

China Eye



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

Winter 2023

Number 80



Contents include:

Reading about China

Thoughts on the New China Playbook

Weapons of the Qin

Calligraphy at Ming-Ai (London) Institute

New Research on George Hogg

Letter from Shanghai

China Fact Sheet

The Meaning of China

Sino File and China Eye Diary

CHINA EYE

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SACU/ Peking University Essay Competition. Wang Fang

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The Spring issue (Number 81) of China Eye will be available in early March 2024. Please send news or articles for inclusion before 20 February 2024 to Walter Fung, Tel 0161 799 6944, Email: walter.fung888@btinternet.com

Front cover: Tianjin river front at night (WF)

Back cover; China: Harmony, Moral Character and Great Virtue.

All photographs are by the authors except where stated.

Welcome

This issue is a milestone, No 80 of China Eye. It has appeared four times a year since Spring 2004. Members with long memories will recall that it replaced, in a single publication, the loss-making twice a year, China in Focus magazine and the four-times a year newsletter. I have enjoyed editing all these issues but it would not have been possible without the cooperation of a large number of other SACU members. I take this opportunity to say thank you to all who have helped.

Intellectual Property

We hear so much about China allegedly stealing intellectual property, but in fact 30.3% of certain research papers are authored by Chinese researchers. Also, the papers have a high level of citations. I wonder how much intellectual property is being stolen from China! See Sino File, 'China ranks first in academic journals' on page 25.

US Anti-China Rhetoric

I watched the debate by the five contenders for the Republican nomination to contend with the Democrats in the American presidency election and was disturbed by the anti-China rhetoric of nearly all of the contenders, who seemed to compete on getting tough on China. De-coupling was mentioned several times. I think they have not done their homework or have very short memories.

The following is an excerpt from a book review (China Inc; How the Rise of the next superpower challenges America and the World) by Ted C Fishman in the March 2005 edition of the Far Eastern Economic Review.

'Why is China's continued rise inevitable? Partly because it is driven by the US economic juggernaut. US companies are lured by both the size of the Chinese market and by the low cost of manufacturing there. Automakers have been asking for the 'China Price', meaning the lowest possible price. The Chicago Federal Reserve Bank's analysts have also noted that US suppliers were being asked by their customers to move their factories to China or find subcontractors there.' This reasoning probably applied to many other sectors of American industry.

The anti-China feeling may be moderating with visits to Beijing of some senior US civil servants and secretaries of commerce and industry. Also, the meeting between Xi Jinping and the Australian prime minister Anthony Albanese is believed to initiate a 'thaw'. Maybe the appointment of David Cameron as UK foreign secretary could result in better relations with China? Cameron initiated the 'Golden Era'. 'It was hoped the anti-China press might moderate a little, but it was astonishing to see a report in the Times on 16/11/23, 'China opens school in Africa to train leaders 'how to be despots' (!).

Rival Belt and Road Initiatives (BRI) successes

The Third Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) Forum was held in Beijing on 18th October 2023. More than 150 countries and over 30 international organisations have signed BRI cooperation documents with China. At present 18 EU

countries and nine G20 countries are included. From 2013 to 2022, the cumulative value of imports and exports between China and BRI partners reached \$19.1 trillion, with an average growth rate of 6.4%. BRI projects involving \$1 trillion investment in a wide variety of infrastructure projects, have created 420,000 new jobs and lifted about 40 million people out of poverty in developing countries.

The BRI has benefitted many developing countries with roads and railways that might otherwise not have been built. Mobility and connectivity are essential for a country's progress and development. The World Bank has estimated that by 2030, BRI-related investments could lift a further 7.6 million people out of extreme poverty and 32 million people out of moderate poverty. In the Global south, more than 6,000 livelihood projects have been implemented in areas such as agricultural technology. Cultural technology demonstration centres have been built in more than 30 countries and vocational education initiatives have nurtured talent in more than 160 countries.

An article in China Daily Global Weekly provides detail of the West's answer to the BRI which include the US led, 'Build Back better World', the EU's 'Global Gateway' and the G7's 'Partnership for Global Infrastructure and Investment'. The CDGW article quotes 'Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery' However, these new schemes have a lot of catching up to do and may not have the necessary financial resources. In a BRI Conference on Science and Technology Exchange, President Xi Jinping called for stronger scientific and technological innovation partnerships to contribute to a high-quality development of the BRI.

'Debt traps' for host countries?

According to 'Debt Justice' report in the UK, the 49 African countries, whose data is available, owe only 12% of their debt to China compared to the 35% owed to private Western countries. Furthermore, the interest of Chinese loans average 2.7% compared to the 5% on Western loans.

Qin crossbow versus British longbow

Over the past year or two, I have been attending leisure classes on British and European history. One talk of particular interest was the Battle of Agincourt when Henry V of England routed the French. A key factor was the British longbow, which had superior range and penetrating power than anything the French had. James De Burghe has written an article in this issue of China Eye, about the superior weapons of the state of Qin which enabled it to overcome the other Warring States and hence unified China.

I asked James Burghe how the Qin crossbow compared with the British longbow. He replied that modern tests have shown that the Qin crossbow (about 200 BC) had equal penetrating power to the British longbow developed in Britain about 1,500 years later. The other weapons used by Qin had distinct advantages over their enemies using technology only available in Europe hundreds of years later. Please the article on page 15.

Walter Fung

Can you contribute to SACU's Mission?

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

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

友 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 **Chris Nash, SACU Chair**, email: chris1nash@me.com

Membership

Membership is open to all who subscribe to SACU's aims. Membership applications and renewals can be made online by logging into SACU's online membership account from our website: <https://sacu.org/join.html>

Membership rates:

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

Membership payment methods:

Online: pay with PayPal using your PayPal account or credit/debit card, by logging into SACU's online membership account from our website: <https://sacu.org/join.html>

Offline: bank transfer, standing order, cheque, recurring PayPal subscription plan – please email for details: membership@sacu.org.uk

Cheques may be made payable to SOC FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING LTD and send to: Mrs Rosamund Wong, SACU Membership Secretary, c/o 27 Portland Close, Bedford MK41 9NE, Mobile: 07906 956426 email: membership@sacu.org.uk

Your email address will be used only for SACU purposes. It will not be passed to any other person or organisation without your permission. In circulars such as the **SACU email newsletter** your email details will be 'blind' and not visible to others.

China Eye

Recent back copies are available to view on our website: <https://sacu.org/magazine.html>

All earlier issues of SACU's magazines *China Now*, *China in Focus* and *China Eye* are available to members in our digital archive: <https://archive.sacu.org> (Please ask for members-only password)

SACU Newsletter

We circulate a monthly email newsletter to all members. Newsletters include notices of forthcoming events, member news, and links to topical information that we consider will be of interest to SACU members. Members are invited to send items for inclusion to the SACU newsletter team: newsletter@sacu.org.uk Please remember, you can unsubscribe at any time.

SACU's Digital Communications

Website: www.sacu.org.uk
Email: info@sacu.org.uk
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/sacu.uk>
X (Twitter): <https://twitter.com/SACUUK>
YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@SACU-sd5vs>
WeChat: ID: SACU1965
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/socanglochinseunderstanding>

Our social media channels carry posts and news of events which inform and educate our members and readers about China, especially positive aspects to balance the negative aspects we so often read in the UK media.

SACU Digital Archive

Launched at Chinese New Year 2023, our magazines and early newsletters, SACU documents and rare photo collection can be viewed online: <https://archive.sacu.org> (Please ask for members-only password)

SACU Events

Please keep an eye on our website, social media and members newsletter for news of forthcoming SACU events. SACU holds events for the public and some members-only meetings. Events are held on Zoom or are hybrid (both in-person and on Zoom). Our AGMs are held as hybrid events.

Working Groups meet online to discuss selected topics or plan new events. All members are warmly invited to join a working group. Interested? Please email Jacob Holliday, SACU Secretary, jacob@sacu.org.uk

SACU's membership is spread across the UK and beyond and Zoom has enabled us to reach more of our members and the public than we did before the pandemic, when we held in-person meetings only, so we continue to hold some online and some hybrid events.

SACU Speakers Bureau

This includes members who offer to give talks in schools or to other organisations on topics relating to China, always from a SACU standpoint of friendship and understanding. Please get in touch if you would like SACU to speak at your school or if you would like to join the bureau as a speaker.

SACU/Peking University Essay Competition

Our annual essay/multimedia competition for schools, generously sponsored by Peking University. Are you connected with a secondary school which would like to take part? Do get in touch.

If you have any membership questions, please contact: **Ros Wong**, membership@sacu.org.uk

Notices from Council Members

From SACU Chair Chris Nash

I hope that China Eye readers are finding my weekly series of articles about China published on the SACU website under the heading 'Chair's Blog' interesting and informative. I welcome both your responses to the articles and your suggestions for suitable future topics.'

I would like to say, 'Thanks to the hard work of Wang Fang, Professor Sun and Frances Wood, the 2024 SACU Competition themed 'Harmony' has been launched.' The competition is an enormously important part of our SACU education programme.'

Chris's latest blogs have dealt with the first mechanical clock developed by Yi Xing, a Buddhist monk in 725 AD. It operated by dripping water on to a wheel, which made a revolution in 24 hours. Later, another Chinese inventor, Su Song developed a more sophisticated clock called the Cosmic Emperor.

Another blog described the Miao people, one of the 55 national minority races in China. (I believe the Miao are related to the Hmong who are in Laos; but many have settled in the US).

Jacob Holliday SACU secretary

Programmes Coordinator Vacancy

SACU is a membership organisation. Everything that SACU does is conceived, planned, and implemented by volunteers. Currently, SACU Council is seeking to recruit a Programmes Coordinator. For full details about this role, and information about how to apply, please read the role specification attached.

Do you have an eye for the big picture? Can you communicate effectively with a range of stakeholders? If so, you might be the person we are looking for!

*The Society for Anglo-Chinese-Understanding (SACU) is looking for a **Programmes Coordinator**. This person will join the Executive Committee that manages day-to-day implementation of SACU's programmes and activities. The Programmes Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that SACU hosts a range of events, spaced evenly across the year, corresponding to the diverse interests of SACU members. The Programmes Coordinator is **not** expected to be directly involved in the planning and organisation of each individual event.*

Anyone interested in the role should contact me at jacob@sacu.org.uk by 1st December.

Barnaby Powell, SACU Speaker's Bureau Organiser

SACU Education Working Group

Our speaker's Bureau is already six-strong, but seeks additional members to cover different parts of the UK. Our main aim is to give Schools Talks on China. We have given a couple of talks this past year to independent schools which are SACU members and we can follow up with those other schools which have participated in the Essay Competition before.

Chris Nash is currently working on contacting those State schools he believes would be interested in a talk, which would clearly complement participation in the Essay Competition. Once we have responses to our invitations, we shall need to follow up and deploy speakers to liaise with schools to set dates, etc. Barnaby has prepared some essential notes on China; see pages 21 and 22. Please advise Barnaby.powell@gmail.com as Convenor if you like to join the Education Working Group and/or volunteer to speak to schools.

Oliver Harris, Social Media Coordinator, is developing a SACU action plan.

There is a meeting in London on 18th December. It is likely that most members will not see this notice in time. However, it was in the November Newsletter but is reproduced here for future actions. (oliver@sacu.org.uk) My plan for the first session is to run an in-person 'workshop' to accomplish the following:

- Unpick and define SACU's messaging / core principles. We do have these but it's worth re-establishing this and asking tricky questions to ourselves to really identify what we stand for e.g. 'Should SACU make a public statement in the event of global conflict involving China and another major world power?'. Clarifying our principles/brand message ultimately defines SACU's future communication strategy
- Ensure that all SACU marketing and communications reflect values of inclusivity and diversity, respecting the diverse cultures and backgrounds involved in SACU's mission
- Getting initial thoughts on a potential 'refresh' of our logo
- Develop an action plan for the next 9 months
- **Please feel free to add other items to this agenda**

Reading about China by Walter Fung

The Story of Chinese Food by Fuchsia Dunlop, Particular Books, 480 pages (a review by Bee Wilson)

I have not read this book. This is a summary of a review by Bee Wilson in *The Sunday Times, Culture supplement*, 20/8/23, entitled 'Tastes of the real China' by Fuchsia Dunlop. Fuchsia was in fact was a member of SACU and an editor of *China Now*, a forerunner of *China Eye*.

Fuchsia studied at the Sichuan Higher Institute of Cuisine in the 1990s, the first westerner to do so. She has since published about six books on Chinese cooking from different regions of China. Her judgement is that 'bastardised Chinese food has blinded us to the real thing'. The scope of Chinese cooking is vast and typified by stir frying, which in fact is a whole series of methods and not just a single technique. There are numerous facets of Chinese cooking, not known or appreciated by westerners.

In the book; there is a whole chapter on the texture of food. Chinese take pleasure in 'mouthfeels' and 'delicate tender and fine-textured' foods. Bee Wilson's overall assessment is that it is a wonderful book and should be read by lovers of Chinese food, who will realise that they don't know half of Chinese cooking.

There is a Youtube interview of Fuchsia discussing her book. The Chinese cut the ingredients up into small pieces prior to cooking. Fuchsia explains that there are numerous methods of cutting. Cooking food in small pieces allows better mixing and blending of ingredients.

However, I do not think she mentioned that cooking small pieces in a wok exposes a larger surface area of the food to the cooking heat and thus the food is cooked faster and retains more of its natural flavour. She did emphasis the importance of using only the freshest ingredients in genuine Chinese cooking.

Fuchsia stated that the early Chinese in California and in the UK came from three counties in Guangdong. This is incorrect. They came from **four counties**, the See Yep counties.

Island; Poetry and History of Chinese Immigrants on Angel Island 1910-1940 (University of Washington 1991)

This is an American book, which has probably never been on general sale in the UK; I got my copy from Amazon. It is about Chinese immigrants into the US who were held on Angel Island, near Alcatraz, San Francisco pending a decision to admit them into the US. This was during the imposition of the China Exclusion Act in America, passed in 1882. Only certain categories of Chinese people were eligible to apply for entry into the US. Even these applicants were subject to very stringent scrutiny. The point was made

that the interview (more of an interrogation) was designed to exclude rather than to admit. About 175, 000 Chinese passed through this island, most of them came from the Four Counties (See Yep) in Guangdong province, notably Taishan, my parent's home county

The island also served as a detention centre for those Chinese who were not admitted and were being deported back to China. Many were detained here for months, even years, before a decision was made. Immigrants of other nationalities were generally processed and released in much shorter periods of time. Angel Island was the equivalent of Ellis Island, near New York for European immigrants.

The long periods of time and the uncertainty Chinese arrivals had to endure on Angel Island was an ordeal which left an indelible mark on the minds of those who were detained there. Conditions were far from ideal and many arrived ill. Many wrote poems in the long periods of isolation. The poems were carved or ink brushed onto the walls of the rooms in which they were held. After the island was taken out of use, a federal park ranger discovered them and they were recognised as valuable oral history. About 135 poems survived and were copied down. These are only some of 66 in the book; -

A drifting duckweed, I arrived a traveller at this place

As I ascend the building, I have painful recollections of my native village

It is because of poverty at home that I am detained here

It has led to my humiliation, which is truly heartbreaking

萍飄作客到此方：

登樓感慨思故鄉。

爲着家貧流落此：

致令受辱實心傷。

！余本作“留”

Excerpts from two more Angel Island Poems; -

People who enter this country

Come only because the family is poor

Selling their fields and lands

They wanted to come to the land of the Flowery Flag

The family all looks to you

Who is to understand it is the most difficult of difficulties.

Living at home, there were no prospects for advancement

The situation forced one to go to another country

Separated from the clan, a thousand miles away.

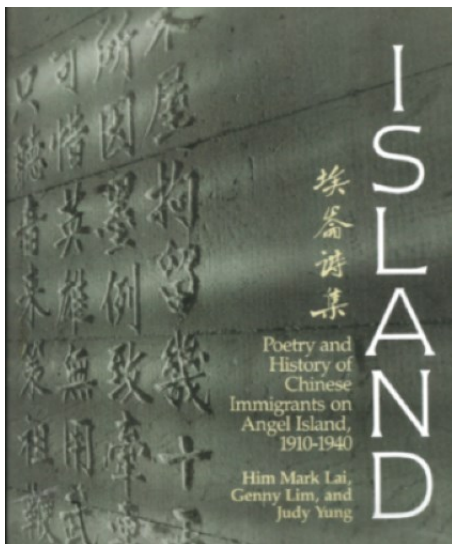
Apart from the ancestors, we are no longer close to one another.

Some of the poems speak of the poor nation status of China at that time; ‘One should know that when the country is weak, the people’s spirit dies; why else would we come to this place to be imprisoned?’

And the verses; -‘With a weak country, we must all join together in urgent effort. It depends on all of us together to roll back the wild wave’.

Some of the wording in the poems are nostalgically familiar to me. The land of the ‘Flowery Flag’ is what my father always called America. Also in a poem, the term ‘luk yee’ is used to mention emigration officers or in fact anyone in authority. My father always referred to a policeman as ‘luk yee’. It means ‘green clothes’ (uniform). Taishan (Toisan) dialect of Cantonese differs from that spoken in Hong Kong or elsewhere in Guangdong province. Many of the early Chinese arrivals in Liverpool, including my grandfather and father were from Taishan county.

The book of 174 pages also contains many oral histories, illustrations and explanatory notes.



The Rise of China; Fresh Insights and Observations- a collection of essays. Published by the Paddy Ashdown Forum. (2021)

This book has already been reviewed in China Eye (see page 18, No 78, Summer 2023), however it contains 15 chapters each on a different aspect of the current situation between

China and the rest of the world. Each is written by a well-qualified author, including Kerry Brown, Sir Vince Cable, Merlene Emerson, Yeow Poon, Paul Reynolds and Andrew Leung, a former senior civil servant of Hong Kong.

I feel that the aspects on the legitimacy of China’s government, the Communist Party (CPC) is especially important and relevant at the present time and the more critical points are summarised here. One of the main reasons for the negative view of China throughout the world, especially in the West is that China is a one-party state which opponents regard as authoritarian and illegitimate.

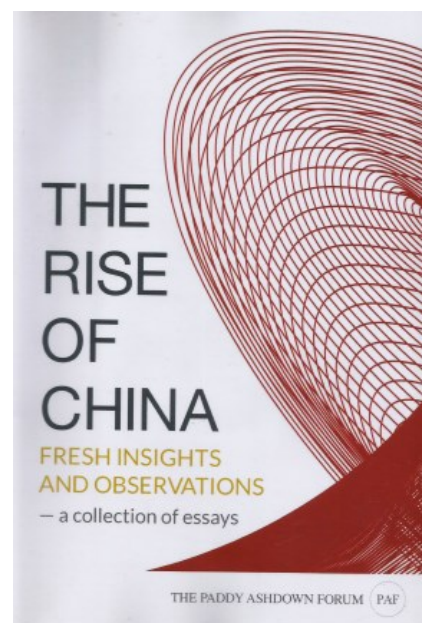
On page 58, Andrew Leung makes a number of points which are indicative of the successes made by the government of China (CPC) from the 1950s onwards.

According to the Harvard Kennedy School Ash Center research report of 2020, the CPC tops many governments in terms of peoples’ support and in fact is multiple ranks above that of the US. Under the tutelage of the CPC the lives, self-respect and national confidence of the Chinese people have improved miraculously.

The lifting out of poverty of 800 million people (World Bank figures) is now quite well known. Compared to pre-1950 there is now universal access to electricity and safe drinking water and child mortality has plummeted, according to the United Nations.

If democracy is to deliver better lives for the vast majority of people, then China does not need to stick to America’s one-taste-for all formula as Wang Yi, China’s Foreign Minister recently quipped.

In the 1950s, China was poorer than India, now China’s GDP is 4.78 times larger than that of India.



读金刻羽 2023 年英文版《中国新玩法》有感

Dr Yong Sun (孙踊)

2023 年 09 月 15 日

读完金刻羽的《中国新玩法》，作者主要对中国的过去（即：中国改革开放四十多年），现在和未来以全球的角度进行说明与推断，在当前国际形势下，难能可贵！作者立场不左不右而温和，尝试从政治经济文化上给东西方架桥；对西方曾多次预测中国崩溃未能兑现，说出了自己的观察与判断；并对中国在全球的未来，大胆推断：中国的弱项在金融领域，如：资本账户的开放，作者提到 2015 年中国股市灾难时，一年内有 1 万亿美元资金逃离，说明中国资本账户并不是完全封闭的；书中提到作者的父亲，受益于邓小平的高考改革而能于 1978 年进入北京的高校。

2023 年 09 月 14 日

昨天说在读金刻羽的书，今天收到的反馈是：女作者老爸是金立群。对反馈的回复是：从目前书中读的，她没有靠她的父亲，而是靠自己，1997 年上了美国纽约的一所高中，后拿到奖学金上哈佛读了学士硕士与博士，据说是 26 岁哈佛博士毕业。

2023 年 09 月 13 日

从亚马逊网购的英国伦敦政经学院经济学副教授金刻羽 (Keyu Jin) 著的 2023 年英文版《中国新玩法：超越社会主义和资本主义》(The New China Playbook: Beyond Socialism and Capitalism)。昨天给送到家了，全书 360 页 10 章与致谢，在书背上附有英国工党前首相布莱尔的评语如下：

The biggest geopolitical change of the twenty-first century will be the end of exclusive Western political and economic dominance. The rise of China is at the core of this change and Keyu Jin is a brilliant thinker to take us through its implications from the perspective of someone who understands both China and the West. It is this combination of insider and outsider insight that makes "The New China Playbook" essential reading。

目前读完前四章，感觉作者不纠缠于中国与美西方交往的历史以及中国近现代史，直接认为中国家庭只有一个孩子的几代人，从 1980 年代开始（约 40 岁），最早的一批现已开始步入决策层，他们将是中国的未来“新玩法”之主人。这几天有书读了！

My thoughts on the English version of *The New China Playbook: Beyond Socialism and Capitalism (2023 edition)* by Jin Keyu

Dr Yong Sun (孙踊)

Translated by Jiaxi Li (李佳锡)

September 15, 2023

I have finished reading *The New China Playbook* written by Jin Keyu (金刻羽). Jin mainly provides some elucidation of China's past (reforms and opening up for over 40 years), present and future and makes some deductions from a global perspective. Her work is valuable considering the current international circumstances. Jin's position is neutral and moderate, attempting to build a bridge between East and West from political, economic and cultural perspectives.

One of Jin's observations is that the West has predicted the collapse of China many times but it has never happened. Jin also makes a bold deduction regarding China's future: China's weakness lies in its financial sectors. For example, when China's stock market crashed in 2015, 1 trillion US dollars left China within a year due to the liberalised capital accounts. However, this also shows a certain degree of freedom in capital accounts in China.

Additionally, Jin points out that her father benefited from Deng Xiaoping's educational reform, which allowed Jin's father to enter a university in Beijing in 1978.

September 14, 2023

Yesterday I was reading Jin Keyu's book and today I received some feedback — I was told that Jin Keyu's father is Jin Liqun (金立群, a Chinese politician). My response to this feedback was that, based on what I have read in her book, she did not benefit from her father's influence. Instead, in 1997, Jin went to a high school in New York and received a scholarship to complete her bachelor's degree, master's degree and

PhD in Harvard University in the US. It is believed that she graduated with a PhD at the age of 26.

September 13, 2023

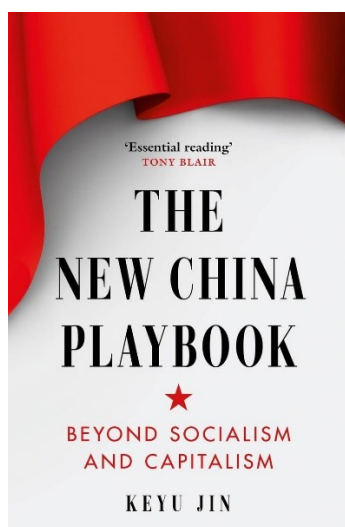
I bought a book from Amazon, *The New China Playbook: Beyond Socialism and Capitalism* (2023). It is written by an associate professor of economics in London School of Economics and Political Science in the UK, Ms Jin Keyu. This book has arrived today.

The book consists of 10 chapters, 360 pages, as well as acknowledgements. On the back of the book is the following comment from former British Labour Prime Minister Blair:

“The biggest geopolitical change of the twenty-first century will be the end of exclusive Western political and economic dominance. The rise of China is at the core of this change and Keyu Jin is a brilliant thinker to take us through its implications from the perspective of someone who understands both China and the West. It is this combination of insider and outsider insight that makes “The New China Playbook” essential reading.”

I have read the first four chapters now. I think that Jin is not focusing on China’s past interactions with the west and China’s modern history. She thinks among the people born in and after the 1980s under the One-Child Policy, now in their 40s, are entering the senior levels of decision-making processes in today’s China and will therefore be the leaders in China’s future playbook.

I have something good to read now!



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. Currently the group has over 140 members, who travel from Cumbria, Cheshire, Nottingham and Lancashire as well from all parts of Yorkshire to attend workshops. These workshops usually take place at a weekend and sometimes for two-days. They are suitable for beginners or experienced artists.

The group produces a regular monthly newsletter packed with information. Meetings are usually held every month at the Pool-in-Wharfedale Memorial Hall LS21 1LG (on the A659) at the bottom of Pool Bank, just off the A658 between Bradford and Harrogate). The venue has excellent facilities and car parking.

Further information from the Secretary: Anne Allan,
Tel: 01422 368482 or email: mail@anneallan.com
Website: www.cbpsyorks.co.uk

China Eye Diary; Chinese Festivals in 2024

The full sequece of 12 animals is in this oredr; Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Hoese, Goat, Monkey, Rooser, Dog and Pig.

10 February, Chinese New Year (Year of the Dragon)

4th April, Qing Ming

June 10th Dragon Boat Festival

17th September, Mid-Autumn Festival (Moon Cakes)

1 October National Day

11 October, Chong Yang (Seniors’ Day)

These are the main festivals celebrated in the PRC, which have also become known to UK residents, Chinese New Year in paticular. Parts of the central areas of major cities, such as London, Liverpool and Manchester are cordened off for the celebrations.

Chinese New Year is known as the Spring Festival and it is the most important festival in China. It is usually accompanied by a week long National holiday. The second most important holiday in China is National Day, 1st October, which is also is followed by a week long holiday. The PRC was founded on 1st October 1949, so 2024 will be the 75th year of the PRC.

历史重现

邢奕 中国人民大学 2014 届硕士生，现中国日报驻伦敦记者

在我还没来到英国之前，我从李琳熙博士口中得知英中了解协会。那是 2022 年夏天，我在北京办理前往伦敦的签证，便邀曾在英国生活 6 年的琳熙见面，希望提前了解一些关于英国的信息。我和另外两位朋友相约景山公园，一边爬山一边聊天。琳熙告诉我她在英国时帮助英中了解协会将许多成箱的历史档案数字化，其中有很多 70、80 年代英中了解协会会员来访中国的历史照片和记录。当年的英国人如何看待仍在发展初期的社会主义中国？这些旧闻会是一个很好的新闻故事。我告诉琳熙，等数据库公开了我也要去看看。

一转眼，自我抵英已经一年多。因为琐碎的工作，我也忘了英中了解协会的事情，但因采访结识了 Keith Bennett 先生。九月初，我参加 Keith 的生日聚会，与我同桌的丘静雯在介绍自己时提到了英中了解协会，并发给我最近一期的《中国眼》电子杂志，在目录中看到作为英中了解协会档案管理员的李琳熙，我不禁对丘静雯感叹道这是一个小世界，兜兜转转，志同道合的人总会相遇。

随后，琳熙协助我浏览了目前已经上线的英中了解协会档案，并且发给我她基于部分档案撰写的论文“知识精英介入新闻生产：英中了解协会新闻小组对媒体涉华报道的勘误实践”，该文于今年 9 月发表在中国最权威的新闻传播研究期刊之一《新闻大学》上。这篇论文研究 20 世纪 60 年代英中了解协会会员们通过种种方式纠正欧美主流媒体对中国的偏颇报道，我一口气读完。

研究中提到李约瑟发起成立英中了解协会就是为了致力于传播有关中国社会生活和思想等各方面信息，而不存在先入为主的偏见、教条主义观点或意识形态限制。其中英中了解协会与中国人民对外友好协会建立交流合作，从 1970 年起开辟中国之旅，十多年间将数百名社会精英和专业人士带入中国，他们的个人亲历和访华见闻成为协会批驳媒体不实报道的独家材料。因为用最新的一手资料让勘误内容更加精准可信，这样即便不能完全驳倒作者，也能让这种辩驳更有益。

在浏览档案资料和历史研究时，我深深感受到所有的历史都是当代史，60 年前的欧美媒体对华报道的情况和现在有着惊人的相似之处，看看这些英中了解协会档案，就会发现现在很多英美媒体对中国的报道依旧带着一副旧日的偏

见。琳熙在论文结语写道：“历史上的英国知识精英有效介入了中国议题的新闻生成，将英国民众对中国的认知从消极定见向冷静客观乃至友好理解的方向推动，当今国际传播生态亟需这样的力量。”

和 60 年前相比，虽然在政治语境下中英两国的关系仍然紧张，但航空业让国际旅行变得更加容易，互联网的普及更是降低了相互了解与交流的门槛。如果人们再能从历史中汲取一点教训就更好了：我们的敌人不是对方，而是自己的傲慢与偏见。

Already Seen: A Deja Vu in History

Yi Xing, Renmin University of China, Master of Journalism, Class of 2014; China Daily Reporter in London

I learned about the Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding from Dr Linxi Li before I came to the United Kingdom in the summer of 2022. I was in Beijing applying for my visa, and I called Linxi who had lived in the UK for six years to meet in order to find out some information about the country where I would be working for the next few years.

We decided to stroll around Jingshan Park with two friends, and while we climbed the small mountain, Linxi told me that while she was in the UK, she helped SACU to digitize its historical archives, including many old photos and records of SACU members visiting China in the 1970s to 1980s. How did the British back then view socialist China? These archives may tell a good story, I thought, so I told Linxi that when the database is made public I also want to take a look.

Time flies, and now it has been a year since I landed in London. Because of busy reporting work, I forgot about SACU but I met Keith Bennett in an interview and we became good friends. When I attended Keith's birthday party in September, Iris Yau, who was at the same table with me, mentioned SACU when she introduced herself and sent me the latest issues of the China Eye magazine. In the magazine, I saw the name of Linxi, who is the archivist for SACU, and all that she told me on top of the Mountain Jingshan last summer came back to me. I couldn't help but exclaim to Iris that this is such a small world, where people with the same interests will always meet each other. Linxi then assisted me in browsing the SACU archives that are put online and sent me one academic paper she wrote based on some of the archives, *How Intellectual Elites Get*

Involved in News Production: The Correction Practice on China-related Coverage by the Press Group of Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding, which was published in September in one of the most authoritative journals of journalism and communication research in China. Her paper examines the various ways in which SACU members corrected biased coverage of China in the mainstream media in the UK and the United States in the 1960s.

The study mentions that Joseph Needham founded the SACU to work on the dissemination of information about all aspects of Chinese social life and thought without preconceived prejudices, dogmatic views, or ideological constraints. SACU and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries established an exchange and cooperation program. Since 1970, SACU started to organize China Tours, which brought hundreds of social elites and professionals to China over the next decades, and their personal experiences in China have become the exclusive materials to refute the inaccurate reports from the media. Because with up-to-date and first-hand sources, even if they could not completely convince the author, the information would make the debate more meaningful.



Yi Xing and Linxi Li

After reading the research paper, I felt that all history is contemporary history, and that there are striking similarities between the media's coverage of China 60 years ago and now. Many of the British and US media are reporting China with the same bias as in the old days. In the conclusion of her paper, Linxin also writes, "Historically, British intellectual elites have effectively intervened in news generation on China issues, pushing the British public's perceptions of China from negative stereotypes to objectivity and even friendly understanding,

and this is urgently needed in today's international communication as well".

Comparing the situation now and 60 years ago, I found the relations between China and the UK are still tense in the political discourse, but the development of the aviation industry has made international travel easier, and the internet has lowered the threshold of communication. It would be nice if people learned a little more from history: Our enemies are not each other, but our own pride and prejudice.

Summer Camp for Chinese Students 2023

It was with huge excitement this August that [Engage with China](#) ran our first English Language Summer camp for Chinese students since the imposition of Covid19 restrictions in January 2020.

We joined forces with an existing summer camp for international students from Europe, to bring students (aged 11-17 years) from mainland China and Hong Kong to join them. With intensive English in the morning, the afternoons were filled with sports activities, creative arts, and drama. Weekends and some afternoons, included trips to nearby Cambridge and Oxford, meeting Professor Rana Mitter, in Oxford to talk to the world affairs and for Rana to hear the thoughts of young people in China today, in Cambridge hearing Dr Anya Burgon, explaining the opportunities that studying in Cambridge could bring.

A visit to beautiful Canterbury, included one of the deacons explaining the role of religion (including Anglicanism) in the UK, but which ended with a discussion stimulated by the students on the differences between Judaism, Christianity & Islam. There were trips to London and King's College, London and of course a Shakespeare play, in King's College Cambridge gardens. Much laughter was had, and new friends made, and more bridges between UK & China built. The words '其实 我不想走, 其实 我不想留 -Actually, I don't want to leave, actually, I still want to stay) texted by one student to his parents, sum up how much the camp was enjoyed.

Contributed by Theresa Booth, Chopsticks Club

Letter from Shanghai

Andrew Beck has just published an edited collection about climate change reporting. Knowing he was about to visit China his co-editors asked him to report back.

24 September 2023

In a few minutes time I'm going to walk to Shanxi Nan Lu Metro station. The unseasonably heavy September Shanghai rain has briefly stopped. Last night it was torrential but now I can walk in the dry to take the Metro to the Pudong airport Metro station. For three years Covid, health prohibitions, travel restrictions, and prohibitively expensive air fares prevented international travel. About to leave China, I reflect on being back here for two weeks after a long absence.

Follow the paperless trail

My journey started at Hongqiao railway station. I'd bought my ticket in advance from Ctrip, the largest Chinese travel service provider. In the past I had to wait in incredibly long queues to collect my ticket. This time the Ctrip website told me that no physical ticket was necessary to gain entrance to the platform, indeed the slot into which you used to insert your ticket was now blocked. All that was needed to gain entry for Chinese nationals was their ID card, and for foreign nationals their passport. Placing my passport on the flat glass scanner at the entry barrier up popped my name and passport number as well as details of my journey - G7347 train from Shanghai Hongqiao to Hangzhou Dong, carriage 02, seat 02B - and I was through the barrier. Ahead of a train journey in the past I always used to pick up an English language newspaper from one of the Hongqiao newsstands. This time there were no newspapers and no newsstands. However, *Shine, Shanghai Daily* as was, was downloadable.

One hour later and the high-speed train (cruising speed 300kph) was in Hangzhou. Inside the Hangzhou Dong complex I transferred to the Hangzhou Metro, for I wasn't visiting the bustling Zhejiang capital city by the West Lake, but Xiasha, the higher education zone, to the east of the city, going to the Communication University of Zhejiang (CUZ). There to work with colleagues in the School of International Communication and Education's UK Cultural Industries research centre, my visit gave me the opportunity to meet up with an old friend, the school's deputy dean, Bao Xiaofeng. I asked him about Hangzhou's environmental policies. He started with the city's petrol vehicle policy: their licence plates limit city entry to alternate days. However, electric vehicles (EVs) can enter the city every day. In China the process of obtaining vehicle licence plates is long and tedious. Petrol vehicle owners take forever to get their plates; EV get them very quickly. Ten-year vehicle scrappage is compulsory. If a vehicle has very low mileage its life can be extended. Taxis and buses are all scrapped after ten years.

Bao offered me some historical background to the Chinese desire to save power and go green: for Chinese people, "Power sharing is in the blood". Zhejiang province used to suffer from electrical brownouts, and was an early adopter of solar power to prevent this. One aspect of President Xi's beautiful countryside project was taking remote parts of the country out of the dark with the use of solar-powered streetlights. For Bao, the Chinese positive response to climate change, the adoption of green policies, is not something novel or new; he puts it down to Chinese pragmatism. Chinese families have a sense of history, and there is a long history of doing one's best to not waste resources, to save money. Many Chinese cities also police energy consumption: not until temperatures rise to 30 degrees can air conditioning be turned on, and similar restrictions apply to heating being turned on in the winter.

Much of the CUZ campus had been taken over for use as training grounds because the 2023 Asian Games were about to take place in Hangzhou. Interviewed by reporter Zhang Meng for CGTN online on 24 August, Lu Chuan, lead director for the opening ceremony, spoke about green energy, one of the Games' themes. He added, "Hangzhou is a very special city [...] it's so green. It's one of the best places to show the whole world China wants to take the responsibility to help save the earth, to save the planet."

"No ice"

Three days later I left Hangzhou and took the HST to Changsha. Ten years or more ago I would have made this journey by air. Back then China's ageing railway network and rolling stock meant that train journeys were incredibly long and often really uncomfortable, and stations weren't always centrally located. China's HST network means that internal travel is faster, cheaper, and greener than using internal flights. Where airports are located an hour's journey from city centres, HST stations are easily accessible in downtown locations, so the four-and-a-half-hour train ride from central Hangzhou to central Changsha was soon over. I was there to meet another old friend, Professor Sun Xiangming, artist, educator, and art theorist.



The Bund at night (WF)

The first night there we had supper with another old Changsha artist friend, Ma Jiancheng. During Covid he'd been hospitalised for two weeks, one of them in an ITU. While still evidencing reduced lung capacity he was almost

his old self. Sun himself presented me with the catalogue made for an exhibition he'd had during the 2021 Hunan Design Association Design Week. Called 'South Pole and North Pole' it featured work he'd made during a 2016 Arctic visit and a 2018 Antarctic visit. The images from the South Pole were of staggeringly brutal beauty, savage landscapes of ice. Sun said that while the South Pole had been fantastic the North Pole wasn't. I asked him why, though the answer was plain to see: "No ice".

Come Saturday I took lunch with another old friend, Fu Yang. I was keen to ask him for his take on green China. He talked about both EVs and NEVs (new energy vehicles); about EV and NEV users not having to pay parking charges; about the massive increase in charge points in residential compounds for overnight charging. (China is now largest net exporter of EVs.) Moreover, lots of people see business opportunities in green energy and a cleaner environment. Lots of China unicorns are new energy companies. He explained how Beijing was trying to reduce China's reliance on fossil fuels, helping wean people off use of them, by, for example, closing coal mines in Shanxi province. But where the 1980s closure of the UK's pits was designed to punish the National Union of Mineworkers, and no help was offered to redundant miners, in China Beijing compensated miners, facilitating their relocation or retraining. When I ask him if these are examples of Chinese pragmatism, he interprets it as a manifestation of the harmonious society. A Confucian notion, the idea was revived by Hu Jintao, and became a key component in neo-Confucian thought.

"No one uses cash anymore"

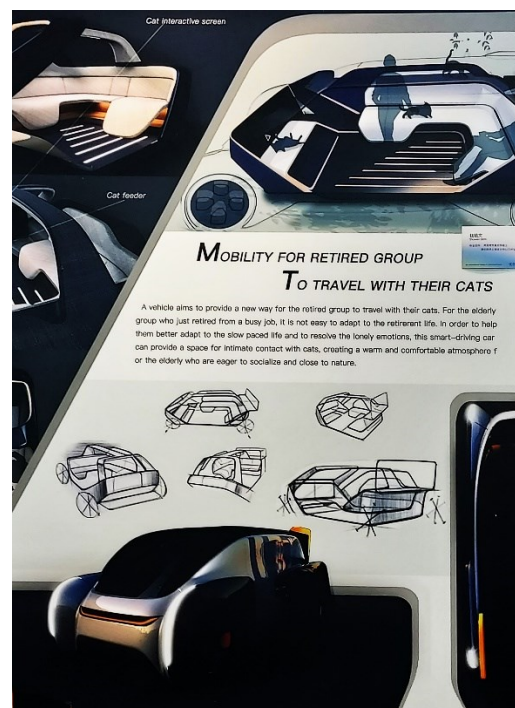
After lunch with Fu, I travelled with Sun, his daughter, his son-in-law, and his grandson to Dongting Hu, the huge lake in northeastern Hunan, a flood basin of the Yangtze River. We stay overnight in Yiyang city, and explore the lake in the early morning sun, but not before we'd joined some of Sun's relatives for supper. Although Yiyang city has a population of 4 million, it's small by Chinese standards, and many parts have a distinctly rural feel, looking like much of China did twenty or more years ago. But even here, when it was time to pay for the meal, there was no sign of paper money or credit cards; it was time to open WeChat and use WeChat Pay. One quick scan and the meal was paid for. Age seems to be no barrier to effective WeChat Pay use. As Li Zhou later remarked in Nanjing, "No one uses cash any more, even my parents".

On TV that night I tuned in to CGTN to watch *Big Story*. The magazine programme resembles *Tomorrow's World* or *Click*, and offers uniformly positive coverage of green technology innovations. Tonight's edition focused on low or no carbon impact vehicles, and featured Cake, the Swedish firm who design and make electric bikes whose carbon weight is near zero, and who aim to produce fossil-free, zero emissions bikes by 2025. As well as Cake's bikes, Candela electric, low energy consumption, fossil-free boats were featured. One model runs on a single blade, enabling the boat to rise entirely out of the water, and zip along with

minimum drag. Despite some visual evidence to the contrary, there was no sense that Chinese TV was ridiculing these Scandinavians as old hippies; quite the opposite. The science is taken as a given. There is no trying to find fault. The only issue is 'how do we reduce carbon and still travel?' Not only is there a positive green culture in the Chinese population at large, but TV airtime isn't wasted with what Emily Maitlis decried in her 2022 MacTaggart Lecture as the BBC's 'both-sideism'. When Chinese TV editors have on call hundreds of respected scientists who regard climate change as a fact, they don't scrabble around trying to find one who will argue the case against.

Sustainable mobility

On Monday afternoon I travelled by HST to Nanjing to take part in three events. First was an exhibition celebrating ten years of a joint undergraduate programme between Nanjing University of Science and Technology (NJUST) and Coventry University, a course I'd had a hand in writing and which I'd helped steer through complex approval processes. None of the students had designed anything remotely resembling the gas-guzzling, boy racer vehicles of yesteryear. I was most taken by one student's design, 'Mobility for retired group to travel with their cats'.



Travel with your cat?

The second event was the International Design Education Forum (IDEF). All the conference papers addressed hot topics in mobility: accessibility, inclusivity, EVs, NEVs, the interconnectedness of vehicles. Moving away from fossil fuels, reducing the environmental impact of vehicles, was a given; it was not open to question. The third event was NJUST's seventieth anniversary celebration. I would have expected it to be nothing less than a terrific spectacle, and it didn't disappoint. Speeches given by distinguished international guests addressed more big issues in design.

Harald Fuchs, director of the Herbert Gleiter Institute of Nanoscience at Munster University, identified three big challenges for the future: ‘Decarbonisation, alternative energy sources, and health’.

Shanghai storms

A short but fast train journey had me back in Shanghai. There to attend the opening ceremony of the University of Dundee’s new China office, I again took the opportunity to quiz friends old and new about China and climate change. In terms of a now paperless culture, I found my card holder with my name cards on, previously an essential in formal and informal meetings in China, never left my pocket. WeChat has completely taken over: instead of exchanging name cards, all we did was to either scan a new friend’s QR code, or to offer our own QR code. I did press my case about paper. Up to a point, one friend agreed, but there’s always one place you’ll find lots of paper: in bosses’ offices.

After making my way in the pouring rain from the Shangjia Centre and entering the Yili Road Metro station I reflected that I must have been among the last people using paper money in Chinese cities in late 2023, and most certainly the very last one to use actual coins to ride the Metro. September has long been a popular month for business launch events in Shanghai. This unseasonably heavy rain was another prompt for climate change reflection. Granted China is one of the world’s biggest polluters, but the country doesn’t engage in diversionary media politics. Xi Jinping doesn’t declare himself the motorist’s friend, never mind the environmental damage. What’s more, it is hypocritical for other, predominantly post-industrial, countries, to call out China for its record on pollution. The UK’s Industrial Revolution took more than one hundred and sixty years; China’s has taken barely thirty-five years. One of the key reasons air quality in the UK and the US is (relatively) good is so much heavy manufacturing has been exported to southeast Asia in general, and to China in particular. There is no earthly reason the UK or the US, with comparatively small populations, should be such mass emitters.

And with that in mind I set off home: to the post-industrial south Midlands, to a small town with some of the worst air quality in the UK, all caused by vehicle emissions and log-burning stoves. Happy trails.

About the author

Andrew Beck worked in UK secondary, further, and higher education for forty-two years, lastly as International Partnership Manager for Coventry University’s Faculty of Arts and Humanities. He is author of best-selling and oft cited works such as *Cultural Work* and *Communication Studies*. Although *retired* he continues to teach at and advise international universities, including Chinese universities. His recent publications include contributions to, and co-editing books on Covid-19, the Ukraine war, Boris Johnson’s premiership, the Guyanese oil boom, and the British monarchy, as well as occasional features for *China Eye*.

A Message from Minji

I started doing a little bit of reflection on our work in bringing children together in 2023. Children who are learning Chinese in the West and children who are learning English in China have already done a lot in their cross-culture collaboration - they took Hot Dog and Frozen Kitty [for sports](#) and [food](#). They had made a [collaborative video game](#) together, and this weekend will create a Thanksgiving dinner together. It is a perfect demonstration of how children and their families build a bridge of understanding and trust gradually.

For December, we are planning a special event for kids to welcome 2024 together. We are in the curation process and should be able to give you a concrete idea within the next two weeks. I shall be able to write this up by early December.

This was too late for this issue of China Eye but will appear in the next, Spring 2024, No 81.

Dear SACU colleagues,

I am coordinating topics for next year’s newsletters with Chinese cultural associations. The key for the Creative Chinese Club is to make Chinese culture really fun for kids. I am in the brainstorming stage with other associations and would like to touch base with SACU.

1. Food - food innovations in China (eg. Haidilao, see below newsletter from Marisha’s Marketing Mastery Newsletter)
2. Art - Popular TV shows (for adults), popular cartoon characters (for kids)
3. School life - one day of school life in China (modern times). I have the materials from a Chinese primary school ready.
4. Philosophy - The [Chinese vs. Western Mythology explained to kids](#) blog is a popular one for Western families.
5. Kids collaboration - Our [connecting program](#) provides kids the opportunity to participate, connect, and collaborate. It encourages mutual understanding and integration.

If you have suggestions to encourage culture exchange in high-quality, insightful, and appealing ways, I welcome all your thoughts and suggestions.

The Qin Development of weaponry that allowed them to defeat the other states and consolidate their gains into Imperial China.

James De Burghe

Zhao Zheng, at age 13, formally ascended the throne of the state of Qin in 246 BC. Supported by his mother's lover Lü Buwei and later advised by Li Si, he developed and supported the science and industrial technology that was to transform Qin into the most powerful, well-armed, and efficiently administered state of all the states of the warring states period.

Over the following 7 years Qin's scientists, artisans, and armourers developed a set of weapons and weapon manufacturing techniques that were far more advanced than any of their adversaries and in fact were undiscovered in the west for 700 to 1000 years later.

The backbone of the army was the crossbow. The advantage of the crossbow was that it took far less time to learn proficiency in its use than the standard drawn bow. The scientists tested different woods for the bow itself and found that laminating different woods together produced more powerful bows from the 80kg pull light infantry bow to the 150kg pull heavy bow right up to the 1500kg heavy siege bow. The components of the bronze trigger mechanism were mass produced with great accuracy as were the wooden stocks of the bow. Research into bowstrings resulted in mixed silk and twine bowstrings that retained their strength and taughtness even when wet. The standardisation of language and of units of measure within Qin made possible the production of detailed manufacturing drawings and specification sheets which in turn were used to develop mass manufacture of these weapons. Factories arose capable of mass manufacture and millions of these bows were produced during the Qin period.

No less important was the crossbow bolt and again Qin developed a unified design of a hardened metal head attached to a more flexible metal tang. The tang in turn was fitted into the bamboo body of the bolt ending in goose feather flights to give the bolt accuracy and stability in flight. The triangular head was brought to a fine point and was factory sharpened to ensure maximum penetration through armour and flesh.



Figure 1: Qin light infantry crossbow



Figure 2: Qin crossbow bolts showing head and tang

Later developments during this period saw Qin use a chemical mix similar to gunpowders as a fuel to increase the range and velocity of the heavy infantry bows and siege bows. A tube containing the mixture of charcoal, saltpetre, and sulphur was attached to the body of the bolt and a clever igniting device was fitted to the head of the bows stock as the bow was fired the fuse for the rocket tube was ignited, two seconds later when the bolt was well clear of the ground the rocket pack ignited and increased the velocity and extended the range of the bolt to around 700m when the rocket pack was exhausted a small weight attached just to the rear of the bolt head caused the bolts to fall point first back to earth at considerable velocity. Mass use of these weapons produced high casualties and panic among enemy infantry and cavalry assembling to attack Qin forces.

The large siege crossbows could be mounted on building for defensive purposes or on specially designed carts for offensive operations. These weapons required a crew of ten men to operate them and wind the large windlass that cocked the bow. They could be used to fire hard stone balls at walled defences, or rain down burning phosphorous on defended towns. Against defenders or attackers, they could fire stone balls that exploded on impact spreading deadly stone shrapnel amongst enemy troops.



Figure 3: An artist's impression of a Qin era siege crossbow.

Next in importance to the crossbow was the Halberd, a cleverly designed weapon whose primary use was to protect infantry from attacks by cavalry and charioteers. Again this weapon was produced in huge numbers in factories to a standard, approved, design and delivered, factory sharpened to the troops trained to use it. It proved a highly successful weapon that could be used to stab, chop or slice an opponent.



Figure 4: The bronze components of a Qin era halberd.



Figure 5: The Qin Halberd fully assembled

The final and most controversial weapon of the Qin era is the sword. It is fair to say that the scientific world has divided into two opposing camps around the efficacy, design and science behind the design and manufacture of these swords. Before we get to the controversy the basic facts of the matter need to be stated. During the excavations at Xi'an more than two thousand bronze swords were discovered as the pits of the terracotta army were opened up. The swords presented a dilemma, though the wooden handles had rotted away the sword blades and tang were fully preserved and as sharp and ready for use as the day they were made. Normally Bronze deteriorates very quickly in damp soil so this discovery was an anomaly.

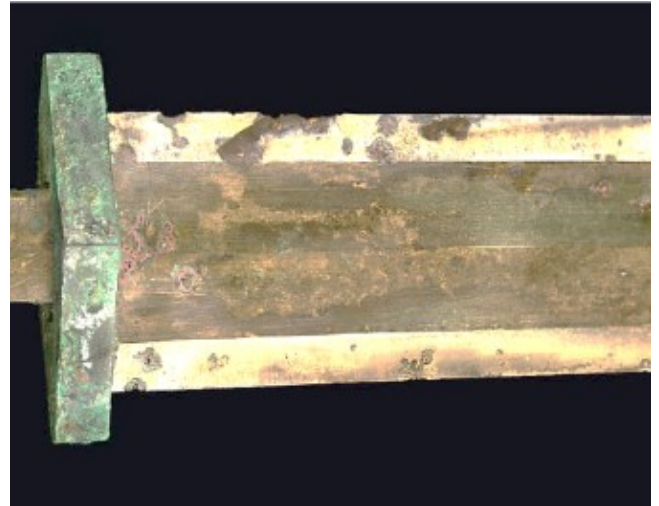


Figure 6: A Qin bronze sword, the nicks and scratches show it has seen use, but the edges are well defined and show no sign of erosion.

There were further anomalies in that these swords were longer than previously thought possible for bronze swords. They also showed an unexpected degree of flexibility. Primary analysis showed that the swords were forged with 9 different layers of bronze each with varying lead, copper, and tin content and this contributed to the ability to lengthen the sword and preserve its flexibility, but this failed to answer the question of why the swords had not eroded over the millennia.



Figure 7: A Qin sword recovered at Xi'an. in excellent condition and ready for use.

Further examination of the blades discovered that they were covered with a 3 micron thick layer of Chromium – they were in fact Chromium plated and that was why they had been preserved in the dank soils that covered them for thousands of years.

It is here that the scientific world split in its analysis of the blades. One faction claiming that the Chromium plating was accidental and in fact the blades were brittle and easily broken. The other claiming the Chromium plating was deliberate and that the blades were flexible and efficient.

It has to be stated that there have been repeated tests of the blades both scientific and practical that demonstrate the blades are flexible and not brittle.

The controversy seems to be as much political as scientific.

This short history demonstrates that Zhao Zheng's policies of encouraging science and innovation whilst standardising language and units of measure allowed technology and science to thrive within Qin. Here the main weapons are covered that allowed his armies to conquer the other warring states but there were a myriad of other useful invention for measuring distance, alloying metals and the invention of the blast furnace. Rightly, only in 221BC when the last of the warring states had been conquered did he declare himself Qin Shi Huang.

Note; I (WF) recently attended a talk about Henry V and the Battle of Agincourt in which the longbow of the British archers had such a disastrous effect over the French. I asked James how the Qin crossbow compared with the longbow. This was his answer; 'Modern day tests of the Qin crossbow using ballistic gel and plate armour suggest it had about the same level of penetrative power as the Welsh longbow. They also used the same style of triangular head that inflict wounds that are hard to heal, but the main difference is that it took about two weeks to train a Qin soldier to become proficient and accurate with the crossbow, whereas the longbow took months of practise to become efficient in its use and required men of above average strength to string and pull it. Qin regularly fielded 50,000 bowmen in its battles against the other states'.

Racism, Bigotry and Stereotypes

James de Burgh

Racism is a global endemic condition that affects every human settlement across the entire world. Because racism is born out of fear, fear of the outsider, fear of the different, fear of the imagined threats that the outsider may pose to the vision of what is normal. This condition has probably been around since mankind proliferated and spread itself around the globe. In many cases racism is defused by actual contact with the outsiders finding that they just like themselves harbour all the fears, hopes and aspirations that they hold dear and the outsiders are assimilated without any ensuing problems. In other cases the outsiders, perhaps because of their own behaviour, perhaps because the fear they engender is so acute, are met with violence. That violence in ages past would often end up with the extinction of one or other of the groups involved.

In modern times racism has been recognised as the illogical fear that it is. Many governments across the world have openly condemned racism but, and it has to be said, it seems to be a part of the human psyche and refuses to go away. The symptoms are strange, normal, decent people suddenly become inflated with a sense of hate directed at a different outsider group (who may be echoing the exact same emotions). These symptoms become very visible during times of economic hardship or the threat of disease – *it is the outsider who will steal my job, it is the outsider who will bring disease into my community*. The term outsider can become very broad and relate to people in the next village in extreme cases such as the black death pandemic.

It can be argued that eradicating poverty, creating a just and multipolar world order that allows all nations to develop in peace will help to eradicate racism, that is probably true. But there is another factor that needs close scrutiny, Individuals and groups of individuals who seek power have never hesitated to use racism as a means to achieve it. Creating an enemy that unites their own people behind them by using lies and propaganda about another nation or race. By these means different forms of underlying racism become embedded in society and form a set of stereotypes that are passed from one generation to the next and that keeps the fertile ground of racism receptive to stronger impulses of hate and denigration. If one looks at the thousands of books published between 1840 and 1939 both fiction and non-fiction it is alarming to see how many of them supported racist thinking. The popular novelists Sax Rohmer and Agatha Christie are a prime example of this, as is Sapper who wrote the Bulldog Drummond novels. All three writers used denigrating and pejorative terms to describe people of other races or beliefs, the seeds they planted and the terms they used can be found on the lips of the racists of 2023.

These long-term underlying traits of racism create bigotry, an unreasoning, illogical and totally false view of other nations, races, or beliefs. The bigot is not interested in truth or fact the bigots revels in their twisted views and spend an inordinate amount of time trying to destroy any other view but their own. The bigots will invent lies about those they hate and even when their lies are shown to be false they show no remorse and just proceed to invent more lies. In the opinion of some doctors bigotry is a manifestation of a mental disorder that seizes upon racism as a means to combat inner feelings of inadequacy or inferiority.

In 2023 we see racism and bigotry raise their ugly heads in a form that has unleashed death and destruction on some parts of the world and threatens to ignite a war that could engulf the entire world. We see the same tired racial stereotypes being hurled about by one nation about another nation, by one race about another race. We see both direct and subliminal racism being displayed in the world news media. At the end of the day if we wish to survive as a species, we have to overcome this insane emotion called racism.

About the author, James De Burgh; James first visited China in 1987 and has lived in Nanning, Guangxi province since 2004. He has served as the UK Voluntary Consular Warden and as the legal agent for Guangxi investment promotion to both the UK and US. He is a voluntary member of the Chinese poverty alleviation programme.

Calligraphy at Ming-Ai (London) Institute

Christy Leung, Marketing Co-ordinator at Ming-Ai (London) Institute.

明愛（倫敦）學院從 1993 年成立至今，服務社區已逾三十載。除與英國密德薩斯大學合辦中國文化遺產管理學課程外，長年來亦舉辦大量文化藝術活動予英國的華人社區參與，並推而廣之，無分國籍宣揚中國文化。

多年來，學院亦恆常開辦各類專業培訓課程及書畫班，一直深受歡迎。最近於 2023 年 10 月舉行的中國書法工作坊已圓滿結束，感謝胡瑞君老師的悉心講解。胡老師在工作坊向大家簡介書法的必備工具文房四寶，即紙、筆、墨、硯之重要性，及介紹中國書法發展的各個階段，並解釋「篆、隸、楷、行、草」五種不同書法字體的異同之處。在本次活動中，胡老師除示範書寫字體外，亦指導參加者的書寫姿勢。

胡老師居英超過三十年，他醉心藝術創作，仍孜孜不倦堅持畫畫和寫書法。胡老師提到：「希望可以不分國界讓更多人認識到中國書法之美，看到學生們的進步，我也感到欣慰和心滿意足。」

明愛（倫敦）學院不定期舉辦不同活動及文化講座，有興趣參與可留意其活動消息。

Ming-Ai (London) Institute has been serving the community for more than 30 years since its establishment in 1993. In addition to the collaboration with Middlesex University in running Chinese Cultural Heritage Management MA programme,

Ming-Ai Institute offers a range of art and cultural activities for the Chinese community and promote Chinese culture to people from any part of the world.

For many years Ming-Ai Institute has been offering regular professional training courses, calligraphy and painting classes, which are well received. Thanks to Mr. Ruijun Hu's teachings, the Chinese Calligraphy Workshop was successfully concluded in October 2023.

Mr. Hu highlighted the importance of the "Four treasures of Study", which are paper, brush, ink, and inkstone; various stages of the development of the art; and the five major script types i.e. "Seal script", "Clerical script", "Regular script", "Running script" and "Cursive script". He also demonstrated writing in different script types and guided the participants in holding correct posture.

Mr. Hu has been living in the UK over 30 years and dedicated himself to the world of art, tirelessly creating paintings and pieces of Chinese Calligraphy. He emphasised "I sincerely hope that more people from all over the world will appreciate

the beauty of Chinese Calligraphy. I feel blessed when witnessing my students' progress."

Ming-Ai (London) Institute organises many Chinese cultural activities, Chinese literature, philosophy, music and art and talks from time to time. They also offer courses in healthy Chinese cookery and have a fully equipped teaching kitchen. Visit their website <https://www.ming-ai.org.uk/> for further information.

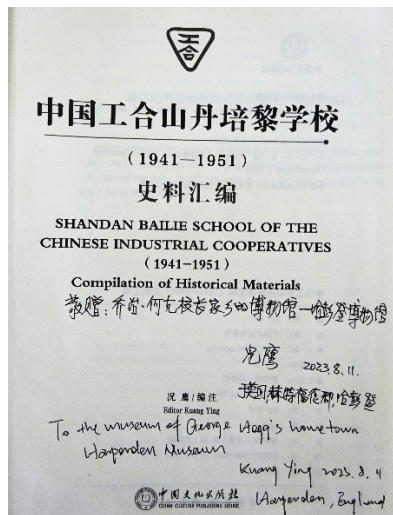
Ming-Ai: British Chinese Heritage Centre also has a British Heritage website with a library of articles and a very extensive collection of oral histories of a wide selection of British Chinese persons from many different professions and backgrounds.

www.britishchinesheritagecentre.org.uk



New research on George Hogg and the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives 1941-1951 by Kuang Ying. A report on the Author's visit to Harpenden and a meeting with Zoe Reed and SACU.

This report is based on an article by Rosemary Ross of Harpenden Local History Society.



Kuang Ying, has conducted new research on George Hogg and has published a book recoding his findings. Kuang and his wife, Liu Zi recently visited the UK and visited Harpenden, George Hogg's home town. Here he met members of Harpenden Local History Society, Gavin and Rosemary Ross and Roger Butterworth and SACU members, Zoe Reed, Richard Poxton and Frances Wood. Gavin is chairman of the history society. Together they followed the George Hogg Trail and visited George Hoggs's birthplace, 'Red Gables' and the Hogg family home, 'Wayfarings'. Frances acted as interpreter for the Chinese couple.

Kuang presented a copy of his book each to Harpenden Museum, to SACU and a third to St George School, Hogg's alma mater. Kuang also brought with him, film clips of George Hogg and Rewi Alley at the Bailie Shuangshipu school in 1943. A Bailie school taught practical skills as well as academic subjects.

Kuang Ying's father and uncle were pupils of George Hogg's Bailie school at Shuangshipu, Shanxi province in China and when the Japanese invaders approached their area, Hogg and 63 of his pupils walked over 700 miles to safety at Shandan, Gansu province, where they established a new school. Kuang had compiled historic material from the Shanan Bailie school (1941-1951) and published a book at his own expense. The work more accurately records the history and the basic project of Rewi Alley and the China Industrial Cooperative Movement. It is a comprehensive volume of 684 pages containing 580,000 Chinese characters.

Kuang is a retired cadre and worked at the Nanyang Oilfield for Sinopec, the multinational Chinese oil giant. When he

retired in 2009, he carried out his research on Hogg. He has created a WeChat network of the descendants of Hogg's pupils and currently is in touch with 63 of them in China, Britain and Andorra.

Zoe Reed helped arrange Kuang's trip to Harpenden and afterwards back to London, Kuang sent Zoe a thank you message; also thanking Frances for her help as translator.



Red Gables



Kuang Ying and Liu Zi outside 'Wayfarings'



Group photo at 'Wayfarings',



Kuang Ying presenting his book to Zoe Reed

Photos are by Roger Butterworth and Zoe Reed

The George Hogg Appeal



George Hogg (From Google Images)

George Hogg was born in 1915 and grew up in Harpenden where he attended St Georges School. He became head boy and later obtained a BA degree at Wadham College, Oxford University. At the age of 22 after graduating from Oxford, he set off on a world tour. After visiting the US and Japan, Hogg landed in Shanghai in February 1938 just after the Japanese invasion. He witnessed a city in ruins and felt compelled to stay and do what he could to help. In fact, he was to spend the last, 8 years of his life in China.

Hogg initially worked as an independent war correspondent for the Associated Press. Later in 1939 he became involved through Rewi Alley in the Gung Ho Chinese Industrial Cooperative (CIC) movement. Gung Ho means 'work in harmony'. Much of China's manufacturing capacity had either been destroyed or was in areas under Japanese control. This organisation set up small factories to make essential goods such as blankets and uniforms employing refugees. The CIC eventually gained international support together with both the Nationalist government and the Communists and became the International Committee for Chinese Industrial Cooperatives (ICCIC).

Rewi Alley later helped to set up schools for Chinese orphans to educate and prepared them for work in the cooperatives. They were called Bailie schools after Joseph Bailie, an American missionary friend of Alley. Bailie pioneered the concept of integrating theory with practice (i.e. hand and brain) in education.

Hogg became headmaster of the Bailie school in Shuangshipu, Shanxi province in 1942. In 1944 to escape the advance of war across northern China, he led his 60 orphan students on a 700-mile hike over snow-bound mountains to Shandan in Gansu province. There he set up a new school, but he had a minor accident, which brought on tetanus for which there was no treatment in this remote area of China. He died three days later on 22 July 1945. He was mourned by his students and was buried in a plot on the outskirts of Shandan. His favourite poem was inscribed on his headstone. (see below)



Hogg is little known in the UK but he has legendary status in Northwest China for his work in the wartime cooperative movement and as headmaster of the Shandan Bailie School. In the UK, however, his memory is being kept alive by his old school, St Georges, Harpenden, where he is seen as their most inspiring alumni, a model of personal sacrifice who gave up a privileged middle-class life for work amongst the most impoverished in war-torn China, regardless of the dangers and hardship he himself had to endure.

In 2013, SACU members visited the present-day Bailie School, which is on the same site that George Hogg's school occupied. Later the SACU party visited George Hogg's tomb not far away. (see the Needham Tour report in China Eye No 40). Further information on Hogg is obtainable from the article in China Eye No 36, 'Commemorating George Hogg' by Jenny Clegg.

SACU has launched a George Hogg Fund with the aim of promoting educational exchange between localities and institutions in Britain and China which have associations with George Hogg. It will help disseminate understanding of the Rochdale co-operative principles in China and at the same time open a new window for SACU members to get to know more about life at grass roots level in China.

It thus contributes to SACU's mission and fosters people to people contact between British and Chinese.

The fund will operate through SACU's existing link with the (ICCIC) of which the Shandon School is a member and finance for the fund will be obtained from sources outside of SACU membership fees.

SACU members are invited to contribute to this fund. You can donate via PayPal, please specify that it is for the George Hogg Fund via the 'Add special instructions to recipient' box. Or you can send a cheque to SACU, 15A Napoleon Road, Twickenham TW1 3EW. Again, please specify that it for the George Hogg Fund.

SACU's Speakers Bureau (China Education Project)

Barnaby Powell who coordinates the SACU Speakers Bureau has prepared the following notes as a guide to content of talks. (please see page 5)

CHINA – Fact sheet

(Name derived from *Qin* (Chin) rulers of 1st imperial dynasty;
Chinese name *Zhongguo* means 'Middle kingdom')

Population: c. 1.4 billion (July 2023); 56 nationalities/ethnicities

Ethnic Groups: Majority Han Chinese; Zhuang and Tibetan (south); Manchu and Mongol (north); Hui/Muslim and Uighur (central and west)

Languages: Standard Mandarin/*Putonghua*; Cantonese (*Yue*); Shanghainese (*Wu*); Fuzhou (*Minbei*); Hokkien/Taiwanese (*Minnan*)

Religions: Buddhist; Christian (Catholic/Protestant); Muslim; Taoist; Traditional (Ancestor reverence)

Age breakdown: Below 14 – 17%; 15-24 – 11.5%; 25-54 – 47%; 55-64 – 12%; 65+ - 12.5%

Birth rate: 11.6/1000 (Couples allowed to have more than 1 child since 2015)

Urbanization: 61.5% (+2.5% p.a.)

Education: 14 years

Literacy: 97%

Government: Consultative authoritarian led by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)

Capital: Beijing

Head of State: President Xi Jinping **Head of Government:** Premier Li Qiang

Economy: Centrally planned – priority to state-owned industries over the private sector

Breakdown: Agriculture – 8%; Industry – 40%; Services – 52%

Currency: RMB (*Renminbi* or *Yuan*)

GDP Growth rate: 5.5% (est. 2023)

Per capita income: £13,500 at purchasing power parity (U.K.: £31,000)

Production: Ores, iron, steel and aluminium; coal; machine building; textiles; petroleum; cement; chemicals; fertilizers; toys; footwear; electronics; food processing; transport equipment; cars; ships; aircraft; telecoms equipment; space launch equipment and satellites.

Military: 2 million soldiers in the P.L.A. (People's Liberation Army, Navy and Air Force)

Sport: Football; Basketball, Tennis; Swimming; Athletics; Table tennis; Badminton; Gymnastics

Culture and the Arts: Calligraphy - Scroll painting - Poetry - Novel s*(incl. science fiction and a Nobel prize-winner in 2012) - Film - Chinese Opera - Ceramics - Music - Acrobatics - Martial Arts - Kung Fu -Taiji - Qigong

*Classic tales include: 'The Romance of the Three Kingdoms'

'The Dream of the Red Chamber'

'Journey to the West'

The Meaning of China

Intro: Roots of Culture – Parallel Universe – Pillars of Wisdom

Man-centred World – No Creator God – Moral Compass = Virtue (De)

West: Law – Religion – Contractual – Rights – Individual – Enlightenment Values

East: *Guanxi* – Ancestor Worship – Relational – Duties – Collective – Confucius

Cultural Norms: ‘Face’ – Fate – Favour Education – Family – Economy

Western Impact: Technology – Marxism – Production – Christianity

Eastern Response: Meditation – Meritocracy – Imitation/Innovation

History: 19th Century ‘Century of Humiliation’ – Foreign Incursions – Opium Wars

1911 Revolution – PRC 1949 (Mao) – 1978 Reform & Opening (Deng)

2001 WTO – 2008 Financial Crash – 2018 Xi Jinping

Planned Evolution: (‘New Era’) – ‘Going Global’ - to 2025: upgrade Manufacturing

By 2035: ‘World Leading Companies’ – by 2049: Main Suppliers of Railways,

Computer Chips, Ocean Engineering, Jet Planes, Electric Cars and Satellites

BRI (Yi Dai, Yi Lu) - \$1 trillion – 152 Countries – 65% of World GDP –

Infrastructure – Connectivity – Silk Road – Trade Routes

‘Shift/Rift’: West to East – IMF/World Bank/UN/NATO – NDB/AIIB/SCO

‘Pivot to West’ (Eurasia) – Locomotive of Economy – Emergence as Global

Power (Bi-or Multi-Polar?) – Champion of Global South (Africa and L. America)

Factors Affecting Outcomes: Per cap. Income 30x since 1990 (vs. 2.5x in US)

Technology Race: Big Data/AI/5G – ‘Haunting’ of Cyberspace – Productivity -

Ageing Population – ‘Soft Power’ Deficit (intrinsic appeal of system/culture/

products) – Technocracy and Technology trumping Human Rights?

Xi Jinping: ‘Common Destiny’ – ‘Shared Future’? – Han/Man/Mong/Hui/Zang

Globalization (Efficient, not fair) – Urbanization (20% to 60% in China)

Challenge: Reconciling differing values, viz., Rule of Law vs. Rule by Law

Imperative of Engagement/Convergence: to address intractable common problems:

Global Warming – Clean Energy – Food Security – IPR – Nuclear Proliferation –

Healthcare - Space Exploration. **Object:** To achieve the politics of social cohesion

based on collective purposes (via diplomacy – negotiating FTA/econ. partnership).

Sino File Winter 2023 compiled by Walter Fung

The media centre for the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, in Beijing recently opened its doors to welcome journalists from around the world. They were met by a 'living heritage experience area' at the media centre, featuring cultural exhibitions to display the unique charm of traditional Chinese culture.

Among them was the art of cloisonne, as a significant intangible cultural heritage, which originated in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) but reached its peak during the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) dynasties. With a history spanning over 600 years, cloisonne has gained international acclaim due to its unique style and exquisite craftsmanship.

The design of cloisonne draws inspiration from ancient ceramics and bronze artefacts, emphasizing classic floral patterns and ancient bronze decorations. The glaze primarily features peacock blue and jewel blue, with additional colours such as red, white, green, and yellow, resulting in a rich and vibrant palette. *(From the internet, 18/10/23)*

From the British Press

The Belt and Road (BRI) Forum

This was held in Beijing and was attended by representatives of over 130 countries. The most senior EU representative was Viktor Orban, Hungary's prime minister. Other notable leaders were Vladimir Putin and a member of the Taliban. China hopes the forum will promote a multipolar worldview and give the global south more agency. China's development finance institutions have provided about \$331 billion (£271 billion) between 2013 and 2021.

It has also spent about \$240 billion bailing out countries struggling with their BRI debts. BRI financing is increasingly focused on specific projects related to social or political goals. Beijing intends to show that its offers to the global south are more attractive than anything that could come from Washington or Brussels. *(From The Guardian 17/10/23)*

Edinburgh panda eats shoots and leaves.

Edinburgh Zoo's pandas are leaving to go home to China. They have been in the UK for 12 years and are now 20 years old - almost old age for a panda. Their keeper, Alison Maclean has developed an emotional relationship with them. She went to China to collect them and will travel with them when they return. She will spend some time with them in China but dreads returning home to see an empty cage at Edinburgh Zoo. Before the pandas arrived, the zoo had a £1.2 million deficit, but after just one year with the pandas, a £2.4 million surplus was earned. *(From The Times 7/9/23)*

Sunak faces backlash over AI China talks

Rishi Sunak is facing opposition from Tory MPs after inviting China to the conference on artificial intelligence (AI). He said that they had been invited but he was not 100% certain that they would attend. He also said that there

cannot be no serious strategy for AI without inviting all the world's leading AI powers. Liz Truss, former prime minister said she was deeply disturbed and asked Sunak to reconsider. She claimed that China uses and abuses technology to oppress millions and attacks freedom and democracy and that Beijing has a fundamental different attitude from the West about AI and sees it as a means of state control and a tool for national security. *(From The Times 7/10/23)*

Britain must work with China over AI

The deputy prime minister, Oliver Dowden, has said that the UK has no choice but to work with China on AI to combat the threat of AI. He is calling for a non-proliferation agreement to regulate the new technology. China is one of the three leaders in AI. An AI summit is to be held in the UK later this year. It is hoped that a permanent global regulatory authority similar to that of the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) can be set up. However, unlike the IAEA, which was between states, any agreement would have to include the giant technology companies, which are pioneering the new technology. The UN secretary-general, Antonio Guterres, and Sam Altman of OpenAI, which developed ChatGPT are in favour of setting up an international regulatory body.

The three leaders of the new technology are the US, UK and China. Dowden said that the new technology will require us to work with China, even if it does not share our values and that it will be beyond the ability of any one country to control or regulate. As well as agreement between politicians such as Kamala Harris and President Macron of France, the giant technology companies that are producing the new systems, must be involved. The Chinese leadership have been invited to the summit and are expected to attend. *(From The Times 29/9/23)*

China's economy growing faster than expected

Official statistics show that growth in the third quarter, July to September, was 4.9% and better than the 4.5% forecasted. However, it is a drop from the 6.3% in the previous quarter. It is believed that the growth slump has bottomed out and the economy is regaining some momentum. Chinese authorities have set a target of 5%, which is expected to be met. Consumption is recovering, but unevenly, with more being spent on services rather than big items such as cars. Positive economic news from official media seems to be accurate. *(From The Times 19/10/23)*

Chinese universities getting better

The Times Educational Supplement's ranking of world universities (made available by The Telegraph on the internet on 27/9/23) shows that for the first time Chinese universities have entered the top 15. The report comments that the two Chinese universities, Tsinghua and Peking are catching up and are not punching above their weight. The rankings are:-

- 1, Oxford (UK)
- 2, Stanford (US)
- 3, MIT (US)
- 4, Harvard (US)
- 5, Cambridge (UK)
- 6, Princeton (US)

7. California Inst. of Technology (US)
8. Imperial College (UK)
9. California Berkeley (US)
10. Yale (US)
11. ETH Zurich (Swiss)
- 12. Tsinghua (China)**
13. Chicago (US)
- 14 Peking (China)**
15. Johns Hopkins (US)

In the Centre for World University Rankings in May, 60% of UK universities lost ground, whilst 96% of Chinese universities gained ground. In this ranking system, Tsinghua came in at 44th. However, a UK analyst commented that Chinese universities will not benefit from the academic freedom, which UK universities have.

Feng Shui in London

The new Peninsula Hotel on Hyde Park Corner was opened on 12th September. This is London's first billion-pound hotel. A Hong Kong based Feng Shui master Lui Chun, was hired to advise on the design and even the opening date. He used his skills to determine the precise moment that the reception team should hand over the first room key and what the managing director Sonja Vodusek should wear; she wore red for luck. Lui also advised on the contents of time capsules placed in the marble lions at the front door. A copy of *The Times* was amongst the items. The hotel owners, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Hotel group had spent 30 years looking for the perfect location for their London hotel. The cheapest room starts at £1,300 per night. *(From The Sunday Times 24/9/23)*

Royal Navy dismisses Chinese laundrymen

The Royal Navy is ending its tradition of having Chinese personnel on warships amid fears that they could be forced to spy for Beijing. Hundreds of Chinese laundrymen have worked on British warships since the 1930s. Most were hired from Hong Kong. They will be replaced by Nepalese Gurkhas. *The Sun* newspaper said that three Chinese nationals were blocked from serving on HMS Queen Elizabeth on a voyage to the South China Sea. A fourth was reported to have been dismissed this month after 39 years of service because his family live in Hong Kong. At least four Chinese nationals are reported to be still working for the Royal Navy because their families have moved to Britain to protect them from threats from Beijing.

This is in the light of 20,000 British officials having allegedly been targeted on LinkedIn to lure them into handing over military and technological secrets. See below. *(From The Times 24/10/23)*

MI5 pledge to pursue Chinese agents.

The security service is pursuing Chinese agents believed to be seeking British secrets, especially in the areas of artificial intelligence, quantum computing and synthetic biology. More than 20,000 Britons with access to classified information or sensitive technology have been targeted using LinkedIn and similar business and employment networks. The head of MI5 in 2021 reported 10,000 British officials had been targeted by spies from hostile states. This number has now doubled. He said that authoritarian states are

becoming more aggressive and the technologies targeted are leaping forward in ways that will change our world at fundamental level. *(From The Times 18/10/23)*

Former boss of Bank of China arrested over corruption

Liu Liange, a former head of one of China's largest banks has been arrested on charges of accepting bribes, poor governance and illegally granting loans. The Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI) of the Communist Party, has also warned against 'hedonism' and 'high-end life styles,' whilst banks have reportedly reduced bonuses and pay for top staff. The Bank of China is amongst the top 11 in the world and is the fourth largest when ranked by assets. It is state owned but operates commercially.

Xi Jinping has long said that the finance sector must serve the economy. Two other senior figures have also been under investigation; Wang Yawei, a fund manager and Wang Bing, a former chair of China Life Insurance. Bing has been sentenced to life in prison after a death sentence was suspended. *(From The Times 17/10/23)*

Dependence on China greater than thought

In 1995, China was the main supplier of products of about 5% of US manufactured goods. By 2018, the figure had grown to about 60% of all American manufacturing sectors. However, according to three eminent economists (Richard Baldwin, Rebecca Freeman and Angelos Theodorakopoulos), the scale is even greater than that. If the iron ore, steel and rubber in modern cars and devices is carefully considered, the figure is 95%.

Even goods that say, 'Made in Britain' have parts from China. The author of this report, Ed Conway says, 'The next time a politician says we can do without Beijing, think again!'. *(From The Sunday Times 15/10/23)*

GSK's sales deal for shingles vaccine

GSK (formed by merger in 2000 by Glaxo Wellcome and Smith-Kline Beecham) has struck a £2.5 billion sales agreement with Zhifei, a Chinese drug company. The Chinese company will have exclusive rights to import and distribute Shingrix, a blockbuster shingles vaccine in China for an initial three years, starting in January. Zhifei will promote GSK's vaccine through its network of over 30,000 vaccine points. Shingrix has shown 100% efficacy in preventing shingles in Chinese adults aged 50 and over.

Following this deal, which could be extended, there is potential for further collaboration to co-develop and commercialise GSK's Arexvy vaccine for respiratory syncytial virus, which is a key new product. (GSK was fined £200 million by China in 2014 for paying bribes to boost sales). *(From The Times 10/10/23)*

AstraZeneca bruised by anti-corruption drive

The drug company has said that an anti-corruption drive in China, which intensified in the healthcare sector in August, has hit prescription volumes and access to doctors. However, the company anticipated that the investigations would benefit compliant companies in the long term. *(From The Times 14/10/23)*

Taiwan and Musk

A year ago, Elon Musk told the *Financial Times* that Taiwan should negotiate to become a 'special administrative zone' of China but 'more lenient'. This is in effect China's offer to Taiwan, but is regarded as anathema by the island.

China is offering 'carrots to Taiwan' before the island's elections next year. This week China offered to include Matsu and the other outlying islands just off the mainland coast, into a special development partnership with Fujian province. In addition, the suggestion of a railway link of 100 miles across the Taiwan Straits was made. This would connect Taiwan to the China-Eurasia Railway express, which is a component of the Belt and Road Initiative. Taiwan dismissed the rail link as 'wishful thinking' and pointed out that there was already close economic co-operation between the two sides. (From *The Times* 19/9/23)

From the Chinese press

Former Chinese Premier, Li Keqiang passes away.

The funeral took place on 2 November in Beijing. It was attended by Xi Jinping and all six other members of the CPC politburo standing committee. Former president Hu Jintao, who is in poor health, sent a wreath. Li was 68 years old and suffered a sudden heart attack on 27th October. He was premier for 10 years from March 2013 to March this year. Before becoming premier he held many senior positions including governor of Henan province and Secretary of the CPC of Liaoning provincial committee. He was born in Dingyuan, Anhui province and had a BA degree in law and a PhD in economics. (From *CDGW* 3-9/11/23)

China ranks first in academic journals

In 2022, China replaced the US as the country with the most papers published in global class journals specialising in 180 disciplines. In 2022, 159 such journals covering 178 disciplines published 54,002 papers. Chinese scholars contributed 16,349 papers representing 30.3% of the total, whilst US scholars published only 26.7%. China also ranked first in other high-level international journals and was also top in the number of citations. (From *CBGW* 22-28/9/23)

Huawei's new Mate 60 smartphone

On August 29th this year, Huawei launched its new smartphone, which includes its own self-developed chips 5G connectivity and satellite call support. This is viewed as a turning point in the evolution of a new world order. Huawei is issuing its own 7-nanometer chips which is a breakthrough in self-sufficiency despite US sanctions against China's chip industry,

The 7-nanometer processor is believed to have been made by China's leading chip maker, Semi-conductor Manufacturing International Corporation (SMIC). It has been possible to make high-tech chips without extreme-ultraviolet lithography tools (EUV). This shows the resilience of China's chip technological ability. (From *CDGW* 15-21/9/23)

US-China decoupling is not practical

Janet Yellen, US Treasury Secretary, said on November 2nd, that decoupling was simply not practical and would have

'disastrous effects' because of the complexity of Asian supply chains and deep economic linkages to China. She was speaking at the Asia Society in Washington, 10 days before the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in San Francisco. Industry leaders have said that long-term restrictions would impact US future business and financial results; the US semiconductor industry would suffer a permanent loss of opportunities. Chip design companies, rely on sales to China to fund their research and development. (From *CDGW* 10-16/11/23)

US-China trade

Since 1979, total trade has grown from \$2 billion to over \$643.8 billion in 2022. China-US two-way equity and bond holdings at the end of 2020 stood at \$3.3 trillion. In 2019, exports to China supported 1.2 million jobs in the US and as of 2018, 197,000 people in the US were directly employed by Chinese multinational firms.

US companies gain by tapping into China's huge market and manufacturing facilities. An example is Starbucks which opened 724 new shops in 2022 alone. This takes its total to well over 6,000 shops. In the aviation sector, a de-coupling from the Chinese market would create losses ranging from \$38 billion to \$51 billion every year.

A study by Trade Partnerships Worldwide has calculated that the average family of four in the US would pay up to \$2,300 more per year for goods and services if the US imposed a tariff of 25% on all Chinese imports. (From *CDGW* 10-16/11/23)

China's investment in green energy

Scientific American, a US science magazine noted in a report that China invested \$546 billion on clean energy alone in 2022. This is far more than other nations including the US, which invested \$141 billion. The report also stated that China is expected to remain the global leader, in this area for at least another decade. (From *CDGW* 3-9/11/23)

Chinese electric cars

Gunnar Birkenfeldt, from a Norwegian electric automobile information company, says he has no trouble recommending Chinese electric cars (EV). KPMG forecasts that Chinese EVs could capture 15% of the European market by 2025, up from 10% in 2022, representing 1.1 million vehicles. Europe is the fastest growing market for EVs, after China, and presents opportunities because of its affluence, green policy and relatively friendly attitude towards China. A surge is expected because of the EU plan to ban the sale of fossil fuel cars from 2035 to combat climate change.

Most Chinese auto makers have established R & D centres in Europe and BYD, Geely and NIO have been building factories for new energy cars and buses. KPMG has recorded that the automobile industry in 2022 accounted for about 53% of Chinese investment in Europe, which is up from 33% in 2021. Chinese new energy vehicles (NEV) are making progress internationally. BYD saw its 5 millionth NEV roll off the assembly line. This is a global first for the company. Warren Buffett has shares in BYD. (From *CDGW* 5-12/10/23)

Debt Suspension Initiative of G20

The G20 has arranged a 'debt suspension initiative' for developing nations which are having problems in repayment of grants. Although China is a developing nation itself, it is contributing more than any other country in the G20. China has signed agreements or reached understanding on the suspension of debt repayments with 19 African countries and thus helping Africa to alleviate debt pressure.

China is committed to building an open world economy. It has become the main trading partner of more than 140 countries and signed 21 free trade agreements with 28 countries and regions. *(From CDGW 6-10/10/23)*

Great progress of Piraeus port

Piraeus in southern Greece, the 'Southern Gate' of Europe, was making huge losses before 2010. In that year, China COSCO Shipping Corporation Limited became involved in the operation of the port. Since then, the capacity has expanded and the port can now handle 7.2 million TEUs (twenty-foot equivalent units). The port's global ranking has jumped from 93rd in 2010 to 33rd in 2022. More than 3,000 jobs have been created plus a further 10,000 indirect jobs. Over 1.4 billion euros have been added to the area's economy. *(From CDGW 6-12/10/23)*

WHOOSH in Indonesia

The Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway was launched on October 2nd. The official name is WHOOSH which stands for Waktu (time), Hemat (for economics), Operasi (for operation), Optima, System and Hebat (for amazing). It is one of the Belt and Road's key projects and will reduce travel time between the two cities from three hours to about 40 minutes. Free rides on the train are offered for a short period.

This is just one of a long list of Joko Widodo, the Indonesian President's, plans for new roads, seaports, airports, irrigation dams, bridges and oil refineries. *(From CDGW 6-12/10/23)*

Chinese HSR construction in Indonesia

The high-speed rail construction included many new developments and up-gradings. The Indonesian railways used some narrow-gauge as well as standard tracks and only parts were electrified. In addition, new control systems and safety features were necessary. It took China 15 years to develop independent intellectual property rights.

Various Chinese railway engineering and high technology companies cooperated with Chinese universities. Certain foreign agencies including the University of Birmingham were also involved. *(From CDGW 6-12/10/23)*

Chinese tourists now spending more in Europe than UK?

Since the UK removed the tourist tax refund, Chinese tourists are now tending to spend more in France, Spain and Italy. The tax refund policy helped Chinese to shop in the UK. According to the Association of International Retail, the UK is losing out on £750 million per year. In 2019, over 800,000 Chinese tourists came to the UK and on average, stayed 16.33 nights and each person spent about £1,937. *(From CDGW 3-9/11/23)*

New Antarctic research station to be set up

China's 40th Antarctic scientific research team set sail on November 1st on a five-month mission which will involve building a new research station in the coastal area of the Ross Sea. It will be China's fifth Antarctic research station. Three vessels are involved, including two ice breakers. The two breakers set sail from Shanghai with 460 personnel from 80 institutions on board. The third vessel is a cargo ship loaded with construction material which departed from Zhangjiagang in Jiangsu province. Research on the effects of climate change on the region's ecosystem will be carried out amongst other investigations. *(From CDGW 3-9/11/23)*

Chinese ancestry in Australia

Many Australians of Chinese descent celebrate Chinese festivals such as the Mid-autumn Festival by having dinner with friends and eating mooncakes. They like to keep connected with their heritage and culture. According to the 2021 census, 1.39 million Australians, 5.5% of the country's population, identify as having Chinese ancestry. They come from many parts of Asia, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia as well as mainland China. There is a museum of Chinese Australian History in Melbourne. Some arrived as early as 1830, but many more arrived in the gold rush during the 1850s and 1860s. *(From CDGW 6-12/10/23)*

Chinese Australians concerned about media bias

A survey by the Australia-China Relations Institute at Sydney Technical University has found that 91% of Chinese Australians were concerned about the media's tendency to speculate about 'war with China'. In addition 78% of respondents believed that the media lacked 'fairness and balance.' One respondent commented that phrases such as 'Chinese spy' or '#Chinese threat' can make people treat us differently and can even trigger racism. In addition, seven out of ten respondents believed that the media tended to portray them as 'objects of suspicion and risks to national security. There are 550,000 Australian Chinese who were born in China, about 2.2% of the Australian population. *(From CDGW 22-28/9/23)*

LONDON, Oct. 27 (Xinhua) -- At the invitation of the Great Britain-China Centre (GBCC), a delegation of the Communist Party of China (CPC) visited Britain from Tuesday to Thursday.

The Chinese delegation, led by Luo Dongchuan, deputy secretary of the CPC Fujian Provincial Committee, held meetings with Peter Mandelson, a current member of the House of Lords and former secretary of state, Martin Davidson, chair of the GBCC, and Andrew Seaton, chief executive of the China-Britain Business Council.

They attended a Tea and Friendship event (Fujian Tea) and a Maritime Silk Road Ceremony. The delegation also visited Wales. Highlighting the great significance of China-Britain relations to the world, the two sides voiced willingness to strengthen cooperation in such fields as economy, trade, new energy, marine economy, tea culture and justice.

President Biden meets Xi Jinping at APEC

The two presidents met on November 15th in San Francisco. Xi Jinping said that Planet Earth is big enough for the two countries to succeed. One country's success is an

opportunity for the other. He also said that over the past 50 years and more, China-US relations have never been smooth sailing but they have kept moving forward amid twists and turns.

At the centre of China-US relations are the three principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect and win-win cooperation.

The critical global challenges facing the two countries are climate change, counter narcotics and artificial intelligence. Xi was met by US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and the California Governor, Gavin Newsom. The route from the airport to the hotel was lined with Chinese students and overseas Chinese waving both Chinese and US flags. (From CDGW 17-23/11/23)

Xi lived with a family in Muscatine, Iowa when he spent time in the US as a relatively junior cadre 40 years ago. He met and had dinner members of the family in San Francisco. He also met members of the families of the 'Flying Tigers', a group of voluntary American airmen who helped China during WW2 before the entry of the US into the war. (From the internet and CTGN TV)

More flights between mainland and Taiwan

Zhu Fenglian, a spokeswoman for the State Council Taiwan Affairs reported that cross straits flights had increased recently. However, more flights are needed; the limited number is constraining growth. Between November 5 and 11, a total of 14 mainland cities, including Beijing, Shanghai, Xiamen, Chengdu and Shenzhen operated 580 passenger flights carrying 84,528 passengers.

She urged the Taiwanese authorities to resume full air travel, sea travel and the 'three mini links of small-scale trade and postal services, between Fujian province, Kinmen Island and the Matsu Island group. (From CDGW 17-23/11/23)

NB. (CDGW= China Daily Global Weekly)



Combined wind and solar power to light the road near Pingyao, Shanxi province



Electric tourist vehicle on the city walls of Xi'an in 2007 (WF)



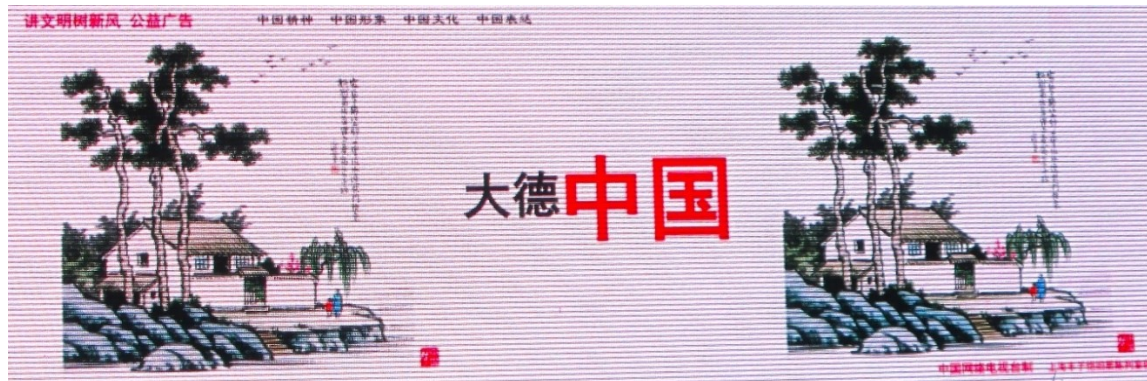
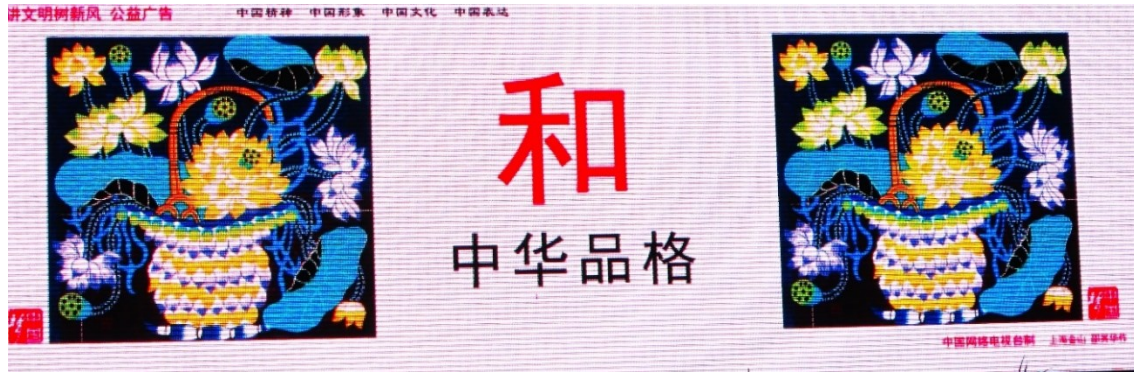
There is only one Earth and it is not well!

And finally; I am not sure where I photographed this. It was possibly in the Museum Cluster Jianchuan, Anren near Chengdu. The photographs record an act of friendship between China and Britain, Allies in WW2. In 1982, Margaret Thatcher met and thanked former Chinese General Liu Fangwu. Liu's army unit rescued 7,000 British troops from the Japanese during WW2.



他50年前解救英军的壮举。
照片由刘放吾之子刘伟民先生于2007年捐赠我馆。
British Premier meets Liu Fangwu, the former regimental commander of Expeditionary Army
Liu Fangwu, the regimental commander of the 113th Regiment, the 38th Division of Expeditionary Army, led his army rescued over 7,000 British soldiers surrounded by the Japanese 33rd Regiment, as the renowned Furma Yenangyang Victory. Government of Republic of China once awarded a Army-Navy-Air Force A-class the 1st Grade Medal therefore. Ms. Thatcher, British Prime Minister, met Liu Fangwu on Apr. 11th, 1992, and appreciated his contribution of rescuing the British army 50 years before.
These pictures were donated by Liu Weimin, son of Liu Fangwu, in 2007.

The Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding



China; Harmony, Moral Character, Great Virtue

