

Historical Society for Twentieth Century China
Biennial Conference

Chinese Nation – Chinese State
1850-2000

Singapore
June 26-28, 2006



Supported by grants from

Faculty of Arts and Sciences
East Asian institute
Asia Research Institute

National University of Singapore

Welcome Message

On behalf of the Historical Society of Twentieth Century China (HSTCC), I take great pleasure in welcoming you to the organization's biennial conference in Singapore, which is generously funded and hosted by the National University of Singapore.

When the HSTCC was founded in 1983, one of its major goals was to improve the academic exchange and personal contacts between Chinese historians and North American historians working on 20th century China, in particular the Republican period. Since then, the opening of China and an expanding membership with colleagues from Asia, Europe, and Australia have made cooperative research and lively intellectual exchange across physical and mental borders the norm. It seems that the HSTCC's agenda is now shifting towards a new goal, i.e. the bridging of the conventional 1949-divide. This we hope to achieve through our biennial meetings that bring together scholars with different methodological approaches, who through their combined work offer us a long-term perspective towards 20th century China from the late imperial period to the most contemporary developments. This year's conference topic, "Chinese Nation, Chinese State, 1850-2000," reflects this trend perfectly. The important and timely issue is explored in panels with topics ranging from ethnic nationalism and overseas Chinese, racial thought and policy to the role of NGOs in the political and social landscape of contemporary China. Nobody seriously exploring China in 2006 can avoid a discussion of how to interpret the different meanings of nation and state for different Chinese constituencies in the context of economic, political, and cultural globalization.

I hope that the conference will provide a forum for lively debates among all participants and on behalf of the HSTCC would like to particularly welcome our colleagues from mainland China. After the 2004 meeting in Vienna, Singapore presents a wonderful contrast as conference venue. With its complex ethnic structure and history this city-state reminds us vividly of what the conference is all about, hopefully bringing us a bit closer to understanding the complex nature of the Chinese nation and state from the late 19th to the early 21st century.

Elisabeth Köll
Case Western Reserve University
President of the HSTCC, 2004-2006



HSTCC Conferences and Publications: 1995-2005

The commitment of the Historical Society for Twentieth Century China (HSTCC) to staging and participating in international conferences began in December 1995 when it mounted a highly successful conference in Vancouver on the topic of reassessing the Sino-Japanese War of 1937-1945. Out of this came two volumes, both published in 2001. *Chinese Collaboration with Japan, 1932-1945: The Limits of Accommodation*, edited by David P. Barrett and Larry N. Shyu, broke ground in treating the little touched topic of wartime collaboration in China. It consisted of eleven articles, with an introduction by David Barrett, and was published by Stanford University Press (290 pp). The other volume, *China in the Anti-Japanese War, 1937-1945: Politics, Culture, and Society*, published by Peter Lang, Inc (240 pp), consisted of a further eleven articles drawn from the conference, with an introduction by Larry Shyu.

In June 2001 a linked two-part conference was co-sponsored by the HSTCC, the first segment held at (and hosted by) Hong Kong Baptist University, and the second segment at Peking University (Beijing Daxue). The title of the conference was “Reinterpreting Twentieth Century China: New Perspectives.” A volume consisting of six papers, five of them by HSTCC members, was edited by Cindy Yik-yi Chu and Ricardo K.S. Mak and published in 2003 under the title of *China Reconstructs* by the University Press of America. Papers by six of the HSTCC participants in the Peking conference were published in *20 Shiji di Zhongguo: Xin Guandian yu Xin Cailiao* (Jiangxi Renmin Chubanshe, 2003), five of them in Chinese version.

The HSTCC was one of the co-sponsors of a conference held in Venice in July 1999 on the theme, “The Role of the Republican Period in Twentieth Century China: Reflections and Reconsiderations.” The following year the HSTCC mounted its own conference at Fredericton, New Brunswick on the topic, “Bridging 1949: Historical Continuity in 20th Century China.” Several of the papers presented subsequently appeared in journals or were incorporated into monographs, examples of the former being Brian Martin’s article on the Wang Jingwei regime’s security services (*Intelligence and National Security*, 16:4, 2001) and Wang Ke-wen’s article on PRC and Taiwanese historical assessments of Wang Jingwei (*Twentieth Century China*, 28:1, 2002), while a good example of the latter are the papers that became part of Parks Coble’s monograph, *Chinese Capitalists in China’s New Order: The Occupied Lower Yangzi, 1937-45* (2002).

In May 2004 the HSTCC participated, as one of the co-sponsors, in a conference held at the University of Vienna under the title, “As China Meets the World: China’s Changing Position in the International Community, 1840-2000.” Some thirty HSTCC members participated. A conference volume under the above title, edited by Susanne Weigelin-Schwiedrzik, Agnes Schick-Chen and Sascha Klotzbucher, will be appearing shortly, published by the Austrian Academy of Social Sciences.

David P. Barrett
HSTCC Secretary-Treasurer



Organizing committee

Thomas DuBois

Department of History, NUS

Huang Jianli

Department of History, NUS

Lai Hongyi

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Wong Sin Kiong

Department of Chinese Studies, NUS

Zheng Yangwen

Asia Research Institute, NUS



Conference Program

Sunday, June 25 - most participants arrive Singapore

Monday, June 26

8:30 Registration

9:00 Opening ceremony, welcome remarks by Tan Tai Yong,
Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, National University of
Singapore

9:30 Opening address by Professor Wang Gungwu followed by
reception buffet

10:30-12:30 Midday panel session 1

1:30-3:30 Midday panel session 2

4:00-6:00 Afternoon panel session 3

Tuesday, June 27

9:30-12:00 Extended morning panel session 4

1:00-3:00 Midday panel session 5

3:30-5:30 Afternoon panel session 6

7:00 Conference dinner at Kintamani Indonesian restaurant
(Located on third floor of Furama Riverfront Hotel)

Wednesday, June 28

9:30-11:30 Morning panel session 7

12:30-2:30 Midday panel session 8

2:30-4:00 Book displays and press reception. Travel
reimbursement.

4:00-6:00 Afternoon panel session 9

Thursday, June 29

Depart from hotel for optional trip to Malacca



	June 26	June 27	June 28
9:00	Opening		
9:30	Reception	Session 4	Session 7
10:00	Session 1		
10:30			
11:00			
11:30			Lunch
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	
12:30			Session 8
13:00	Session 2	Session 5	
13:30			
14:00			
14:30			Book displays and reception
15:00		Tea	
15:30	Tea	Session 6	
16:00	Session 3		Session 9
16:30			
17:00			
17:30			
18:00			
18:30			
19:00		Dinner	
19:30			
20:00			
20:30			

