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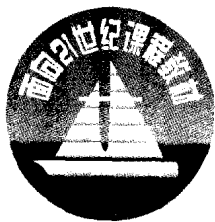
# 中国社会学史新编 (英文版)

A History of Chinese Sociology  
(Newly-compiled)

Authors: 郑杭生  
Zheng Hang-sheng  
李迎生  
Li Ying-sheng  
Translator: 张 春  
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# A History of Chinese Sociology

This book for the 21st century is an achievement in scientific research of “the Reform Program of Teaching Content and Curriculum System for the 21st Century Sponsored by the Ministry of Education”. Divided into two parts, it covers a recent collocation and conclusion of the history of Chinese sociology from the angles of social operation and sociology itself. The first part “Early Chinese Sociology Before the Establishment of PRC” deals with the history (from the time of introduction to the year 1949) of the two traditions of sociology—Comtian sociology and Marxist sociology by talking about the two fields of education and research. Meanwhue this part also gives a systematic account of several major schools of sociology, including Rural Construction, Eclecticism, School of Community and Marxist School. The second part “Hardships in the Development of Chinese Sociology after the Establishment of PRC” mainly discusses the abolition, restoration and reconstruction of Chinese sociology, with the emphasis on the progress in sociological education and research from the time of reconstruction to the present. Certain typical sociological theories or ideas in the research are analyzed respectively. This textbook, together with its appendixes of major events and important works in Chinese sociology within 100 years, is regarded as the one that covers the longest span of years among books on similar subject. The writers made every effort to present readers with such a book containing abundant materials, intelligent layout, clear divisions, concise expressions, and simple terms used to explain the profound. They hope to combine knowledge, systematicness, novelty, facts and readability all together in the book.

The book is supposed to be a textbook for sociological majors or other majors in social sciences at college.

## Brief Information About the Authors and the Translator

**Zheng Hang-sheng**—Professor of sociology and Ph. D. supervisor, Mr. Zheng graduated from Renmin University of China in 1961 and remained there as a faculty member. In 1981, he went to University of Bristol in Great Britain for advanced studies for two years. Zheng is the former director of the Institute of Sociology under China Renmin University, head of the Department of Sociology and vice-president of the university. Currently, Zheng holds the following posts: Chairman of both China and Beijing Society of Sociology, Member of the Appraisal Group for Politics and Sociology, Academic Committee under the State Council, Leader of the Appraisal Group for Sociology, National Social Science Fund, and Chief Committee Member of the Teaching Guidance Committee for Sociology attached to China Education Ministry.

Main works of sociology by Prof. Zheng include: *A New Exploration of the Object of Sociology*; *Study of Theory of Social Indexes* (coauthor); *An Introduction to Social Operation—An Exploration of Sociological Theory with Chinese Characteristics* (coauthor); *A Newly-Revised Introduction to Sociology* (chief compiler); *A Positive Study of Social Transformation in Contemporary Rural Areas in China* (chief compiler); *Chinese Society in Transformation and the Transformation of Chinese Society—A Sociological Study of China's Socialist Modernizations* (coauthor); *A Study of Social Structure and Social Relations in Contemporary China* (coauthor), etc..

**Li Ying-sheng**—From Tongcheng, Anhui Province, and member of China City Research Society, Mr. Li graduated from the Department of Sociology, Shandong University as a postgraduate in 1987. He is associate professor and Ph. D. of the Department of Sociology, Renmin University of China. Li is mostly engaged in studies of urbanization, urban-rural sociology, comparison between social insurance



models, social problems during social transformation, and so on so forth. In addition to an approximate number of 40 research papers, Li has written and published about 10 books including *Modern Sociology*, *A Complete Practice of Social Insurance* (coauthor), and *A Great Dictionary of the Soft Science* (coauthor). He was awarded the first prize of well-written works by Renmin University of China for his *A Great Dictionary of the Soft Science* (1992) and for the research paper “An Exploration of China’s Urbanization Model at the Present Stage” he was awarded the prize of Excellent Treatise by Renmin University (1991) and the prize of Excellent Treatise of the journal *Study of Sociology* by Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (1986—1996).

**Zhang Chun**—MA of foreign languages and literature, and associate professor and Ph. D. candidate of sociology, Renmin University of China, Mr. Zhang taught English at college for more than ten years and once worked as an interpreter and translator for the Sino-German Joint Venture at Ertan Hydroelectric Power Station, Sichuan Province, where he did a great deal of translation of engineering literature. Later his interest transferred to sociology and began to study for a doctorate of the field from 2001. His major writings include: *CET and Non-major College English Teaching*; *Role Conflict—A Severe Psychological Obstacle to Teacher Students’ Course Study*; *The English Expressions of “Yinwei” and Similar Chinese Implications*; *An Analysis of the Mistakes in An English Textbook*; *The Interpretation Approach to Oral English Teaching*; *Equivalent Expressions in English and Chinese*; *Australian Poetry from 1940s to 1980s* (translation).

# Preface

In May 1996, the assessment symposium of teaching system reform sponsored by State Education Commission (which is now Ministry of Education) was held in Hangzhou University. In one of the relevant programs titled "Curriculum System Reform of Social Sciences in Higher Education Geared to the Needs of the 21st Century", I took on a 3-year subsidiary research program called "Constructing the Sociological Researches with Chinese Characteristics", which was supposed to begin with the study of "history" and "theory", i.e. to respectively study the "historical" and "theoretical" aspects of the sociology with Chinese characteristics. Two achievements in the research of historical aspect have already come out: one is a textbook, i.e. the present *A History of Chinese Sociology* (newly-compiled); and the other takes the form of a monograph named *Chinese Sociology in the 21st Century* (also named *The Development of Chinese Sociology: History, Status quo and Prospects*) published by Party Building Reading Publishing House<sup>①</sup>. In the theoretical aspect, we intended to lay emphasis on the indigenization of sociology, especially on the Chinese indigenization of sociology. This work is still under way.

Why was *Chinese Sociology in the 21st Century* published by Party Building Reading Publishing House? I myself explained in the Preface of that book as follows:

In July 1997, this publishing house was preparing the publication of a set of serial books concerning "Development of Modern Chinese Humane Studies and Social Sciences", among which I was invited to compile one

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① Publishing agencies involved in this book, especially those that are presently operating are put into English by exactly following their own English naming references. But some agencies, set up before 1949, not named in English, or closed or changed into new publishing organs, can only be helplessly nominated by the translator in the foreign language. If the translation is not so satisfying as expected, or if the original English names are not used due to the translator's unavailability for relevant information sources, the translator will herein extend his sincere apologies to those agencies concerned. —Translator

originally titled "Sociology—A Review and Prospect of the Development of Chinese Sociology". The book was expected to cover not only the history but also the theory of the science; not only the history of research but also the history of education involving sociology, and it was to be finished before the end of 1998. The writing of the book provided quite a chance for us to come to the point, namely we could make use of the viewpoints derived from the practical development of sociology and treat them as major frames and clues for the purpose of concretely and comprehensively sorting out and arranging the historical facts of Chinese sociological development. Finally we found this disposal not only logic but accordant with the actual situation. Of course, whether we are right should be judged by readers, not by what we think of.

We realized that it is important to spread elementary knowledge of sociology among such a large social group—the 50 million members of the Party in power and that it is necessary for middle—and high-ranking cadres of the Party to know something about the knowledge and history of sociology. That accounts for the publication of the book in the Party Building Reading Publishing House instead of any other publishers. At present, there still remains an issue of sociological disciplinary orientation in China. I have repeatedly proved that, with unique experiences, sociology is an important new discipline in social sciences which is rapidly developing in China. . . .

Shortly after the establishment of PRC, sociology was cancelled for a period of 30 years. Since its reconstruction, the whole society, governmental departments which employ personnel and even common people have just got some ideas about sociology. But generally, they do not understand sociology enough, and therefore it needs to be fostered. If all of us can reach an agreement upon this and if the vast numbers of the Party members can know this, certain specific problems involving teaching and research of sociology will be easily tackled.

However, it must be declared that this book was not solely intended for Party members. It is indeed an academic book, but it is a comparatively readable academic book catering to both the more and the less cultured. By reading it, ordinary readers may learn some basic



knowledge about sociology and increase their understanding of Chinese sociology; majors of sociology may broaden their mind and professional workers of sociology may also be inspired in thought. In a word, this book will, in different degrees, hopefully contribute to establishing “the angle of sociology” in the observation of society and to multiplying people’s “imagination of sociology”. Different readers may look upon the book from different angles, but we confidently predict that it will not disappoint readers.

Now that the present book *A History of Chinese Sociology* and the above-mentioned one were both written for the research of “the historical aspect of sociology with Chinese characteristics”, what similarities do they share and what differences are there between them?

As for “similarities”, this textbook can be regarded as an adaptation of *Chinese Sociology in the 21st Century* with some of the features remained. These features include:

- 1) Combination of “history” and “theory”.
- 2) Stresses on the two major traditions in sociology.
- 3) An intersection of overall narration and selective analyses.
- 4) Consideration to both sociological education and research.
- 5) Facts given together with comments.

In brief, just like the monograph, this textbook can be regarded as a sort of experiment in which the writers try to present a new exploration and conclusion of the history and the present situation of Chinese sociology from latest perspectives (such as social operation, two sociological systems, etc.), and in which the writers do their utmost to make the book ample in data, rational in layout, clear in organization, and concise in language, with knowledge, systematicness, novelty, truthfulness and readability mixed together.

In regard to “differences”, these two books differ in characteristics. As a textbook, this one was written by exactly following the way in which textbooks or reference textbooks are written, showing differences from the previously mentioned monograph in both structure and content. In structure, the textbook is made up of Introduction, Part One (the seven chapters on early Chinese sociology before the founding of PRC), Part Two (the five chapters on the development of Chinese sociology after the founding of PRC), Epilog and the two appendices. Dividing the

book into two parts more clearly reflects our perspectives concerning the division of sociological periods. In content, certain sections of the monograph, such as Elementary Knowledge including research methods, function of sociology and so on, do not appear in the textbook. Meanwhile, something more has been added to the textbook, e.g. a brief introduction to works on the history of Chinese sociology in Introduction. What needs especially explaining is that one section designated “Deng Xiao-ping and Chinese Sociology” was supplemented to indicate that Deng Xiao-ping’s impact on Chinese sociology is manifested not only in the fact that he made a crucial decision determining the positive turn of the destiny of Chinese sociology, but also in the fact that he included a wealth of sociological ideas with Chinese characteristics in his theories. In other words, not only this impact shows itself exteriorly but there are overlapping, integrating and common points between Deng’s theories and Chinese sociology. I think Deng’s impact on Chinese sociology is of extreme significance on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Chinese sociological revival. Chinese sociologists will never forget Deng Xiao-ping’s contribution to Chinese sociology. As for the shared points, we may study and clarify them in order to, on the one hand, deepen our understanding of Deng Xiao-ping Theory and promote the further research on it and on the other, carry forward the development and construction of sociological discipline by carrying out the instruction in disciplines from Deng Xiao-ping Theory. To “Early Chinese Sociology Before the Establishment of PRC” we added a chapter “The School of Eclecticism” with focus on Sun Ben-wen who epitomized the thought of this school, and to Chapter 12 we added something about social insurance. In this textbook we kept Appendix I: Major Events in Chinese Sociology and appended Appendix II: Main Works of Chinese Sociology. In addition, we amplified most of the chapters or sections with recent information.

There are two reasons for the adaptation: one is that we still lack a textbook covering the history of Chinese sociology within 100 years with our own dominant ideas (i.e. the instructive need for such a textbook); the other is that I have been holding the belief all the time that “Any perspective should not be said to be perfect if it cannot stand up to the trials in teaching practice and cannot convince or touch students and audience”. We are willing to make this textbook exposed to the tests of both academic and teaching practice, as the merits and demerits of a viewpoint or of a textbook will most probably be displayed in teaching activities.

In discussion about the publication of *Chinese Sociology in the 21st Century*, I accurately informed Party Building Reading Publishing House of our intention of adapting the book for the teaching use. Besides the reason that a textbook on the history of Chinese sociology is badly needed in universities—as already mentioned above—we also explained that it would be a pity to put the book accomplished with so hard work into only one use. Our plan was finally understood and approved by the publishing house, and we here would like to extend our sincere gratitude.

My collaborator, Mr. Li Ying-sheng, who at present holds the position of associate professor at the Labor and Personnel College, Renmin University of China, is a young professional by training in sociology. He has gained a profound and sound mastery of my thinking and points of view about sociological theories, and has appropriately developed them in his studies. During this collaboration, we followed the same steps as before, i.e. after we discussed and decided on the outline together, Mr. Li made the first draft (exclusive of Introduction), which I revised, adjusted, supplemented and finalized. One of my Ph. D candidates, Feng Shi-zheng, took charge of the compiling of Appendix II, which Mr. Li and I modified.

Lastly, I would like to reiterate the ideas that although we have tried our best to give a panorama of Chinese sociology to the reader, in the textbook there are bound to be oversights, omissions, inappropriateness or even viewpoints probably provoking controversy, because of the complexity and complications of the development of Chinese sociology within 100 years (Virtually there have been diverse opinions about some of the issues related to the history of Chinese sociology.), in addition to our subjective limitations. The writing of such a book may be regarded as a restudy and retest of sociological theories and perspectives as well as an assignment we finished and handed in to the society and the circle of sociology. We look forward to correction, comments and academic debates from readers, and we will heartily rejoice if this textbook can play some role in spreading the knowledge, increasing the influence and promoting the disciplinary construction of sociology.

**Zheng Hang-sheng**  
**Room 912, Reference Building,**  
**Renmin University of China**  
**June 8, 1999**

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# **Introduction**

## **A Couple of Theoretical Issues Concerning the History of Chinese Sociology**

### **Section 1 The Relationship Between *Shi* (history) and *Lun* (theory) in Chinese Sociology and Division of Periods**

The history of Chinese sociology is actually a history in which sociology was introduced into China as a discipline for meeting the need of Chinese society, where it found a foothold, successively developed and linked up with Chinese reality and where it has been playing its own role.

The history of Chinese sociology serves as one inseparable part for disciplinary construction of Chinese sociology. As the historical element of sociology with Chinese characteristics, the history of Chinese sociology can help us deeply understand not only just the sociological theories but also the tortuous development of sociology in China, providing us with rich experience and lessons for today's disciplinary construction. It remains a necessary component in the learning structure of sociological workers. In a word, it is self-evident that the knowledge about the history of Chinese sociology is quite essential.

#### **I . The Relationship Between *Shi* (history) and *Lun* (theory) in the History of Chinese Sociology**

Just as its name implies, the history of Chinese sociology is undoubtedly about *shi* (history), however, it is in close relation to sociological theories, i.e. *lun* (theory). We may say that any sociological history is related to some sort of

sociological theory and that different understandings of sociology result in different ways to write the history of sociology. Of course, this sociological theory has to not only originate from the facts related to the development of Chinese society and relevant thoughts, but also to be able to be put back into the history, i.e. to become a *lun* (theory) that runs through *shi* (history). Put it in another way, a *lun* (theory) irrelevant to *shi* (history) would neither be vital or influential nor bear Chinese characteristics. Just in this sense, a theory of Chinese sociology that can be regarded as a genuine sociological theory must be one in which *shi* (history) and *lun* (theory) are interactive, or at least and first of all, it must be combined with the two *shi* (history) in the concerning field—history of Chinese social thought and history of Chinese sociology. Furthermore, it must be combined with some relevant subjects in the field such as history of Chinese society, etc. Conclusively, the combination of *lun* (theory) with *shi* (history) in the history of Chinese sociology indicates that while having a foothold in China's reality and learning from foreign sociology, we must expand our good tradition and value China's academic history of sociology.

The combination of *lun* (theory) with *shi* (history) is not limited to the history of Chinese sociology. Today, the combinations of *lun* (theory) with *shi* (history) and of logic with history are increasingly becoming a tendency and demand in compiling histories of disciplines or even comprehensive histories. To write a history of Chinese sociology responding to such a tendency and demand is an important sign indicating that Chinese sociology is advancing towards a mature stage. But it is indeed a new and challenging task and for us, it is a fresh attempt, too. The main reason that we named the book "A history of Chinese Sociology" (new-compiled) is to show such a consideration.

As for the history of Chinese sociology, the combination of *lun* (theory) with *shi* (history) was principally realized through a leading concept or a chief clue of coming from *shi* (history) and going back to *shi* (history). A leading concept or a chief clue is of importance, as without a chief clue of sociological perspective the history of Chinese social thoughts and Chinese sociology would easily turn into some kind of inorganic collection and easily become identical with histories of other disciplines, particularly the history of philosophy, losing its own characteristics. The modern writing of a history of certain discipline increasingly tends to possess its own