trying to explain the paradox of Northern Ireland, I raised the question of the Uyghur traffic policemen we passed. With a few impolite words, he dismissed them as being inauthentic.

Pulling up at the station I was greeted by a young Uyghur police officer. Uyghurs are a diverse-looking ethnicity some

look European, some look middle-eastern and some look East Asian. While the taxi driver looked nearly indistinguishable from a southern Chinese man this policeman looked Caucasian. His Mandarin was fluent and we spent a few minutes chatting. He seemed just as surprised to see a foreign tourist in Aksu as I did a Caucasian looking man in a Chinese police uniform. When I mentioned that he could pass for a European he earnestly replied, "but we're Chinese too".

With this one taxi ride, I formed a simple hypothesis that Uyghur officials and police officers would be supportive of China but taxi drivers would be less so. This inference was quickly dismissed by my next 40-minute taxi ride in a gridlocked Urumqi. The driver was also a Uyghur but this time with impeccable Mandarin. My complimenting of his Mandarin was taken as an insult. He barked back at me, "of course my Mandarin is good it's our national language".

The offence taken by him is a reaction I've met several times by Uyghurs. Indeed, it must be frustrating for those whose identities are invested in being a member of a multi-ethnic state to constantly have assumptions made about them. Throughout the ride, we talked about the situation in Xinjiang and China in general. While he was a supporter of a multi-ethnic China like all Uyghurs I have met before him, with good Chinese, he was no less proud of his Uyghur identity. As we stopped in the traffic jam, he showed me pictures on his phone of a recent family holiday to Beijing.

The very advantage of the "taxi driver methodology", which is the unlikeliness of meeting the same driver again, means I cannot say for certain why one driver was happily invested in the multi-ethnic Chinese state while the other was not. Some who I have told the story to have pointed out that the second driver's better Mandarin was the key as such he was able to more readily benefit from opportunities across China.

The question is, does his bilingualism infringe on his freedom and his "true" identity as an authentic Uyghur. I would argue no because firstly being bilingual outside of the Anglosphere world is the norm for most of humanity and secondly learning languages leads to greater freedom to navigate the world at large. A more pertinent question is probably who bilingualism serves for rarely does the bilingual combination of "English+native-language" ever cause a stir.

If the West wants to make headway into Xinjiang, then no doubt dialogue can open into how to balance diversity and unity in a multi-ethnic state. This subject is germane not only for China but for the global community too. For former British settler colonies in North America and Oceania, their homogenization of all ethnicities indicates that they have the most to learn from such a dialogue; for nascent states such as the E.U. their lack of ability to create greater unity will always be a stumbling block to statehood, and for the diverse and populous developing states such as India and Indonesia their very survival and ability to flourish depends on this balance.

# INSIGNIA OF RANK BADGES OF THE MING DYNASTY; *ULTIMATE POWER DRESSING*, 1368-1644

David Rosier

This article returns to my area of specialization, *Regulated Insignia of Rank of the Chinese Court*.

Previously, my focus has been the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) but, in contrast, I will now consider the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). Beyond showcasing the distinctive court textiles, the illustrations will highlight cultural and artistic differences between the Ming, ethnically a Han Chinese dynasty, and the Qing Dynasty, created by the Manchu, invaders from their homelands of Manchuria.

My focus will be the badges of rank that were mandated for the Emperor and his nobility, plus the ranks of civil and military officials.

I am indebted to Chris Hall, 'creator' of the World's leading private collection of Chinese Court textiles, who has generously allowed me access to his Ming textiles.

Origins of Insignia of Rank Badges (*Buzi*)

Traditional Chinese Court culture, spanning at least 2000 years, viewed costume as a symbol of identity which differentiated ethnic origins, social class, and political structures.

For the nobility, plus the court, government and military officials, costume design and iconography, reinforced a political philosophy based on a theory of, or desire for, cosmic order. A concept which can be traced back to the foundation of the Chinese Civilization in Neolithic times (5000-4000 BCE).

This fundamental iconography transcended all dynasties with the ruling class adhering to a structure of imperial governance based upon core rituals. The approach was linked to the perception that a right to rule was enshrined within the 'Mandate of Heaven' which was assumed by the incumbent Emperor irrespective of how the mandate was acquired.

Imperial rule of a unified Chinese Empire was established when the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BCE) consolidated seven states/kingdoms into a single entity. The empire was based upon a belief in the superiority of the Han Chinese culture and the civilization it created. Those beyond the Empire's control were perceived as *barbarians* although not with such negative connotations as the word itself might suggest.

Conflict with neighbouring cultures arose frequently and resulted in two periods when foreigners 'possessed' The Mandate of Heaven – *Yuan Dynasty* 1279-1368 (Mongols) and *Qing Dynasty* 1644-1911 (Manchu). Central to the notion of 'Empire' was the role of the Emperor who's right to rule (*Mandate of Heaven*) remained critical to the survival of the state. The Emperor needed to create a balance between the forces of the natural world, and the needs of man, to ensure the harmonious order demanded by the Gods in Heaven.



**Fig:1** Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi (221-210BCE) First Emperor of China

Rituals and ceremonies, prescribed by the mandate, were demanded of, and rigidly adhered to, by the Imperial Court. This rigid structure symbolized the court's power to maintain the universal order. Costume was deployed to personify the structure of this 'superior' civilization.

Traditional court robes were deliberately voluminous so limiting movement to a slow and measured pace which emphasized the refinements of urban life.

The first codification of Imperial costume dates to the reign of China's first emperor (**Fig:1**) *Qin Shi Huangdi* (221-210 BCE). By the Han Dynasty (206 BCE - 220 CE) China had adopted a regulatory system that would be adhered to until the demise of Imperial rule in 1911.

Insignia of Rank badges have been discovered dating from the Yuan Dynasty (1280-1368) but the deployment of these badges is believed to pre-date this period by many centuries. These badges were apparently utilized by the nobility, and high-ranking officials, with the badges worn on the back and chest of outer robes. It would appear there was no consistent design or symbolism, and these items were therefore primarily decorative. Belt fixtures plus hat finials were marks of rank with the longest history dating as far back as the Qin Dynasty.

Unfortunately, the potentially earliest examples are only fragments extracted from tombs. It is, therefore, impossible to be definitive on the overall design and function. To compound matters further the early Sumptuary Laws, provide no specific guidance on badge deployment. Insignia of Rank Badges - Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) China restored a nobility created from the numerically dominant Han Chinese when the Ming Dynasty was established in 1368. This followed a peasant uprising that, surprisingly, was able to force the Mongols to retreat to their homelands.

Ming Emperors would rule until 1644 when foreign barbarians, this time the Manchu, would again seize the 'Dragon Throne' from a morally and economically bankrupt court. The invaders established the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) which would prove to be the final dynasty as China was torn apart by anti-Manchu uprisings and expansionist Western Colonial powers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The first Emperor, *Hongwu* (1368-1398), immediately abolished, and replaced, the *Yuan Court Costume Regulations*. The process would, however, take 20 years to be fully codified (1391). Once established the regulations

imposed strict rules that applied to all members of the Imperial family, both male and female, and covered:

- Court Dress
- Sacrificial Dress
- Audience Dress
- Ordinary Dress
- Informal or Casual Dress

Ming clothing for the nobility reflected earlier times with ceremonial wear based upon flowing robes adorned with belts, plus attached ribbons, that denoted rank. In addition, distinctive coronets were also worn.

The silk ground for formal robes were dyed in the colour that denoted the rank of the wearer based on the 5 colours of the Chinese Cosmos. The regulations for officials then generally followed the structure that was applicable for the Imperial clan but with unique iconography.



**Fig 2:** Emperor Jiajing (1521-1566)

Ceremonial Yellow Robe  
12 Dragon Roundel  
Insignia

During the dynasty the practice of deploying a wide range of iconography, indicative of rank, underwent significant expansion so

adding considerable complexity.

Court robes for senior nobles (Ranks 1-4 of the 12 levels) carried either 12, 8 or 4 dragon roundels (Fig:2) whereas badges for the nobility (ranks 5-12) were square and restricted to the back and front of a bright red, full cut robe (*Pufu*). Red being the dynastic colour of the Ming. The new dynastic costume regulations, released in 1391, required that rank badges had to also be worn by the 9 Ranks of both Civil and Military officials and each level displayed a specific creature.

Dragons were the personal emblem of the Emperor although they were not for his exclusive usage. They were the most significant, and widely deployed, symbol of status across all forms of court costume. *Roundels* were synonymous with Fig:8 6th Rank Egrets 15<sup>th</sup> Century 5-12 of the nobility, and all officials, wore their insignia in a *quare* which represented the Earth and mortality.

The most senior dragon was known as the 5 clawed 'Dragon of Heaven', whereas creatures possessing a lesser number of claws represented lower ranking nobility.

The Emperor wore 12 roundels depicting the 5 clawed *Lung* dragon (Fig:2/3) on a voluminous court robe with the silk

ground dyed Imperial Yellow, the most prestigious of colours, reserved for the emperor and empress.



**Fig:3** 16<sup>th</sup> Century Lung Dragon Roundel – Emperor's Surcoat

The regulations determined that a 3 peaked rock (landmass) was surrounded by foaming waves (oceans). The dragon flies toward heaven, through clouds, in pursuit of a Flaming Pearl which represented knowledge and enlightenment. Ming dragons were normally seen in 'profile' (side-facing) with 'portrait' (front-facing) dragon designs being rare. The overall design is symbolic of the dragon, and therefore the Emperor, being the vital link between Heaven and Earth.

Empress/Imperial Consorts would wear 5 clawed lung dragons, that mirrored their emperor, rather than their personal emblem which was the mythical Phoenix (*Feng Bird*), the most auspicious of the birds. Princes wore a four clawed *Mang* dragons within in 8 or 4 roundels.

Princesses were signified by a Phoenix displayed either in a roundel or square featuring normally both a male and female bird. Males had up to 5 serrated tail feathers incorporating a varying number of cosmic colours whilst the female had curled tail feathers that could be any even number up to six. Normally the male bird would be in flight and the female perched but unusually this is reversed in the square illustrated Fig:4 – Phoenix Pair - 16<sup>th</sup> Century



A single phoenix was rare. The 17<sup>th</sup> century roundel (Fig:5) depicts a male bird in flight. Phoenix Roundel - 17<sup>th</sup> Century



**Nobles** (Emperor's sons-in-law, grandsons, Dukes and Earls) wore a mythical 2 horned animal known as a *Qilin* which was a combination of a dragon (head), deer (body) and bear (tail). This design was later utilized for a 1<sup>st</sup> Rank Military Official in the Qing Dynasty (**Fig:6**). In Chinese culture claws/talons outranked hooves which were superior to creatures with paws.



**Fig:6** Qilin Insignia – 17<sup>th</sup> Century

**Civil Officials** wore designated birds which were associated with literary

elegance and reflected the arduous years of study required to qualify for the Civil Service.



**Fig:7** 1sRank Crane 16<sup>th</sup> Century



**Fig:8** 6th Rank Egrets 15<sup>th</sup> Century

Initially, the birds were presented in either pairs (**Fig:7**), or singly (**Fig:8**). The approach reflected the reality that each of the 9 Ranks had 2 levels so effectively creating 18 tiers. A pair represented the higher tier within a rank. Abuses, however, resulted in the regulations becoming stricter in 1527 with only a single bird permitted. Certain ranks had a choice of 2 bird types but this was also abolished in 1527. Each rank was then represented by single specific bird. As birds could fly, they were perceived to be closer to their Emperor. Civil officials always stood to the left of the Emperor as a mark of their status which outranked their military colleagues.



**Fig:9** 7<sup>th</sup> Rank Mandarin Ducks. Peony decoration

Later badges reflected the decline of the dynasty as officials added auspicious symbols associated with wishes for wealth, good fortune, and longevity. Symbols included lotus, peony, coral, bolts of silk and pearls.



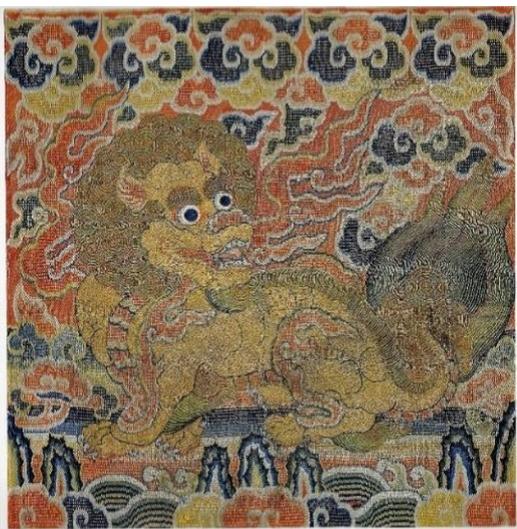
**Fig:10** 5<sup>th</sup> Rank Civil Official  
Pair of Silver Pheasants.  
Early 16<sup>th</sup> Century

Ming badges were larger than the 12-inch square Qing examples. They covered the chest and back of a voluminous bright red silk ground court robe (a colour indicative of the Ming Dynasty).

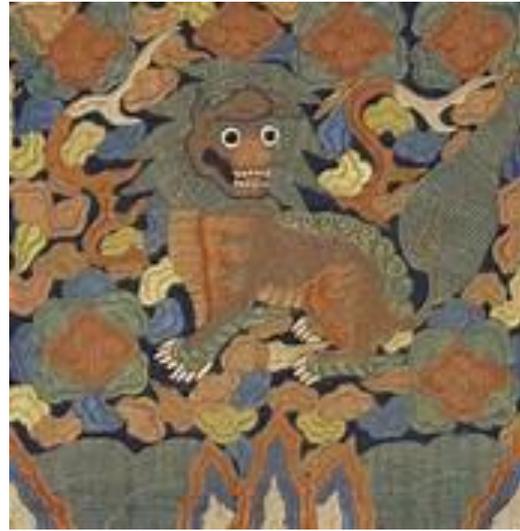
**Fig:10** illustrates that some badges were trapezoid in

shape. The majority of badges had no specific border design. Robes generally fastened at the side so there was no requirement to split the front badge, as was the case in the Qing Dynasty, where insignia were worn on an outer, central opening, surcoat (*Pufu*).

**Military Officials** wore designated animals, some real, some mythical, but all were associated with strength, ferocity and courage. Unlike the birds the animals were not deployed in pairs. Surviving badges are extremely rare and mainly feature the Lion **Fig:11** (1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Rank) or Bear **Fig:12** (5<sup>th</sup> Rank) which are remarkably similar in design. Mythical animals can be identified by flames surrounding their bodies. The Lion is portrayed as being mythical because the creature was a representation of the Temple Guardian Lions which were also known as *Dogs of Fo*. The creature has a distinctive curly haired mane plus curls at the base of the tail whereas the Bear would have far fewer curls.



**Fig:11** 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Rank – Lion



**Fig:12** 5<sup>th</sup> Rank Bear  
16<sup>th</sup> Century

**Imperial auditors (Censors)** were a group of 50 elite civil officials who were responsible for protecting the emperor from bureaucratic corruption. They were allocated a mythical animal known as a *Xie chai*. The creature had the head of a single horned dragon and a body of a bear (**Fig:13**) and was recognised for its ability to root out corruption.



**Fig:13** Censor - *Xie Chai* Insignia 16<sup>th</sup> century

This concludes the review of Ming Insignia of Rank. Sadly, our ability to research this aspect of Chinese court costume is severely hampered by the lack of surviving examples. Our knowledge, beyond the definition of the clothing regulations, is and will likely remain, limited. Hopefully, the examples illustrated provide an insight into how spectacular these insignia would have appeared when first worn.

My next article will look at a unique grouping of 'Festival or Celebratory' badges that were a feature of semi-formal costume in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries, plus *Celebratory insignia* from both dynasties.

<u>Ming Civil Official</u>	
<u>1<sup>st</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Manchurian Crane or Golden Pheasant*</i>
<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Golden Pheasant</i>
<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Peacock or Snow Goose*</i>
<u>4<sup>th</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Snow Goose</i>
<u>5<sup>th</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Silver Pheasant</i>
<u>6<sup>th</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Egret or Mandarin Duck*</i>
<u>7<sup>th</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Mandarin Duck</i>
<u>8<sup>th</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Oriole or Quail*</i>
<u>9<sup>th</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Paradise Flycatcher</i>

<u>Qing Civil Officials</u>	
	<i>Manchurian Crane</i>
	<i>Golden Pheasant</i>
	<i>Peacock</i>
	<i>Snow Goose</i>
	<i>Silver Pheasant</i>
	<i>Egret</i>
	<i>Mandarin Duck</i>
	<i>Quail</i>
	<i>Paradise Flycatcher</i>

\*after 1527 the choice of bird was removed, and the first type listed became mandatory

<u>Ming Military Officials</u>	
<u>1<sup>st</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Lion</i>
<u>2<sup>nd</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Lion</i>
<u>3<sup>rd</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Tiger or Leopard</i>
<u>4<sup>th</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Leopard</i>
<u>5<sup>th</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Bear</i>
<u>6<sup>th</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Panther</i>
<u>7<sup>th</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Panther</i>
<u>8<sup>th</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Rhinoceros</i>
<u>9<sup>th</sup> Rank</u>	<i>Sea-horse</i>

<u>Qing Military Officials</u>	
	<i>Qilin (after 1662)</i>
	<i>Lion</i>
	<i>Leopard (after 1664)</i>
	<i>Tiger (after 1664)</i>
	<i>Bear</i>
	<i>Panther</i>
	<i>Panther then Rhinoceros (after 1759)</i>
	<i>Rhinoceros</i>
	<i>Sea-horse</i>

## China and Football

When Xi Jinping visited the UK in 2015, he visited Manchester City Football Club. He is believed to be a football fan. Despite his visit to 'City, some believe he really supports Manchester United! 'City' is 10% Chinese owned. Several European football clubs are Chinese owned, including Inter Milan and Wolverhampton Wanderers (Wolves), which is owned by the Chinese company, Fosun Group. Fosun was founded in 1992 by five graduates of Fudan University (a leading university in Shanghai) and has, in a short space of time, become one of the largest companies in the world. Its interests include banking, food and drink, real estate and tourism. Since the group bought Wolves in 2016, and after substantial investment, steady progress has been made. In 2016 the club was in the middle order of the Championship, and is now in the Premier League. **Last month the club firmly condemned the proposed breakaway of six leading Premier League clubs to join a European 'Super League' which was proposed by a group which included several American owners and financiers.**

As a foreign owner, Fosun came to the UK in 2016 and embraced not only Wolves its history and its supporters, but also the country and its proud traditions, one of which is the most historic football system in the world. That sense of competition is what appealed most to Fosun then, and still just as strongly now. British promotion and relegation systems, built on solid foundations of competition and fairness, create promise, ambition, success and failure – all of which are essential in the sport. **Richard Poxton, a lifelong supporter of Wolves and a SACU member, writes. 'It seems to me a reassuring confirmation of the potential for Anglo-Chinese partnerships based on clear mutual understanding. It stands in contrast to the aims of the US financiers who sought to destroy the football traditions of England and other parts of Europe.'**

The authorities are trying to promote football in China, but so far with only limited success. There are various leagues, including the equivalent of the Premier League. However, despite many foreign players and managers in China, the standard is low, especially for such a big country and despite the fact that the foreign players and managers are paid huge salaries. President Xi has remarked that he hopes China will win the World Cup for football one day, but this seems far away. At present China is ranked 77<sup>th</sup> in the world of football.

## China and the World by Barnaby Powell

*Barnaby worked in international finance for many years, much of it in the Far East. He is a member of SACU Council*

In the current contest of ideas about what it is to be human, domestic social constructs like diversity, equality, harmony and justice are ambivalent abstractions unless they are rooted in cultural systems of belief, value, custom and tradition that people seek to embrace. China seeks to create a cultural, ethnic and social uniformity in its people. It views opposing systems of governance and faith as competing ideologies. The conflict of values which set China and the West apart is best illustrated by statements which explicitly reject certain values considered 'Western' and not necessarily applicable to China at the present time. The West seeks to impose their values on other countries; China has always rejected interference in foreign countries.

Why should such an apparently normative, rational set of values be shunned so vehemently? The answer has a lot to do with the Chinese feeling that these are being claimed and imposed by the West as a common standard of morality and ethical governance – when true authority to give assent to the framework of any international rules-based order lies with the sovereign power of a nation to decide. Thus, as the Chinese have never recognised any authority higher than that of their temporal rulers, they still harbour grave suspicion of any claim to a transcendental source of power and authority, as embodied by Christianity, in particular. These are the prime causes of the current stand-off in relations between China and the West.

China's influence over the world is increasing, as its financial, regulatory and legal régimes are applied internationally. Extensive lending overseas and the introduction of a digital currency at home have marked it out

as a major market maker. It seeks to be a leading manufacturer and innovator in AI and automation. It also seeks to become a leading arbiter in global intellectual property disputes with resolution governed by Chinese law where foreign litigants are involved. In many such areas, it seeks to turn the tables on the West, which is perceived as having enjoyed a kind of overlordship in international regulatory matters.

Since World War II, the main international agencies like the UN, the IMF, the IBRD and the WTO have been controlled and run by the West and by the US in particular. Times have now changed: the US proportion of global trade has diminished, but its proportion of voting rights in these institutions remains the highest. In the banking sector, China has established parallel institutions in the NDC (New Development Bank – with the BRICS nations, Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and the AIIB (The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank – with its HQ in Beijing) to rival the West's funding of the developing world's infrastructure. China is also now the world's largest economy based on purchasing power parity with a GDP of \$22.5 trillion since 2019 vs. the US with \$20.5 trn. and the EU with \$19.9 trn.

China's massive bootstrap operation over the last thirty years has been achieved by harnessing the collective will of the people to raise the level of their lives by appealing to their innate sense of duty, obligation and responsibility to family and country over individual rights. There will be little point in attempting to contain or roll back the surging tide of China's advance on the world stage. It is not for the West to stand up to China; rather it must sit down with China to discuss not who makes the weather, but how the gathering storm of global warming and Cold War antagonism may be averted before we are all consumed by the flood of mutual hostility and rising sea levels.



Posted all over China. The Core Concepts for Social Security; Prosperity, Civility, Freedom, Justice, Patriotism, Integrity, Democracy, Harmony, Equality, Rule of Law, Dedication, Friendship. (WF)

## Fighting Crickets by Chris Nash (Wanderings in China)

闻蛩 唐朝 白居易

闻蛩唧唧夜绵绵，  
况是秋阴欲雨天，  
忧恐愁人暂得睡，  
声声移至卧床前。

**Listen to the Cricket**  
*by Bei Ju-Yi, Tang yunasty.*

You are a champion fighter. You are fed a special high protein diet to keep you in peak condition. Before a fight you are allowed a night of passion to arouse your fighting spirit. You only live for 100 days but when you die you will be buried in your own two inch long wooden coffin. You are a sporting celebrity of the insect world

- you are one of Liu Yun Jiang's fighting crickets! Liu Yin Jiang lives in a siheyuan on Black Sesame hutong. These courtyard houses are cabinets of mysteries, open a door, open a drawer, enter another life. Away from the alley-way hum of human voices you enter a courtyard menagerie vibrant with the colours and sounds of animal lives. The cricket-trainer lives surrounded by flashing fish, squawking parrots and twitching rabbits but the heart of this animal community is the wild, un-tamed spirit of Liu Yin Jiang himself, sweeping you in with his unrestrained enthusiasm for the chosen world of his life, training fighting crickets in Beijing.

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## Buses in Guangdong by Jacqueline Buksh

*Jacqueline worked in China for 14 years and has written four books on her experiences. She left China about 20 years ago and this article is of her observations at the time she was in China.*

To be a bus driver in Shenzhen, Guangdong Province in Southern China you need to be super fit, alert and carefree. Each bus has its own conductor, male or female. They too need plenty of stamina, speed and a good pair of lungs in order to barter each fare. To be a passenger needs nerves of steel, a strong constitution and an agile body. All three need a sense of humour as tempers easily fray after travelling several miles (li) crammed into tiny spaces or, worse, strap hanging supported by the crush of bodies all shouting across to each other. Unwieldy and unlikely looking parcels often cram the space between the driver and passenger seat at the front of the bus. Extra space is utilized by slamming folding seats up and down with monotonous regularity in the centre aisle as people get on and off the bus.

Some buses provide little plastic stools instead of tip up seats. While it is nice to sit down it is rather precarious. The conductors willingly give up their own front window seat to allow another fee-paying passenger to sit in relative comfort. The seats were padded leather once upon a time, most are ripped through constant use. Some seats only allow the passengers to sit with their knees up to their chins. All Chinese people occupy the outer edge of a double seat so that a later coming-aboard has to clamber inelegantly across the knees of a stranger as the bus jerks off. Children are carried or given their own seats in favour of an older person. No doubt who are the elite here! In all fairness I

doubt a young child could stand without being thrown around. There are many kinds of buses, small free enterprise buses that weave their way through the heavy traffic like kamikaze pilots, almost airborne. The competition is fierce as the little buses jostle for custom in different ways. One is to lean out of the window as the bus approaches possible groups of passengers and yell in a loud hectoring manner or a polite, 'I will drop you anywhere if you come on my bus.' (All in Chinese of course)! Another novel way is for the conductor to lean out of the fast-moving bus holding up a large placard stating the route the bus is taking. Quick reading, nimble footed people can wave an arm or dodge between the oncoming cars and lorries to get on the third bus at the back of the stream of traffic.

Little buses will pick you up or drop you anywhere if you shout the magic words loud enough, 'Yulau' or 'xia' (stop) and 'xie xie' (thank you.). The other bigger buses either long or double-deckers are owned by the Shenzhen Municipal group (Government owned) have set prices, more expensive but much more comfortable with music and air conditioning, this latter being most welcome in the high heat and humidity, often up to 40°C. Everyone uses the bus system, young and old alike. But wealthy people have cars, the middle class tend to use scooters and motor bikes, others pedal bicycles, myself included, but not on the major roads, which are death traps. There are lanes for cyclists but nobody appears to follow the rules and often the small buses will suddenly deviate and travel on the side roads. Cyclists are also guilty of travelling both ways without worrying what the rest of the traffic is doing.

There are many taxis, again of different prices according to the car and regulations. Mostly you can barter with the driver for a set price rather than use the meter. In the main the most convenient way to travel around the far-flung shopping or work areas is by bus. Many schools, firms, Colleges and the University have their own buses to transport their workers and students to and fro from their homes. State owned buses have their own bus stops and relay their information over loud speakers; this is very useful if you cannot see out of a window owing to the crush of bodies. If you pass your stop a lot of walking is involved. Sometimes misunderstandings occur between passengers who think they are going one way then find they are not. Fierce arguments then occur between the driver, passenger and conductor. This always finishes with the passenger getting off the bus or being evicted. It may not be the most comfortable way to travel but for human drama, unexpected meetings and interesting snippets of conversation it can't be beaten!

The average pay for a driver or conductor is up to the incentives or sheer speed and cunning barter for the small bus workers. A Shenzhen transport worker gets up to five times more pay than the rest of China because it was the first economic zone to be set up under Deng Xiaoping. This applies to all workers in Shenzhen.

## Sino File of current events compiled by Walter Fung Summer 2021

### Corruption Index 2020 (Transparency International)

#### Rankings and scores of 179 countries

1, New Zealand scoring 88  
1, Denmark, 88  
3, Singapore, 85  
11, United Kingdom, 77  
11, Australia, 77  
25, United States, 67  
78, China, 42  
86, India, 40  
94, Brazil, 38  
104, Thailand, 36  
124, Mexico, 31  
129, Russia, 30

The first number is the ranking in transparency as assessed by Transparency International. The second number is the score out of 100, the higher the score, the more transparent.

China ranks higher than India, Brazil and many other democracies. Its ranking has improved by nine places since 2018, when it was ranked at 87.

**Singapore** (third equal with Switzerland and Sweden) has been ruled by the same party since its foundation in 1965, The People's Action Party. Ethnic Chinese make up 76% of Singapore's population. The press has limited freedom and the system of government has been described as 'almost authoritarian' based on meritocracy. Some scholars have called it a 'flawed democracy', but Singapore ranks very high in transparency, human development, life expectancy, literacy and many other indices. The GDP, purchasing parity per person was \$101,532 in 2018 (Economist). Figures for the UK and US were \$45,974 and \$62,795 respectively.

**To celebrate Confucius's 2545<sup>th</sup> birthday, in October 1994**, the government of China asked Lee Kuan Yew, the former Prime Minister of Singapore to deliver a keynote speech. By combining Confucianism with modern science and technology Lee had created a prosperous harmonious city-state. Some analysts have described it as a model for China and indeed many of the senior leaders of China have visited Singapore, from Deng Xiaoping to Xi Jinping. In fact, Xi Jinping met Ma Ying Jiu of Taiwan in Singapore in November 2015 and shook hands.

#### China supplies India with medical equipment

According to Indian sources (NDTV) on 23 April 2021, China supplied 400 tonnes of medical equipment to India. The supplies included, PPE, Rapid Antibody Test kits, thermometers, etc. The equipment was delivered from five Chinese cities and considerably more is on the way. This was announced by Indian Ministry spokesman, Anurag Srivasta. In a separate report in *Monthly Review Newspaper*, (24 April) Mr MK Bhadrakumar, a former Indian diplomat,

commented that only China has made meaningful contributions and without prompting.

### From the British press

#### A recharging solution for electric cars in China

According to a letter sent in to the Times (by S Key), in China, a driver of an electric car can just drive into a battery exchange station and have a depleted battery exchanged for a fully charged one. The driver is given credit for electricity remaining in the depleted battery. The whole procedure takes about the same time as filling up with petrol. In the UK some standardisation would be needed, but 'green incentives' could be given by the government. (*From The Times 4/3/21*)

#### Fast charging batteries to be made in China

StoreDot, an Israeli company claim that they have a car battery that is chargeable within five minutes. The 'extreme fast charge' battery (XFC) should be available to motorists within three years. Mass production is scheduled in 2024 in China. StoreDot will announce today a deal with EVE Energy of China to produce 'tens of thousands' in the first two years. Instead of lithium, the new XFC uses metalloidal nanoparticles such as silicon. Samples will be made available later this year with a view to companies placing orders. Daimler (Mercedes-Benz), BP and Samsung have invested in StoreDot. Smaller versions of the XFC are to be installed in scooters and drones. (*From The Times 19/5/21*)

#### Chinese customers to bring UK car maker to profit

China is the cornerstone of rapid growth in sales of Jaguar Land Rover over the past decade. This was part of a bullish confident company statement which predicts it will have an annual turnover of £30 billion with profits of £3 billion within five years. There was a more-than-doubling of sales in China between January and March, the final quarter of its financial year. China was its only growth market in the pandemic-affected year. (*From The Times 19/5/21*)

#### China to issue 'virus passports'

China has launched a 'virus passport' that it says will allow citizens to travel across borders. Citizens can download the new certificates and use them to enter and leave the country. The foreign ministry says the system will help promote the world economic recovery. It is believed to be the world's first, but a similar scheme is under discussion in the US. It is not clear how it will work and it is only available to Chinese citizens. The 'passport' would contain details of the holder's vaccination and test results. China has not yet announced any relaxation of quarantine restrictions for people arriving in China but according to the *Global Times* China's health authorities are studying whether it will allow travellers to be exempt from 14 days of quarantine. (*From The Daily Telegraph 10/3/21*)

#### Pfizer vaccine to be used in China

This vaccine is set to become the first foreign one to be used in China. The Chinese authorities have been reviewing clinical data and are likely to approve it within 10 weeks, according to *The Wall Street Journal*. China has developed its own vaccines, but the Sinovac, used widely in Latin America is causing concern, because despite high

inoculation rates, cases appear to be increasing. *(From The Times 22/4/21)*

### **Racism incidents and attacks on East Asians**

Racism incidents have increased 300% since the start of the pandemic. The first MP of South East Asian descent, Sarah Owen (her mother is Chinese Malaysian) says that people of East and South East Asian communities are fearful of these incidents, but people tend to contact her about racism rather than their own MP. Remarks stereotyping people and referring to the 'Yellow Peril' are not helpful, Jenny Wong of the Manchester Chinese Community Centre says she has had threatening phone calls. Heidi Chow, a global justice campaigner of Chinese descent told the newspaper that people assume she carries the virus and she was a danger. She also said that her children have been subject to racist abuse for being Chinese. *(From I 24/3/21)*

There was a report on BBC TV News on 3 May in which several Chinese people gave accounts of verbal abuse and spitting. A Southampton university lecturer was physically assaulted. Jabez Lam of Hackney Chinese Community Services and Sarah Owen made brief statements. The former US president's remarks about coronavirus are thought to have encouraged this behaviour. 'Hate incidents' towards Chinese people and people who resemble Chinese, have increased about 800% in the US and 300% here in the UK.

### **Vancouver hate capital for Asians**

It is said to be the most Asian city in the Western world, but is also becoming the hate capital of North America. More anti-Asian hate crimes were reported to police in Canada than in the ten biggest US cities combined. A survey last month by the poll company, Insights West found that 43% of British Columbia residents of East Asian descent had experienced a racist incident in the past year and almost half believed it would get worse.

Animosity towards the East Asian super-rich has been festering for decades as immigration and Chinese money have helped transform central Vancouver into a prosperous metropolis, even as the rest of the city struggles with a housing and drug crisis. East Asian buyers have been blamed for house prices outstripping those of London and New York in recent years. *(From The Times 12/5/21)*

### **Biden to prevent China from becoming leading country**

Addressing journalists in the White House, Biden said that China has an overall goal to become the leading country in the world, the wealthiest and the most powerful, but that is not going to happen on his watch. The US is going to continue to grow and expand. He said that it is a question of autocracy or democracy and we have to prove democracy works. During a two-hour phone call with Xi Jinping, the Chinese leader, Biden said he would not stop speaking about the Uighurs and Hong Kong. *(From The Times 26/3/21)*

### **China has space station lift-off**

China took the first step to build a space station by launching a heavy-lift Long March-5B rocket yesterday at 11.23 am from the Wenchang launch site on Hainan Island. The 54ft module will be the central part of the space station, called 'Tianhe, the Harmony of the Heavens'. Tianhe, which

weighs 22.5 tonnes is the first of 11 launches to deliver two smaller modules and other parts for the construction of the space station. When complete it will house three astronauts-up to six during team changeover. Each team of three will spend six months in space. The facility is designed to last ten years. It is considerably smaller than the International Space Station (ISS). President Xi Jinping sent a congratulatory message.

China was excluded from the ISS, which includes Russia and a number of other nations. However, China and Russia have recently signed a memorandum of understanding to build a moon base. China hopes to complete the 66-tonne T-shaped Tiangong (Heaven's Palace) space station by the end of next year. *(From The Times 30/4/21)*

### **New Zealand wants a separate voice**

Britain's hope of recasting the Five Eyes as a platform for pressuring China, has suffered a setback with New Zealand's foreign minister, Nanaia Mahuta's announcement that her country was 'uncomfortable' with efforts to corral Five Eyes members into common diplomatic positions. The news was met with dismay by Dominic Raab and some Conservatives who wanted the alliance to form the basis of a new strategic economic relationship to break western dependence on Chinese supply chains.

Tom Tugendhat believes New Zealand is making a mistake in opting out of a valuable tool to counter China. Jacinda Ardern, the New Zealand prime minister said her country wanted the flexibility to take its own position. New Zealand has opted out of subsequent statements on Hong Kong and Xinjiang. Australia and New Zealand also failed to join the US, UK Canada and the EU in imposing sanctions against Chinese officials for alleged human rights abuses in Xinjiang. *(From The Times 22/4/21)*

### **Australian government overrules Victoria**

The Australian state of Victoria had signed deals with China in 2018 and 2019 to join China's Belt and Road Initiative, but a new law has overridden the deals. Martin Payne, the Australian foreign minister said that it was inconsistent with Australia's foreign policy. China has urged Australia to withdraw the 'wrong decision' or China would respond firmly and forcefully. *(From The Times 23/4/21)*

### **Australia spends on military**

Australian forces are to train with US forces in North Australia. Training bases and airfields are to be upgraded costing £419 million. The Chinese ownership of a port in Darwin will be reviewed if defence agencies judge it to have national security implications. These issues, together with the ban on 5G, rejection of Chinese investment and tearing up the state of Victoria's Belt and Road deal has provoked the Chinese foreign ministry to describe Australia as 'sick'. *(From The Times 29/4/21)*

### **Chinese heavy-duty cranes arrive at Liverpool**

Five giant cranes arrived at Liverpool from Zhenhua Heavy Industries of Shanghai today. Each cantilever rail-mounted unit is 35 metres high and weighs 500 tonnes. They are for the Peel Ports Group's Liverpool 2 project to significantly

increase Liverpool's capacity. They had travelled 11,831 nautical miles. *(From The Liverpool Echo 4/3/21)*

### **Luxury brands in China fears**

China has lashed out at clothing brands for refusing to buy cotton from Xinjiang because of the Uighur situation. Yesterday news outlets attacked brands including;- Burberry, Nike and H&M for their negative remarks about Xinjiang cotton. Bad publicity is detrimental to Burberry and other high-end fashion labels because it is estimated that Chinese buyers will, this year, account for 47% of luxury spending. *(From The Times 26/3/21)*

### **'Clean Plate' movement in China**

Diners who do not finish their meal in a restaurant, could be fined for wasting food. A law designed to reduce food waste is being introduced in China. This has come four months after President Xi Jinping demanded decisive action to stop leftovers being thrown away. More than 35 million tonnes of food, about 6% of China's total production and enough to feed 50 million people, is believed to be lost or wasted every year. A food expert has said that the new law represented the long view on food security in the uncertain nature of the global market. China imports about 100 million tonnes of food (2018 figures). The new also law bans the publication and propagation of videos that promote gluttony such as eating contests. *(From The Times 23/12/20)*

### **Siberian tiger in Chinese village**

Linhu village in Heilongjiang province had to be evacuated when a tiger rampaged in attacking a car and knocking over a woman in a nearby field. It was a rare 200kg male, which had to be tranquilised before being taken away for examination. Scientists are to collect DNA samples and examine its stripes. It is believed to have come across the Russian border. According to the World Wildlife Foundation, only a few hundred Siberian (or Amur) tigers are left in the wild and only 20 in China.

China has built a tiger monitoring system, which has recorded about 20 cubs in the past five years. Experts suggest that the appearance of an adult tiger is a sign of success. Siberian tigers usually live in thick forests, shrubbery and wild grasslands. They wander over 60 square miles when looking for food. *(From The Times 27/4/21)*

### **Young Chinese wins BBC Young Musicians 2020**

A 17-year-old percussionist has been crowned BBC's Young Musician 2020. Fang Zhang, born in China's Henan province and a recent student of Chetham's School of Music, Manchester, was revealed as the winner of the competition's grand final on Sunday 2 May, following its broadcast on BBC Four and BBC Radio 3. The final of the biennial competition was delayed by a year because of the pandemic, and was filmed without an audience at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall on 25 April. Zhang follows in the footsteps of 19-year-old American-born/UK-based pianist Lauren Zhang who won the competition in 2018. *(From The Guardian 3/5/21 on the internet)*

### **'Sponge roads' inspired by China.**

Slough is to begin a 'sponge city' project which will entail using more porous material on roads to absorb rainwater.

Low-lying areas flood because of limited outlets for the water and concrete and other hard surfaces cause pools to form. A permeable road surface would allow the water to drain through it without the use of drains or gullies. The water could be stored in huge tanks under the road or a storm water sewage system. This idea was inspired by China, which already has 16 'sponge cities' Wuhan was at the forefront in 2015. More than 15 square miles of the city have been retrofitted so far at a cost of 11 billion yuan (£1.2 billion). *(From The Telegraph 29/3/21)*

## **From the Chinese press**

### **China targets clean energy of 16.5% by 2025**

Solar and wind power generation is expected to continue to increase and eventually account for 16.5% of the country's total power consumption by 2025. This year it is 11%, up from 9.7% the year before. The plan is to peak carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. The use of non-fossil fuels in primary energy consumption is expected to be 25% by 2030.

On April 18, China and the US issued a joint statement on Climate Change following talks between John Kerry, the US special envoy and Xie Zhenhua of China. The two countries will cooperate with each other under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement. They will join hands to identify and address opportunities and challenges in climate change. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 7-1/5/21)*

### **Chinese telescope open for world scientists**

China's 500 metre aperture Spherical Telescope (FAST) has been officially opened for use by scientists around the world. It is the world's most sensitive and largest single-dish radio telescope in the world. It is situated in Pingtang county, Guizhou province in south-west China. Astronomers can visit its website ([ast.bao.ac.cn](http://ast.bao.ac.cn)) to submit applications for observations. About 10% of this year's observation time, 450 hours, is expected to be allocated to foreign scientists. The telescope has been operating stably and reliably since passing national technical and performance assessments last year. More than 300 pulsars have been discovered and other advancements have been made in other observations such as fast radio bursts. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 2-8/4/21)*

### **Myanmar urged to protect Chinese interests**

Following attacks on Chinese financed factories on 14 March, the Chinese embassy in Myanmar urged the Myanmar authorities to take effective measures to stop all acts of violence. Arson and looting took place at 32 Chinese-financed factories, causing property losses of 240 million yuan (\$36.9 million). Two Chinese employees were injured. Most of the factories are in the textile and clothing industry where Chinese investment has created nearly 400,000 jobs. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 19-25/3/21)*

### **Three new warships for Chinese navy**

President Xi Jinping was present at the commissioning of three new ships for the PLA navy at Sanya, Hainan province on 24 April 2021. The ships are;- the Changzheng 18, a Type 09IV-A nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine,

the Dalian Type 055 guided missile destroyer and the Hainan, a Type 075 amphibious assault ship.

The Type 055 is the most powerful destroyer class in the PLA Navy. It is equipped with new types of air defence, missile defence and anti-ship and anti-submarine weapons. The Type 075 is China's first class of amphibious assault ship. It can carry helicopters and amphibious fighting vehicles. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 30/4-6/5 2021)*

#### **Air China expanding its fleet**

Air China is to buy 18 Airbus aircraft from AFS Investments, a subsidiary of US aircraft leaser GECAS in a deal worth about \$2.24 billion. The deal includes five A320-200 and 13 A321-200LRs. The actual transaction price is expected to be lower than the open-market price with concessions. The order shows the strong recovery of China's domestic air travel industry. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 9-15/4/21)*

#### **Chinese Dream of UK Oscar-winning director**

SHANGHAI, April 12 (Xinhua) -- Malcolm Clarke, a twice Oscar-winning director from the UK has a "Chinese dream" -- building a "bridge" with films connecting China and the West. Having worked in the film industry for more than 40 years, Clarke has travelled to over 80 countries.

In the 1980s, Clarke visited China for the first time. After nine months of traveling, the country left a deep impression on him as "a rural, poor and difficult place to be." However, when he returned in 2013 for a documentary on China-U.S. relations, he was taken aback by the extraordinary changes that had taken place. Towering skyscrapers, vibrant and energetic cities... the country has become "barely recognizable" to him. "The rise of China is the biggest going-on story of the 21st century," he told Xinhua in an interview on Thursday to mark the Shanghai release of a short film which tells of the great changes China has undergone since the reform and opening up through the eyes of people like Clarke. "No other country had achieved what China had in such a short span of time," he said.

The film release day also marked the one-year anniversary of the lifting of the 76-day lockdown in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, once hit hard by COVID-19. Clarke was one of those who experienced the epidemic in the city. After the outbreak of COVID-19, Clarke and his team took a risk and spent 55 days in Wuhan shooting a documentary, recording scenes from residents' daily lives and their fight against the epidemic. He was impressed by the quick and efficient epidemic prevention and control measures, like building makeshift hospitals. "People of my film crew were staggered and hugely impressed with what China had done against COVID-19," It is that we need to tell the world so more people will recognize China's contribution to the global fight against COVID-19. *(Xinhuanet 18/4/21)*

#### **Boao Forum for Asia (BOA)**

The BOA took place between 18 and 21 April 2021 at Boao, Hainan province in China. It was 'attended' by 2,600 delegates and 1,200 journalists from 60 countries. It was held on-line and thought to be the biggest on-line conference held in the world so far. Despite the pandemic,

60% of business owners were optimistic about the future. China's economy grew by 2.3% in 2020 compared to the -1.7% for the rest of Asia. However, this was still better than much of the rest of the world. Positive outcomes of the pandemic include a swift development of new business models involving online offices and remote education. *(From Beijing Review 20/4/21 online)*

#### **China's Martian Rover explores Red Planet**

Following a successful landing the rover, Zhurong began moving from its landing platform on 22 May. The Chinese Space Administration has received back videos of its landing its moving on the surface of the planet and carrying out scientific exploration. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 28/5-3/6 21)*

#### **Hainan to be global trade hub**

The island hosted the first China International Consumer Products Expo on 7<sup>th</sup> May in Haikou the capital. A total of 1,365 international brands in fashion, jewellery, lifestyle, food and professional services were showcased. Domestic brands included Huawei, Gree and iFlytek. International brands included Swatch of Switzerland, Dell from the US, Swarovski from Austria and L'Oreal from France. Over 200,000 visitors had been expected with 1,500 enterprises from 70 countries in this inaugural expo, which has become the largest boutique exhibition in the Asia-Pacific region. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 14-20/5/21)*

#### **President Xi visits Guangxi autonomous region**

The President conducted a three-day tour to Guangxi, the home of the Zhuang national minority people. He was there to support and encourage enterprises to innovate and to contribute to the country's high-quality development. High-quality development of the equipment manufacturing industry is a top priority and plays a vital part in the 14<sup>th</sup> Five-Year plan (2021-2025). Guangxi has the largest population of China's ethnic minorities and Mr Xi visited a cultural exhibition of the Zhuang ethnic group at a museum in Nanning. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 30/4-6/5 2021)*

#### **China denounces Xinjiang sanctions**

China's foreign ministry spokesperson, Hua Chunying responded to sanctions imposed by the US, UK, Canada and the EU. She maintained that they were not qualified to do this, especially when their acts are based on misinformation, fabrications and distortions of the truth. She added that the nations involved are in no position to lecture China when they themselves have such poor records of human rights violations;- the slave trade (10 million dead in transportation alone), the Holocaust (six million dead), the French in Algeria (5.5 million dead) the Germans in Namibia (100,000 dead), Canada (acts against indigenous people, especially children) and the recent wars in Libya, Iraq and Syria. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 26/3-1/4 2021)*

In a separate report, **three African envoys commended China's efforts to combat terrorism in Xinjiang.** Adama Compaore of Burkino Faso, Daniel Owassa of the Republic of Congo and Gafar Karar Ahmed of the Sudan all recognised China's efforts. The Sudanese Ambassador had visited Xinjiang three times. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 19-25/3/21)*

## **‘Together, We Are Stronger, Hand in Hand Fight Against Coronavirus’. The Experience, Sharing and Exchanges Between Chinese and British Doctors During the Period of New Coronavirus Pandemic**

There have been numerous exchanges between Chinese and UK medical staff which have not been extensively reported in the British press. The following three short reports are just a selection from a document issued by the Manchester Chinese Consul.

On April 8<sup>th</sup> 2020, Wuhan Central Hospital held an online conference with about 60 medical staff from various departments from Salford Royal Foundation Trust (NHS). The Wuhan doctors who had by this time brought the pandemic under control in China, especially stressed the importance of personal protection for medical staff, extensive treating and quarantine of infected people.

Xianning Central Hospital in Hubei province and York Teaching Hospital in the UK, held a ‘pandemic fighting experience’ sharing conference on April 16<sup>th</sup> 2020. It was between 11 doctors from China and the UK.

On 12 May 2020, Hubei cancer hospital joined with Christies Hospital in Manchester to commemorate International Nurses’ Day. An online seminar was held between 68 medical experts. A special feature was the issue of cross infections and four key steps were discussed. Wendy Makin, Medical Director (Governance and Professional Development) of Christies spoke highly of the event saying it was of great help to UK doctors.

When the pandemic hit Wuhan, the Mayor of Greater Manchester sent a message of support to the Governor of Hubei province and included some personal protective equipment. Later, when the pandemic reached Manchester the Wuhan authorities returned the support and provided medical supplies for Manchester hospitals and nursing homes. Wuhan and Manchester are ‘sister cities.

**NB.;** The allegation that Wuhan airport did not stop international flights at the onset of the pandemic was claimed to be inaccurate by Professor Daniel A Bell of Shandong University. In an interview on Youtube, he said that only humanitarian international flights took off.

### **Wuhan Heroes entertained a year after**

Red carpets were laid out for 20,000 medical workers and their families on accepting an invitation by Wuhan University. The group included 4,000 people from outside Hubei province. Last year more than 42,000 medical workers rushed to Wuhan and other cities in Hubei to help fight the virus. Wuhan University showed its gratitude by designating March 13 and 14 as special cherry blossom viewing days for medical workers. Some 1,500 students and teachers volunteered to act as guides and helpers. (*From China Daily Global Weekly 19-25?3/21*)

**NOTE;** China Eye No 67, Autumn 2020, reported that Chinese medical scientists published five papers in the medical journal, *The Lancet* in the **last week of January 2020**. They detailed the deadly highly infectious nature of

the coronavirus and the need for isolation and personal protective equipment. The information was from an interview by Bryan Appleyard with Richard Horton, editor of *The Lancet*, in The Sunday Times Magazine on 7 June 2021. The same information was stated in a YouTube report.

## **Building the Rule of Law in China**

The rule of law is a hallmark of human civilization's progress. The plan, issued by the CPC during January 2021 calls for efforts to resolutely adhere to the path of socialist rule of law with Chinese characteristics to build a rule of law during 2020-2025. A law-based governance in all areas must have overall, strategic and fundamental significance, as China embarks on a new quest to fully build a modern socialist country.

The overall objectives are effective checks and supervision of the exercise of power, full protection for legitimate rights and interests of the people and the establishment of faith in the rule of law. A system of distinctively Chinese socialist rule of law shall take shape by 2025 and be basically formed by 2035.

The plan puts forward reform and development measures in a range of areas, including comprehensive implementation of the Constitution and putting in place a complete system of laws, an efficient system for law enforcement, a rigorous legal supervision system, a strong system of legal guarantee, and a sound system of intra-Party regulations. China's sovereignty, security and development interests are safeguarded in accordance with the law.

This is the first special plan for advancing rule by law in China since its foundation. It is a guiding document for promoting law-based governance in China in the New Era and meets the people's new demands and expectations on democracy, rule of law, fairness, justice, security and the environment. (*From CTGN 11/1/21*)

## **Sinophile by Flo and Ivor Kenna**

From Beijing Review (BR) for 4<sup>th</sup> February, we learn that despite Covid-19, China remained the world's largest FDI recipient in 2020. In BR for 11<sup>th</sup> February, we see the quote, ‘The Chinese have a strong civic sense and understanding of the overall situation’. This reminds us of the communist saying, ‘The people lead, the Party makes them conscious’

Qinghai is known for its rich water, solar and wind power. Last year, clean energy sources accounted for 89% of the provinces total power generation. Another article shows how obesity in children is being tackled. The usual diet culprits are mentioned. No mention of a raw, organic and vegan diet though!

BR of 11<sup>th</sup> March announced, ‘China has remained the world's largest manufacturing hub for 11 straight years, accounting for 30% of the global manufacturing. It is easy to understand why the US does not like China. Its not the cheap labour. It's the more advanced technology.

In BR of 25<sup>th</sup> March, an article points out that. Though some people may have said there is so-called ‘genocide’ in Xinjiang, nobody has sworn an affidavit to that effect.

The top-level meeting between the US and China in Alaska was reported on BR of 1<sup>st</sup> April and in BR of 8<sup>th</sup> April, there

was a friendship feature, which the editor labelled, ‘The power of ping pong diplomacy’

Lastly BR of 15<sup>th</sup> April covered the Boao Forum for Asia, held at Boao in Hainan province between 18<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> April, which was amazingly well attended.

SACU has been provided with the following DVDs by the Chinese Consulate in Manchester. These are a great way to learn more about China and Chinese culture. If any SACU member want to borrow any of these DVDs please contact Walter Fung, China Eye editor.

Riding Rails in China: New Silk Road  
Cuisine on the Silk Road  
Secrets of China’s Forbidden City  
Chinese New Year  
Chinese Architectural Wonders  
Kungfu Motion  
Mysteries of China  
Designed in China  
Huizhou 2018  
China 2020: Putting People First-Always  
Marco Polo, a Very Modern Journey

### Fenfen Huang is seeking help for a film script

‘I am looking for single Chinese women around 40 from China with no children as well as British born/raised Chinese women around 40 with a mixed-race family, who would like to share your interesting and funny stories, for a chat for inspirations for a film script I am developing. Do you know anyone who might be interested?’

If you can help Fenfen please contact her on;  
[huang.fenfen@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:huang.fenfen@yahoo.co.uk)



Fenfen has helped SACU on a number of occasions at regional events and also the SACU AGM in 2004.

Here we see her at the North-West SACU Family Day event at Frodsham in May 2004. She is wearing an ethnic minorities costume and points out on a map of China the areas where ethnic minorities live in China.

### Chinese Martyr Tomb in Liverpool Anfield Cemetery by Walter Fung



The Friends of Anfield Cemetery have erected an information board to this monument to Yang Sou Zen

This large monument is in an old Chinese section in Anfield cemetery. It is to a Chinese Martyr ‘for a political purpose’, named Yang Sou Zen (Yang Shouren in pinyin). He was a follower of Sun Yatsen. When Yang heard that a revolution attempt against the Qing Dynasty, had failed in China, he drowned himself in the River Mersey at Crosby. He is likened to Qu Yuan, a Chinese patriot who jumped into the Milo River (a tributary of the Yangzi River) in 220 BC; Qu did not wish to see his country conquered. Qu’s followers raced to the river throwing food for the fish, so they would not eat his body. This act gave rise to the tradition of Dragon Boat Racing, now one of the most popular Chinese festivals.

Yang Shouren was also known as Yang Dusheng. He was on the run from the Qing Emperor’s agents and used different names. Many of his colleagues in the failed 1910 attempt, were killed and 72 are buried at Huanghuagang in Guangzhou China. During 1912, Dr Sun Yatsen was reported to have had a mausoleum built in Nanjing to commemorate Yang and others. Cai Chen, a SACU member did some research on the Chinese internet and found the site of the Special Hall of Yang and Zheng. It was in the private residence of Duan Fang, the Viceroy of Jiangnan and Jiangxi Provinces during the Qing Dynasty. The building was near the Taiping Gate on the banks of Xuanwu Lake. Possibly it does not exist now after the upheavals of war.

I was in Nanjing in October 2017 and tried to find the building but the address was only very approximate and I could not locate it. The area is now built up with modern buildings. Possibly it was within the grounds of the Nanjing Presidential Palace where Sun Yatsen took the oath of office in 1912.



Monument to 72 Martyrs at Guangzhou, Huanghuagang

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# The Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding

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