

高年级阅读教材第四册

# CONVERSATIONS WITH HISTORY

## 与历史对话

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## 前 言

《与历史对话》是英语专业高年级学生编写的阅读教材。在学习和打好英语专业基本功的基础上，为高年级学生编写新的阅读教材的目的是：一方面，进一步巩固和增强综合应用英语的能力；另一方面，扩大学生的知识面和词汇量，提高学生对科技、经济、军事、政治、信息等方面的知识技能，进一步提高学生对英文原著的阅读理解能力。

《与历史对话》一书的体裁为访谈形式，内容涉及社会生活的方方面面，包括香港回归、国际关系理论与实践、和平运动、对新闻工作者的技能要求、冷战时期的美国总统与新闻界、从维和行动看美国的作用、美国军队（尤其是海军）以及政治外交等，题材广泛，内容新颖。本书文字精炼，语言生动灵活，同时注重知识性和趣味性相结合，使学生获得尽可能多的信息量。

全书共选取 1 篇访谈录，每篇访谈后都有不同的练习内容，既有对语言点细节的把握，又有对访谈录的整体理解。可用于指导学生自学，也能在课堂上有针对性地对学生进行训练，巩固和深化学生的语言知识，同时扩展信息量。

由于缺乏经验，成书仓促，本书中的问题和错误在所难免，欢迎大家批评指正，以便试用后作进一步修改。

编者

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Welcome to a "Conversation on International Affairs." I'm Harry Kreisler of the Institute of International Studies. Our distinguished guest today is Dr. Anson Chan of Hong Kong. A career public servant, she is the Chief Secretary of the Hong Kong government. In that position she is a principal advisor to the Chief Executive, and head of Hong Kong's 190,000-member civil service<sup>1</sup>. Dr. Chan is the first woman, and the first person of Chinese ancestry<sup>2</sup>, to hold that position.

## Background

Welcome to Berkeley, Dr. Chan.

Thank you.

In your wildest dreams did you ever anticipate you would be playing such a historic role in the history of China and Hong Kong?

No. When I joined the Hong Kong civil service in 1962, I expected to reach midstream in my career. And certainly it never crossed my mind that I could get to the very top of the civil service. But it's certainly a great honor and a very exciting position to be in, and to be part of Hong Kong's history after 1997.

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<sup>1</sup> civil service: the entire body of persons employed by the civil branches of a government

<sup>2</sup> ancestry: ancestral descent or lineage (世系, 血统)

What led you to choose public service as a career?

Actually it was by accident. I wanted originally to be a social worker. I had worked in a large public hospital in Hong Kong, in medical social work. They were doing extremely good work, very highly valued by the community, and thought I would like to try my hand at that. So I actually, after I took my B.A. course, I went on to study social work. But in that one year, while I was undergoing the studies, I happened on an advertisement in the newspaper for administrative officers for the Hong Kong government. So I thought, well, I'll try my hand at that. And I sat through the examinations, I got in, and I haven't looked back since.



Anson Chan is joined by Kenneth T.W. Pang (left), Hong Kong Commissioner (USA), and UC Berkeley's Chancellor Chang-Lin Tien

S. Beth Zilber photo

And the notion of public service was not new to your family, is that correct?

True. My uncle is an eminent orthopedic<sup>3</sup> surgeon, and indeed worked in the public sector and subsequently set himself up in private practice. My auntie is also a well-known worker in the rehabilitation field, looking after children with cerebral palsy<sup>4</sup>. And she was in fact in charge, for many years, of the John F. Kennedy Center for Cerebral Palsy Children. And other members of our

<sup>3</sup> orthopedic: a. 整形外科的

<sup>4</sup> cerebral palsy: 脑瘫



family worked at one time or another in what I would loosely describe as the private sector.

And you had a grandfather who was a historic figure in the history of China?

Yes. My grandfather is regarded as a great patriot. He fought against the Japanese during the Japanese invasion of China, and is of course very well known, particularly in his own home county, Anhui.

And recently you went back for a ceremony honoring him?

Yes, the government decided to commemorate my grandfather by erecting a monument in his honor and the entire family was invited back to participate in the ceremony. It was my very first visit to Anhui, my father's native county, and it was an extremely memorable visit. I got to meet many of the provincial people and it was altogether a very, very good trip.

And your mother is an extraordinary individual. Tell us a little about her and the situations she dealt with as you were growing up.

My mother had a very unusual background. In her days it was very unusual for women to be highly educated, but she had a very enlightened mother who made it her business to ensure that her two daughters received the best of education, including teaching in English, which was very, very rare in her days. My mother is an extremely resourceful woman. She was widowed at a very young age, in her early 30s, with eight very young children to raise. But nevertheless, she did raise all of us. We like to think that we've all made something of our lives. But at the same time, in addition to looking after us, she's managed to carve out<sup>5</sup> a career for herself as an extremely talented and imaginative artist. And today she is

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<sup>5</sup> carve out: establish, exploit 开拓, 创业

recognized as probably one of the best contemporary Chinese artists. She has given exhibitions all over the world.

As I hear your story, I hearken back to my introduction of you, you're the first woman in the position you hold and the first person of Chinese ancestry. So it's fair to say that the background that you've just described informs the way that you're approaching the challenges of Hong Kong.

**I suppose you could.**

## **The Role of the Civil Service in a Market Economy**

Let's talk about the civil service in a market economy. In your present position you head a 190,000-person civil service which is recognized as one of the best in the world. How has this civil service contributed to the success of the Hong Kong economy?

The Hong Kong civil service has a very enviable but well-justified reputation as being one of the keenest and one of the most efficient. This hasn't come about by chance. It's come about because the civil service has managed to remain, through all 150 years of Hong Kong's history, as a meritocracy<sup>6</sup>, free from political influence. And in that culture we've managed to help Hong Kong prosper and grow. And it is, in my view, crucial to maintain that culture, that political neutrality and meritocracy after 1997. The civil service plays a very key role in Hong Kong's economy. We have, over the years, worked out a system of financial management that provides for a small, non-obtrusive government. All sectors of the economy are well regulated but not over regulated. We have managed to keep corruption at bay for the last 25 years, certainly in the public service and also in the private sector. And we want to ensure that that will remain so. In addition, the civil service has a good reputation for maintaining a level playing field. Our rules for

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<sup>6</sup> meritocracy: leadership by a group of leaders or officeholders selected on the basis of individual ability or achievement 知识界精华

participation in government contracts and franchises are very free and open. Everybody knows these rules and they know the basis upon which they can participate. So these are the ingredients that contribute to Hong Kong's prosperity and continuing success. And these are the ingredients that we need to keep if Hong Kong is going to continue to grow and to benefit, not only for the people of Hong Kong, but also to assist China in its modernization program.

What are the particular challenges for a manager in your role to maintain the system that you've just described?

As head of the civil service, I see myself as responsible for a number of key functions. First of all, clearly to provide for effective leadership -- setting a good example for the rest of the civil service. I think it's also crucially important for me, as head of the civil service, to allow all members of the civil service to realize their full potential, to help them maximize their strengths and to minimize their weaknesses, and to train our people so that they can move into positions of responsibility.

Is morale<sup>7</sup> a particular problem during this phase of Hong Kong's existence?

No, in fact morale is remarkably good given<sup>8</sup> the uncertainties that have been posed by the whole transition process, particularly uncertainties with regard to the future of individual offices. But on that front I'm glad to say that the Chief Executive Designate, Mr. Tung, has made it quite clear that he hopes to see maximum continuity in the civil service. And I think that has given my colleagues within the civil service a greater degree of confidence in their future.

## Freedom of Information

I saw a recent speech in which you spoke about the role of media and information in improving the management performance and in

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<sup>7</sup> morale: the state of the spirits of a person or group as exhibited by confidence, cheerfulness, discipline, and willingness to perform assigned tasks 士氣, 民心

<sup>8</sup> given: granted as a supposition

contributing directly to economic expansion. Could you talk a little about that?

Certainly. I'd be very happy to. We've seen a major transformation in our economy in the last few decades. Originally, our economy was very much based on the manufacturing industry. But over the years, given the scarcity of resources available in Hong Kong, particularly resources in terms of manpower and in terms of land availability, we have, like maturing economies elsewhere, moved from a manual economy to a more and more service-based economy. And today services and knowledge-based services account for 83% of our GDP and employ 73% of our total work force. And in that sort of a scenario<sup>9</sup>, the free flow of information, and press freedom and all that goes with it, are crucially important to underpin<sup>10</sup> our ability to compete in the worldwide market. And of course we all know that today the world is a highly competitive market and Hong Kong needs to compete, not only with our neighboring Asian countries, but also with countries around the world. So we want to make sure that after 1997 the press continues to enjoy all the freedoms as promised under the Joint Declaration, that there remains a free flow of information.

And do you think that this is an issue that can be negotiated successfully given the importance of information to the making of a success of the Hong Kong economy?

It's already negotiated because the Joint Declaration and the basic law, which will be the new constitution for the new special administrative regional government after 1997, does provide for protection of press freedom and all the other human freedoms that go with a pluralist society<sup>11</sup>. Of course a paper promise is one thing. We need to make sure that we put in place the necessary building blocks that will ensure that that freedom can actually be practiced on the ground. And from that point of view we have a Bill of Rights

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<sup>9</sup> scenario: an outline or a model of an expected or a supposed sequence of events

<sup>10</sup> underpin: to give support or substance to 巩固, 支撑

<sup>11</sup> pluralist society: a society in which numerous distinct ethnic, religious, or cultural groups coexist within one nation 多元化社会



ordinance, we have an independent judiciary, and we hope to have a credible legislature that will underpin the rule of law and protect our human freedoms, of which press freedom is a very important part. In addition to the government efforts, I think it also relies very much on the practitioners of the profession<sup>12</sup>, that is the proprietors, the editors, and the reporters standing up for<sup>13</sup> their own freedoms and defending those freedoms. So I would personally hope very much that after 1997 our reporters and our editors will continue to write the editorials and the stories that need to be written.

I think that with any bureaucracy, an accountable bureaucracy, we need the press and we need critics to keep us on our toes. Of course we all want to see a responsible press, a press that reports objectively. But at the same time we do wish the press to continue to report and continue to criticize because it is only in that way that the government can continue to improve and meet the aspirations of an increasingly affluent society.

During this period of transition it would seem that public education is a key, in the sense that all of the parties involved need to understand the importance of the elements that have made Hong Kong such an extraordinary achievement. Public information seems to be key because a service- and information-based economy is just not going to work if you don't have information.

That's very true. One of the challenges that we have to face after 1997 is to make sure that we continue to turn out the type of workers that the economy demands. And we've invested a great deal in the educational sector. Today we have seven universities. We provide for 80% of the relevant age group in tertiary institutions. And the number of university graduates has risen from about 180,000 in 1986 to over a half-million in 1995. We clearly appreciate that an educated work force is Hong Kong's best guarantee for continuing prosperity, and we will continue to invest heavily in the educational sector.

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<sup>12</sup> practitioner of the profession: one who practices an occupation, a profession, or a technique 执业人员

<sup>13</sup> stand up for: defend; support

In the United States (and I'm not asking you to comment on the United States) the bureaucracy, the civil service, has often become a whipping-boy for the politicians as they struggle to shape a vision. Your system seems to have avoided that. Why is that do you think?

We don't avoid it totally, but I suppose compared with your country, yes we're relatively fortunate. But we're fortunate only in the sense that we've worked very hard to achieve the standing that we currently have. I think, by and large<sup>14</sup>, the community, and I include in that our politicians, still regard the civil service as reasonably efficient. In recent years we've made it a particular point to be more open and transparent in our policy formulation, in the way that we implement programs. We've also improved our accountability to the community and to the legislature. For example, I think we must be one of the few territories anywhere on this earth that annually publishes a progress report giving an account of how we have performed in the past year, acknowledging our successes but equally acknowledging our failures. So where we have not met our target we give a clean account of why it is that we have not met these targets and give an undertaking<sup>15</sup> that we will catch up. We also publish annually a statement of our commitments and our policy issues for the following year. So there is a system by which our legislature and the community can hold the government accountable. And I believe that also is a very crucially important part of good governance.

## Hong Kong after 1997

In the world that we've entered after the end of the Cold War the focus everywhere is on transitions, and if we think of Eastern Europe, the emphasis on the movement from socialist governments and economies to capitalist ones. Hong Kong seems to be uniquely placed to deal with this situation in an entirely different and creative way, and I'm curious as to what it means for the civil service --

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<sup>14</sup> by and large: for the most part; generally 大体上

<sup>15</sup> undertaking: 承诺, 保证

the kind of confident, neutral civil service that you've just described -- when one is going through the throes of a transition, where you are at a meeting-ground of two very different ways of life, and where all the parties have an interest in getting it right. That must pose a special responsibility for the civil service as they try to maintain their neutrality and continue to maintain the confidence, continue to do it without corruption. Talk a little about that.

I agree. I think that is a challenge. The starting point of course is to remember that Chinese leaders have promised Hong Kong a high degree of autonomy under this unique concept of one country/two systems. And the Joint Declaration on the Future of Hong Kong makes it abundantly clear that we in Hong Kong will continue to practice the capitalist system, whereas China will continue to practice the socialist system. And I think it is on this basis that we can move confidently into the future. We've put in place the necessary building blocks that will ensure that the promises in the Joint Declaration and the basic law can actually be implemented on the ground. that we can actually be in position to practice a high degree of autonomy. I think Hong Kong's success relies, among other things, on our openness -- our openness to trade and commerce, our openness to new ideas, to people from all over the world. And it is important to maintain that openness after 1997. Hong Kong is truly a place where east meets west. I think we have been able to absorb Western values, Western culture, combined with the best of Eastern and Asian values and culture, and I believe that we get the most out of this combination. And so first, to continue to succeed and to continue to play the prominent role that we currently play in the world league, we need to maintain that openness. And I believe that given everything that we've done to provide for the



necessary framework, given the commitment of the two sovereign powers to making a success of Hong Kong under the concept of one country/two systems, and given furthermore the commitment of Hong Kong people themselves, we should make a success of Hong Kong after 1997.

China itself has a real interest in not losing sight of the goals that you've just mentioned. For example, their future efforts to bring Taiwan back are very much dependent on whether this transition in Hong Kong succeeds.

You're quite right in saying that there are massive self-interests on the part of China in seeing Hong Kong succeed. And the self-interest doesn't only lie in terms of economic growth. Clearly we are now more and more economically integrated with China. Most of our manufacturing processes have moved across the border into China. And in a way that has enabled Hong Kong to continue to grow because we have this vast economic hinterland just across the border. But we are also at the same time providing help to China's own open door policies and modernization programs, and a whole range of other activities -- in financial regulation, setting up stock exchanges, helping them bring up professional standards (for example, in the accountancy field), and helping them solve the housing problem, and many other such areas. And I think we will continue to provide those sort of services and continue to be a window to China on the rest of the world. Of course, in turn we also benefit from China's economic growth. And I believe that as China grows economically, in its wake you will see a greater degree of political liberalization, a greater confidence in embracing the democratic principles that we in Hong Kong -- as well as in America and all over the world -- take for granted and value. And we believe that we can grow in tandem<sup>16</sup> with China. If China prospers it will be good for Hong Kong and it will certainly be good for the rest of the world.

In this continuing process I would imagine that it's very important for all of the interests involved to be aware of all of the issues.

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<sup>16</sup> in tandem: one after another

So it sounds like there needs to be a continuing dialogue with the Western powers, with the business interests within Hong Kong, with all the various groups that are concerned about Hong Kong's future.

Keeping the channels of communication open is crucially important. We need, first of all, particularly to manage our relationship with our new sovereign power, that is with China. And in that context we need more contact at all levels. We're already doing a great deal of those, with not only provincial people but also with business people. We certainly need those who invest in Hong Kong, and our trading partners -- particularly America, who is one of our most important trading partners -- to continue to take an interest in what's going on in Hong Kong. These days America, Canada, Japan, and many other countries have an increasing stake<sup>17</sup> in Hong Kong, not only in terms of their financial investments, but also increasingly we have sizable American communities, Canadian communities, Australian communities living in Hong Kong. So there's a self-interest in other countries seeing Hong Kong continue to prosper, emphasizing to China that they're looking on to see whether the promises in the Joint Declaration will be faithfully implemented. And that is important in terms of assisting Hong Kong to exercise a high degree of autonomy. We want countries like America to continue to trade with us, continue to treat us as effective partners in law enforcement actions. For example, we are currently regarded as valued partners in a whole range of activities such as preventing smuggling of narcotics, illegal immigrants, etc. So we ask your country and other countries to judge us by our actions and less by perceptions that perhaps things will start going wrong after 1997.

So again we get back to this idea of the flow of information, an engagement of all of the parties to the process, elevating the consciousness of all the parties to the common interests in the future of Hong Kong.

Yes, that's very important.

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<sup>17</sup> stake: money or property risked in a wager or gambling game 賭注

## Negotiating with China

When you were the Secretary for Economic Services you fell into a role of negotiating with the Chinese on the building of the new Hong Kong airport. What insights did you develop from that experience that you might be able to share with us?

I had some involvement in negotiations with China but largely my responsibility was to move the project forward in terms of bringing together all the parties concerned, setting up the necessary machinery and coordinating roles of the different government departments, and generally helping to pull the whole thing together, because it is a massive project. All told it's worth [US] \$20 billion. And it's not just the airport that we're talking about but the whole infrastructure, the network of highways, bridges, and roads that are needed to connect the new airport with the urban areas of Hong Kong and Kowloon<sup>18</sup>. In terms of negotiations with China, I think that it's like all negotiations -- it takes basically an understanding of each other's position. There's a common objective in seeing the project materialize, in seeing a smooth implementation of the project. Yes we have had our differences of opinion, particularly on financing, on how quickly one should do it. But we've managed to resolve all those issues. We signed a memorandum of understanding on how we should tackle the airport project and we are looking forward confidently to opening the new airport in about May or April of 1998.

In this process is there any confusion with regard to who one has to deal with on the Chinese side? I know that as we go through the transition, it will not just be the central government that you will have to deal with but also provinces and locales that would like to benefit from a relationship with Hong Kong. How is that being managed?

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<sup>18</sup> Kowloon( 九龍): a city of southeast China on the southeast coast of China on Kowloon Peninsula opposite Hong Kong Island. Population: 799,123



It's not always easy to define clearly the levels of authority and, as you say, who we should be dealing with. But it's abundantly clear that we need to establish communication and contact with people at all levels within China. You're quite right in saying certainly at the provincial level, and at the center we also need communication. I'm sure that the Chief Executive, Mr. Tung, will be sorting out his line of communication with Chinese leaders. Clearly we will have more to do with provinces that are closer physically to Hong Kong, particularly with Guangdong [Canton], with whom we already have very good contacts both in the public sector and certainly amongst business people. But increasingly as there are more investments by Hong Kong entrepreneurs in different parts of China, you will also see building up more levels and more channels of communication. And the more communication there is, the more of a dialogue, I think the smoother will be Hong Kong's transition and the smoother we will be able to implement the one-country/two systems concept. That said, I think it is also very necessary to help explain to Chinese people the provisions in the basic law, because I'm sure that this high degree of autonomy that is promised to Hong Kong, the exact provisions are not all that clear to people at the provincial level. So we do need to explain why it is that Hong Kong is different from any other province in China, and why it is important for us to keep that high degree of autonomy. I also know that the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council, who will continue to be responsible for Hong Kong after 1997, realizes that one of their key functions after 1997 will be to explain to their own provinces why Hong Kong is special and distinct and set aside from any other province in China.

## Conclusion

What would your vision for Hong Kong's future be if you could dream it into existence?

I would like to see Hong Kong develop -- or perhaps develop is not the word -- *continue* to be a compassionate, open society. As I said, open to ideas, open to people. That we will remain the free

economy that we are now. That increasingly we will cater better to the poorer and disadvantaged sectors of our society, particularly in looking after our elderly. Like many communities elsewhere, we are seeing an aging population in Hong Kong. There is community support for greater assistance to elderly people, particularly those living on their own. And it is certainly one area that we will increasingly be giving attention. We need also to ensure that we continue to turn out an educated, well-motivated, hardworking work force, because they are the ones on whom we depend for Hong Kong's continuing prosperity. So in other words, a society that is caring, that takes seriously its responsibilities as an increasingly affluent community, a society that will remain free and open.

One final question. How would you counsel students who envision<sup>19</sup> a life in public service?

My first advice would be to study hard and to learn as much as you can. I think that as you enter the civil service it's important for you to have a clear idea of what you wish to achieve, to have a clear set of values to which you can work, but above all, to know what it is you want to be. And to remember that you cannot please everybody because you are likely to end up pleasing nobody. So it's extremely important to know your own goals, what it is you want to carve out for yourself in life, and to stick to those goals.

Dr. Chan, thank you very much for taking the time to be with us today. We wish you best luck in the many challenges that you face in the coming years.

Thank you very much.

And thank YOU very much for joining us for this "Conversation on International Affairs."

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<sup>19</sup> envision: to picture in the mind; imagine 想象, 预想

## EXERCISES

### Part I: Comprehension Points

1. (P1, BL5) When I joined the Hong Kong civil service in 1962, I expected to reach midstream in my career.  
Explain the underlined part.
2. (P4, BL2) In addition, the civil service has a good reputation for maintaining a level playing field.  
Explain the underlined phrase.
3. (P6, BL8) It's already negotiated because the Joint Declaration and the basic law, which will be the new constitution for the new special administrative regional government after 1997, does provide for protection of press freedom and all the other human freedoms that go with a pluralist society.  
Translate the sentence.
4. (P6, BL3) We need to make sure that we put in place the necessary building blocks that will ensure that that freedom can actually be practiced on the ground.  
What are those building blocks?
5. (P7, L10) I think that with any bureaucracy, an accountable bureaucracy, we need the press and we need critics to keep us on our toes.  
Explain the underlined part.
6. (P8, L2) ... has often become a whipping-boy for the politicians as they struggle to shape a vision.  
Explain the sentence.
7. (P8, BL15) So where we have not met our target we give a clean account of why it is that we have not met these targets and give an undertaking that we will catch up.  
Translate the sentence.
8. (P10, BL10) And I believe that as China grows economically, in its wake you will see a greater degree of political liberalization, a greater confidence in embracing the democratic principles that we in Hong Kong -- as well as in America and all over the world -- take for granted and value.  
Translate the sentence.
9. (P14, L7) We need also to ensure that we continue to turn out an educated, well-motivated, hardworking work force, ...  
Paraphrase the sentence.

### Part II: Questions

1. What did the government do to try to keep the increasing development and prosperity of