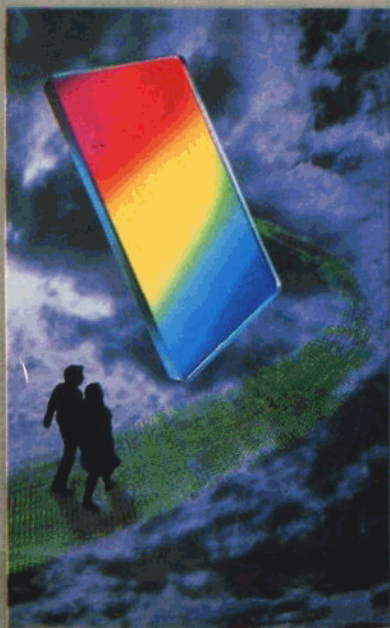


**Ethnic Chinese
at the Turn
of the Centuries**

主编 庄国土

下册



福建人民出版社

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PREFACE

In the last ten years the Eastern and Southeast Asia has become the most prosperous region in economy in the world. The increasingly important role of the Chinese overseas in the Asian-Pacific economic and scientific structures and in the China's international relations was gradually realized by the world. The phenomenon of Huaqiao and Huaren, or the Chinese overseas, has become the focus of attention of not only the scholars but also the related governments in the Asian-Pacific Region. In the last few years many international conferences on the studies of Chinese overseas were held and a lot of research projects were carried out. In order to give an outline of the recent studies of Chinese overseas, we edited these two volumes, which were selected from some 128 papers written in the last two years.

These two volumes include 68 unpublished papers, and most of them were presented to the International Conference for the ethnic Chinese studies in Xiamen in Nov. 1996. The authors come from 15 countries and regions, although more than half of them are Chinese scholars from mainland China. The first volume include 43 papers written in Chinese, and the second volume include 25 papers written in English.

The contents of the papers selected in these two volumes cover almost all-round topics in the field of the ethnic Chinese studies. Although the topics of the history, economy, migration are still the focus of the attention, the issues of the family, social organization, women, education and etc. became more interesting topics for many scholars than before. In case that the issue of the ethnic Chinese in the former Soviet Union had been neglected, we specially selected the paper "Changing Situation of the ethnic Chinese in Russia" by Mr. Xue Yongsheng from Heihe in north-east China.

From these papers we can see some changes in the last ten years in the research on the ethnic Chinese:

Firstly, these papers show the tendency of the multi-disciplinary studies on the ethnic Chinese. in the past the researchers on the ethnic Chinese studies are mostly the historians and sinologists. Nowadays more researchers on the ethnic Chinese studies come from the economist and the scholars on international issues. Many scholars are studying the ethnic Chinese from the points of economy, international politics, religion, sociology, anthropology, culture and even psychology and folklore, which resulted in a lot of rich and deep research publications.

Secondly, the research methods of the case study based on the intensive fieldwork and the comparative study were used by more and more scholars. They spent much time and anergy on field survey in order to collect the first-hand or oral materials. By the comparison between different cases and materials they can come to a broad view and have the strong evidences to support

their points.

Thirdly, more and more researchers beyond the Chinese and Chinese origin are participating in the line of the ethnic Chinese studies. In the past the scholars in China mostly came from Fujian and Guangdong, and the scholars outside China mostly come from the Chinese in Southeast Asia and North America. Nowadays in China, many scholars, beyond Fujian and Guangdong, are carrying out research on this topic, and outside China, more and more scholars of no-Chinese origin are interested in the ethnic Chinese issues. In this volume one-third of papers are presented by the scholars of no-Chinese origin. I also very appreciate the papers offered by the researchers from Africa, Europe and south America, and it seems the ethnic Chinese studies begin to be an academic attention in these areas.

Fourthly, the studies on the present situation become the main current in the ethnic Chinese studies. Partly because the historical studies last long time in the past and many fields have been already ploughed, and partly because the contemporary studies can more directly serve for the government's policy and the commercial needs, which results in more fund support and more social attention to the contemporary studies.

Most of the authors of the papers collected in these two volumes are the members of ISSCO (International Society for Studies of Chinese overseas), which plays a crucial role in the contact of the scholars and organizing of international research works. Therefore, these two volumes can be considered as the research results of ISSCO.

Here I would like to express my deep thanks to Mr. Xiao Gang, Huang You and Xu Ningning, who offer a part of the fund for this book. I am also sincerely grateful to Mr. Cheng Xuefu in Fujian People's Press and Prof. Huang Songjiang in Fuzhou University, who help me in editing this book.

I bear all the responsibility for any errors arising herein.

Zhuang Guotu
Xiamen University
Nov. 1997

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China's Studies on Ethnic Chinese Abroad in the Past Fifteen Years

Zheng Xuemeng

Between 1949 and 1966, research on ethnic Chinese abroad was not carried out in an all-round way with only two research institutions wholly devoted to ethnic Chinese studies in China, i. e. Nanyang Research Institute (established in 1956) and Southeast Asia Program in History Department of Zhongshan University (established in 1959). During this period, articles on Overseas Chinese written by scholars at home and abroad were mainly published in "Southeast Asian Studies; A Quarterly Journal of Translations" and a few other academic journals. During the "Cultural Revolution", the research in this field basically suspended.

The studies on ethnic Chinese were resumed in 1978 and research institutions were established one after another. Researchers in this field are mainly in the following three academic institutions and organizations: First, institutions of higher learning, e. g. Nanyang Research Institute at Xiamen University, research institutes on ethnic Chinese at Jinan University and Huaqiao University, research institutes of Southeast Asian studies at Zhongshan University and Jinan University. In these re-

search institutions, studies on ethnic Chinese began relatively early and more scholarly works have been published. They also have better collections of research materials. Among the thirty important academic books on ethnic Chinese written by Chinese scholars, twenty were written by scholars at institutions of higher learning. Second, academies of social sciences at various levels, e. g. research institutes of Southeast Asia and research institutes of ethnic Chinese in Yunan, Guangxi and Fujian. Both full-time and part-time researchers have made great contributions in case studies on ethnic Chinese history and compiling research materials, especially in research on overseas Chinese in Indochina, Thailand and Burma. Third, academic societies of ethnic Chinese history in various regions, e. g. those in provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities and some counties. They coordinate the research of full-time and spare-time researchers especially on native villages of overseas Chinese and the relations between overseas Chinese and their native places. The academic societies of ethnic Chinese history in Quanzhou, Shantou and Meizhou have their own publications. A lot of research has been done on ethnic Chinese figures and history of ethnic Chinese. The China Society of Ethnic Chinese History and Institute of Ethnic Chinese History in Beijing play a key role in coordinating research of the academic societies at different levels and research institutions in all parts of the country.

In the past decade or so, scholars in Mainland China have published more than thirty books and translated twenty books on ethnic Chinese, 18 collections of research materials, 17 collections

of articles, and thousands of articles in academic journals. In addition, dozens of biographies and popular readings have also been published.

Comparatively more achievements have been made in the research on ethnic Chinese history of specific regions and countries and on some specific topics. Eleven books have been written on history of ethnic Chinese in Southeast Asia, America and some specific Southeast Asian countries. Eighteen books have been written on specific topics such as overseas Chinese investment, policies towards overseas Chinese, contract labourers, overseas Chinese and the Anti-Japanese War, overseas Chinese newspapers and journals. Their distinct feature is making full use of Chinese historical data, especially valuable materials such as archives, collections of articles, annals of local history, notes, and records of events inscribed on tablets. The research done by foreign scholars is also used to a certain extent for reference. However, not enough work has been done in making use of first-hand foreign materials, especially archives in western languages. For instance, in the research on the history of ethnic Chinese in Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and the U. S. , it would be better in our scientific research if the data in colonial archives and those of congresses of countries concerned can be utilized systematically. As for case study ,we are still at the initial stage in the research on contemporary ethnic Chinese politics, economy and culture. Less high-standard research work has been carried out due to the lack of research materials and opportunities of doing field study abroad. Although a lot of articles have been published on contem-

porary ethnic Chinese, not a single book has been written in this field. Some scholars have noticed this and are shifting their focus of research from earlier history to contemporary ethnic Chinese, especially the relations between economic boom and ethnic Chinese in the Asia Pacific and the achievements of the ethnic Chinese of younger generation since the 1950s and 1960s. In research methodology, Chinese scholars, to a certain extent, still stick to traditional ways of research and theories. However, with the strengthening of sense of openness and expansion of external exchange, scholars of the new generation have begun to do research on ethnic Chinese from various perspectives such as ethnology, politics, sociology, economics and strive for a breakthrough in their research.

In the field of sorting out data, the ten volumes of "Historical Materials on Chinese Migrant Labourers" compiled by Chen Hansheng are of special value. They include materials from archives in Chinese and foreign languages and notes. "The Notes of Interviews with Zhuzai Chinese Migrant Labourers" compiled by Nanyang Research Institute and Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, Zhongshan University has also become classical literature. Materials on history of ethnic Chinese from some regions have been compiled and some have been published, e. g. "Historical Materials from Archives on Ethnic Chinese from Fujian" and "Selected Materials on Overseas Chinese from Guangxi". In addition, materials on overseas Chinese investment in China's enterprises, overseas Chinese and the Anti-Japanese War, history of overseas Chinese in Africa have been compiled and published.

Due to the lack of man-power, fund and other resources, most of the archives in western languages have not been sorted out, translated or compiled. At the beginning of the 1960s, Nanyang Research Institute compiled regulations and laws on ethnic Chinese in Southeast Asian countries, but they have not been published because of the lack of fund. There are a lot of materials on overseas Chinese in historical records of the Ching Dynasty and the Republican period, which are valuable references if compiled. More than twenty books and hundreds of articles written by foreign scholars have been translated into Chinese. "Southeast Asian Studies; A Quarterly Journal of Translations" carries several articles on ethnic Chinese history in each issue with the focus on ethnic Chinese in Southeast Asia. So far 113 issues have been published. The books translated and published mainly cover ethnic Chinese history in America, Canada and Australia. Of the twenty books translated, twelve were written by ethnic Chinese scholars. For example, books and articles written by such scholars as Wang Gengwu, Yen Chinghwang, Leo Suryadinata and Ching Fatt Yong have been translated into Chinese and published. However, important academic works of non-Chinese scholars are not introduced to China in time. This shows our limitation in international academic exchange and in following the latest development in research.

There are about three hundred full-time and part-time researchers on ethnic Chinese in China today. It is encouraging to notice that young researchers are gradually becoming the nucleus, who have generally received good training and have a better

command of foreign languages. They enjoy certain advantages in obtaining historical materials both in Chinese and foreign languages and in academic exchange with foreign scholars. More than half of the authors of the above-mentioned books are scholars of the younger generation. Some big research institutes have been engaging in research on a series of research topics. For example, Prof. Zhu Jieqin, the late famous historian, organized research on ethnic Chinese history in specific countries in Southeast Asia and five books have already been published. Since researchers work in different institutions and organizations, there is still a lack of effective coordination among them and hence duplication in research is still rather common. The exchange of research materials and more contacts via computer network will surely promote our research work.

Research School of Southeast Asian Studies at Xiamen University is one of the key research institutions on ethnic Chinese in China. It has enrolled M. A. students on ethnic Chinese in the past decade. The Ph. D. Program at the Research School also covers the research on ethnic Chinese history and provides an opportunity of training senior researchers on ethnic Chinese. According to the "Development Plan Up to 2010" of Xiamen University, Southeast Asian studies and ethnic Chinese studies are key academic fields at the university. Our goals are: by the end of this century, to establish a comprehensive research information system, train and recruit more young researchers, do field study in some selected locations, select new research topics with more emphasis on contemporary situation, publish research bulletin and