

China Eye 友

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

Autumn 2021

Number 71



Contents include:

Ivor Kenna-An Appreciation

CPC Turns 100

Report on Xinjiang

Poverty Alleviation in Guangxi

Ming Dynasty Festival Badges

Chinese Museums

Historical Account of Capital; China and England

SACU News and Reports of Events

Sino File and China Eye Diary

CHINA EYE

Autumn 2021 Issue No 71

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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

The Winter issue (Number 72) of China Eye will be available in early December 2021. Please send news or articles for inclusion before 20 November 2021 to Walter Fung, 11 Collyhurst Avenue, Walkden, Worsley, Manchester M28 3DJ. Tel 0161 799 6944, E mail; walter.fung888@btinternet.com

Front cover: Soong Ching-ling Statue at former residence in Beijing (WF)

Back cover: Xu Jiahui Cathedral, Shanghai (WF)

All photographs are by the authors except where stated.

(Soong Ching-ling was Madame Sun Yat-sen. She championed charitable causes and was an Honorary President of the PR of China.)

Welcome Autumn 2021

The main news item at present is Afghanistan. China has said that China encourages all factions in Afghanistan to build an open and inclusive political structure through consultation, implement moderate and prudent domestic and foreign policies, thoroughly dissociate from all terrorist groups and maintain friendly relations with the rest of the world especially neighbouring countries.

This July marks the **100th Anniversary** of the foundation of the Communist Party of China. Please see page 9 for some details of its organisation and method of government. This issue of China Eye also includes some important reports and views of Xinjiang.

More on Coronavirus

The Times on 30th June 2021, published a report which appears to support the Chinese view. **The virus did not come from the Wuhan laboratory. Dr Danielle Anderson, an Australian expert in bat viruses, who worked at the laboratory** for three years until November 2019, just before the pandemic started, said that she was not aware of any illnesses amongst her colleagues. There was 'no chatter', about illnesses and there was nothing strange going on. She said if people were sick, she would have been sick too because she shared a daily shuttle bus each day for a 20-mile commute with her colleagues. Furthermore, she lunched with them and socialised with them outside of the lab. She went to Singapore with many of them in December 2019 and even then, there was no word of illness. She has since been vaccinated against coronavirus, but before vaccination, she was tested and she had never had it.

Dr Anderson described the **rigid precautions** prevalent inside the Wuhan laboratory. She had a 45-hour training session before she was allowed to work independently. The training included containment and risk procedures whilst wearing air-pressurised suits. **Before leaving the facility researchers had to undergo a chemical shower and a second regular shower.**

It is disturbing that Dr Anderson has been targeted by conspiracy theorists after she exposed falsehoods about the pandemic. These precautions make a 'leak' highly unlikely because of scientific reasons. She has filed a report to the police about the harassment.

The re-investigation ordered by the US President into the leaked virus possibility has proved inconclusive. Some Chinese agencies demand that the US laboratory, Fort Detrick be investigated as a possible origin of the virus. Other reports claim evidence of the virus being present in several parts of the world, including Europe before the outbreak in Wuhan. It is not clear if these have been investigated or confirmed.

The Red Cross Society of China (RCSC) has supplied India with 61 cargo flights of medical supplies during May. In addition, RCSC will provide \$1 million in cash to the

Indian Red Cross society. Fosun Pharma of China has donated 150 ventilators, 20,000 oxygen generators and other medical supplies to India. (From Beijing Review 20/5/21)

Anglo-Chinese Understanding

The following few photos hope to convey the message that people in China are very similar to people in the West and life goes on much the same as it does in the West. Tourism to China (before Covid) was encouraged and in return Chinese people were encouraged to travel abroad. About 140 million did this in 2019 and all went home. People-to-people contact is important for understanding between nations of the world.



A pet shop in Nanjing. Pet ownership is growing in China



The recycling effort is very visible in China



A Chinese family enjoying a Sunday afternoon stroll in the gardens of the National Theatre and chatting to friendly police officers.

Sinophile; This issue of China Eye is the first one in 71 issues which does not contain a Sinophile column by Flo and Ivor Kenna. Ivor passed away in June; an appreciation of his life appears on pages 20-21.

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.

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
Send applications and renewals to SACU Membership Secretary, Ros Wong, 27 Portland Close, Bedford MK41 9NE. Mobile: 07906 956426, email: 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
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.

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
Website; 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

Facebook: facebook.com/sacu.uk

Twitter: 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

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

- 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)

SACU – NOTICE OF AGM

SACU's 2021 Annual General Meeting [AGM] will be held on Saturday 2nd October 2021

**At: 12.00noon on the rising of the preceding public event
In: venue tbc and via Zoom**

[we will include Zoom link and venue in a special AGM Members Newsletter]

SACU's AGM this year will be unusual in a number of different ways. It will be the first face to face meeting SACU will have held since the pandemic began. At the time of writing, we are exploring possible venues. Unlike previous years, our AGM this year has to be in a venue which has good wifi connections and excellent technology so that it is able to cope with people attending via Zoom. This is because we recognise that some people are still nervous about attending gatherings, so we want to offer attendance by Zoom too. We also need Zoom functionality because we will be involving people from China in our public event earlier in the day. And that is another difference from our usual AGMs – we will be holding this public event in the morning prior to our AGM meeting.

SACU's AGM will receive the Annual Report of the Council of Management and the Annual Accounts for 2020. This year we will also be recommending that SACU convert to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation [CIO] which is something that I've written about before. There will be a special resolution as set out below.

Notice of Special Resolutions

The following resolutions are proposed to this AGM and must be passed by a majority of at least 75% of those members casting their votes

- That the Society of Anglo-Chinese Understanding convert to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.
- That the new CIO constitution circulated to members with this notice and available to them at this meeting be adopted as the new constitution of the Society of Anglo-Chinese Understanding taking effect from the time of registration as a CIO by the Charities Commission.

In our special Members Newsletter, we will be circulating the following papers

- Annual Report of the Council of Management 2020
- Annual Accounts 2020
- Proposed Constitution which will become the Constitution for SACU once it is confirmed as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation CIO

Preceding Public Event

On: Saturday 2nd October 2021

At: 10.30am UK time

In: venue tbc and via Zoom

[we will include Zoom link and venue in a special AGM Members Newsletter]

This year our AGM will be preceded by a public event which we are delighted to have jointly organised with the Manchester Consul General of the Chinese Embassy. We are planning a joint event which we will host to mark the 110th Anniversary of the Chinese Revolution. We will bring together family members of Sun Yat-sen and James Cantlie who played such a critical role in helping Sun Yat-sen when he fled to London in 1896. The event will include

- Video footage of the Chinese locomotive in York Railway Museum [James Cantlie's son was advisor to Chinese railways]
- Zoom meeting between members of Sun Yat-Sen's family in China and James Cantlie's family members in UK: to be facilitated by Dr Frances Wood SACU Vice-President
- Speeches from
 - Embassy
 - Prof Michael Wood SACU President

Because of the time difference and to accommodate the availability of Sun Yat-sen's family the event is to be held at 10.30am UK time

This would be SACU's first in-person meeting since lockdown so we do hope people will join us in person but recognise that others may still prefer to attend by Zoom.

Looking forward to seeing you on 2nd October

Best wishes

Zoe Reed Chair on behalf of SACU Council

Other SACU News

New Council Members

Three new Council members have been co-opted on to the SACU Council. They are Jacob Holliday (secretary), Imtiyaz Basharat (treasurer) and Peter Farrer (Vice-chair (Programmes)). At the AGM, they will be formally appointed to SACU Council. They have a variety of skills and all have lived in China for a number of years.

SACU EVENTS

The SACU 2021 AGM is to be held on 2nd October in London. Please refer to the SACU email Newsletter.

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.

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

General information of SACU's programme of events is available on our website www.sacu.org.uk

The online reading group on May the Fourth New Literature organised by Michael Sheringham is now in progress. Two sessions have already been held. The group reads short stories and poems of the May Fourth/New Literature period (1920-30s), which are then discussed. The reading material, is disseminated in advance online for participants to read before the discussions. The first featured the work of Lu Xun, the second the writings and poems of Bing Xin.



The May 4th Monument in Qingdao, Shandong where the movement is reputed to have started

China's Path to Zero Poverty, a webinar held on 26th June 2021. Organised by the Friends of Socialist China and supported by the Geopolitical Economic Research Group

The Friends of Socialist China is a new platform based on supporting the PR of China, promoting understanding of Chinese socialism. Its website is edited by Danny Haiphong, SACU member Keith Bennett and Carlos Martinez. The aim is to consolidate the best articles and videos related to China and Chinese socialism together with original analysis.

The Geopolitical Economic Research Group is a policy institute at the University of Manitoba and run by Radhika Desai and Alan Freeman. It analyses and proposes policy alternatives for the interaction of national economies and states to promote human development and mutual benefit in today's multipolar world.

There were about 10 speakers from all over the world participating in the webinar chaired by Professor Raghika Desai of Manitoba University. She is a Professor of Political Studies and Director and Chair of the Geopolitical Economic Research Group based at Manitoba.

Speakers included; Michael Dunford (Emeritus Professor at Sussex University), John Ross (Chongyang and Renmin University) Tings Chak (Designer and Researcher, Canada and China), Li Jingjing (CGTN), Senator Mushahid Hussain, Chairman of the Pakistan Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Qiao Collective, a group of the Chinese diaspora challenging US aggression on China.

The key points made included highlighting the firm base achieved by the new Peoples' Republic of China (PRC) in the early years, 1949 to 1981. The emphasis was on the **'two insurances' of food and clothing and the 'three guarantees' of education, medical care and housing.** Evidence of the success are the improvement in life expectancy from 35 years in 1949 to 68 years in 1981 which was an amazing improvement of 33 years in such a short space of time. The population in the same period increased from 554.4 million to 1,014 million.

These were achieved in 32 years despite trade embargos imposed by the US. The improvement in life-expectancy in the short space of 32 years has no comparison in human history. The main emphasis was on primary education and health care. The emancipation of women was also a major achievement. Before 1949, foot-binding and the general low status of women was prevalent.

All of these very notable achievements laid the firm foundation for future growth and progress. China succeeded by clarity of policy and the quality of leadership.

The second phase began in 1978 when Deng Xiaoping introduced economic reforms; 'to get rich is glorious. The reforms produced a quantum leap in China's growth and prosperity. Data from the World Bank in world poverty alleviation shows the following figures relating to millions of people lifted out of poverty during the period 1978 to 2014; -

China, 853 million
India, 166 million
Indonesia, 113 million
Pakistan, 52 million
Sub-Saharan, zero

The lifting out of poverty of so many people would not have been without the increase in wealth and economic growth. Between 1978 and 2020, the average rate of growth, measured by GDP was 9.2% every year – which has never been achieved before by any country. In certain cases,

people have been relocated from inhospitable regions to areas where there are job opportunities, housing and medical facilities. The state is structured around the people, not just a capitalist few as in the US. There is a deep bond between the people and the Chinese government. Success would not have been possible without the cooperation of the people. The methods used by the PRC are lessons for the rest of the world

The Chinese Communist Party now numbers 92 million members. If it was a country, it would be the 16th most populous county in the world.

Probably the main challenge for the 'Friends of Socialist China' is the misinformation about China in the Western media. This was one of the reasons for the foundation of the group. The aggressive and hostile attitude of the US and allies are of concern. The important point was made that pre-pandemic, 140 million Chinese from the PRC travelled abroad and all went back home to China.

No Cold War webinar on 16 June 2021

This was yet another forum in the series. Again, speakers were from various organisations and from several different countries. They included, Martin Jacques, Anna Chen, Kate Hudson, Andrew Murray, Ben Chacko, Vijay Prashad and Li Jingjing. Some of the points made are summarised below.

Biden is as much anti-China as Trump, but people are more likely to listen to him. However, the US is deeply divided and hence he may not be able to carry out his programmes as much he would like. The rise of China, 'confronting China' is a central issue. The situation with China is nothing like the cold war with the Soviet Union, which was never a significant economic power. However, China is the major trading partner of about 140 countries.

Some Western countries were ruthless colonial powers and have no credentials to criticise China. Colonial misrule involved issues such as, food being diverted from starving civilians to the military during famine. There is also the issue of 'hidden' files on forced labour in African countries.

The UK support of US hegemony is damaging British industry and the British people. The money allocated to the military could be better spent, especially on education and public welfare. Many countries do not want to get involved with the anti-China issue, for example South Korea. The role of NATO ('North Atlantic' Treaty Organisation) is being expanded using China as the excuse.

The poverty alleviation programmes in China have been very successful and more children are going to school in areas such as Guangxi, Tibet and Xinjiang. There have been zero terrorist incidents in Xinjiang over the last four years.

The Covid-19 propaganda war is undermining the truth by trying to blame China. China published the genome very quickly and offered to share information. Many Western nations did not heed advice and some took no action for nearly two months after the outbreak became apparent.

SACU China Chat discussion on Xinjiang, via Zoom on 24 July 2021

The event was chaired by Jenny Clegg, a SACU Vice-president. A total of 36 people attended on-line. A short excerpt from a recent interview with Martin Jacques for Novara Media (available on You Tube) was shown as an introduction. He made the points that Uighurs are only one component of the total Moslem population of China. There is in fact a long history of Islam in China and in fact Zheng He, the famous explorer of the Ming Dynasty was a Moslem.

The word genocide, which conjures up the fate of native North Americans, native Australians, the Holocaust, events in Rwanda etc. is inappropriate for the events in Xinjiang. The scathing condemnation of alleged human rights abuses, against China is seen by some as an anti-China campaign and part of the containment of China policy initiated and led by the US. This campaign has been boosted by the work of Adrian Zenz, a 'fundamental Christian', on a mission against Chinese communism and campaigning for the victims of communism. Many of the reports of mass sterilisation, rape and torture emanate from his 'research'. The American politicians of both the Trump and Biden administration and Amnesty International appear to regard his reports as valid.

An excerpt from a video (also available on YouTube) produced by 'The Know Show' records Hussain Ayed interviewing Rachel Harris, a professor of Ethnomusicology at SOAS. Her husband is a Uighur and she was able to visit Uighur villages in connection with her research into Ethnomusicology. She has become involved in the campaigns against the alleged human rights abuses in the so-called internment camps.

Professor Harris believes 'terrible things' are going on in the camps and has met people who have been released or who otherwise managed to get out of the camps. These people confirm the alleged human rights abuses. Professor Harris does not doubt the 5000 Uighurs extremists fighting in Syria but she could not comment on them.

A video link was also supplied to a CNN video of an American film crew in Xinjiang. Amnesty International had input into this report which claimed mass incarceration, human rights abuses; separation of children from parents, rape, torture and sterilisation causing a reduction in population. Claims were made of interviews of hundreds of witnesses or victims who had managed to get out of the camps. The Chinese authorities said that these claims were baseless and preposterous and that the camps were necessary measures to prevent violent terrorism, radicalisation and separatism.

SACU member, John Baroch, who has worked in China as a visiting professor at Tsinghua University and the South China Technology University in Guangzhou, then shared his experiences of time spent in neighbouring Kazakhstan as well as Xinjiang. His main point was that there were no Uighur refugee camps in Kazakhstan as might be expected if

reports of genocide were true. The border, he observed was quite open with people moving freely between countries.

This was followed by a report by Keith Lamb, also a SACU member who has lived in China since 2006 and has visited Xinjiang twice. His reports are in China Eye Nos 69 and 70. After talking to Uighur and Hui people in Urumqi, the capital of Xinjiang, he reports that both Uighurs and Hui are horrified at the terrorist activity of a small group of Uighurs.

Keith has presented his views and observations in recent articles in China Eye. In the Aksu area there were predominantly Uighur policemen and civic officials, which directly conflicts with Western claims of racial subjugation. Although some Uighurs feel 'left behind' by developments many are supportive of the multi-ethnic Chinese state. They were proud to be Chinese and also proud of their Uighur nationality. They appreciate that Mandarin is the national language.

A new SACU member who is living in Nanning, China has also been to Xinjiang and has actually visited all of the so-called internment camps (please see his article on pages 17-18 of this issue of China Eye. He maintains that there are no 'internment' camps as such, only vocation training centres and no evidence of human rights abuses.

The point was made that the UK media frequently mention the Uighur 'camps' and alleged human rights violations, but rarely mention the terrorist incidents which were the root cause of the measures in Xinjiang. There is a large memorial to the victims of the terrorist attack in Victoria station, Manchester. A total of 21 innocent citizens were killed in Manchester. In China over 400 have died in numerous terrorist attacks, which were reported in UK newspapers. There were in fact many more such attacks all over China not reported in Western media. How would we in England react if there were 20 or more Manchester-like terrorist attacks?

The Chinese government denies the human rights abuse allegations believing them to be part of a slander campaign.⁷ In fact, it would not take too much funding to carry out a prolonged programme of slander and certainly not be beyond the means of agencies, which in the past, have orchestrated regime change in countries of the world and have dropped more bombs on Laos than were dropped on Germany during the whole of World War 2.

The Uighurs as a national minority people were not subject to the single child policy and it is believed they were allowed have three or more children especially in rural areas. The reduction in population claimed by Zenz, is believed to be explained by the creation of more jobs in the Hotan and Kashgar regions, which have been filled by young women, who would otherwise have married early and given birth to children,

There was some discussion of eyewitness accounts. The problems in Xinjiang are not all about terrorism. Han chauvinisms was mentioned; Mao was very critical of this. Muslims should not all be stereotyped as potential terrorists.

Mention was made of a recent report by a number of British academics which critically examined the allegations of genocide and crimes against humanity. They found Adrian Zenz's reports unconvincing and the methodologies employed inadequate.

Most of the media reports added little and were mainly reworkings of Zenz's articles. The report is being disseminated by Vince Cable, who believes it deserves wider readership. However, the authors wish to remain anonymous for fear of hate mail and risking security of tenure.

Various points of view and items of information were thus presented, but the situation remains very controversial and sensitive. Despite the allegations, it is believed that at present there is no legally acceptable evidence.

Footnotes

1) The US policy on maintaining their primacy is discussed in *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* by John Mearsheimer in Chapter 10, 'Can China rise peacefully', especially pages 367/368 and 387. (Norton, 2014). It makes very disturbing reading.

2) A Times leading article on 26th July makes the incredible statement that China aims to stamp out the practice of Islam. It claims that one million Uighurs out of a total of 10 million have been forced into prison camps. However, it does point out that the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) is conspicuously reticent on any matter that might meet with Chinese objections.

The OIC and none of its 57 member states have made any complaint about the Uighurs. In fact, two years ago, OIC commended China for providing care to its Muslim citizens.

3) The Times of 3rd April 2021, mentions Maxime Vivas, who has recently written a book, published three months ago in France. The book, *Ouighours, Pour en Finir avec les Fake News, (Uighurs, Putting an End to Fake News)*, in which he claims that the reports of genocide against the Uighurs result from a CIA inspired conspiracy.

An interesting letter to the Economist 20/2/21 regarding Chinese students is from Nicholas Chrimes, who was a SACU member for a few years. He is a guest professor at Guangzhou University and lectures Chinese students at Cambridge and across China.

He makes the point that Chinese students have an impressive desire to learn about British culture but the reverse is not true. Very few British students at Cambridge are learning Chinese. He advises that young British should be encouraged to learn about China and that political differences between the leaders of the countries should not inhibit this.

The Communist Party of China Celebrated 100 Years in July 2021



Shanghai; Site of First Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which celebrated 100 years in July 2021.

The CPC has been in governance for 72 years since the founding of the Peoples' Republic of China (PRC) in 1949. In that time 97% literacy has been achieved (about 30% in 1949), longevity has more than doubled to 77 years and about 850 million people have been pulled out of poverty. The standard of living of the entire population has improved immeasurably and about 400 million are now middle class, believed to be buying 47% of the luxury goods of the world. Many new cities have been built and new jobs created, amounting to an average of about 11 to 15 million new jobs together with housing every year for nearly four decades.

These achievements are unbelievable considering that at the end of World War 2, in 1945, about 95.4 million Chinese, nearly 25% of the population were refugees in their own country, which was then faced with a further four years of civil war, severe social economic problems and hyper-inflation. At the end of the civil war, China got hardly any help from Western countries and was not even admitted into the UN until 1971.

The Communist Party of China (CPC) now has over 95 million members. It represents all sectors of the population, in line with President Jiang Zemin's 'Three Represents'. Included in the CPC membership are blue collar workers and farmers (38%), technicians and skilled workers (6%), 40% of members have had higher education, cadres in State organs (8%), cadres in companies and service organisations (11%). Ethnic minorities make up about 7% of the CPC.

Female members make up 25% and there are 26% members under the age of 35 years. These figures are only approximations derived from information dated 2013 in *China's Political System* (Heilmann editor), Mercator Institute, 2017).

The most significant achievements followed Deng Xiaoping's reforms in 1978, 'it does not matter if the cat is

black or white, so long as it catches mice'. Ideology has continued to be flexible with Jiang Zemin's 'Three Represents', Hu Jintao's 'Scientific Outlook on Development to build a Harmonious Society' (Harmony, 和 is on every high-speed train) and more recently, Xi Jinping's 'Thoughts on Socialism with Chinese characteristics for a New Era'.



Tiananmen Square from CGTN news report (photographed from the TV screen)



The Birds Nest Olympic Stadium celebrates 100 years

This year, 2021 two key goals have been achieved; extreme poverty has been eliminated and China has become a 'moderately prosperous society in all respects.

The next key stage in China's development will be by 2035 to become a global technological leader and to cure some of the environmental degradations to become a 'Beautiful China', as stated by President Xi Jinping. The goal for 2049, the 100th Anniversary of the PRC, is for China to be 'a great modern socialist country and a world leader in all aspects.'

President Xi said, in a speech in November 2020, that it was 'completely possible to double the size of the Chinese economy by 2035.' A London-based consultancy firm has predicted that China's economy will exceed that of the US by 2028. (Actually, in purchasing parity terms, it already was about 25% larger than that of the US in 2020 according to the Economist.)

Research by McKinsey indicates that China will have a 600 million middle class by about 2025. This is only five years from now. China is already a leader in 5G mobile

communications, facial recognition, robotics, self-drive cars, drones, high-speed trains and new energy vehicles.

China spent \$379 billion on research and development in 2020 and there were four million university graduates of which 1.6 million were in scientific, technical or engineering subjects.

An article by Zhang Weiwei in Beijing Review of 13th May 2021 discussed and explained something of the system of government in modern China. The Constitution stipulates that the state shall serve the people and ‘uphold a fundamental economic system under which public ownership is the main stay and diverse forms of ownership develop together’. It adds that the state shall protect both public and private property rights. Today, over 90% of Chinese households own property rights.



Translation; There would be no New China without the Communist Party (Jiang Zemin)

Democracy in China guarantees people’s property and involves consultative democracy at all levels of social society. It makes the world’s most extensive use of public surveys on public policies and also solicits public opinion directly via the internet. The information is used to formulate five-year plans for the nation and for different localities. The plans are subject to hundreds of rounds of consultation at all levels of the state and society.

In addition, the Chinese Peoples’ Consultative Congress, an advisory body, represents all peoples in the PRC and makes proposals to the CPC. Also, there are eight other political parties, which have specific interests and which cooperate with the leadership of the CPC.

China’s democracy is not perfect, but it continues to evolve and even now outperforms some systems in other parts of the world. Examples are the containment of Covid-19 and other issues of direct concern to the general public such as medical insurance, pension facilities and environmental protection. Surveys, some carried out by Western agencies, (such as Pew Research and Edelman) over the last few years have repeatedly shown that about 90% of Chinese people believe China is on the right track. This is far higher than that of many Western democracies.

In addition, Dalia Research (based in Berlin) released a Democracy Perception Index 2020, showing that 73% of Chinese believed their county is a democracy, compared to 49% of Americans who believed the US is a democracy.

The Times of 20 August 2021 contains an article entitled, ‘It’s payback time’, President Xi tells China’s band of billionaires. It appears that measures are being taken to **tackle the wealth gap**. The richest 1% of Chinese people hold 31% of the country’s wealth. The Chinese leadership said it would ‘rectify the order of income distribution’ including ‘cleaning up unreasonable incomes and firmly eliminating illicit incomes.’

In addition to tighter regulations and possible tax reforms, Beijing is asking the rich to do more for charity, to ‘repay society’ in a ‘third distribution’ to contribute towards the goal of ‘common prosperity’ by 2035. It seems that those schemes will be voluntary for now, to encourage high-income earners to pay back more to society. Three years ago, there was a crackdown on high payments to celebrities and capping earnings for television productions. The actress Fan Bingbing agreed to pay a further \$129 million in taxes. More recently, the Times of 28th August reported that the Chinese actress and former Pravda model, Zheng Shuang has been fined £34 million for tax evasion.

President Xi believes the time is right for a refined version of ‘common prosperity’ and to create a more equitable society (not about ‘averages’) in which everyone has the opportunity to advance and accumulate wealth. Last year regulators launched an anti-monopoly investigation into the giant Alibaba corporation, resulting in a \$2.8 billion fine. Curbing monopolies provides opportunities for other companies and individuals to advance and hence this should contribute to a more equitable distribution of wealth.

Walter Fung

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

FESTIVAL BADGES OF THE MING DYNASTY by David Rosier

My previous article considered *Chinese Regulated Insignia of Rank* with the on the Ming Dynasty.

I will remain focussed on the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), China's penultimate dynasty, but looking beyond the regulations governing Court Costume. Informal wear at court was equally lavish and still full of appropriate symbolism. Unfortunately, surviving Ming examples are rare compared to the proliferation of Qing Dynasty examples. This is due to age, linked with fragility, plus the tradition of having formal court costume buried with the deceased.

My focus will be on a group of textile badges, outside the reach of the imperial regulations, which celebrated Festivals of the lunar year. Festival badges were produced primarily during the reign of *Emperor Wanli (1572 – 1620)*, a period noted for extravagance and flamboyancy. These badges are amongst the rarest of surviving textiles from this dynasty.

I am again indebted to Chris Hall, 'creator' of the World's leading private collection of Chinese Court textiles, who has generously allowed me access to his unique collection of Festival Badges, probably the largest accumulation of these incredibly rare textiles in the World.

Rituals and Festivals

Imperial rule was established by formation of the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BCE). The empire would be based upon a belief in the superiority of Han Chinese culture and the civilization it created. Traditional Chinese Court culture viewed costume as a symbol of identity which differentiated ethnic origins, social class, and political structures. For the nobility, courtiers, government and military officials, costume design and iconography reinforced a political philosophy based on a theory of, or desire for, cosmic order. The 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.

Central to the notion of 'Empire' was the the emperor's responsibility to create a balance between the forces of the natural world and the needs of his subjects, resulting in the harmonious order demanded by the Gods. Rituals and ceremonies were demanded of, and rigidly adhered to, by the Imperial Court. These activities symbolized the court's power to influence universal order.

In 1368 China restored a nobility, created from the numerically dominant Han Chinese, when the Ming Dynasty was established. This followed a peasant uprising that forced the Mongols to retreat to their homelands, so ending the Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368). There followed, under *Emperor Hongwu (1368-1398)*, a purging of what was perceived to be Mongol influence on Han Chinese Court Culture.

Central to court function was *The Lunar Calendar* which was divided into 2 halves:

- Winter to Summer Solstice – Male/Light/*Yang*
- Summer to Winter Solstice – Female/Dark/*Yin*

Lunar months were also divided into two:

- Light: new moon (waxing) to full moon on the 15th day. (*Yang*)
- Dark: full moon waning. (*Yin*)

Rituals, led by the emperor, fell on fixed calendar dates. They reflected the process of an Emperor fulfilling his obligations to his people. They were performed at 8 Sacred Altars located at strategic points around the Imperial Capital - Beijing after 1420. The most important altar being the Temple of Heaven.

Festivals were a vital part of Chinese culture but were normally celebrated by the masses as well as the Court. They were either linked to the lunar cycle (normally celebrated in the Light phase of a month) or related to solar events and/or Chinese mythology.

Emperor Wanli (1572-1620)



Emperor Wanli was the 14th, and longest serving, emperor of the dynasty. He ascended to the 'Dragon Throne' aged 10 and for the next decade he ruled jointly with his Regent, Zhang Juzheng. The period to 1600 was one of reform, entitled '*Abiding by Ancestors Rules*', and became known as '*Wanli's Renaissance*'. It was characterised by economic, political and cultural successes. In 1601, however, Wanli stepped away from the mechanics of ruling the

empire having become disenchanted with the Confucian orthodoxy of his officials and his failure to determine his 3rd son as his successor. His actions are seen as the trigger for dynastic decline resulting in overthrow in 1644.

Festival Badges of the Wanli period

The Wanli Court produced some of the finest textiles of the dynasty. Sumptuous court costume was created by gifted artisans in the Imperial Silk Manufactories. The economic success of the *late 16th Century* resulted in excesses at court of which Festival Badges were an important example. No regulations defined these badges, it was simply a desire to not just visually celebrate a Festival but to flaunt the wealth of the wearer.

Very few examples of badges exist prior to this period which can be attributed to a specific festival and the approach ceased after 1620. Qing Emperors did not create festival costume, although robes worn on specific festival dates often carried additional appropriate symbolism. Festival Badges (worn front and back) incorporated the 5 colours of the Cosmos (white, red, green, yellow, and black) representing Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. Symbolism also provided linkage to the 5 Elements (metal, water, wood, fire, and earth). Dragons, the personal emblem of the emperor, were no longer mandatory and only featured if relevant to the specific festival.

Badges were either a roundel (Heaven/immortality) or a square (Earth & mortality), which was usually, but not always, a clear indication of the status of the wearer. The 5 cosmic colours were deployed together with a range of appropriate auspicious symbols

such as lotus and peony (longevity) and coral, bolts of silk and pearls (wealth). The central design would be directly linked to the particular festival and were often visual puns, plus allusions.

The following festivals are the most important in the calendar. Interestingly, despite the prevailing prosperity, badges were often created that contained symbolism of 2 related festivals. This certainly became important as the reign went into economic decline. The lack of design regulations means we cannot be certain who would have worn a specific badge. Given the quality of production, however, it is clear that badges would have been reserved for the nobility and selected senior courtiers. Lesser quality versions of these badges may have existed, for use by the general population, but I am not aware of any surviving examples.

Major Festivals of the Year

Lunar New Year (LNY)

This was the most important festival and fell on the first moon of the Lunar Year, the second moon after the Winter Solstice. It is seen as the advent of spring and a time to give gifts, settle debts and clean the home. This marked the start of 2 weeks of celebrations where it was regarded as unlucky to conduct any business.

Fig:1 shows a *Mang* (4 clawed) dragon surrounded by symbolism for the LNY plus the **Lantern Festival** which ended the celebrations on the 15th day of the new year.

The **LNY** is represented by:

- Double Gourd – symbol of wealth and good luck
- Shou Symbol – a longevity symbol
- Auspicious symbols related to abundance and fertility



Fig:1
These badges would have been worn by the emperor and empress, nobility, and senior officials.

Lantern Festival (Yuanxiao)

This festival was a feast for the first full moon,

which brought the **LNY** celebrations to a close.

Fig:2 is an imperial yellow silk roundel that has the lantern as the central design with 2 vertical *Lung* (5 clawed) dragons confronting each other. Within the lantern there are auspicious motifs of coins, peaches, axes and chrysanthemum.

The design is suggestive of a roundel created for the emperor.



Fig:2
Dragon Boat Festival (Duanwuju)

This festival fell on the 5th day of the fifth month and is associated with the

Summer Solstice. The *Yang* half of the year moved to the *Yin* period.

Offerings were given to the '*Dragon River God*' who ensured that there was adequate, but not excessive, rainfall for the crops. It is the most dangerous of climatic times and is associated with diseases as represented by the '*5 Poisons*' (centipede, scorpion, toad, lizard and snake). These, however, were countered by the '*Spirit Tiger*' who had power over evil spirits and could cleanse the environment (**Fig:3**).



Alternatively, the Peony is portrayed flanked by artemisia and calamus which neutralises the poisons (**Fig:4**). The peony is the symbol of spring changing into summer.



The Cowherd and Spinning Maiden Festival (Qi Xi)

This festival fell on the 7th day of the seventh month and relates to the myth of an ox herder who married the spinning maiden, daughter of a deity, who then neglects her duties. As a punishment the couple are separated and live in the constellations Aquila and Lyra. They could meet on only one night of the year when Magpies, symbols of love and marriage, form a bridge. Fig:5 illustrates their annual meeting.



Fig:6

The back badge is often of a different design. Here the *Queen Mother of Heaven/Moon Goddess* is attended by 2 courtiers with the court roof and moon in the background (Fig:6)

The addition of 3 rabbits linked the design with the next festival, **The Mid-Autumn or Moon Festival**. Badges could therefore be used for both events.

The Mid-Autumn Festival (Zhongqiujie)

This festival is celebrated on the 8th day of the eighth month when the moon is furthest from earth. Rabbits were often featured with a

mortar and pestle, grinding the Elixir of Life. The rabbit lived in The Moon Palace and guarded the Elixir of Life.



Fig:7

Rabbit only symbols were restricted to badges worn by women and eunuchs. Fig:7 is a 15th Century example making it one of the earliest known festival badges.

Chrysanthemum or Double Ninth Festival (Chongyang)

This festival fell on the 9th day of the ninth month (Autumn Equinox).

The chrysanthemum is the flower of autumn and a sun symbol. arrangements were displayed at court and a wine was created from their flowers. Badges, as in Fig:8, display a large Lung dragon surrounded by chrysanthemums together with symbols related to good fortune and wealth (multi-coloured jewels and ruyi). The red silk ground reflects the colour designated for this dynasty.



Fig:8

Calendar Festival (Banli)

This is a lesser-known festival that fell on the first day of the 10th month.

Lunar cycles were associated with solar movement which in turn dictated the timing of state ceremonies so that they fell on auspicious dates. Occasionally, there were problems reconciling the calendar so necessitating an additional month.

Once decided an Imperial Edict, issued on this festival, would confirm the calendar for the following year.



Fig:9

Fig:9 is a design unique to the Wanli reign. A dragon, representing the emperor, surrounded by the swastika, Wan and Shou symbols which were wishes for happiness and immortality. The green silk ground is symbolic of 'new life'.

Solar Festival of the Winter Solstice

The penultimate festival fell on the 21st day of the twelfth month, the Winter Solstice, which was the emperor's Official Birthday.

Birthday badges were created for the emperor's natural and official birthdays and were decorated with shou symbols (longevity), Lingzhi fungus (immortality) and swastika wan symbols – 'May you live 10,000 years'.



Badges featured a front facing Lung Dragon on a yellow silk ground (Fig:10). The flaming pearl is issuing from the breath of a white goat, a male Yang symbol, indicative of the year moving to the male/light/Yang phase.

Fig:11 is a Badge for an Official Birthday with a design unique to Emperor Wanli.

The Wan and Shou symbols are above a deer or goat which signifies a wish for 10,000 years of life, wealth, and good fortune. Flowers of the four seasons are also incorporated.



Kitchen God Festival

The final festival of the year fell on the 24th day of the twelfth month.

The Kitchen God reported to the Jade Emperor (supreme deity) on the behaviour of each family member during the past year. I am unsure if this festival ever warranted a specific badge or, if it did, the appropriate symbolism.

This concludes a review of major Chinese festivals. The Wanli Badges of the Ming Dynasty provide us with a unique insight into the symbolism and iconography of these cultural events.

Thanks to the tenacity of Chris Hall in tracking down so many surviving examples over the past 40 years we can appreciate how uniquely spectacular these would have been to wear.

China Eye Diary

This year (2021) is the Year of the Ox. Years are in a sequence of twelve animals: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig in this order.

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

Chinese Festivals for 2021

21 September, Moon Festival
1st October, China's National Day (week's holiday)
14th October Chong Yang (Chinese Elder's Day)

A Historical Materialist Account of Capital in the Parallel Development of England and China.

Ed Conduit



Historical materialism starts from how most people obtain food and other necessities, rather than concentrating on ideas or leaders. The picture of Heshen, Chief Grand Councillor to the Qianlong court, is included at the beginning as a symbol of the pointless accumulation of surplus

The economic decline of China might be illustrated by comparing two well-known historical events: the treasure ships of Zheng He in the 15th century and the Macartney Embassy of 1792. Treasure ships were a diplomatic strategy of winning suzerainty from other countries. Zhu Di had a very prosperous empire in the 15th century and could afford such a massive fleet. Imperial maritime ambition was thwarted by land invasion, so the new emperor Zhu Gaozhi stopped treasure ship repair in 1424. The fleet's furthest reach was Madagascar, though some may have been carried by storms even as far as Australia and the Americas. Gavin Menzies's book "1421" gives an entertaining account of world exploration, though most of it turns out to be fiction.

Qianlong's resistance to a trade deal with England in 1792 shows Chinese avoidance of the inevitable intrusion of world capital. The emperor Qianlong had been politically canny in his dealings with Portugal and the Papacy. In the 17th century China had come to a limited accommodation with the Portuguese. Another Jesuit from Italy, Matteo Ricci, had become fluent in Mandarin and aided the Imperial court, for example by creating the Kunyu Wanguo Quantu, a 1602 map. He endorsed the emperor by interpreting the Chinese belief about the "mandate of heaven" as compatible

with Catholicism. However, Pope Clement XI condemned Chinese religious practices so the Kangxi Emperor (r. 1661–1722, Manchu, Qing dynasty) expelled Jesuits in 1715. Portugal was also an empire in serious decline and papal authority did not carry much weight in the new mercantile powers. Qianlong tried to deter the new "barbarians", who were desperate to sell manufactured goods in exchange for tea. The usual story of this meeting is in terms of "clash of cultures" and the symbolism of the kowtow. A materialist perspective would be of the clash between wealth derived from land and profit derived from investment of capital. While Heshen was no doubt the most successful embezzler in history, the more startling fact is that the empire did not notice that the entire surplus of China for 15 years had become personal wealth. That surplus could have been invested in steam pumps or better steel methods, making China less vulnerable to rapacious imperial powers in the 19th century.

China's attempt to contain foreign contact designated a single port far from the capital. Under Qianlong Emperor, traders became officially sanctioned as a monopoly known as the Cohong, known informally as "Hoppos". They operated from the Thirteen Factories located on the banks of the Pearl River outside Canton after 1760. Chinese were forbidden to teach foreigners the language. Land contact with Beijing was not allowed. "Five Counter-Measures Against the Barbarians" were published. There was sea trade with Indonesia but not much. Various Europeans tried to get through the trade wall. The 'Flint Affair' referred to sailing to Zhejiang in 1755, despite warnings and Flint was kept under arrest in Macau for three years.

The Jiaqing Emperor in 1816 dismissed a British embassy for their refusal to kowtow, but he sent them an apologetic letter with gifts, which the British simply discarded unread. Some Europeans, notably the Dutch East India Company representative, Isaac Titsingh were willing to kowtow in 1794. The British were impatient with antiquated imperial diplomacy: the Qianlong Emperor granted Lord Macartney a golden scepter, an important symbol of peace and wealth, but this was dismissed by the British as worthless.

Meanwhile the industrial revolution in Britain was proceeding at a pace. kowtowing to picture of King George was suggested in 1792, the UK monarchy was mainly a symbol by this time. The king was not a supreme ruler although Britain had an "empire" and Victoria would later be promoted to "Empress". Investors had the power and landowners were less important. Merchant capital created an insurance industry, because of the sizable risk of ships being lost. British wealth came from many trade ships carrying sugar, rubber, tobacco, cotton and tea. These commodities, produced by low-cost labour in the colonies was sold for big profit in England. Industrial- scale manufacture allowed goods be made more cheaply and new customers found in the colonised world. Weaving experienced growth in productivity with the spinning jenny and the flying shuttle. Human-powered looms were replaced by water power after 1792 and then by Boulton and Watt's steam engines. Cotton cloth became much cheaper and could be sold even in low-earning India. It would probably have been competitive with Chinese hand-woven cloth had Qianlong permitted it. While

loads were still carried by coolies in China, manpower in England was being replaced over the centuries by wind and water mills, horses and steam power. When a commercially viable steam railway was introduced in 1830, steam-powered ships, belt-driven factories and electricity generation followed rapidly.

In the 18th century the harvesting of tobacco and cotton in the Americas and sugar in the Caribbean was very labour-intensive, so slavery was introduced soon after the American colonies were founded. The average cost of a slave in the USA increased from \$300 in 1804 to \$800 in 1861. Return on capital in commodities was being improved by faster transport, mechanisation and soil improvement. French capitalists had lost their Caribbean estates after Waterloo in 1815 but discovered that sugar could be obtained from beet. "Slaves as property" was brought into sharp focus by the insurance claim by the owners of the Zond: although they were property, throwing people into the sea for insurance claims is insurance fraud, as murder cannot be an insured risk.

The Slavery Abolition Act was passed in 1833 and paid substantial money to the former slave owners, but nothing to the newly liberated people. Slave owners were paid approximately £20 million in compensation in over 40,000 awards for people freed in the colonies of the Caribbean, Mauritius and the Cape of Good Hope. English entrepreneurs were disposing of worthless assets, who then had to feed themselves. The principle of "privatising profit and socialising loss" is similar to what happened when the UK government became the "lender of last resort" to British banks in 2008. In 1833 loans equivalent to 40% of GDP were raised by borrowing from private capital, a public debt issue which continues in 2021.

Steel was becoming the main stuff for construction in the industrial revolution. Although quench-hardened steel had been known in China since the Warring States period (403–221 BC), the quality of European steel was continuously improving as better ways were found of removing the impurities in the iron ore. Swedish Oregrounds ore was recognised as the best. In Coalbrookdale in England in 1720 the cementation method added carbon to the steel in the blister process. This was the state of the art until the Bessemer process of 1855. Steel ships with steam power would prove decisive against Chinese bamboo and wind in the Opium wars.

The Macartney mission 1792 was prompted by Dundas of the East India Company (EIC), then home secretary. The goals of the mission included the opening of new ports for British trade in China, the establishment of a permanent embassy in Beijing, the cession of a small island for British use along China's coast, and the relaxation of trade restrictions on British merchants in Guangzhou (Canton). Macartney's gifts included clocks, telescopes and weapons using steel. Birmingham made special silver-plated steel ("contre-fait") very cheaply. From Macartney's viewpoint, specimen manufactured goods were being offered to attract new purchasers in China. From the Chinese point of view, they were "inferior tribute", not the subordinate country's special goods for an emperor. 貢 *gong* 'tribute' was expected

from barbarians. Chinese 给 *gei*, the giving of an object that only the donor can give to a recipient who acknowledges suzerainty, is well-described in the lacquer cup episode of BBC R4 "history of the world in 100 objects".

Qianlong might have seen that the industrial revolution was coming in 1792 and used China's trade surplus to make strategic purchases: steam engines, steel plants and designs for mills and warships. China could have trained engineers and encouraged entrepreneurs, opened language schools, licensed foreign factories, and thus created a pool of capital. But Qianlong might be compared with the Romanov tsar who was equally ineffectual when faced with enormous challenges. Qianlong rebuffed the embassy and continued to insist on payment in silver, which merely accumulated as the corrupt wealth of Heshen, the Chief Grand Councillor and most trusted Manchu official in the Qianlong court. He is remembered as the most corrupt official in Chinese history, acquiring for himself over his career property worth 1,100 million taels of silver, equivalent to the imperial revenue of the Qing government for 15 years.

Amazingly, no-one seemed to notice Heshen's 40 tableful's of solid-gold eating utensils, 100,000 porcelain vessels, 460 European clocks and 600 women in his harem. Macartney, though himself an aristocrat, noticed the stoicism of the Chinese poor but also their resentment of the Mandarins. Heshen's embezzlement of funds intended for flood prevention on the Yellow River led to famine and death. Purchase of some English steam-powered pumps might have helped.

The Japanese went through a similar struggle against the more developed powers in Europe and America. They watched with dismay the impoverishment of China, Perry's black ships in 1853 and the attentions of the British Royal Navy. They decided their best option was to become an imperial power. In the Meiji period of 1868 students were sent to learn from the adversary and brought back plans for a navy on the British model, an army on the US model and medicine on the German model. They were emboldened by an early success in a naval war against Russia and opted to build their own empire. Japan expanded into Korea and China became Japan's main target 'colony' in the 1930s, with enormous brutality. Japan depended on its colonies for steel and oil, which President Roosevelt stopped.

Historians find it difficult to say who actually wielded power in 1930s Japan. The emperor had been elevated to God-like status but was actually powerless. Politicians were constantly in fear of assassination. The real power was military, though the army and navy were rivals to some extent. Whoever made the risky decision to confront the USA militarily, it proved disastrous. Japan's imperial strategy was abruptly ended in 1945 when it became integrated in the US economic sphere.

China missed an opportunity in 1792 and became the economic sphere of several imperialist economies. It would emerge in 1947 and finally start its own industrial revolution. Capital in China and Britain at the present time will be considered again in future articles.

Poverty Alleviation in China -Guangxi (Part 1) by James De Burghe

James is a new SACU member living in Nanning, Guangxi province in China. He first visited China in 1987 and has lived there permanently since 2004. He served as the UK voluntary Consular Warden for Guangxi province for five years and was the legal agent for Guangxi investment promotion to both the UK and the US. He is now a voluntary member of the Chinese poverty alleviation programme. James has witnessed, at first hand, the real progress that has been made, progress, which is not always faithfully reported in Western media.

When I arrived in China in 2004, I almost immediately became involved in encouraging foreign investment in Guangxi province, one of the less well-developed areas of China. In order to review projects and write informative briefings for potential investors I travelled widely throughout the province. In the remote western areas close to Yunnan I visited villages that had never before seen a European. The countryside itself was stunningly beautiful, in this mountainous region every valley could be called a Shangri-la. At that time the only industry in these areas was agriculture and was totally dependent upon man and ox power. Land was ploughed by ox teams and harvests were planted and reaped manually. As a result, thousands depended for their living on agriculture and were living at best on sub-standard earnings.

Housing stock was mainly old and dilapidated with no running water supply, and sewage was usually drained into the village lake which was full of carp that were fished to add to the protein diet of the community. Medical services were rudimentary or non-existent. Education at the village school was run by a single teacher in a large unheated shed without electricity. Having said of all of that the people were happy and convinced that their lot would improve, they had great faith in the central government.

In the major cities I visited it was already clear that new industries were moving into the area and everywhere I looked new construction was taking place as factories and apartment blocks sprang up all around. The city of Laibin serves as a good general example of what was happening to all the cities in Guangxi. With a new, youthful and well-educated mayor it was transformed in 5 years from a poor place with high unemployment into a modern city with modern factories and offices a new university, shopping malls, state of the art hospital three new colleges of further and vocational education and had attracted a dozen or so foreign companies to set up there. You may not realise it but the majority of the UK football teams stripes are manufactured in Laibin. Unemployment sank to 0.02% of the working population and real wages rose by 200%.

In a 2007 meeting with Guangxi Government, I asked what was going to be done for the farming communities in Guangxi, especially those in the remote areas of the western side of the province. The answer was clear and forthright, I will bring it down to bullet points below;

In order to modernise farming and improve the living standards of farming communities it was considered that this strategy was followed;

- Mechanisation was an essential component of the modernisation process. However, it was likely to reduce the need for agricultural workers by up to 85%.
- It was therefore critical that before the modernisation process kicked in, a full programme of re- training and re housing redundant agricultural workers was completed.
- Of equal importance these re-trained workers needed to be able to find well paid work that improved their living standards in a tangible way.
- It was therefore imperative to continue to attract new industries to the province and increase the efficiency of its traditional industries.
- The regional cities of the province would all be required to accept the redundant agricultural workers from their surrounding agricultural counties. Each city would be required to provide the education, housing and employment needs of these workers.
- Once these steps had been taken then the modernisation process would fully kick in. It not only meant the re location of the workforce but relied upon a totally new agricultural logistics and transportation system that would, of itself, create tens of thousands of new jobs.
- The farming villages would be reconstructed with modern housing, sewage treatment works, proper schools, a medical centre and a village hall that could be used for meetings, sports or as a cinema. Along with a huge satellite dish that enabled the village to receive television and internet services. Electricity was supplied by extending the provincial grid to the villages and replaced the old diesel generators that could only supply power for basic lighting and was expensive to run.
- To complete the picture a new series of motorway networks and connection roads would ensure that the villages had better road communication with the rest of the province and that crop losses in transit were reduced significantly.

Coming from the UK I expected this programme to take decades to complete, but in reality, it was fully completed by 2016. Guangxi became one of the major producers of fruit and sugar in China and saw the development of freed trade areas that served the ASEAN partners of China. Tourism and the development of coastal resorts boomed. Guangxi also became a centre for the development of General Aviation in China. Its motor industry in partnership with Renault has become a major worldwide supplier and it has developed electric vehicles from the bus down to family cars that are sold worldwide.

City populations have expanded to accept the influx of redundant agricultural workers and their families. Nanning the capital city of the province had a population of around

2.8 million in 2004 by 2017 its population had increased to 7.13 million.



Building a new university



New vocational buildings



Furniture made by village craftsmen

This was the first phase of poverty alleviation in Guangxi. All told around 12 million redundant workers were re-trained and rehoused at public expense. Their Children now had access to modern well-equipped schools, their teenagers had access to a university education and both real income and disposable income increased to the average level of Guangxi city dwellers. Average family monthly income of the remaining agricultural workers increased from 1200 yuan per month in 2009 to 5300 yuan per month by 2015. Agricultural output increased by 73.4% over the same period.

This was the first phase of poverty reduction in Guanxi, the second part will follow in the Autumn issue of China Eye.

Report on Xinjiang by James De Burghe

Xinjiang covers a huge area, about three times the size of France. Much of the area is hostile terrain and the long distances between the villages outside of the big cities had led to poor education levels. In some cases, these poor education levels were exploited by extremists to incite violence which in turn led to even poorer education resources from 1990 to 2014. Fears of violence had deterred investment in the region and frightened away existing business leading to increased unemployment. In addition, the gradual mechanisation of the cotton-picking industry led to further levels of high unemployment.

Terrorists including separatist groups and religious extremists carried out numerous acts of terrorism resulting in hundreds of deaths and thousands of people being wounded. Some details of these attacks were detailed in the last issue of China Eye, No 70, Summer 2021, pages 12-13..

The nationwide poverty alleviation programme being carried out in China became urgent in Xinjiang because reducing poverty would also lead to a reduction in terrorist activity. There was a need to revitalise Xinjiang which is rich in minerals, oil and gas. Indeed, some analysts believe Xinjiang could become the second richest province in China over the next decade.

Vocational training institutions were organised to provide people with instruction and skills for new jobs and also to complete their education where necessary. Community education schemes were set up for young people who had become members of disaffected groups. Rather than being seen as criminals, they were treated as if they were the victims of extremist views. Generally, this policy has worked well.

Not only has there been an overall reduction in poverty but there has not been a single terrorist incident for the past four years. These education and training schemes have been described in the West as 'internment camps', where torture, sterilisation and genocide of the Moslem population are taking place,

Tour of inspection

A number of foreigners in China were invited to undertake an inspection tour of Xinjiang in March 2021. I was contacted by e mail by the Provisional government asking if I was prepared to go. The options were to join a large group or to travel and inspect independently. I accepted this invitation and I chose to travel independently with a translator/interpreter of my own choice. I had an ID Card and a permit and was allowed access to visit any of the so-called internment camps at random. I flew to Kashgar and began my tour from there. I visited all 47 locations listed as internment camps by foreign claimants. I interviewed over 200 people including 14 prisoners in state prisons. In the entire 8 weeks I spent in Xinjiang. I found not a single shred of evidence that supports claims of mass internment, forced

sterilisation, torture or genocide of the Moslem population. I have donated all the video recording, sound recordings and photographs of this trip to China Watch who are in the process of producing a feature length documentary about Xinjiang.

Vocational schools

Clean modern buildings, well supplied with teaching aids, teachers, canteen and leisure facilities. The dormitories were comfortable air-conditioned spaces with television. Male and female student dormitories were in separate buildings. Students were free to go home at weekends. Students were eager to speak and be heard. Such anger as existed was directed at those countries that slander these establishments. Spiritual rooms are provided for Moslems, Christians and Buddhists.

Youth Detention facilities

There are only two of these in the province. They are much the same as the vocational schools but have added security both on entry and between the various facilities. They are reserved for young people under the age of 21 who committed extreme violence and murder. Many of these young people had been in Jihadist camps from the time they were toddlers the job of the staff is to undo the hate teaching these young people have been subjected to all their lives. My interviews with inmates were very moving and I was surprised that only 1 person out of 203 I spoke to was still supporting extremist views.

Prisons

Prison conditions were better than I expected, clean modern cell blocks, prisoners are housed in single or double cells. Bathing facilities are communal but prisoners are given access to showers and washrooms 16 hours of the day. I interviewed prisoners at random and found most were insistent that they had been foolish to end up in prison and praised the educational and rehabilitation facilities open to them. Two were unrepentant and believed that they had served the will of God. There was no evidence of cruelty, torture or any other abnormal treatment. Prisoners spend their day attending classes designed to help them gather skills and rehabilitate them when they leave prison. All prisoners are allowed to have family visits. All prisons provide spiritual support for the three major religions of the area.

The general public

Without exception in town or village, people were happy with the progress and the improvement of their lives. shopping areas were busy and new shops occupied the sites that had been empty when I visited 2 years before. What anger there was directed at the USA and Australia for slandering their province. I spoke to hundreds of people both formally and informally and found a tremendous pride in the achievements of their province and solid unity with the concept that they are part of China.

My conclusions were that the Chinese government and its various agencies have done a good job in the two key tasks of removing violence and poverty. That the accusations made about Xinjiang by foreign governments is baseless

propaganda. Within China that foreign propaganda backfires as it leads to stronger desires to cut links with the countries that foster and support it.

Chinese Museums (中国博物馆)

Walter Fung

China has a determined programme to protect, preserve and display its history and culture. According to the Wikipedia there were 3,589 museums run by the state, provincial governments or universities. In addition, there were 535 private museums. These figures are well out of date, I heard recently that there are about 5,000 museums in China and a new one opens virtually every day.

I was surprised to discover that there are 20 museums devoted to the Overseas Chinese, the Chinese diaspora. I have always been aware of some, but not that many. The main Overseas Chinese Museum is in Beijing. The others are generally in the provinces from which they left China to 'sojourn' or settle overseas. These provinces include Guangdong, Fijian and about five others. A recent book by Changbai Wang, of Westminster University, describes, classifies and analyses these particular museums in China. There are also many Overseas Chinese museums outside of China – but these are for another day and another article!

A notable private museum – rather 'museum cluster' is the Jianchuan Museum Cluster founded by Mr Fan Jian-chuan in Anren, about 30 km south-west of Chengdu. When I visited the 'cluster' in 2009 there were 10 individual museums. I believe the target was for a total of 18; maybe this has been extended since. The 'cluster', includes 'Hero Plaza' which is a large collection of life-sized statues of both Nationalist and Communist leaders, including Chiang Kai-shek, who fought the Japanese,

Nanjing Museum is exceptionally impressive. Lonely Planet describes it as 'massive'. However, size is not everything. The spacious museum has extensive facilities for disabled people, wheelchairs and even for blind people. It has an enormous 'historic street' in the basement, which seems to go on and on. Larkhill Place in Salford and the York Museum historic street are miniscule by comparison. There is also a historic street and a huge collection of model historic houses in the Shanghai Museum in the lower floors of the Shanghai Pearl Tower.

There are many other museums commemorating historic figures and historic events, e.g., Zheng He, the navigator in Nanjing. Weihai has naval museums and one includes the story of the Chinese Labour Corps of World War 1, who were mainly recruited in Shandong. They began their journey to Europe from Weihai.

There are also many specialist museums, for example the National Tea Museum in Hangzhou, the Opium Wars Museum near Guangzhou and the Science and Technology Museum in Shanghai.

One of the first modern museums in China was the Shaanxi History Museum in Xi'an. Amongst its exhibits are details of the Terracotta Warriors and how metal alloys were developed for specific applications. The list of museums, historic places etc is endless. Large cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Guangzhou and others have large numbers of museums and historic places. China's history goes back 5,000 years so there is much to record. China is noted for its contribution to the progress of mankind. Not just the 'Four Main' discoveries of the compass. Printing, paper and gunpowder but also countless others. For more information look up the works of Joseph Needham who has recorded the discoveries of China in his monumental work, *Science and Civilisation in China*, presented in over 24 volumes. A short summary is presented in *The Genius of China*, by Robert Temple (Prion, 1991).

The best-known museum in China is the Palace Museum also known as the Forbidden City but in Beijing there are many more wonderful museums; the National Museum, the Military Museum. China now has as many UNESCO World Heritage Sites as Italy, the former leading country. Undoubtedly many more UNESCO sites will be declared in China in years to come as archaeologists and historians uncover more evidence of China's rich history.



The Jewish Museum in Shanghai



Xinjiang Provincial Museum in Urumqi



Hero's Plaza in the Jian-chuan Museum Cluster near Chengdu



Overseas Chinese Museum in Beijing



The Nanjing Museum is spacious with facilities for disabled people and even an exhibition area for the blind (below).



Ivor Kenna – An Appreciation



Flo and Ivor at Wisley in July 2007

Everyone in SACU was saddened to hear of the death of Ivor Kenna on 3rd June 2021. We extend our deepest sympathy to Flo, his wife of 60 years. Ivor with Flo were staunch supporters of SACU for over 55 years. They were members of SACU council for 25 of these years and attended virtually every meeting that was held in London. Ivor will be sadly missed. Flo commented that it is fitting that his funeral will be held on the 100th Anniversary of the foundation of the Communist Party of China. He was a loyal friend of both SACU and of China.

Ivor was born in Rugby on 28th July 1931 and grew up in Bath. His father was an iron moulder and core maker. It was hard work and he clearly stated that he did not want Ivor to do the same. Their house in Bath was bombed during World War 2 and Ivor came to London after his parents died. He got a job at the Prudential Assurance Company and then studied Mathematics, English and Latin at St Catherine's College at Oxford.

He met Flo at the Predental and they and others started up the union, the Guild of Insurance Officials, which eventually ended up in UNITE. Ivor was active in the Institute of Actuaries at their meetings and wrote articles in their magazine.

Ivor's father was a strong union man and Ivor followed this path and joined the Communist Party in Finsbury, becoming branch secretary. Later he and Flo disagreed with the others on the committee whom they regarded as revisionists. This was the time of the Soviet/China dispute. China regarded the Soviets as revisionists and Flo and Ivor took the Chinese line and got expelled from that branch. So, with other like-minded comrades they set up the Finsbury Communist Association and produced 'Finsbury Communist' monthly four-page circular for 60 years.

Flo and Ivor joined the Celtic League, which supports self-determination for Celtic people and which works to preserve their language and culture. A prominent member of the league Peter Beresford-Ellis, the author of many books on Celtic matters, complimented Ivor for his work, noting that he was a 'good anchor man but never one for self-promotion'. Ivor eventually became Chairman of the

London Branch of the Celtic League. He and Flo studied the Welsh language in the 1960s and 1970s and Ivor wrote many letters in Welsh to various political Welsh magazines.

Flo and Ivor were also members of the Marx Memorial Library and as we know, of the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU). They were founder members of SACU and wrote an article in SACU's magazine, China Eye No 6 (Summer 2005) about its formation and its early days. They were active members and contributed a column, 'Sinophile' for every issue of China Eye from issue Number One, Spring 2004, right up to Number 70, Summer 2021, the current issue. 'Sinophile' was complementary to 'Sino File', and was Flo and Ivor's selected summary of current events in China together with their comments and astute observations. Sinophile always arrived well on time, seventy times; I never had to chase it.

Flo and Ivor were the SACU London branch secretaries for many years and made efforts to propagate the word of SACU by promoting it amongst their colleagues and acquaintances. They even tried to supply China Eye to several London bookshops.

Ivor was also active in actuarial meetings in the Pensions Managements Institute, doing calculations and writing letters. All his life, Ivor worked for emancipation of the working class. He put in a lot of effort, but never sought the limelight.

Ivor was well read and wrote articles and letters in a concise witty and humorous manner. Because he and Flo experienced several family bereavements due to cancer, they believed an organic raw and vegan diet was the way to good health. During lunch breaks at SACU committee meetings, they always ate food which they had brought with them. In their leisure time they did a lot of rambling and mountain climbing.

Walter Fung

Keith Bennett delivered the following tribute to Ivor at his funeral. Representatives of the many societies and associations of which Ivor was a member were present. Zoe Reed represented SACU.

Dearest Flo, Family members, Comrades and Friends

Thank you all for coming here today to remember and to pay our respects and our tribute to our dear friend and comrade, Ivor. I must have known Ivor for the best part of 50 years. That's all my adult life and a bit more. And I will miss him greatly. He was an institution. As someone with a great love of all things Celtic he was almost a legend. Like King Arthur. Over the last half-century comrades have come and gone. Too many have gone. But Ivor was an immovable fixture and a permanent presence. Standing in his place to paraphrase the Internationale. But we won't forget him. Like

all fallen comrades he will accompany us on our continuing journey. With Ivor's passing, it really does feel like the end of the era. A member of the Communist Party of Great Britain in the days before the split in the international communist movement, he would sometimes refer to those days in his journal, the Finsbury Communist. Recalling comrades like Kay Beauchamp and a thriving local party branch. Even in the post-war days local councillors.

But when the old Communist party joined the Khrushchev leadership in the Soviet Union in attacking the dictatorship of the proletariat and Stalin, and in attacking the Communist Party of China and the Party of Labour of Albania, Ivor was one of the gallant few in this country who stood up and said No. Ivor, together with Flo, joined the Committee to Defeat Revisionism for Communist Unity, led by Michael McCreery, the first anti-revisionist organisation in this country. When that organisation sadly disintegrated following Comrade McCreery's premature death, Ivor formed the Finsbury Communist Association.

For decades, month in month out, its small, simply produced publication provided its succinct take on topics that ranged from purely local matters to the great issues of world politics. With much else in between. Long ago, it became the longest continually published, extant anti-revisionist publication in Britain. And Ivor and Flo circulated it to as many people in the movement as they could.

Ivor was not afraid to move with the times and to take on new things. And he read widely. I think he read all the left publications in Britain and a good few international ones. He read the national press, including the financial press, and he read the local newspapers. He read trade union journals. He read materials from the Celtic countries. And he read various publications from China.

He stood uncompromisingly for the dictatorship of the proletariat. For rule by the working class. To quote the words of the 1930s upsurge in the Caribbean: Let those who labour hold the reins. And he was clear on the Marxist definition of the working class. Whilst he certainly believed in united fronts he could not accept that the working class could just mean anybody except a handful of billionaires. But he was not sentimental about the working class. He was resolute in standing with Lenin in appreciating how in an imperialist country like Britain, much of the working class, to a greater or lesser extent, was corrupted or bought over with a portion of the super profits that the ruling class rakes in from the colonies, semi-colonies and neo-colonies.

Indeed, Lenin's theory of imperialism was at the core of his politics and his anti-revisionism. Especially the Leninist thesis that the world was divided into a small handful of oppressor nations on the one hand and a vast mass of oppressed nations on the other. He strongly asserted and supported the right to self-determination of the Celtic nations: Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, the Isle of Mann and Brittany. He considered this to be a matter of principle for communists in England. The fact that this was not necessarily a universally popular position in the movement here was not the kind of thing to bother Ivor one

bit. He supported the national liberation movements, especially at this time the struggle of the Palestinian and other Arab people against Zionism. I'll take this opportunity to remind everyone of Flo's request that any donations in memory of Ivor be made to that excellent charity, Medical Aid for Palestinians. Last but definitely not least, in fact it brings me back to my first point in this summary, Ivor supported the socialist countries. Those countries where the dictatorship of the proletariat existed. Where the working class was organised as the ruling class. For Ivor, for the last 60 years or so, that above all meant resolutely supporting and defending the People's Republic of China and the Communist Party of China.

I want to say a little more about Ivor and China. Today we don't just mourn Ivor, we celebrate him. And for many of us this is also a day of celebration for another reason. It's the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of China. It's a day that I know Ivor would have loved to live to see. But I'm equally sure that he would derive some wry satisfaction and some somewhat uncharacteristic pride from the fact that we celebrate his life and his contribution to the struggle on this rather auspicious occasion.

Ivor, along with Flo, was a founder member of the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU) back in 1965 and they became its longest serving, continuous members. Zoe Reed, the Chair of SACU, will say more about Ivor's contribution, but I'll just note that he must have finished the last of his regular, and appropriately named, Sinophile columns for the China Eye magazine just a few days before he died.

Ivor was certainly not a humourless individual. He had a sharp eye and an occasionally sharper pen. He was the master of the one liner, with an ability all too rare on the left to say a lot in a few words. And he had a dry and acerbic wit. A number of us must have been on the receiving end of it at one time or another. I just want to recall an incident that took place at a SACU AGM, I guess in about 1980 or 1981. It was a time of some debate in SACU and among friends of China generally. And, of course, there was a faction in SACU, largely based around its then magazine China Now, that wanted to turn the magazine and the organisation into vehicles for extensive criticism of China. Naturally Ivor was having none of it. He stood up and began his contribution: "Well, I support the policies of the Chinese government. Every single one." To which a voice at the back called out: "Yes, Ivor. And you always have."

Finally, to Flo, I want to say this: I've spoken to several people since Ivor's passing and we were all agreed. Over so many years, we can't ever remember seeing Ivor without Flo or Flo without Ivor. You have lost the love of your life, your soul mate, your closest comrade and your best friend. I know from personal experience, that there's not much I or anyone else can say that can ease the pain of that. But Flo, I ask you to remember this: You are not alone. You have friends and you have comrades. There are people who care about you. Don't hesitate to call on us. Thank you.

Sino File compiled by Walter Fung

New Chinese Ambassador to the UK

On June 18th, Ambassador Zheng Zeguang met online with Lord Sassoon, Peer of the House of the Lords and President of the China Britain Business Council (CBBC), and Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, Chairman of CBBC. Lord Sassoon and Sir Sherard congratulated Ambassador Zheng on assuming his duties in the UK and reaffirmed CBBC's commitment to promoting exchanges and cooperation between the UK and China.

Ambassador Zheng expressed his appreciation to Lord Sassoon, Sir Sherard and CBBC for their positive efforts over the years in improving and strengthening China-UK relations. China will celebrate the centenary of the founding of the Communist Party of China, Ambassador Zheng said that the Chinese people are fully confident in the development path of their own choice and China is committed to peaceful development and is ready to develop friendly cooperation with countries around the world to jointly build a community with a shared future for mankind.

China is the first country to have successfully put Covid-19 under control, and its economy has withstood the impact of the pandemic by maintaining steady growth. China-UK trade and two-way investment which have registered record growth since last year. The UK should see China as an opportunity, not a threat.

On the same day Ambassador Zheng Zeguang had an online meeting with Stephen Perry, Chairman of the 48 Group Club. He hailed Stephen Perry as an old friend of the Chinese people, and said that the 48 Group Club has carried forward the spirit of the "icebreakers" represented by Jack Perry and made important contribution to enhancing mutual understanding and friendly exchanges between the Chinese and British people

"Great resilience and enormous potential:" China's new ambassador to UK looks forward to strong ties

China's new ambassador to the UK, Zheng Zeguang, has delivered his first message to British citizens and Chinese citizens living in the UK. Zheng has worked at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1986, and worked at China's embassy in Trinidad and Tobago briefly. Zheng was then based in the US twice, between 1994-1997 and 2005-2008. His most recent role was Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs. He noted the strong and historic trading relationship between China and the UK. China and the UK are important trading partners to each other. Despite the impact of COVID-19. Two-way trade and investment bucked the trend to register record growth last year. This speaks volumes about the great resilience and enormous potential of our business ties," he said.

Although the world is changing - and Zheng noted the challenges are not all the same - there are also similar challenges. China has embarked on a new journey of building a modern socialist country in all respects. While the UK is faced with a new task of delivering global Britain. Our two countries also face the global challenges of COVID-19 and climate change."Zheng studied at Cardiff University in the UK, and highlighted student mobility as one of the strengths in the China-UK relationship. "Our two sides may deepen cooperation in trade, finance, innovation, people to people exchanges in other fields and stepped-up

coordination on global issues such as fighting COVID-19, spurring global recovery and tackling climate change. We also need to address our differences properly. These are the kind of efforts needed to ensure that China-UK relations will deliver more benefits to our peoples and contribute still more to world peace and common development." (From CTGN 8/6/21)

From the British Press

Communist Party of China's growth

Ahead of the 100th Anniversary celebrations of the founding of the Party, figures were released showing a growth in membership by 2.31 million this year to total more than 95 million. (From *The Daily Telegraph* 1/7/21)

Chinese Covid-19 vaccines

China's Sinovac Corona Vac requires two doses for full protection and an estimated 430 million doses have been given in nearly 40 countries A University of Hong Kong study has found that there is a risk of temporary facial paralysis but the benefits outweigh the risks. Sinovac Has sold more than 600 million doses, including 107 million to Europe. In China more than 1.8 billion doses of vaccines have been administered; Corona Vac has been the most widely used. As many as 777 million Chinese have been fully vaccinated, which accounts for more than half the population according to the national health commission. (From *The Times* 19/8/21)

A report in China Daily Global Weekly (13-19/8/21), stated that President Xi Jinping announced recently that China will provide two billion doses of vaccine to the world this year and will donate \$100 million to the COVAX Facility for distributing vaccines to developing countries.

UK universities hire planes to fly in Chinese students

Britain's top universities are chartering planes to transport Chinese students to the UK amid fears that global travel restrictions could cost hundreds of millions of pounds in lost tuition fees. More than 50 universities including the Russell Group of 24 have already chartered four flights for 1,200 Chinese students so they can start studies next month. Arrangements of food and accommodation are underway for the students, who under current regulations will have to isolate for 10 days on arrival. There are 220,000 Chinese students at UK universities, indeed 10% of the Russell Group students are Chinese. They pay a total of about £1.3 billion in tuition fees every year, which is nearly 20% of fees income. In fact, overseas students pay £35,000 per year – four times what British students pay. (From *The Sunday Times* 29/8/21)

China gets malaria free status after 70-year fight

China was certified as malaria-free yesterday by the World Health Organisation after a 70-year battle to eradicate the disease borne by mosquitos. There were 30 million cases in the 1940s but the country has now gone four consecutive years without an indigenous occurrence of the potentially fatal illness. The WHO Director General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus sent his congratulations. (From *The Times* 1/7/21)

Further plans for 370 mph (600 km/h) Maglev train

China has unveiled a prototype for the world's fastest and longest passenger train service. The train will run on the 'magnetic levitation' principle without contact with the track, which eliminates friction. The special track is still to be built, but the train is expected to go into service in five to ten years' time. It will cut travelling time between Beijing and Shanghai, a distance of 800 miles, to two and a half hours, which is only half an hour more than flying. The world's first commercial maglev rail service opened in 2004 in Shanghai running between Pudong airport and the city centre. China has the world's longest high-speed rail network, 24,000 miles of track with train speeds of up to 220 mph. *(From The Times 21/7/21)*

Sale of largest British chip factory

Whitehall mandarins are to devise a plan to bolster the UK's semiconductor industry because of concerns about shortages. In the midst of this is a row over the sale of Britain's largest chip factory in Newport to a Chinese backed company. Business secretary, Kwasi Kwarteng did not intervene in the take-over of Newport Wafer Fab (NWF), whose products are used power-supply chips for cars and medical equipment. NWF has been bought by Nexperia, a Dutch company owned by Wingtech a Chinese company. The deal is to be probed by national security adviser Sir Stephen Lovegrove. *(From The Sunday Times 18/7/21)*

China's Xiaomi overtakes Apple in smartphones

Xiaomi is now the second largest maker of smartphone with 17% of the global market. Samsung remains the biggest with 19%, with Apple now in third place with 14%. Apple's iPhone launched in 2007 generates more than half of Apple's revenue. Xiaomi is growing its overseas market rapidly with 300% more in Latin America and 150% in Africa and even in Europe by 50%. Last night shares in Apple closed down 1.4% in New York, whilst in Hong Kong, Xiaomi shares were up 4.8%. *(From The Times 17/7/21)*

Britain concerned about supply of rare-earth metals

Security agencies are concerned that there will be increased competition for these minerals which are largely supplied by China. Experts fear economic and political leverage in any disputes with Beijing. Rare-earths are a group of 17 metals that are essential components of batteries, wind turbines, solar panels, fibreoptics, missile guidance systems and in ships and submarines. The UK government is sponsoring a deep-sea mining project in the Pacific carried out by UK Seabed Resources, a subsidiary of the American defence company, Lockheed Martin. *(From The Times 5/4/21)*

Excluding China could be 'disastrous' for Italy

Italy risks a 'disastrous' economic boycott if it pulls out of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) according to Michele Geraci, a China expert, who helped arrange the deal. More than 100 countries have signed up to the BRI. In 2019, Italy became the first G7 nation to join. However, Geraci said that the much-discussed Chinese investment in Italian ports has not happened, which is interesting because other EU countries such as the Netherlands, France and Germany, which have not joined the BRI have welcomed Chinese

investment in their ports. Italy's membership is believed to be under review, but the prospect of 'zero' machine sales to China and 'zero' Chinese tourist has to be considered.

G7 nations have backed a 'Build Back Better World' (B3W) plan to rival BRI, claiming a 'values-driven, high standard and transparent' deal to partners. *(From The Times 17/6/21)*

Second largest hydro plant

The Baihetan Hydropower Station in the southwest of China is now up and running. It has a capacity of 16,000 MW which is sufficient electricity for 500,000 people for a year. The plant is second in size to the Three Gorges Dam. A dam even bigger than the Three Gorges Dam is planned. *(From The Times 29/6/21)*

Chinese made electric vehicles for DPD

DPD, the French owned delivery company is to become one of the UK's biggest operators of electric vehicles. It has ordered 750 zero-emission vans which will double its electric vehicle fleet to 1,500. This order of vans is thought to be Britain's largest order of Chinese-made vehicles.

The Chinese manufacturer, Maxus was formerly known as LDV or Leyland Daf Vans, which had British origins. After the 2010 financial global crisis, the intellectual property of LDV was acquired by the Shanghai Automotive Industry Corporation (SAIC). The larger Maxus vans are claimed to be able to run for 200 miles on a single charge. *(From The Times 10/6/21)*

Cheapest electric vehicle

The Hong Guan Mini EV budget car is on sale in China for £3,200; it can just accommodate four people. The car is a product of a joint venture of a Chinese company with General Motors of the US. A Latvian automaker is reported to be considering importing it into Europe, but the price is expected to be double because of European regulations.

The new car sold 112,000 in the second half of 2020, second only to the Tesla Model 3. Although its range and performance (top speed 62 mph) are behind Tesla, its convenience and low price make it popular. More than half of all new electric cars in the world are sold in China and 99% of electric buses are in China. *(From the internet, BBC News 24/8/21)*

China plans 'footballing cities'

Plans have been announced to establish 16 to 18 'football cities' in China within the next five years. The Chinese State General Administration of Sport and the Chinese Football Association is to provide between five to 10 million yuan annually (£550,000 to £1.1 million) per city matched by 30 million yuan per year from the local government to build the football cities. The objective is that by 2025 each football city will have two professional clubs, one youth training centre at national level, several local level training centres and one football field for every 10,000 residents, with half of the city's students playing football. The aim is for China to be a football sports power.

At present China does not have a first-class team despite the playing stars of the Chinese Super League being paid

handsomely. President Xi Jinping, a football fan has expressed hope that China will play in the World Cup in the future. *(From The Times 2/6/21)*

Pandas taken off endangered list

The number of Giant Pandas in the wild rose by 20% to about 1,800 within the last decade and is no longer classified as an endangered species by China. This is the result of conservation efforts, which have also increased life expectancy by nearly 10 years. The steps included boosting efforts to preserve and restore bamboo forests which are the animals' main habitat and food source. However, climate change may pose a threat.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature removed the endangered label five years ago and reclassified it as vulnerable. China disputed this at the time. Pandas have been used to build relations with foreign countries since 1950. Since 1984, they have come at a price. They are supplied on 10-year loans at a cost of \$1 million (£724,000) per panda per year and any offspring born abroad belong to China. *(From The Times 10/7/21)*

China and Russia friendship

President Putin and President Xi Jinping spoke yesterday by video-conference and extended a friendship treaty, which dates from 2001, for another five years. Putin said that the treaty extension would take relations to an 'unprecedented height'. Russia has not ruled out an eventual military treaty with China. The treaty included mutual support on 'territorial integrity', which could be an apparent reference to Crimea and Taiwan. President Biden has criticized both Russia and China on human rights. NATO said recently that Beijing posed a challenge to the 'rules-based international order and called Russia its biggest threat. *(From The Times 29/6/21)*

Chinese stealth bomber

The Xian H-20 bomber has appeared on the June 2021 cover of a state-owned company magazine, *Modern Weaponry*. It is covered with dark grey radar absorbent material. The wings resemble the American B-2 Spirit bomber which has been the mainstay of the US long-range nuclear capability since 1997. The Xian H-20 is believed to be able to fly 8,000 km without refuelling compared to the 7,000 km range of the US plane. A US weapons analyst has said that it could be a 'game-changer'. From take-off on the Chinese mainland, it could reach Japan, Guam and the US Mariana Islands. *(From The Times 26/5/21)*

Sales of New Energy Vehicles (NEV)

Sales of NEVs increased by 2.8 times year on year in the first quarter to 515,000 units amid the steady recovery of the automobile sector. In March alone, NEV sales surged by 2.4 times year on year to 226,000 units. The output of NEV batteries rose 151.9% year on year to March. *(From Beijing Review 22/4/21)*

It seems possible that the UK could be flooded with Chinese electric vehicles, subject of course to regulations and standards. A Chinese model has been produced at a fraction of the cost of Tesla and other models.

Aerospace growth

China will continue to boost aerospace as a strategic emerging industry during the next five years. Plans are being made for the period 2021-25 period. Priority projects will include lunar exploration, interplanetary exploration, asteroid reconnaissance, heavy-lift carrier rockets and reusable space transportation systems. In addition, facilities will be built for communication, navigation and remote sensing that are accessible worldwide. *(From Beijing Review 22/4/21)*

Freight trains to Europe

The number of China-Europe freight trains going through via Manzhouli in Inner Mongolia, reached 10,000 on 13th April. In the first quarter of this year, 951 trains passed through, which was a 60.4% increase year on year. Currently, Manzhouli is the border crossing for 52 China-Europe freight train routes to 28 cities in 13 countries. *(From Beijing Review 22/4/21)*

Vaccination in London Chinatown

China Information and Advice Centre (CIAC) offered 1,500 free jabs at the Chinatown Exchange in Gerrard Street for anyone who turned up. No NHS number or ID was needed. People came from all over the country, travelling many miles in some cases. Some were Vietnamese; one lady was from Indonesia who had been here for one year. This was the sixth times this had been done. At the first in May, only 150 jabs were available and hundreds were disappointed. *(From the internet, South China Morning Post, 27/7/21)*

China vaccination programme

According to a report on CTGN (20/6/21), China topped a billion jabs of Covid-19 vaccinations. The number of 20 million jabs per day has been achieved. In addition, China has supplied 350 million doses to developing countries. China has seven types of vaccinations for general use and emergency use. In an up-date on this (13/7/21), CGTN reported 1.4 billion jabs and 500 million for developing countries.

The Times of 15/7/21 reported that dozens of China's cities and counties have started to ban unvaccinated citizens from entering places such as cinemas, restaurants and nursing homes without proof of vaccination. Provincial governments in Jiangxi, Shaanxi, Zhejiang, Shandong and Fujian have announced restrictions and screenings.

Swift decisive action after 17 cases found

After 17 cases of Covid-19 were found in Nanjing, the city of 9.3 million people went into 'soft' lockdown. Nobody was allowed to leave without showing a negative test result. The cluster of cases was detected mainly amongst cleaners. By early the next morning after detection, the authorities had identified 157 close contacts for isolation. Checkpoints throughout the city were mobilised to check body temperature and pharmacies had to register anyone who purchased fever reducers. Summer schools were ordered to stop classes in person and some state schools said they are closing their campuses. *(From The Times 22/7/21)*

From the Chinese Press

Popularising science

Popularising science activity is reaching more and more Chinese people via new media and other platforms, according to a survey on 24/12/20. In 2019 popular science attracted 1.15 billion participants, which was a 28.65% increase year-on-year. China had 1,477 science and technology museums in 2019. *(From Beijing Review 1/7/21)*

5G development

China had 580,000 5G base stations at the end of 2020. These will provide high quality 5G networks to promote applications of 5G in manufacturing, energy and transport. All prefectural level cities in China are now covered by the 5G network. *(From Beijing Review 1/7/21)*

Chinese spacewalk from Shenzhou X11

Two Chinese astronauts worked outside the Tianhe space station on July 4th to test a robotic arm and to adjust a panoramic camera amongst other duties. They wore a new generation space suit and worked for about seven hours. The space station is 390 km above the earth. *(From China Daily Global Weekly 9-15 July 2021)*

Motor vehicles in China reach new high

In the first quarter of this year, 9.66 million new motor vehicles, including 7.5 million new cars were registered in China. The total number of motor vehicles in China is 378 million, including 287 million cars. Newly registered new-energy cars reached 466,000, accounting for over 6% of the total of new registrations. China currently has 5.51 million new-energy cars. *(From Beijing Review 15/4/21)*

China's Health Silk Road

This was officially launched in 2015 and was mentioned by President Xi Jinping on his visit to the WHO in Geneva in 2017. After China gained control of Covid-19, in a seven-month period from March to October 2020, China provided medical assistance to 150 countries. China has also donated \$50 million to the WHO in support of its anti-pandemic programmes and joined the COVAX. At present there are over 250 partnerships between Chinese and non-Chinese pharmaceutical companies. Many of these were made to license China-developed innovative drugs for global sale. *(From Beijing Review 15/4/21)*

Maternity Insurance Scheme to cover cost of third child

Women giving birth to their third child will have the benefit of a scheme announced by the Chinese National Healthcare Security Administration (NHSA). The NHSA will give prompt and full reimbursement of the medical costs of a working woman when she gives birth to a third child. The NHSA also urged local health departments to do their best to implement the new policy and to increase public awareness, *(From Beijing Review 27/7/21)*

Chinese universities dominate the Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings 2021. LONDON, June 3 (Xinhua) -- Mainland Chinese universities hold the top two for a second consecutive year in the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia University Rankings 2021 released on Wednesday.

Tsinghua University holds the top for the third consecutive year, after first claiming the position in 2019. Peking University maintains its position in the second place. The rankings contain 551 universities, up from 489 in 2020, involving 30 countries and regions.

In the top 10, National University of Singapore (3rd) and University of Hong Kong (4th) maintain their 2020 positions. Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (5th) moves into the top 5 after finishing 6th in 2020. A total of 91 mainland Chinese universities are in the Rankings, seconding only to Japan (116) in terms of representation. The Chinese mainland is also the best represented in the top 50, holding 15 positions, as Central South University (44th), and South China University of Technology (50th) move into the group. Of the 15, 13 have improved or maintained their previous ranks. The Asia University Rankings 2021 used the same 13 performance indicators as the THE World University Rankings, but they were recalibrated to reflect the attributes of Asia's institutions.

The universities were judged across performance indicators grouped into five areas: teaching (25 percent), research (30 percent), citations (30 percent), international outlook (7.5 percent), and industry income (7.5 percent)

Driverless buses in Suzhou

This city has the longest driverless bus routes in China, totalling 15.3 km. The first driverless bus in Suzhou ran on 20th October 2020 using a 5G network. Although three other countries, the US, Finland and Germany, currently operate driverless buses, China has the longest routes totalling 54.6 km. By 2022, it is expected that there will be 60 driverless bus routes in China exceeding 300 km. *(From Beijing Review 29/4/21)*

China's 5G network is world's largest

The country had 792,000 5G base stations by the end of February with 260 million mobile terminals. Mobile phones using 5G is expected to account for 80% of smartphones in China by the second half of the year. The total number of 5G base stations built during 2021 is expected to be 600,000. *(From Beijing Review 29/4/21)*

Laws for dog owners

From 1st May, dogs must be kept on a leash in outdoor areas. Previously only local regulations required dogs to be leashed in public areas. Dogs should wear a collar and be inoculated against rabies and be registered with the local authority. The laws were met with approval; it will stop dogs harming each other and prevent car accidents. Some dog lovers called for the creation of pet-friendly parks in cities, where dogs could play off-leash. *(From Beijing Review 13/5/21)*

China collaboration with Middle East

A webinar entitled China-MENA Cooperation: Deepen Friendship and Innovation-driven Development was held on 17th August. It was organised by the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, the University of Sharjah (UAE) and the King Faisal Centre for Research and Islamic Studies (Saudi Arabia). Subjects discussed included, the digital economy, 5G, artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies.

China is the major trading partner of some Arabic countries with almost \$240 billion of trade. The UAE is cooperating with China to produce the Covid vaccine, Sinopharm which will be marketed as Hayat-Vax. The UAE is looking forward to mass production and distributing this vaccine in many regions of the world and thus promoting the UAE's contribution to international health and welfare. (From *China Daily Global Weekly* 20-26/8/21)

China's foreign exchange (Forex) increase

China's forex increased by \$28.2 billion or 0.89% to \$3.1982 trillion at the end of April due to the combined effects of currency translation and change in asset prices. Despite Covid-19 uncertainties, China's forex remains generally stable. (From *Beijing Review* 20/5/21)

Film director's first spy thriller

Zhang Yimou's first spy thriller, 'Cliff Walkers' debuted on 30th April joining a packed screening line up during the five-day May Day holiday. He is known for the martial arts thriller 'Hero' and the intensely moving dramas about the emotional inequalities suffered by women, which included, 'Jou Dou' (1990), 'Raise the Red Lantern' (1992) and 'To Live' (1994). (From *Beijing Review* 6/5/21)

Across China: Changes to China's countryside through lens of a British vlogger Source: Xinhua | 2021-06-18

HOOHOT, - For many, China's glitzy metropolises like Beijing and Shanghai are the go-to places to feel the pulse of fast-development. But to Curt McArdle, a British vlogger, the vast Chinese countryside is an even better location to keep up with the mind-blowing pace. McArdle, 26, has lived in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region for five years, teaching English in a private institution in the regional capital Hohhot. In his spare time, he likes filming his excursions to villages near Hohhot and has so far posted more than 10 such videos on YouTube.

McArdle said he was greatly impressed with the changes that have taken place during his trips over the years. In his eyes, the changes are most evident in infrastructures, such as roads, internet, public toilets and other amenities. The old, bumpy village roads have mostly been paved, much to the delight of tourists who like to explore the villages on bicycles. Hohhot opened two metro lines in the last two years to link its downtown area with suburban villages.

"I can go to a tiny village in the middle of nowhere and pay for everything with WeChat. There's always 4G, so I can use the map on my phone to get back to the city," he said, adding that whenever he goes to a village, the local residents are more than glad to show him around their houses and inform him of the latest development in their village. They are very proud of how their places have developed.

McArdle attributed the great changes in Hohhot's countryside to China's efforts in poverty reduction and building a 'moderately prosperous society in all respects', known as "Xiaokang" in Chinese. By 2020, China had lifted

all of its nearly 100 million impoverished rural residents out of poverty, securing a decisive victory in poverty alleviation. The per capita *disposable income* exceeded 32,000 yuan (about 5,000 U.S. dollars) last year, more than *double the level in 2010*.

"I can't think of many changes on the planet that have been greater than that," McArdle said. "It didn't surprise me because I think when China sets its mind to something, everybody gets behind it." The rising incomes of the Chinese, especially in the rural areas, have allowed them to pursue more fulfilling lives.

McArdle said he hoped to continue traveling and vlogging in China to show the real China to the world. "Now that the vaccine is being rolled out and things are much safer, I really want to see more of the country,"

Chinese Clergy 'Teahouse' Group

On Monday, August 16th, a dozen Church of England clergy with Chinese-heritage travelled to London to meet for the first time. They came together as part of *The Teahouse* which aims to connect, support and empower Chinese-heritage clergy in the Anglican Church: www.theteahouse.org

This was the first time in the National Churches history that they met in person. The 14 Chinese-heritage clergy represent *less than 0.1%* of clergy in the Church of England.

The Rev Mark Nam's grandfather came to Liverpool in the early 1900s. Mark founded *The Teahouse* and he will be writing a fuller report for Winter's China Eye in December.

Mark is a SACU member and *The Teahouse* is an affiliate of CARG-Covid-19 Anti-Racism Group which campaigns against hate crime against Chinese and South-East Asians.



The 'Teahouse' Group at St Martin's in the Field.

The Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding

