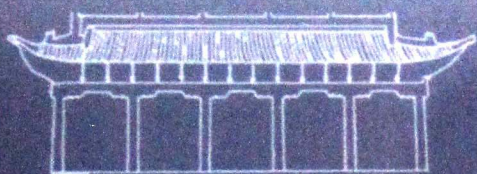


English Reading  
about Chinese  
Characteristic Culture

破竈燒淫華那  
知是寒食但見烏  
銜帛 天門深  
九重凌蒼生在萬里也擬  
哭金窮那屋吹不



Chinese

Characteristic

Culture

# 中国传统文化英语阅读

主 编 阮先凤 刘殿刚 黄必胜



武汉理工大学出版社

# 中国特色文化英语阅读

English Reading about Chinese Characteristic Culture

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# 前 言

中国文化源远流长,博大精深。在漫长的发展过程中,56个民族文化相互交融,共同构建了丰富多彩、特色鲜明的中华民族灿烂的文化。改革开放以来,中国越来越受到世人的关注。在目前大力宣传中国文化走向世界的形势下,作为肩负多重责任的外语教师,有责任和义务加入到此行列中,让世人更加正确、全面地认识中国。然而编者在平时生活和教学实践中发现,涉及中国的文化,特别是有特色的中国文化与外国人交流时,我们往往难以沟通。一方面缺乏具有中国特色文化的英语表达词汇,另一方面有关中国文化英语阅读方面的书籍太少,特别关于中国文化方面比较集中和系统的英文阅读更少。此外,这方面的教学也是一个非常薄弱的环节。为此,作者希望集英语教师的力量,合作编写此书,旨在传承和传播中国特色文化,更好地进行跨文化交流。

本书的内容涉及面广,每个主题既从宏观上把握,也兼顾到微观内容,做到点面结合,基本上涵盖各个领域最有代表性的信息,包括中医文化、饮食文化、玉文化以及音乐、体育、书法等特色文化,还涉及中国最新的政治、经济、科技、法律、教育方面十四个话题。材料来自最新的书籍、报纸、杂志等,确保内容的全面和紧跟时代。每个话题包含三到五篇400~1500字的文章,编排形式多样,每个话题前提供简要的中文背景知识作为导语,文章后面附有难句解说、知识点扩充注解和重点词汇表。练习题包含选择题、正误判断、填空及简答等形式,每个话题后都提供参考答案。本书集知识积累与能力提高于一体,可供广大的英语爱好者,特别是大学生,包括海外学生阅读学习,也是英语教育工作者一份难得的教学资源。

编者在编写之前结合相关项目和教学实践已酝酿和准备了一年多。本书的参与人员大都来自湖北中医药大学外语系和武汉理工大学外语学院,多为长期从事大学英语教学的一线老师,有相当丰富的教学经验和较强的科研能力。在编写过程中,为了保证质量,主编对各个话题进行分工指导,大家各负其责,协作完成。在全体同仁的共同努力下,认真完成每一章节的资料收集、整理、编排和校对工作。同时也咨询了一些同行的专家教授,阅读材料主要来自一些知名电子资源和出版物,每篇文章都附上出处,在此一并表示诚挚的谢意!

鉴于编者的水平所限,此书的编写如有疏漏和不足之处,敬请专家和读者批评指正。

编 者

2012年10月



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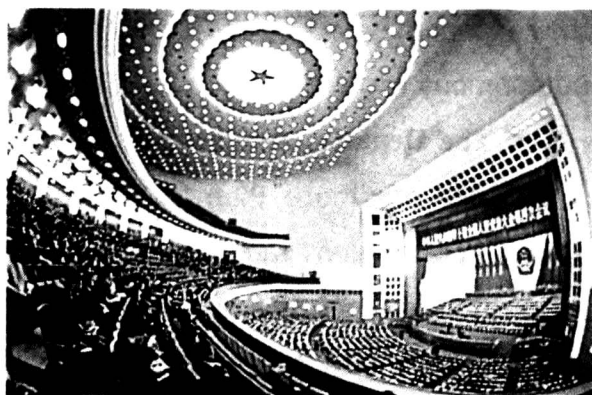
# Chapter One

## *China's Political System*

### Background Information

中国政治制度是指 1949 年 10 月中华人民共和国成立以来,在中国大陆实行的,规范中华人民共和国国家政权、政府制度、国家与社会关系等一系列根本问题的法律、体制、规则和惯例。行政制度,是指有关国家行政机关的组成、体制、权限、活动方式等方面的一系列规范和惯例。中华人民共和国的中央行政制度包括:全国人民代表大会体制下的中央行政机关、中央行政机关对地方各级行政机关的领导关系。

台湾自古以来是中国领土不可分割的一部分,有关台湾的全部事实和法律均可证明。台湾问题实质上是指从 1949 年中华人民共和国成立与以蒋介石为首的国民党集团从中国大陆败退台湾,至今所衍生的一系列主权或领土问题。解决台湾问题,实现国家统一,是全体中国人民一项庄严而神圣的使命。当前,中国政府解决台湾问题的基本方针是“和平统一、一国两制”。



### Reading Materials

#### ◆ Passage One

##### The Introduction of China's Political System and Structure

The annual “two sessions”—China's National People's Congress (NPC<sup>[1]</sup>), the top legislature, and Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC<sup>[2]</sup>)—will open on March 3rd and 5th respectively. The annual “two sessions” are big political events of contemporary China. 1. The issues of “two sessions” include all aspects of the national economy and the people's livelihood so as to attract all sectors of the community's attention, including the compatriots from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau.

Nowadays along with the globalization, the trade and common economic activities connect the people all over the world. Every year during the “two sessions”, journalists from various countries come to cover that, which indicates that the whole world is eager to know China’s momentous decisions and policy orientation. Why does the “two sessions” draw great attention home and abroad? The reason is that the “two sessions” are the main parts of China’s contemporary political system and the essential procedure of the operating mechanism of political system.

### ● Outline

The People’s Congress System is China’s fundamental political system, which consists of National People’s Congress and People’s Congresses at local levels. 2. The NPC is similar to the U. S. Congress, whose main functions and powers are legislating and amending laws, reviewing and approving the government budget and also electing and removing officials. However, the NPC is the highest organ of state power and its deputies are far more than the U. S. congressmen. Being the top power, the NPC also has right to elect and remove the top leaders of the Supreme People’s Court and the Supreme People’s Procuratorate. Rather than the U. S. Congress, the term of NPC is five years and it holds its general convention once a year. There is one point I need to emphasize that the election of deputies for *Taiwan* Province is presided and determined by the Standing Committee of the NPC and they are nominated by the consultations of standing committees at the all levels of province, autonomous region, municipalities and PLA<sup>[3]</sup>.

### ● The Deputies and Tenure of NPC

There are more than 2,800 deputies to the NPC, they are elected from provinces, autonomous region, municipalities, *Macao*, *Hong Kong*, *Taiwan*, and PLA according to the proportion of local population to whole. The proportion principle is not applicable to minority ethnic groups due to ensure their deputies. The annual plenary session is summoned by Standing Committee of the NPC which is composed of Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Secretary General and committee members. None on the NPC Standing Committee shall hold office in any of the administrative, judicial or procuratorial organs of the state and it should include the minority members. 3. The NPC has 9 Special Committees referring to ethnic affairs, law, internal and judicial affairs, finance and economy, education science culture and public health, foreign affairs, overseas Chinese, environment protection and resources conservation and agriculture and rural development.

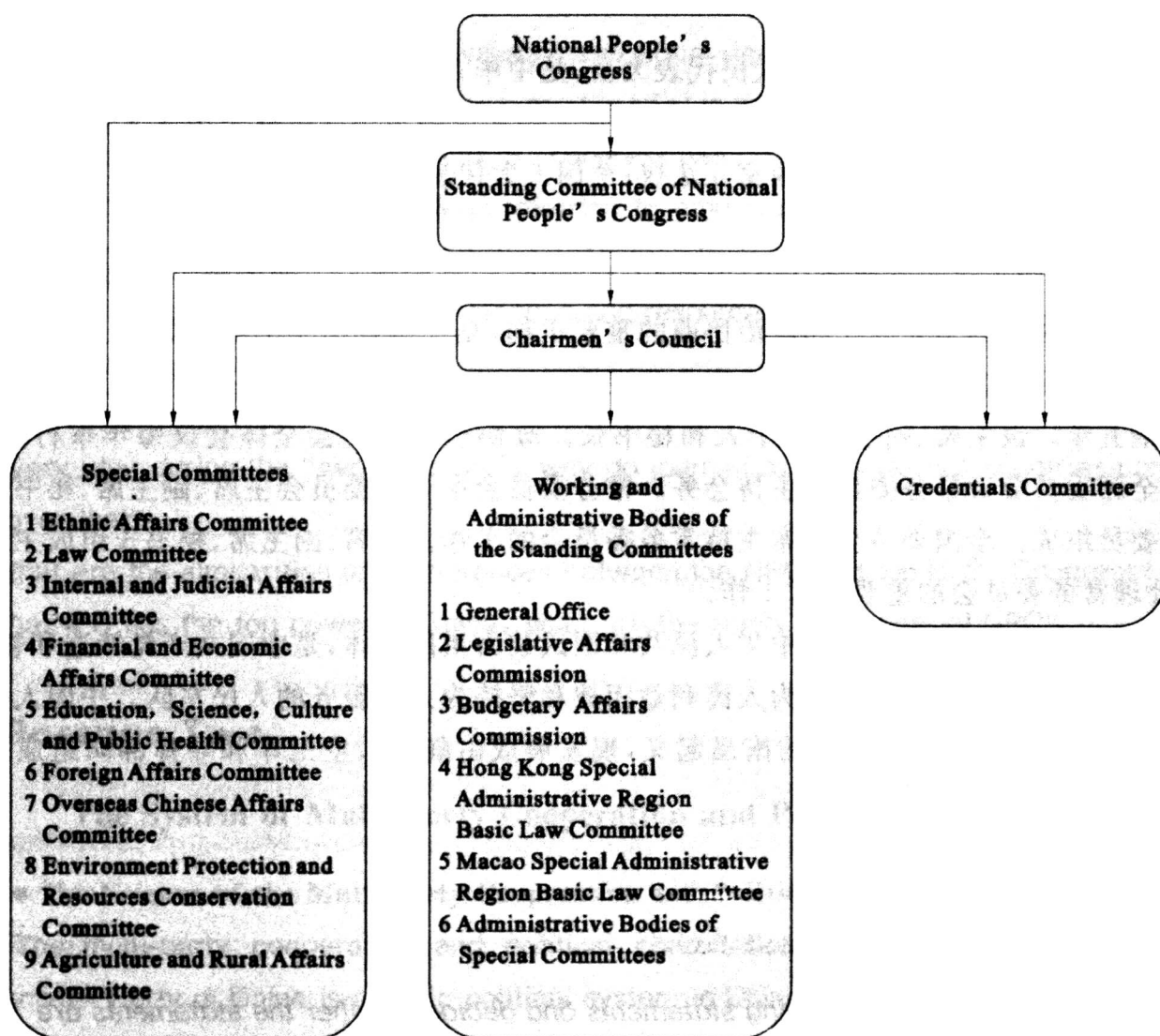
### ● Functions and Powers

The NPC has the top power in China, it can interpret Constitutional and statutory provisions, supervise their enforcement, enact and amend basic laws governing criminal offences, civil affairs, State organs and other matters, examine and approve the plan for national economic and social development and the reports on its implementation, examine and approve the budgets of their respective administrative areas as well as the reports on the implementation of the budgets, supervise the performance of the State Council, the Central

Military Commission, the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate, draw up state laws, decide on important state affairs and elect the members of state administrative, judicial and procuratorial organs and decide on the ratification and abrogation of treaties and important agreements concluded with foreign states.

(717 words)

—From *Chinadaily.com.cn*



### New Words

abrogation [ˈæbrəˈgeɪʃən]

*n.* 取消, 废除

amend [əˈmend]

*v.* 改良, 修改, 修订

autonomous [ɔːˈtɒnəməs]

*adj.* 自治的

compatriot [kəmˈpætriət]

*n.* 同胞, 同国人

consultative [kənˈsʌltətɪv]

*adj.* 商议的, 顾问的

contemporary [kənˈtempərəri]

*adj.* 当代的, 同时代的

deputy [ˈdepjuti]

*n.* 代表, 代理

ethnic [ˈeθnik]

*adj.* 种族的, 部落的, 某文化群体的

globalization [ˈgləʊbəlaɪzeɪʃən]

*n.* 全球化, 全球性

judicial [dʒu(:)ˈdɪʃəl]

*adj.* 司法的, 法庭的, 明断的, 公正的



municipality [mjuːnɪsɪ'pælɪti]	n. 自治市, 自治区, 自治市或区的政府当局
nominate ['nɒmɪneɪt]	vt. 提名, 任命
organ ['ɔ:gən]	n. 机构
procuratorial [prəkjuə'reɪtəriəl]	adj. 代理人的, 代诉人的
ratification [rætɪfɪ'keɪʃən]	n. 批准, 认可

## Notes

[1] 中华人民共和国全国人民代表大会, 是中华人民共和国的最高权力机构, 简称“全国人大”。全国人大常设机构为全国人民代表大会常务委员会 (简称全国人大常委会); 全国人大和全国人大常委会行使国家立法权; 全国人大代表名额和代表产生办法由法律规定; 每届任期五年。

[2] 中国人民政治协商会议 (简称“人民政协”), 是中国人民爱国统一战线的组织, 是中国共产党领导的多党合作和政治协商的重要机构, 是中国政治生活中发扬社会主义民主的一种重要形式。中国人民政治协商会议设全国委员会和地方委员会。政协全国委员会每届任期五年。设主席、副主席若干人和秘书长。政协全国委员会全体会议每年举行一次。政协全国委员会设常务委员会主持会务。常务委员会由全国委员会主席、副主席、秘书长和常务委员组成。全国委员会主席主持常务委员会的工作。主席、副主席、秘书长组成主席会议, 处理常务委员会的重要日常工作。

[3] 中国人民解放军, 是中华人民共和国武装力量的主体, 是中国共产党缔造和领导, 以马列主义、毛泽东思想武装, 为人民利益而战和坚持为人民服务的人民军队。中国人民解放军诞生于 1927 年 8 月 1 日的南昌起义, 现发展成由陆、海、空三军和导弹部队组成的诸军、兵种合成的军队。



## I. Reading Comprehension

**Directions:** Read the following statements and decide whether the statements are TRUE (T) or FALSE (F).

1. The annual “two sessions” are big political events of contemporary China, refers NPC and PLA.
2. The “two sessions” are the only part of China’s contemporary political system and the essential procedure of the operating mechanism of political system.
3. The People’s Congress System, which consists of NPC and People’s Congresses at local levels is China’s fundamental political system.
4. The NPC is as same as the U. S. Congress, whose main functions and powers are legislating and amending laws, reviewing and approving the government budget and also electing and removing officials.
5. The annual plenary session is summoned by Standing Committee of the NPC, none on the NPC Standing Committee shall hold office in any of the administrative, judicial or procuratorial organs of the state and it should include the minority members.

6. The NPC can supervise the performance of the State Council, the Central Military Commission, the Supreme People's Court and the Supreme People's Procuratorate.

## II. Translation from English to Chinese

1. The issues of "two sessions" include all aspects of the national economy and the people's livelihood so as to attract all sectors of the community's attention, including the compatriots from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau.
2. The NPC is similar to the U. S. Congress, whose main functions and powers are legislating and amending laws, reviewing and approving the government budget and also electing and removing officials. However, the NPC is the highest organ of state power and its deputies are far more than the U. S. congressmen.
3. The NPC has 9 Special Committees referring to ethnic affairs, law, internal and judicial affairs, finance and economy, education science culture and public health, foreign affairs, overseas Chinese, environment protection and resources conservation and agriculture and rural development.

## III. Topics for Reflection

1. Every year during the "two sessions", why do journalists from various countries come to cover that?
2. What are the similarities and differences between the NPC and the U. S. Congress?
3. The NPC has the top power in China, what are the rights or powers of NPC?

## ◆ Passage Two

### The System of Multi-party Cooperation and Political Consultation

#### ● The Essence of the Multi-party Cooperation and Political Consultation

The multi-party cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the Communist Party of China is a basic political system in China.

The system means that the CPC is the only party in power in the People's Republic of China while under the precondition of accepting the leadership of the CPC, the eight other political parties<sup>[1]</sup> participate in the discussion and management of state affairs, in cooperation with the CPC. Political consultation means that under the leadership of the CPC, all parties, mass organizations and representatives from all walks of life take part in consultations of the country's basic policies and important issues in political, economic, cultural and social affairs before a decision is adopted and in the discussion of major issues in the implementation of the decisions. Political consultation takes the organizational form of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. Political consultation is the most important political and organizational form of the multi-party and political consultation system. Cooperative relations between the CPC and other political parties are based on the principle of "long-term coexistence and mutual supervision, treating each other with full sincerity and sharing weal or woe".

### ● Political Parties Participating in the Discussion and Management of State Affairs

This refers to the eight political parties other than the CPC: These parties are established before the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949, which were then dedicated to the realization of a bourgeois republic in China and supported the CPC in the latter's effort of overthrowing the rule of the *Kuomintang*. They are independent in organization and enjoy political freedom, organizational independence and legal equality under the Constitution.

#### — China Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang

Officially founded on January 1, 1948, its main constituents at the time were former Kuomintang members for democracy and other patriotic personages. Their political stand was to overthrow the dictatorial rule of the Kuomintang and realize independence, democracy and peace in China. Its Constitution revised in November 1988 stipulates that its political program at the present stage is to lead all party members, unite patriots living in China and residing abroad in favor of the unification of the motherland to strive for the unification and rejuvenation of China, under the guidance of the basic line for the primary stage of socialism. Its members come from mainly four areas: those with relations with the Kuomintang, those with relations with people of all walks of life in *Taiwan*, those dedicated to the unification of the motherland and others. The party mainly draws members from representative people and middle-level and senior intellectuals.

By the end of 1997, the party had a membership of 54,000 and *He Luli* is its chairwoman.

#### — China Democratic League

First established in November 1939, it took its present name in September 1944. At the time, it was a united political organization consisting of political parties and forces favoring the middle road and democracy. In 1997 it adopted a constitution which stipulates that its program is to hold high the banner of patriotism and socialism, implement the basic line for the primary stage of socialism, safeguard stability in the society, strengthen services to national unity and strive for the promotion of socialist modernization, establishment and improvement of a market economy, enhancement of political restructuring and socialist spiritual civilization, emancipation and development of productive forces, consolidation and expansion of the united patriotic front and realization of the grand goals of socialism with Chinese characteristics. China Democratic League is mainly made up by middle-level and senior intellectuals in the fields of culture, education, science and technology. It has a membership of 157,000 and its chairman is *Jiang Shusheng*.

#### — China Democratic National Construction Association

It was established on December 16, 1945. Its political stand at the time was to guarantee the basic political rights and human rights of citizens, protect and develop national industry and commerce and oppose the dictatorial rule of the Kuomintang. Its present constitution calls for the implementation of the CPC's policy of focusing on economic construction, acceptance of the leadership of the CPC, persisting in the tradition of self-education,



adhering to the principle of democratic centralism and carrying out the policy of multi-party cooperation and political consultation. Most of its 90,000 members are representative figures in the economic field. Its chairman is *Cheng Siwei*.

— **China Association for the Promotion of Democracy**

When it was founded on December 30, 1945, it was made up mostly by people engaged in education and publishing and patriotic figures in industry and commerce in Shanghai who stood for promotion of democracy and reform of the political power. It called on the Kuomintang to return the political power to the people, the establishment of a united and constitutional government. Its program drawn in 1988 stands for the promotion and improvement of socialist democracy, improvement of a socialist legal system, uplifting of the qualifications of the people, development of productive forces and turning China into a prosperous, culturally developed, democratic, strong and modern socialist country. The association is mainly made up by representative intellectuals in the fields of education, culture, publishing and science. It had a membership of 99,000 at the end of 2005 and its chairman is *Xu Jialu*.

— **Chinese Peasants' and Workers' Democratic Party**

Founded in August 1930, its main political program was to oppose the dictatorial rule of the Kuomintang and establish the power of the people. Its present program includes the stand to accept the leadership of the CPC, adhere to multi-party cooperation and political consultation, practice democratic centralism and safeguard the rights and interests of party members and associated intellectuals. It now has a membership of over 80,000 and its chairman is *Jiang Zhenghua*.

— **China Zhi Gong Dang**

China Zhi Gong Dang was founded in San Francisco, October 1925 by overseas Chinese organizations in North America. According to its constitution, the party is made up mainly by the middle and upper levels of returned overseas Chinese and their relatives. Its job is to assist the CPC and the Chinese government, consolidate and develop political stability, safeguard the rights and interests of party members and associated returned overseas Chinese and their relatives, reflect their opinions and demands and practice democratic centralism. It had a membership of nearly 16,000 at the end of 1997 and its chairman is *Luo Haocai*.

— **Jiusan Society** <sup>[2]</sup>

When it was first established in May 1946, its political stand was to carry on the tradition of democracy and science, oppose the civil war and practice democratic politics. The present program of *Jiusan Society* stipulates that organizationally, the party draws members from representative middle and senior level intellectuals in the fields of science, technology, higher education and medicine. It stands for the multi-party cooperation and political consultation, democratic centralism and the safeguard of the rights and interest of its members. It has a membership of 88,000 and its chairman is *Han Qide*.

### — Taiwan Democratic Self-government League

It was established on November 12, 1947 in *Hong Kong*. At the time it was a political organization of Taiwan residents which was founded and existed outside *Taiwan* Province, sought to become free from the rule of the Kuomintang, implement democracy and regional self-government. In March 1949, the league moved its headquarters from Hong Kong to Beijing. Its present political program stands for patriotism and socialism, uniting with league members and Taiwan compatriots and striving for the acceleration of reform, opening up and socialist modernization drive, safeguarding stability and unity, improvement of socialist democracy and legal system and the realization of the peaceful unification of the motherland and “one country, two systems”. Most of the members are representative and upper level Taiwan compatriots living in large and medium-size cities on the mainland. It has a membership of over 1,800 and its chairman is *Lin Wenyi*.

(1316 words)

—From <http://www.China.org.cn/English/Political>

### Notes

[1] 八个民主党派是中国的参政党。中国多党合作制度中包括中国共产党和八个民主党派。八个民主党派是中国国民党革命委员会、中国民主同盟、中国民主建国会、中国民主促进会、中国农工民主党、中国致公党、九三学社、台湾民主自治同盟。各民主党派作为各自代表的政治联盟，在中国共产党的领导下参政，是人民民主的重要体现。

[2] 九三学社：中国的民主党派之一，前身为由 1944 年组织的民主科学座谈会形成的民主科学社，1945 年定名九三学社，1946 年成立。主要由文教、科技界的知识分子组成，参加中国新民主主义革命。1949 年参加中国人民政治协商会议。中华人民共和国成立后，为参政党之一。

### I . Reading Comprehension

1. The multi-party cooperation and political consultation system means \_\_\_\_\_ is the only party in power in the People's Republic of China.  
A. the China Democratic League  
B. the Communist Party  
C. the Chinese Peasants' and Workers' Democratic Party  
D. the China Zhi Gong Dang
2. \_\_\_\_\_ former political stand was to overthrow the dictatorial rule of it and realize independence, democracy and peace in China.  
A. China Democratic League's  
B. China Zhi Gong Dang's  
C. China Revolutionary Committee of the Kuomintang's  
D. Jiusan Society's

3. \_\_\_\_\_ was founded by overseas Chinese organizations.
- A. China Zhi Gong Dang
  - B. Taiwan Democratic Self-government League
  - C. Jiusan Society
  - D. Chinese Peasants' and Workers' Democratic Party
4. \_\_\_\_\_ draws members from representative middle and senior level intellectuals in the fields of science, technology, higher education and medicine.
- A. China Association for the Promotion of Democracy
  - B. *Jiusan* Society
  - C. Communist Party of China
  - D. *Taiwan* Democratic Self-government League
5. Which statement is NOT true about the passage?
- A. The multi-party cooperation and political consultation is a basic political system in China.
  - B. The eight political parties are established before the founding of the PRC in 1949.
  - C. "Long-term coexistence and mutual supervision, treating each other with full sincerity and sharing weal or woe" is the basic principle for the cooperative relations between the CPC and other political parties.
  - D. The China Democratic League moved its headquarters from Hong Kong to Beijing.

## II . Topics for Reflection

1. Why the multi-party cooperation and political consultation is a basic political system in China?
2. How political parties participate in the discussion and management of state affairs?

## ◆ Passage Three

### One Country, Two Systems

"One country, two systems"<sup>[1]</sup> is an idea originally proposed by Deng Xiaoping, then Paramount Leader of the People's Republic of China (PRC), for the reunification of China during the early 1980s. 1. He suggested that there would be only one China, but independent Chinese regions such as Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, could have their own capitalist economic and political systems, while the rest of China implements the socialist system. Under the suggestion, each of the three regions can continue to have its own political system, legal, economic and financial affairs, including commercial and cultural agreements with foreign countries, and would enjoy "certain rights" in foreign affairs. Taiwan can continue to maintain its own military force, but as an indispensable part of China.



### ● Hong Kong and Macau

In 1984, Deng Xiaoping proposed to apply the principle to Hong Kong in the negotiation with the British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher over the future of Hong Kong when the lease of the New Territories (including New Kowloon) of Hong Kong to the United Kingdom was to expire in 1997. The same principle was proposed in talks with Portugal about Macau.

The principle is that, upon reunification, despite the practice of socialism in mainland China, both Hong Kong and Macau, which were colonies of the UK and Portugal respectively, can retain their established system under a high degree of autonomy for at least 50 years after reunification. What will happen after 2047 (Hong Kong) and 2049 (Macau) has never been publicly stated.

Chapter 1, Article 5 of the Hong Kong Basic Law, the constitutional document of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, reads:

“The socialist system and policies shall not be practiced in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, and the previous capitalist system and way of life shall remain unchanged for 50 years.”

The establishment of these regions, called special administrative regions (SARs), is authorized by Article 31 of the Constitution of the People's Republic of China, which states that the State may establish SARs when necessary, and that the systems to be instituted in them shall be prescribed by law enacted by the National People's Congress in light of the specific conditions.

2. The SARs of Hong Kong and Macau were formally established on 1 July 1997 and 20 December 1999 respectively, immediately after the People's Republic of China (PRC) assumed the sovereignty over the respective regions.

### ● Framework

The two SARs of Hong Kong and Macau are responsible for their domestic affairs including, but not limited to, the judiciary and courts of last resort, immigration and customs, public finance, currencies and extradition. Diplomatic relations and national defense of the two SARs however, is the responsibility of the Central People's Government in Beijing.

Hong Kong continues carrying out English common law. Macau continues using the Portuguese civil law system.

### ● Implementation

In Hong Kong, the system has been implemented through the Basic Law of Hong Kong, which serves as the “mini-constitution” of the region, and consistent with the Sino-British Joint Declaration. Similar arrangements are in place with Macau. Under the respective basic laws, the SARs have a high degree of autonomy and enjoy executive, legislative and independent judicial power, including that of final adjudication. They formulate their own monetary and financial policies, maintain their own currencies, formulate their own policies on education, culture, sports, social welfare system, etc. within the framework of the basic laws.