

The Constitutional Monarchy and Modernization: Kang Youwei's Perspectives on "Keeping the Emperor and the Royal System in China"

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Abstract

At the end of the 19th century, China opened up its age of democratic revolution. Kang Youwei, a senior intellectual, advised Emperor Guangxu to establish the Constitutional Monarchy system in China as England and Japan did. However, his thoughts were condemned as "conservative", "anti-revolutionary" by those radicals in his time. In this article, the author makes a deep exploration of the Constitutional Monarchy system in different countries in today's world, the social roles of kings and monarchs, and the economic positions of today's Constitutional Monarchy countries in the world. It is found that nearly all these countries are developed countries which gained political stability and economic prosperity by establishing the constitutional monarchy system and account for a large percentage in the world's most developed countries. Compared to those democratic republican countries of the same period, they developed in a more stable and rapid way. The kings and queens play important roles in keeping the country stable and prosperous. Thus, history has proven that the Constitutional Monarchy is a great democratic system and Kang Youwei's proposal of "keeping the emperor and the royal system" and establishing the Constitutional Monarchy system was the most suitable choice in terms of the situation of China at his time.

Key words: Constitutional Monarchy system; Modernization; Kang Youwei

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INTRODUCTION

Since the failure of the 1898 Reform Movement of China, also known as the Wu Xu Reform, Kang Youwei's political perspectives on "Keeping the Emperor and the Royal System" were often criticized by historians as "fogyism", "driving back history" and by politicians as "reactionary", "a counter-revolutionary". When referring to Kang Youwei's political views, many politicians believed that his views had reflected "he had special feelings towards Emperor Guangxu" and "his loyalty to the Emperor became even stronger." Many people also mentioned about his conservative views, but their comments lacked in-depth analysis about his political attitudes. This paper will elaborate on this aspect.

1. STATE OF THE UNION AND FORM OF GOVERNMENT

Kang Youwei's special feelings towards Emperor Guangxu were truthful. His insistence on "Keeping the Emperor and the Royal System" was not simply his personal feelings, but had much deeper political and philosophical implications.

In the transitional process from the feudal to the capitalistic societies, the U.K. and Japan achieved the Constitutional Monarchy by keeping the royal system of the past, establishing the Constitution in their fight against the old feudal autocracy and peacefully moving to the capitalistic boom. The French Revolution, on the contrary, abolished completely the royal system and established a brand new capitalistic republic. After decades of vicissitudes,

France has painstakingly moved to a capitalistic society and achieved the revolutionary republic system.



Kang Youwei (1858-1927), was a Chinese scholar, noted calligrapher and prominent political thinker and reformer of the late Qing Dynasty. He led movements to establish a Constitutional Monarchy country and was an ardent Chinese nationalist and internationalist. He was a mentor of Liang Qichao.

We have learned different lessons from these two routes. However, both routes have successfully completed the historical transition from the feudal society to the capitalistic society and both have achieved the tasks of the capitalistic revolution. From the macro perspective of the world history, the revolutionary republic side and the Constitutional Monarchy side are both revolutionary and progressive.



Emperor Guangxu, who is known for the 1898 Reform Movement

During the later years of the Qing Dynasty, China was in the transitional period of vicissitudes from the declining feudal society to the capitalistic society. Under the special state of the union, what forms of government should be adopted? A gradual, critical inheritance with innovations? Or a great leap forward abolishing the old and establishing the new system? These two routes had represented the two major trends in the political circle in China at that time. Kang Youwei had become a model

favoring the Constitutional Monarchy route. This was not because he had special feelings towards Emperor Guangxu. More importantly, this was attributed to his ever increasingly comprehensive political, historical and philosophical views.

After the Opium War of 1840, the British and French Revolution were introduced to China. The Constitutional Monarchy had become the mainstream concept in the political and intellectual circles in China at that time. The success of the Meiji Restoration in Japan, the good model of the Constitutional Monarchy had won the acclaim of the Chinese literati (intellectuals). Therefore, after the Sino-French War (1883.12-1885.4), with the deepening of the national crisis and political crisis in China, the anti-feudal autocracy thought of reform was getting more active. Under these circumstances, Kang Youwei wrote two books to explain systematically that Confucius in ancient China was a reformer and he had divided the world into three developmental stages: the Warring States Period, the Grand Times of Reunification Ruled by One Monarch and the Democratic Period. Kang Youwei also explained that the Confucian Three-Stage Theory of Historical Development demonstrated the inevitability of the natural trends. Later on, Liang Qichao divided the Warring States Period into two stages: "Chiefs of Different Tribes" and "Feudal Lords, Literati and Officialdom"; he divided the Grand Times of Reunification Ruled by One Monarch into two stages: "the Period of One Monarch" and "the Period Ruled by One Monarch and His Subjects". Finally, he divided the Democratic Period into "the Presidential Stage" and "the Non-Presidential Stage". To sum up, they can be categorized as "three developmental stages" and "six sub-stages". They believed that the social and historical development were a gradual process and would definitely evolve based on the six historical stages described above. Neither would it be possible to transcend the historical developmental stages nor would it be possible to hold back the flow of historical tides. Kang Youwei believed that the feudal tradition had existed in China for thousands of years, some of the old habits, feelings, points of view and behavioral patterns people had developed in the old traditional system could not be changed completely in a short period of time. At the current stage, few people had modern thinking. Most of the people had no idea at all about the Western democracy and politics. They had to go through "the Period Ruled by One Monarch and His Subjects" before they entered the Democratic Period. This laid the philosophical foundation for his historical evolution theory.

The Japanese became richer and stronger very quickly by adopting the Constitutional Monarchy systems. China was defeated by Japan in the Sino-Japanese War of 1894. This caused the whole nation to rise up for the Constitutional Monarchy system in China. Therefore, Kang Youwei wrote a book on the Meiji Restoration in Japan, explaining the lessons we learned from Japan as

a reference for the 1898 Reform Movement. Emperor Guangxu of the Qing Dynasty carried out the Reform of 1898 by following Kang Youwei's recommendations and became the famous emperor known for the 1898 Reform Movement. Emperor Guangxu and his reform policies were highly praised by most of the people in China at that time. It was very natural that Kang Youwei had special feelings towards Emperor Guangxu. He believed that supporting Emperor Guangxu and following the Constitutional Monarchy route was the only correct path for China at that time.

In 1900, when Kang Youwei was organizing a troop which supported Emperor Guangxu, he praised highly the 1898 Reform Movement by promoting the concepts of "freedom", "equality" and "democratic rights". "How can democracy be realized in France without the revolutionary party? How can the federal republic be established in Germany without the NPD? How can a completely new country be created in Italy and the shake-off of the yoke of foreign countries be realized without the Italian Carbonari?" However, Kang Youwei became more rational after the defeat of the troop he had organized. He stopped praising the French Revolution. Two years later, Liang Qichao went to another extreme by publishing many well-known articles continuously to advocate strongly the destruction of the old society by the revolutionary means as well as propose the establishment of the Greater China Democratic Republic. Liang openly opposed Kang Youwei's idea of the Constitutional Monarchy in China. Therefore, it had led to a controversial debate between Kang Youwei and Liang Qichao.



Liang Qichao (1873-1929), a Chinese scholar, journalist, philosopher, and reformist during the late Qing Dynasty and early Chinese Republic who inspired Chinese scholars with his writings and reform movements

Since the early spring of 1902, Kang Youwei had published articles to prove continuously that why China had to follow the path of Constitutional Monarchy instead of launching a revolution to achieve the republic.

The U.S. style of republic with the American values of democracy and freedom had become the dream of many Chinese young people with radical ideas. Kang Youwei

pointed out that the U.S. style of republic had favored such ideas as "everyone was born equal," "the power belonged to the people" and "the national leader was chosen by the national election." All these concepts were indeed very attractive to many people. However, the success of the U.S. style of republic was based on its unique national conditions. The U.S. used to be a British colony and was strongly influenced by the British political democracy. The thirteen colonies before the Independence in 1776 were governed by their own sovereign governments. The people in these thirteen colonies were used to the Constitutional democracy. When the U.S. declared its independence from the British colonial rule, the entire country had only 4 million people, isolated from Europe, without foreign intervention, without the constraints of old customs and rules within the country, the U.S. style of republic was built and completed successfully and smoothly, and its national economy was growing very well. By contrast, the French Revolution followed the steps of the American model and established the republican system, leading the whole country into chaos for 80 years. The people were plunged into an abyss of misery. The national economy was growing very slowly. The revolution which took place throughout Central and Latin American countries also followed the American model and established the democratic republics. Except for very few countries as Chile, almost all of them had gone into chaos. Most of them turned into military dictatorships. Kang Youwei further pointed out that the chaos in France and South America meant that the situations in France and Mexico were completely different from that in the U.S. Before the French Revolution, the feudal forces were very powerful; the French people were not used to the democratic politics; after the French Revolution, there were many different political parties which were fighting against each other. Kang Youwei said that the French Constitution was the least complete among all the current European Constitutions. Even though democracy was announced and implemented in France, it did not make the country prosper. Although the French Monarchy was abolished, the heredity of many administrative officials still existed. The corruption was widely seen and the people's lives became even more miserable.

Therefore, Kang Youwei further pointed out that after the French Revolution and the abolishment of the royal system, the whole country went into great disorder and the people became more and more radical. Even such a small city as Paris would go into such kind of chaos because of the Revolution, it would be hard to imagine what would happen to China whose territory was ten times as big as Paris and whose people were even more radical than the French. Besides, people from different provinces spoke different dialects. Once the revolution began, those government officials would rise up for their own benefits, fighting for territory and invading other provinces, which would definitely lead to massacre. What's more,

those local feudal forces were quite strong, each of them wanted to be the emperor. Thus, even though the Revolution succeeded, those local feudal forces would fight against each other for hundreds of years, the establishment of the Democratic Republic would be too far away from the reality.

Kang Youwei figured out that with such a great territory, a huge population and thousands of years of feudal traditions, China was totally different from the U.S. and France. He also mentioned that everyone hoped the arrival of democratic period when they were all equal and free, but China was in the Warring States Period at this time, it had to undergo a long transitional period before entering the democratic period. Thus, China could not transform into the Republic system in one revolution like the U.S. or France. By combing the national conditions of China with the experience and lessons learned from the establishment of the U.S. and French Republic system, Kang Youwei demonstrated that even if the Republic Revolution succeeded in China, it would be impossible to establish a stable and united democratic government, the whole country would be reduced into disorder and political fights. The ten odd years of fights among different military powers after the Revolution of 1911 just proved what Kang Youwei had thought.

2. THE CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY AND MODERNIZATION

The Monarch, once considered the true Son of Heaven and the reincarnation of Gods, successfully ruled and managed the ancient medieval countries. The Monarch was highly respected by most of his subjects and had played great roles in history. During the historical transition from the medieval periods to the modern society, many countries have maintained and reformed the monarchy system. Up to today, the monarchy system has played significant and magical roles in both the domestic and international affairs of many countries.

In today's 193 countries, 40 countries which have adopted the Constitutional Monarchy (including the independent British Commonwealth countries) account for 22% of the world's countries. Among them, there are 10 countries from the European Union (EU), 10 countries from the North America and the South America, 13 countries from Asia, 3 countries from Africa, 4 countries from Oceania. Except for some of the countries, most of them have adopted the parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy system and promoted the modern democratic system. Most of them are economically or financially successful.

According to statistics, there are 23 developed capitalistic countries in the world. Among them, Japan, the U.K., Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg have adopted the Constitutional Monarchy system and

accounted for 50% of them. The rest of the 11 countries have adopted the democratic republic system. They include the U.S.A., France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Iceland, Greece and Turkey.



Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain, who has served the people for 60 years

According to the 1990 U.N. Statistics, there are 20 countries and regions in the world which have the highest average GDP. Among them, 8 countries have adopted the Constitutional Monarchy system, which account for 40% of the total number of countries. They are Luxembourg, Japan, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the U.K., Qatar and Belgium. There are 20 countries and regions in the world that have the highest GDP and highest earnings. Among them, Japan, the Netherlands, Kuwait, Belgium, Norway, Denmark and Iceland have adopted the Constitutional Monarchy system and accounted for 35% of the total. Also in 1990, the comprehensive or overall foreign trade rankings among 45 major capitalistic countries and regions in the world, 18 of them have adopted the Constitutional Monarchy system, which accounted for 40% of the total. According to the statistics of December 30, 1993 issued by the Deutsche Presse-Agentur (DPA) in Bonn, among the world's 10 highest per capita income countries in 1993, there were 5 countries which adopted the Constitutional Monarchy system. They were Luxembourg, Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Japan. According to the survey of the World Bank in 2004, among the eleven countries whose Real GDP per capita per year surpassed 270,000 USD, eight of them have adopted Constitutional Monarchy system, they are Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Norway, Japan, Denmark, Sweden, England, and Finland.

From the rough statistical figures shown above, we can see that 22% of the world's countries are those which have adopted the Constitutional Monarchy system and they have accounted for a large percentage of the world's most financially successful countries.

Most of the monarchs in today's Constitutional Monarchy countries have received strict education, are very open-minded, and enjoyed high reputation both at home and abroad. Queen Elizabeth II of Great Britain was conferred consecutively the Bachelor of Music degree by the University of London, Doctor of Music degree

by the University of Wales, J.D. in Civil Law by Oxford University and J.D. by University of Edinburgh. Besides English, the Queen can also speak fluently French, Spanish and German. Since her coronation in 1952, the Queen has become the longest serving Monarch in the world. Widely loved by her own subjects, the Queen has travelled to more than 100 countries, including China. Wherever she went, she was warmly received by the local government and her activities would always be on the top news in the local newspaper.



Emperor Akihito and his wife

Emperor Akihito of Japan graduated from the Department of Political Economics of Gakushuin University in Japan. For many years, Emperor Akihito has conducted research on marine biology with a specialization in fish science. He has published more than 20 research papers. He is also good at the ancient Japanese poetry, music and tennis. Emperor Akihito had visited over 40 countries throughout Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe when he was the prince. When he became the Emperor in 1989, he visited Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. At the end of October, 1992, he visited China and was warmly received by the Chinese Government and Chinese leaders. This visit was also the first ever visit to China by the Japanese Emperor. The Japanese Emperor's visit to China in 1992 was widely considered a milestone in the history of the Sino-Japanese Relationship and a turning point for the New Age of Sino-Japanese Friendship.

Sir Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan of Brunei, had received strict court life education since childhood. He studied in Victoria Institution in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in the U.K. The strict military training he had received in the U.K. had a lasting impact on his entire life. Since his coronation in 1968 at the age of 23, he had been holding the positions of both the Prime Minister (PM) and Minister of Defense. There was something special about Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah: He was not afraid of meeting his subjects. On his 46th birthday, he travelled to outlying areas far away from the royal palace to receive the hand-kissing blessings from his subjects who were waiting in long lines for several hours under the burning sun. He often wore plain clothes when driving his car or flying the helicopter in person to meet his subjects and helped them with difficulties in time. He often flew the plane by himself to spend the vacation throughout the world. He was not only very skillful at

diplomacy, but also very good at managing domestic affairs. His subjects were leading well off lives. The annual income per capita reached 18,400 USD. In Asia, this is second only to that of Japan. The social welfare system in Brunei is also very well-known throughout the world. All the Brunei citizens are exempt from paying personal income taxes and enjoy free education and health care. All the government employees enjoy free rental for their housing. Endowment insurance is widely available for all the Brunei citizens.



Sir Hassanal Bolkiah, Sultan of Brunei



King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand

King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand has been the Head of State and Commander-in-Chief. Although he has never involved personally in national politics, he has enjoyed great prestige in Thailand. He has travelled all over the country with a map in hand in the past 30 years. He has been to many villages and counties throughout Thailand. He has also been to many outlying areas, even disaster areas. He has earned the heartfelt respect from the Thai people. In the past 50 years, Thailand has undergone alternatively the civil and the military government rule. Neither side could take any actions without the consent of the Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The Thai King has become the key figure to solve the political crisis. Since the 1980s, the Thai economy took off successfully to become the rising "Fifth Dragon" of Asia. It is widely believed that the current prosperity in Thailand attributes to the blessings from the King. King Bhumibol Adulyadej is an amazingly attractive figure in Thailand.

The countries with the Constitutional Monarchy system are mainly concentrated in the Western and Northern Europe. These areas are the wealthiest in today's world. Denmark is the richest country in the EU with an average living space per person of 44 square meters. 75% of the population in Denmark have owned a house with a garden in its backyard. The average monthly income per capita has reached 12,000 French francs. Queen Margaret II of Denmark was coronated when she was 13 years old in 1953. She continued her studies by going to the university later on. She enjoyed archaeology, literature and painting. She translated and published Simone de Beauvoir's *With My Husband*. She was warm and easy to approach. People could often meet her in the stores in Copenhagen. She often criticized harshly the wrong things or trends in the society. Therefore, She received wide-ranging support and respect from the people in Denmark.



Queen Margaret II of Denmark



King Hussein Bin Talal of Jordan

King Hussein bin Talal of Jordan came from a military background. He was brave and cautious. He received his education in the U.K. He was coronated in 1952 when he was 18 years old. He had been the longest serving monarch in the Arab world for 47 years until his death in 1999. In the 1950's, King Hussein bin Talal implemented many democratic reforms in order to eradicate the vestige of the old system in the Middle East, but he was opposed strongly by the Arabic Nationalists and narrowly escaped several assassination attempts. In the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, he lost territories in the West Bank and Eastern Jerusalem to Israel. After Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990, instead of joining the Anti-Iraqi Alliance led by the U.S, he favored

the diplomatic solutions to the Kuwait Crisis, which led to his isolation in danger in the international community. However, He tided over many crises after many twists and turns. In recent years, he implemented many democratic reforms by restoring the parliamentary system in Jordan. He re-ignited the hopes of people in Jordan by making Jordan a new lighthouse in the region. Therefore, King Hussein bin Talal was widely regarded as a national hero in Jordan.



King Juan Carlos I of Spain

King Juan Carlos I of Spain was even more worth mentioning. Spain used to be a world power in the Western Hemisphere in the medieval periods. Since the 16th century, with the continuation of the feudal dictatorships, Spain had become a poor country in Europe. Since its initial revolution in 1808, Spain had undergone the Constitutional Monarchy, the revival of autocracy and the military dictatorships under General Francisco Franco. Since its establishment of the First Republic after the 1868's Fifth Revolution, the revolutionary party was split into smaller groups and the whole country was plunged into a political crisis. In 1874, the Bourbon Dynasty (Dinastía Borbón de España) regained control in Spain and autocracy was again imposed throughout the country. After the sixth revolution in 1931, the Second Republic was founded, but all the political sides were fighting against each other and Spain was in a chaos. In 1939, General Francisco Franco's fascist rule took control of Spain. Until 1947, the monarchy was restored in Spain. It was not until 1975 when Juan Carlos I was coronated to be the King of Spain. He implemented the parliamentary Constitutional Monarchy system in Spain so that the country began to become stable and prosperous.

During the past 176 years from 1808 to 1984, through painstaking efforts, the Spanish people have eventually chosen the Constitutional Monarchy system after several trials and failures of the republic system. Is this a historical retreat or a historical progress? When Juan Carlos I was coronated, he was good at implementing the Constitutional Monarchy system and promoting the parliamentary democracy, which were combined to become the cornerstone of the Spanish social system. King Juan Carlos I visited China in June of 1978. He enjoyed unparalleled prestige both at home and abroad. At the beginning of 1988, a referendum on the political system was held in Spain. 71% of the voters were in

favor of the Constitutional Monarchy, only 17% of the voters were in favor of the republic system. In such a country as Spain which had once been implementing the republic system, King Juan Carlos I made the Spanish Monarchy system become one of the most popular Monarchy systems in Europe, which is well worth our contemplation. King Juan Carlos I was born in Italy in 1938, returned to Spain in 1948 and was coronated in 1975. Under his reign of merely 17 years, he turned Spain from a Third World developing country in the 1950's into a vibrant democratic country. In 1992, the GNP of Spain was the 8th in the world.

In today's world, almost all the countries in Western Europe which have adopted the Constitutional Monarchy system are developed countries. There are two advantages of Constitutional Monarchy system. Firstly, it will bring political stability to the country; secondly, it will gradually bring democracy to the country. Today, those Constitutional Monarchy countries, such as Japan, the U.K. and Denmark, are just as successful as the U.S. and France in terms of political democracy and economic prosperity. Also, the British Commonwealth countries perform generally better than the independent republics which used to be the French colonies. History has proven that the Constitutional Monarchy system represented by the UK is the best democratic political system.

Without the necessary domestic and social conditions, drastic implementation of the republic political system will inevitably bring political chaos and economic or financial hardships. According to incomplete statistics, in the 27 years between 1952 and 1979, there had been more than 50 military coups throughout the world. Except for Thailand which is a Constitutional Monarchy country, all the other military coups took place in countries with the republic political system, bringing social instability and economic hardships and disorder. This may explain why Spain eventually adopted the Constitutional Monarchy system and gave up the republic political system.



Muwenda Mutebi II of Buganda

Uganda, an inland country in Africa, used to be a powerful kingdom Buganda in 1000 A.D. and a British

Commonwealth country in modern history. However, after the establishment of the republic system in Uganda in 1967, the whole country was reduced into military coups and political fights for power. Since 1986, the Ugandan people had called for political reforms to restore the Constitutional Monarchy system. Finally, the Ugandan government decided to coronate Prince Ronald Muwenda Mutebi on July 24, 1993 and implement the Constitutional Monarchy system in the country.

In Asia, the Kingdom of Cambodia was plunged into political chaos and economic recession after the 1970 Revolution and the implementation of the republic system. After suffering from 20 years of civil war, the Government of Cambodia restored the Constitutional Monarchy system in 1993, which brought back political stability and economic prosperity to the country.

In today's political life, why do kings and emperors still occupy such divine and supreme positions in people's minds? Why does the Monarchy system come back to life? Why do most of the Constitutional Monarchy countries enjoy political stability and economic prosperity? It is not a personal preference, nor should it be simply criticized as the result of conservative or superstitious thoughts. Instead, it has highly complex social and historical reasons, which should be explored from such multiple perspectives as sociology, political science, history and psychology, etc.

In the natural world, insects survive and multiply with the "King" being their center, such as ants and bees. Animals form a strong team under the leadership of the "King", such as monkeys and lions. Since the establishment of community and country, humans, as a part of the natural world, had their own kings or leaders. People regarded their emperor as the Son of Heaven, respected him just as god who had supernatural power. The king, who occupied a divine position in the people's heart, had avoided many political fighting in the modern age, thus becoming an important factor in controlling the social stability.

CONCLUSION

Having explored the Constitutional Monarchy system in different countries in today's world, the social roles of kings and monarchs, and the economic positions of today's Constitutional Monarchy countries in the world, we can see clearly that Kang Youwei's perspectives on the Constitutional Monarchy, the relationship between the national conditions, tradition and politics, and his theories on the historical development stages were all correct. His perspectives were profound and his reasoning was thorough. It was only through an overall and deep exploration of the interdependent relationship between form of government and other aspects of society from multiple perspectives and levels that Kang Youwei made

the conclusion that the Constitutional Monarchy was the most suitable form of government in China at that time. Therefore, his views were neither narrow-minded, conservative, nor reactionary. His proposal to keep the Emperor and implement the Constitutional Monarchy system was definitely not to protect the feudal autocracy, then, why should we criticize it? Kang Youwei had been fighting hard for democracy throughout his life. He believed that the Constitutional Monarchy system in China was aimed at maintaining the political stability, democracy and economic prosperity. Only by maintaining the political and social stability, can the Chinese economic prosperity and political democracy be achieved. Thus, his theories were patriotic, progressive and scientific.

I am sure that the Constitutional Monarchy system is indeed a very good democratic system. With this good system, the whole society can be developed in a stable manner. Democracy can be gradually developed and at the same time economy can also be enhanced and the people's living standards can be improved greatly. The Constitutional Monarchy system should be acknowledged and promoted.

AUTHOR PROFILE



Professor Dong Fangkui, born in Hubei Province of China in 1929, achieved a bachelor's degree in the School of History in Central China Normal University in 1960 and got his master's degree with a specialty in the modern history of China in the People's University of China in 1964. Being a professor in CCNU, he engages himself in the teaching and research of the modern history of China. His research concentrates on Liang Qichao's political life and tries to explore the relationship between the speed of reform and the social affordability in the transitional period in late Qing Dynasty. He has published 7 academic writings, they are *Liang Qichao and the War of 1915*, *Liang Qichao and Constitutional Monarchy*, *A Remarkable Talent Liang Qichao*, *Liang Qichao's Thoughts on Education*, *New Thoughts on Liang Qichao*, *A Collection of Research Papers on Liang Qichao*, *Liang Qichao's Family*.

There are two other books to be published; they are Liang Qichao's Views on the stable Socialism, A Sequel of New Thoughts on Liang Qichao.

He is now working as the Director of Research Center of Liang Qichao in CCNU and the consultant of Liang Qichao Research Party in Guangdong Province. Part of his works have been collected in the Yan Jing Library at Harvard University, Cambridge University Library, and the library of the People's University of China.

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