Chiung Kai-shek's Proposal that Hu Shi Run for President; An Explanatory Reading of Chiang Kai-shek's Diary .................................................. Yang Tianshi (4)

The Constitution of the Republic of China formulated in 1946 adopted a cabinet system, and real power was controlled by the Executive Yuan. Though the president was the head of state, he just had a "nominal position." Chiang Kai-shek had no interest in a "nominal position," and for a time he planned to quit the election campaign and recommend that Hu Shi run for president. He wanted to take the positions of Chief of the General Staff or President of the Executive Yuan, and thereby change the image of the government and win favor with the United States, making it easier to gain American aid. Chiang's proposal was widely opposed by high officials of the Guomindang. They expanded the powers of the president by revising and enlarging the Temporary Provisions Effective during the Period of Communist Rebellion, and Chiang Kai-shek then accepted nomination and was elected as the first President of the Republic of China. This act ran counter to the United States government's expectations, and the Guomindang regime continued to be seen as a "dictatorial regime." John Leighton Stuart criticized Chiang Kai-shek, saying that he "not only harmed himself, but also harmed the country."

How Great the Differences Are—Chiang Kai-shek and Hu Shi's Notes about Their Contacts during the Taiwan Period .................................................. Chen Hongmin, Duan Zhifeng (18)

The relationship between Chiang Kai-shek and Hu Shi has been a popular topic in academic circles, and has even been given myriad symbolic meanings. Their relationship after the Guomindang regime fled to Taiwan in 1949 both continued their relationship during the mainland period, and also acquired new characteristics in Taiwan's environment. The release of Chiang Kai-shek’s Taiwan-period diary has provided brand-new data for studying their relationship. Both Chiang Kai-shek and Hu Shi's diaries noted their contacts and their observations of each other, but the notes are very different, and we frequently encounter examples of "one incident with different narratives." The vivid contrast between Chiang Kai-shek's severe scolding of Hu Shi in his diary and his "courteous treatment" of Hu Shi in public lead us to ponder the wheels within wheels that lie underneath.

A Study of the Reform of the County-level Judiciary Personnel System in Sichuan Province during the Nationalist Government Period ........................................ Wu Yan (34)

During the Nationalist government period, the supreme judiciary authorities tried to reform the county-level judiciary personnel system, with the intention of promoting the spread of county-level courts thereby. Under the direction of the Sichuan Supreme Court, all counties in the province carried out the reforms. The new system took following measures in regard to the appointment of personnel; raising qualifications for posts, adopting new standards evaluate existing personnel, adopting the use of examinations to evaluate candidates, training personnel who fail to reach set standards, and building a set of normative examination methods. After more than ten years of effort some of the reform's goals were realized, but the results were not wholly satisfactory. Many factors hindered the smooth implementation of reforms. For example, the reform plans were not geared to actual circumstances; there were not enough judiciary personnel available; discrepancies between the quality and quantity of personnel were not properly handled. These factors repeatedly delayed the establishment of county-level courts and judiciary departments. In addition, inter-departmental conflicts and power struggles over personnel managing also slowed down implementation. Though the Supreme Court established a system of regular inspections and a normative system for supervision and management, the local governments’ lack of cooperation reduced such supervision to a mere formality.

Modern Deformation of Traditional Market Networks—Preliminary Research on the Modern Fur and Textile Trade between Southern Hebei Province and Northwest China .................................................. Wang Xiang (49)

The longstanding trade of Southern Hebei textiles for furs from Northwest China provides a valuable case study for us to deepen our understanding of the structure of traditional Chinese market networks and their continuation and deformation in modern times, as well as the relationship between such market networks and handicraft production in urban and rural areas. For a long time the Southern Hebei region centered around Xingtai and Handan exchanged native homespun cloth for
furs from Northwest China, forming an important long distance trade route. After the Opium War, this traditional commercial network still existed and played an even greater role. On the one hand, under the impact of domestic and foreign machine-made cotton textiles, apart for some local rural consumption the homespun cloth produced in the southern Hebei found its principal market in Northwest China, which became the key for the continued homespun cloth production. On the other hand, the furs exchanged for southern Hebei homespun cloth sustained the fast development of fur handicraft in Xingtai, and helped Xingtai become one of China’s centers of fur production and distribution. The main actors in the cloth-for-fur trade were peasant fur retailers in southern Hebei. They conducted business through traditional trade methods, but also took up commodity trading associated with the modern economic systems, thereby connecting international markets with border districts untouched by the modern commercial systems. In the process, the traditional cloth-for-fur trade also experienced deep changes and gradually took on modern capitalist characteristics.

Government-Commercial Relations and the Circulation of Lease Rights in Four Hubei Textile Mills during the Late Qing Dynasty and the Early Republican Period ……. Luo Ping(65)

During the late Qing Dynasty and the early Republican period, the Hubei authorities invited outside investors to lease Hubei’s four government-run textile mills for spinning, weaving, reeling and flax-weaving. This measure was motivated by the general decline of government-run enterprises, and took advantage of Qing policy reforms designed to vigorously develop industry and commerce. From then on, the lease rights for the four mills circulated among many enterprises that relied on the protection of officials in power. The circulation of the lease rights of the four mills was a process through which several private enterprises relied on private friendships with government officials and the protection of those officials to successively gain the lease rights for the “government-run enterprises” and then swiftly incubate, launch and develop their businesses. It was also a process through which these private enterprises successively lost their lease rights and then disbanded due to government intervention and interference from private friendships with government officials. During this period there were definite improvements in the management of production and in the business operations of the four mills, but in the end the mills declined because of the frequent transfers of their lease rights under the influence of officials in power. Therefore, the measures to invite outside investors to lease the four mills deviated in its implementation from the Qing government policy’s original intention to rigorously develop industry and commerce.

The Taiwan Development Company’s Economic Aggression and Plunder of Guangdong and Hainan during the War of Resistance against Japan ……………………………. Wang Jian(78)

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