

A FATHER'S LEGACY: TRAILBLAZERS IN DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR JULIA CHANG BLOCH

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY TEACHERS COLLEGE

MY FATHER CHANG FU-YUN'S STORY BEGINS IN 1890, WHEN HE WAS BORN IN CHEFOO, ZHIFU 芝罘 (YANTAI), FUSHAN XIAN, SHANDONG. TO UNDERSTAND MY FATHER AND HIS GENERATION, IT IS IMPORTANT TO UNDERSTAND CHINA'S *CENTURY OF HUMILIATION*. I THINK EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM KNOWS SOMETHING ABOUT CHINA'S *CENTURY OF HUMILIATION*. CAN SOMEONE TELL US WHEN IT STARTED — FROM AUGUST 11, 1842, WHEN THE QING DYNASTY SIGNED THE TREATY OF NANJING, CAPITULATING TO GREAT BRITAIN TO END THE FIRST OPIUM WAR (1839-42). WHO CAN TELL US WHEN IT ENDED — OCTOBER 1, 1949 WHEN CHAIRMAN MAO ZEDONG STOOD ATOP TIANANMEN GATE AND DECLARED THE FOUNDING OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, PROCLAIMING THAT CHINA HAD STOOD UP.

THE TREATY OF NANJING WAS THE FIRST OF THE UNEQUAL TREATIES. UNDER THE TREATY OF NANJING, CHINA CEDED HONG KONG TO GREAT BRITAIN, PAID A HUGE INDEMNITY AND GRANTED EXTRATERRITORIALITY TO ALL FOREIGNERS AS PORTS WERE FORCIBLY OPENED TO FOREIGN TRADE. AT THE PEAK OF THE QING DYNASTY (1644-1912), CHINA WAS THE MIDDLE KINGDOM, CENTER OF THE EARTH, RULING MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION WITH ITS LARGEST ECONOMY. IN ONE STROKE 1842 TOOK CHINA'S GREATNESS AND WITH EACH SUCCESSIVE DEFEAT FOR THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS CHINA WOULD BE TORN APART, FIRST BY THE EUROPEAN POWERS AND THEN BY JAPAN. TO BE DEFEATED, SUBJUGATED AND REDUCED TO COLONIAL STATUS EVEN BY JAPAN, WHICH THE CHINESE HISTORICALLY HAD REGARDED AS AN INFERIOR "YOUNGER BROTHER," TRAUMATIZED CHINA'S NATIONAL PSYCHE, FROM WHICH THE COUNTRY HAS YET TO FULLY RECOVER.

CENTURY OF HUMILIATION

MY FATHER LIVED THE SECOND HALF OF CHINA'S *CENTURY OF HUMILIATION*. HE WAS FIVE YEARS OLD WHEN JAPAN CRUSHED CHINA IN THE FIRST SINO-JAPANESE WAR OF 1895. FORCED TO SIGN THE TREATY OF SHIMONOSEKI, CHINA WOULD CEDE THE ISLAND OF TAIWAN, THE ADJOINING PESCADORES, AND THE LIAODONG PENINSULA IN MANCHURIA TO JAPAN IN PERPETUITY, PAY A CRIPPLING INDEMNITY AND, IN EFFECT, LOSE KOREA TO JAPAN AS A PROTECTORATE.

TWO YEARS LATER IN 1897, GERMANY INVADED AND OCCUPIED SHANDONG, FORCING THE QING COURT TO SIGN A TREATY GIVING GERMANY A 99-YEAR LEASE OF THE PROVINCE. MY FATHER GREW UP AT A TIME WHEN THE MAJOR POWERS WERE BUSILY ELBOWING ONE ANOTHER FOR TRADING PRIVILEGES AND FIGHTING EACH OTHER OVER HOW CHINA COULD BE DIVIDED UP. HIS HOMETOWN YANTAI BECAME A TREATY PORT, AS EACH WESTERN NATION AND JAPAN SOUGHT SPHERES OF INFLUENCE AND CLAIMED EXTRATERRITORIAL RIGHTS. MANY OF THE TREATY PORTS WOULD EVOLVE INTO SELF-ADMINISTERING FOREIGN CONCESSIONS AND SETTLEMENTS, WHERE CHINESE WERE SECOND-CLASS CITIZENS. FOR MY FATHER'S GENERATION, THE UNEQUAL TREATIES AND EXTRATERRITORIALITY IMPOSED ON CHINA WEIGHED HEAVILY. THE GERMAN DOMINATION OF SHANDONG MADE A DEEP IMPRESSION ON MY FATHER.

BUT THE ABOMINATION OF BEING DEFEATED AND SUBJUGATED BY A FORMER TRIBUTARY STATE FANNED ANTI-FOREIGN HATRED AND GROWING OPPOSITION TO THE QING'S ACQUIESCENCE TO FOREIGN DEMANDS. MY FATHER WAS 10 YEARS OLD WHEN A CHINESE SECRET SOCIETY, THE RIGHTEOUS AND HARMONIOUS FISTS, KNOWN AS BOXERS TO WESTERNERS, LAID SIEGE TO BEIJING'S FOREIGN LEGATION QUARTERS IN 1900 AND LAUNCHED THE CATAclysmic BOXER REBELLION. AN EIGHT-NATION

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ALLIANCE DISPATCHED A 20,000 STRONG INTERNATIONAL FORCE TO RESCUE THEIR LEGATIONS. THE INTERNATIONAL FORCE CRUSHED THE BOXERS, AND EMPRESS DOWAGER CIXI AND THE IMPERIAL COURT FLED PEKING. FORCED TO SIGN THE BOXER PROTOCOL, THE QING COURT ACCEPTED THE PEACE TREATY, CONSIDERED THE MOST SEVERE OF ALL THE UNEQUAL TREATIES SIGNED SINCE THE FIRST OPIUM WAR, EXACTING \$330 MILLION IN INDEMNITY PAYMENTS.

ELEVEN YEARS LATER IN 1911, THE XINHAI REVOLUTION WOULD OVERTHROW THE QING DYNASTY. CHINA WOULD BECOME A REPUBLIC, ENDING ITS CENTURIES-OLD IMPERIAL SYSTEM.

WESTERN EDUCATION AND BOXER INDEMNITY SCHOLARSHIPS

MY FATHER WAS NOT A REVOLUTIONARY, AS HE ADVOCATED CHANGE THROUGH LEGAL MEANS AND FAVORED A CONSTITUTIONAL MONARCHY. HIS REVOLUTIONARY FERVOR ONLY WENT SO FAR AS TO CUT OFF HIS QUEUE BEFORE IT WAS LEGAL, BUT HE BECAME CONVINCED AND I QUOTE, "CHINA GOT A RAW DEAL; CHINA WAS NOT TREATED FAIRLY BY THE WEST BECAUSE CHINESE OFFICIALS LACKED KNOWLEDGE OF INTERNATIONAL LAW OR WESTERN WAYS AND CUSTOMS." HE DECIDED TO GET A WESTERN EDUCATION, TO LEARN FROM WESTERNERS SO THAT HE COULD AS HE USED TO SAY, "USE THEIR LAWS TO BEAT THEM AT THEIR OWN GAME." MY FATHER EXEMPLIFIED A NEW GENERATION OF YOUNG CHINESE, GROUNDED IN CHINESE CLASSICS BUT PRIMARILY EDUCATED IN THE US AND JAPAN. THEY FORMED THE FOUNDATION OF CHINA'S MODERNIZATION AND EMBODIED THE BEST OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND EXCHANGE.

OUT OF THE DEFEAT OF THE QING BECAUSE OF THE BOXER REBELLION, HOWEVER, CAME OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHINESE YOUNG PEOPLE LIKE MY FATHER TO LEARN FROM THE WEST.

IN 1908, THE US GOVERNMENT FOUND THAT THE US SHARE OF THE HUGE BOXER INDEMNITY WAS IN EXCESS OF AMERICA'S INCURRED LOSSES FROM THE SIEGE. THE SENATE PASSED A RESOLUTION CREATING A FUND TO EDUCATE CHINESE STUDENTS, AND IN THE SAME YEAR PRESIDENT THEODORE ROOSEVELT FORMALLY SIGNED INTO LAW THE AMERICAN BOXER INDEMNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM (ABISP) AND DECLARED THAT THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT WOULD RETURN THE EXTRA INDEMNITY TO SUPPORT CHINESE EDUCATION. THE BOXER REMISSION WON LAVISH PRAISE. THE *NEW YORK TIMES* CHARACTERIZED THE BOXER INDEMNITY FUND AS "AN EXAMPLE [TO THE WORLD FOR ITS] PRINCIPLES OF RIGHT AND JUSTICE AND HIGH-MINDEDNESS THAT PREVAIL BETWEEN HONORABLE MEN."

THE BOXER INDEMNITY SCHOLARSHIPS GOT OFF THE GROUND IN 1909, BUT MY FATHER DID NOT GET THE INFORMATION IN TIME TO TAKE THE FIRST EXAMINATION. HE PASSED THE EXAM THE NEXT YEAR, BUT CHING HUA YUAN WAS STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION, AND HE HAD TO WAIT UNTIL MARCH OF 1911 TO ENTER THE COLLEGE. HIS EDUCATION AT CHING HUA LASTED ONLY THREE MONTHS, WHEN HE HAD TO TAKE ANOTHER EXAMINATION, WHICH ELIMINATED STUDENTS WHO WERE NOT READY TO GO ABROAD. MY FATHER AGAIN PASSED, AFTER WHICH HE SIGNED A BOND WITH THE GOVERNMENT, PLEDGING TO RETURN TO CHINESE GOVERNMENT SERVICE AFTER COMPLETION OF HIS STUDIES IN AMERICA. MY FATHER ARRIVED AT HARVARD IN 1911 AND CHOSE TO STUDY LAW WHILE MOST OF THE CHING HUA BOXER SCHOLARS TRAINED IN HIGHLY

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TECHNICAL FIELDS. FOR MANY YEARS AFTER 1911, ABOUT 50 OR MORE STUDENTS CHOSEN FROM CHING HUA GRADUATES WERE ANNUALLY SENT TO THE UNITED STATES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.

IN HIS ORAL HISTORY, MY FATHER TELLS AN INTERESTING STORY ABOUT WHY THERE WERE TWO CLASSES OF STUDENTS AT CHING HUA, AN OLDER AND YOUNGER GROUP. THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AT THAT TIME ONLY WANTED TO SEND TEENAGERS TO AMERICA TO STUDY, TO BETTER LEARN AMERICAN WAYS, BUT THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION DISAGREED, RECALLING THE YOUNGSTERS SENT TO AMERICA TO STUDY IN THE PIONEERING CHINESE EDUCATIONAL MISSION OF THE 1870'S, WHO HAD HAD TO BE RECALLED BECAUSE THEY HAD FORGOTTEN THEIR CHINESE AND BECAME TOO AMERICANIZED. MY FATHER CITES THE RECALL OF THIS MISSION AS SETTING BACK CHINA'S MODERNIZATION AND REFORMS BY SEVERAL DECADES.

THE AMERICAN BOXER INDEMNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, HOWEVER, WOULD BECOME ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF CHINESE EDUCATION, OFTEN CONSIDERED AS "THE MOST IMPORTANT SCHEME FOR EDUCATING CHINESE STUDENTS IN AMERICA AND ARGUABLY THE MOST CONSEQUENTIAL AND SUCCESSFUL IN THE ENTIRE FOREIGN-STUDY MOVEMENT OF TWENTIETH CENTURY CHINA" (WEILI YE, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS, UNIVERSITY OF MASS). THE BOXER INDEMNITY FUND WOULD PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS TO NEARLY 2,000 CHINESE STUDENTS TO STUDY AT US UNIVERSITIES. THE FUND ALSO ESTABLISHED TWO TSINGHUA UNIVERSITIES, THE ONE IN BEIJING AND THE NATIONAL TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY IN TAIWAN.

UNLIKE THE ABORTED CHINESE EDUCATIONAL MISSION THAT FIRST SENT 120 YOUNG CHINESE BOYS TO STUDY IN THE US FROM 1872 TO 1881, THE BOXER SCHOLARS WOULD COMPLETE THEIR DEGREES AND WOULD EXERT SIGNIFICANT INFLUENCE ON THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS OF CHINA, MAKING OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO ENGINEERING, INDUSTRY, BANKING, THE MILITARY AND CIVIL SERVICES, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY TO HIGHER EDUCATION.

OVERALL, THE BOXER INDEMNITY FUND WAS A SIGNIFICANT EVENT IN CHINESE MODERN HISTORY, ESPECIALLY IN THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD. ZHOU XIAOJUAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN IN HER DISSERTATION TRACKED DOWN 1,152 OF THE BOXER SCHOLARS AND FOUND THAT 61 PERCENT BECAME ACADEMICS, OF WHICH ALMOST 85 PERCENT ATTAINED PROFESSORIAL RANK. ZHOU ALSO FOUND THAT IN 1948, 40 PERCENT OF TAIWAN ACADEMIA SINICA'S EXPERTS WERE BOXER SCHOLARS. SIMILARLY, IN 1955, 25 PERCENT OF THE EXPERTS OF THE PRC'S ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (CAS) WERE BOXER SCHOLARS (BOXER SOCIAL SCIENCE SCHOLARS ARE NOT INCLUDED AS CAS MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY FOR SCIENTISTS).

ONE PARTICULAR BOXER SCHOLAR, HU SHI, DESERVES SPECIAL MENTION. ALTHOUGH A CORNELL GRADUATE, I BELIEVE COLUMBIA CLAIMS HIM AS THEIR OWN. MY FATHER AND HU SHIH KNEW EACH OTHER, AS THEY WERE BOTH DELEGATES TO THE SAN FRANCISCO CONFERENCE THAT ESTABLISHED THE UNITED NATIONS IN 1947. HU SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO THE US (1938 TO 1942), AND HIS MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION WAS TO ESTABLISH THE VERNACULAR (BAIHUA) AS CHINA'S OFFICIAL WRITTEN LANGUAGE (1922), MAKING READING ACCESSIBLE TO THE ORDINARY PEOPLE. AS THE GREAT AMERICAN SINOLOGIST JOHN FAIRBANK PUT IT, HU BROKE "THE TYRANNY OF THE CLASSICS," WHICH "DEMOCRATIZED" CHINA MORE THAN ANY POLITICAL ACT.

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I HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF HU SHIH, AND THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF ANOTHER BOXER SCHOLAR, THE RENOWNED LINGUIST CHAO YUANREN (赵元任), IS A GOOD FRIEND. BY THE WAY, ARE THERE ANY DESCENDANTS OF BOXER SCHOLARS HERE TODAY?

THE VERSAILLES TREATY AND WUSI

MANY BOXER SCHOLARS RETURNED HOME IMBUED WITH THE IDEALS OF WILSONIAN DEMOCRACY AND THE CONVICTION THAT THE CHINESE PEOPLE HAD A RIGHT TO EQUALITY IN THE FAMILY OF NATIONS. THEY DREAMED THAT MR. DEMOCRACY AND MR. SCIENCE WOULD SAVE CHINA. IN 1919, THE VERSAILLES TREATY ENDING WORLD WAR I WOULD SHATTER THEIR DREAMS AND IDEALS AND IGNITE THE MAY 4TH MOVEMENT, OR "WUSI," CONSIDERED BY MANY AS THE BIRTHDAY OF MODERN CHINA.

MY FATHER HAD RETURNED TO CHINA IN 1917, RECRUITED BY CAI YUANPEI, THE PROMINENT EDUCATOR AND THEN-PRESIDENT OF PEKING UNIVERSITY TO BE A LECTURER OF INTERNATIONAL LAW. AT THE SAME TIME, THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OR WAI JIAO BU CALLED HIM TO HONOR HIS PLEDGE TO BEGIN HIS GOVERNMENT SERVICE. IN 1919, MY FATHER WAS PREPARING FOR HIS ASSIGNMENT AS THE ENGLISH SECRETARY TO THE CHINESE HIGH COMMISSION IN SIBERIA WHEN WUSI BEGAN. THEREFORE, MY FATHER SAID IN HIS ORAL HISTORY THAT HE WAS WATCHING FROM THE SIDELINES ON MAY 4, 1919, BUT HE KEPT UP WITH THE PROTESTS AND "FELT GOOD ABOUT IT."

IN TALKING ABOUT WUSI, MY FATHER ALSO REFERRED TO THE INFAMOUS [TWENTY-ONE DEMANDS](#), WHICH JAPAN SECRETLY PRESENTED TO CHINA IN 1915 TO ESTABLISH ITS DOMINANCE OF EAST ASIA AND FURTHER COLONIZE CHINA. THE DEMANDS CONSISTED OF FIVE SECTIONS: 1) CONFIRM JAPANESE SEIZURE OF GERMAN PORTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN CHINA, 2) EXTEND JAPAN'S LEASEHOLD OVER THE SOUTH MANCHURIA RAILWAY ZONE, 3) GIVE JAPAN CONTROL OVER CENTRAL CHINESE MINING, 4) BAR CHINA FROM MAKING FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO OTHER FOREIGN POWERS, AND 5) ACCEPT JAPANESE ADVISERS IN KEY GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. THE LAST DEMAND, AS IT ENCREACHED ON WESTERN RIGHTS IN CHINA, WAS DROPPED DUE TO INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE. BUT CHINA WOULD BE FORCED TO ACCEPT A REDUCED SET OF 13 DEMANDS ON MAY 9, 1915, DESIGNATED THEREAFTER AS 'NATIONAL HUMILIATION DAY'.

I THINK WE ALL CAN UNDERSTAND HOW THE CHINESE PEOPLE, ESPECIALLY THE STUDENTS, FELT ON THAT DAY, AND WE CAN IMAGINE HOW THEY FELT ON JUNE 18, 1919, WHEN THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES WAS SIGNED ENDING WWI BUT EXTENDING TO JAPAN ALL OF THE FORMER GERMAN RIGHTS IN SHANDONG AFTER THE WAR. CHINA HAD JOINED THE ALLIES IN WORLD WAR I, PARTLY AT US PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON'S URGING AND EXPECTED THAT IN RETURN IT WOULD REGAIN SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE FORMER GERMAN CONCESSIONS THAT JAPAN HAD SEIZED. INSTEAD, THE VERSAILLES TREATY HANDED GERMANY'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE IN SHANDONG TO THE JAPANESE, CODIFYING CHINA'S STATUS AS A COLONY IN THE REGION WHERE IT USED TO RULE SUPREME. IN THE HOST OF INDIGNITIES THAT HAD BESET CHINA IN ITS *CENTURY OF HUMILIATION*, IT WAS ONE INDIGNITY TOO FAR. THOUSANDS OF CHINESE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS MARCHED IN PROTEST, BEGINNING AT PEKING UNIVERSITY. THE STUDENT-LED PROTESTS AND STRIKES SPREAD NATIONWIDE, COALESCING AROUND THE OUTPOURING OF

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POPULAR OUTRAGE IN A NEW NATIONALISM SEEKING A “NEW CULTURE” THAT WOULD RESTORE CHINA TO ITS FORMER GLORY. UNDER PRESSURE FROM THIS GROWING MOVEMENT, THE CHINESE DELEGATION REFUSED TO SIGN THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES.

WASHINGTON CONFERENCE

TODAY, THE [MAY 4TH MOVEMENT](#) IS OFTEN REGARDED AS THE BEGINNING OF MODERN CHINA. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY WAS FORMED AND THIRTEEN DELEGATES ATTENDED THE PARTY'S FIRST CONGRESS IN SHANGHAI ON JULY 1ST, 1921. WHILE MY FATHER DID NOT DIRECTLY PARTICIPATE IN THE MAY 4TH MOVEMENT, THE SENSE THAT CHINA WAS BEING BULLIED BECAUSE IT WAS WEAK AND BACKWARD LED HIM AND MANY OF HIS GENERATION, INCLUDING THE BOXER SCHOLARS, TO DEDICATE THEIR LIVES TO REFORMING AND MODERNIZING CHINA. AS THE FIRST BOXER SCHOLAR TO GRADUATE FROM HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, MY FATHER WOULD USE WESTERN LAW TO REGAIN CHINESE CONTROL OF THE CHINA MARITIME CUSTOMS SERVICE AND TO RETURN TARIFF AUTONOMY TO CHINA.

MY FATHER'S FIRST REAL OPPORTUNITY TO USE HIS WESTERN LEGAL TRAINING CAME IN 1921, WHEN HE BECAME SECRETARY OF THE CHINESE DELEGATION TO THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE. THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE, CONVENED BY THE PRINCIPAL NAVAL POWERS OF THE POST-WORLD WAR I WORLD, WAS TO SEEK AN AGREEMENT THAT COULD CURB JAPAN'S EXPANSION IN THE FAR EAST, AND IN THE PROCESS, ALSO, “MOLLIFY CHINESE DISCONTENT OVER THE DISAPPOINTMENTS OF THE VERSAILLES TREATY BY CHECKING JAPANESE NAVAL EXPANSIONISM AND PROMISING TREATY REVISION ONCE THE REPUBLIC HAD TAKEN STABLE FORM.”¹ THE UNITED STATES MEDIATED THE SHANDONG DISPUTE AT THE [WASHINGTON CONFERENCE](#). IN A VICTORY FOR CHINA, THE TERMS RELATING TO SHANDONG IN THE VERSAILLES TREATY WERE SUBSEQUENTLY REVERSED, AND THE JAPANESE LEASEHOLD ON SHANDONG WAS RETURNED TO CHINA IN THE [NINE-POWER TREATY](#).

RETURNING HOME IN 1922, MY FATHER THOUGHT THAT CHINA HAD ACHIEVED MUCH AT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE TREATIES OFFERED NO ENFORCEMENT MECHANISM. WHEN JAPAN INVADED MANCHURIA IN 1931, ESTABLISHING MANCHUKUO, A PUPPET GOVERNMENT UNDER THE LAST EMPEROR, PU YI, AND MOVED INTO SHANGHAI A YEAR LATER, THE ALLIED POWERS RESPONDED WITH NOTHING MORE THAN MORAL SUASION, WHICH HAD NO EFFECT ON JAPAN. CHINA WON A MORAL VICTORY AT THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE, BUT IT HAD NO POWER TO ACT, AS THE COUNTRY WAS IN ITS WARLORD ERA, DISUNITED AND DIVIDED INTO FIEFDOMS RULED BY POWERFUL WARLORDS WITH NO EFFECTIVE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT.

¹ The participants in the Washington Conference were the British, the US, France, Italy, Japan, Belgium, the Netherlands, Portugal and Holland. See Westel W. Willoughby, “China at the Conference: A Report (Baltimore, Md.: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1922)

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REFORM OF THE CUSTOMS SERVICE

BACK HOME, MY FATHER RETURNED TO GOVERNMENT SERVICE TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE MARINE DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, AND THEN HE RETURNED TO ACADEMIA TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE PEKING JIAOTUNG UNIVERSITY IN 1923. BY 1927, THE OUTCOME OF THE CIVIL WAR WAS BECOMING CLEARER, AS CHIANG KAI-SHEK'S NATIONALIST FORCES WERE CLOSING IN ON PEKING. IN ANTICIPATION OF VICTORY, THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT IN WHICH MY FATHER'S HARVARD CLASSMATE T.V. SOONG WAS MINISTER OF FINANCE, BEGAN TO STAFF UP. SOONG URGED MY FATHER TO TAKE OVER THE GUANWUSHU, A DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE WITH INDEPENDENT AUTHORITY OVER THE CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION. MY FATHER ACCEPTED.

THE REFORM OF CHINA'S CUSTOMS SERVICE AND THE RETURN OF TARIFF AUTONOMY TO CHINA BECAME MY FATHER'S GREATEST CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHINA'S MODERNIZATION.

BECOMING THE FIRST DG OF THE GUANWUSHU, MY FATHER FACED A MARITIME CUSTOMS SERVICE OR HAIGUAN THAT WAS CONTROLLED BY A BRITISH INSPECTOR GENERAL (IG) AND STAFFED BY AN INTERNATIONAL, PREDOMINANTLY BRITISH, BUREAUCRACY. THE HAIGUAN WAS CREATED IN 1853 TO COLLECT MARITIME TRADE TAXES WHICH WERE GOING UNPAID BECAUSE OF THE TAIPING REBELLION. OSTENSIBLY CONTROLLED BY THE CHINESE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, THE SERVICE WAS LARGELY STAFFED BY FOREIGNERS AND ALL IGS WERE BRITISH EXCEPT FOR THE LAST ONE, WHO WAS AN AMERICAN. UNDER TREATY PROVISIONS, ALL CUSTOMS RECEIPTS, WHICH CONSTITUTED THE BULK OF GOVERNMENT REVENUE, WERE USED TO SECURE BOXER INDEMNITY AND OTHER FOREIGN DEBTS AND PUT UNDER THE EXCLUSIVE CUSTODY AND DISPOSAL OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL. THE IG, TECHNICALLY A CHINESE OFFICIAL APPOINTED BY THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT, RAN THE CUSTOMS SERVICE AS AN INDEPENDENT FIEFDOM AND WAS OFTEN REFERRED TO AS THE "SUPER MINISTER OF FINANCE."

RARELY MENTIONED IN THE STUDY OF CHINA'S CUSTOMS HISTORY, I AM GRATIFIED THAT UMASS PROFESSOR CHENG LINSUN, EDITOR OF THE BOOK ABOUT MY FATHER 张福运与近代中国海关 OR CHANG FU-YUN AND MODERN CHINESE CUSTOMS SERVICE, PUBLISHED BY THE SHANGHAI ACADEMY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, HAD THIS TO SAY IN HIS WRITINGS,

"CHANG FU-YUN, THE FIRST DIRECTOR GENERAL OF GUANWUSHU CONTRIBUTED THE MOST TO REGAINING CONTROL OF THE CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION, ONE OF THE SACRED CHINESE SOVEREIGNTIES. AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF HARD WORK, CHANG FU-YUN'S EFFORTS SUCCESSFULLY TRANSFORMED THE CHINESE CUSTOMS FROM "A STATE WITHIN STATE" INTO A CHINESE OFFICIAL INSTITUTION SUBJECTED TO THE WILL OF THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT."

TARIFF AUTONOMY

AFTER THE GUANWUSHU HAD SUCCESSFULLY PUT IN MOTION THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE CUSTOMS SERVICE, MY FATHER, AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TARIFF COMMISSION, DIRECTED HIS ATTENTION TO THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR TARIFF AUTONOMY, FIRST ADDRESSING THE ISSUES OF TARIFF REGULATIONS AND CUSTOMS IMPORT TAX RULES. UNDER MY FATHER'S DIRECTION, THE GUANWUSHU MANAGED TO REGULARIZE CUSTOMS COLLECTION BY IMPLEMENTING THE NEW TARIFF RATES AGREED TO, BUT UNRATIFIED, BY THE POWERS AT THE PEKING SPECIAL CONFERENCE ON CHINESE CUSTOMS TARIFF (1925), AND AS PROVIDED

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BY THE WASHINGTON CONFERENCE OF 1922. MY FATHER'S PERSISTENT EFFORTS, MOREOVER, ENABLED CHINA TO FINALLY REGAIN ITS TARIFF AUTONOMY IN 1933. ALL CUSTOMS DUTIES, SUBSEQUENTLY, WERE COLLECTED BY THE CUSTOMS SERVICE.

IN COMMEMORATING MY FATHER'S CENTENNIAL AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, PROFESSOR WILLIAM ALFORD, VICE DEAN FOR THE GRADUATE PROGRAM AND INTERNATIONAL LEGAL STUDIES, AND DIRECTOR OF THE EAST ASIA LEGAL STUDIES PROGRAM, CALLED ATTENTION TO MY FATHER'S MONUMENTAL EFFORTS TO REGAIN CHINA'S RIGHTS THROUGH THE ABROGATION OF THE UNEQUAL TREATIES WITH FOREIGN POWERS. AS DG OF THE CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION AND CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL TARIFF COMMITTEE, MY FATHER "SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED, BETWEEN 1929 AND 1930 WITH ALL MAJOR TRADING POWERS AND REACHED AGREEMENTS ON CHINESE CUSTOMS AUTONOMY. THE ONLY COUNTRY THAT WAS UNABLE TO REACH AN ACCORD WAS JAPAN BUT THREE YEARS LATER AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED. THEREFORE, BY 1933, CHINA ATTAINED COMPLETE CUSTOMS AUTONOMY." PROFESSOR ALFORD WENT ON TO SAY, "...IN HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY F. Y. CHANG, THE NAME MY FATHER USED IN THE U.S., ONLY USED NINE LINES TO RECORD THIS MONUMENTAL SUCCESS IN REMOVING THE FIRST HURDLE THAT WAS IMPOSED ON CHINA BY THE UNEQUAL TREATIES. THIS MODESTY IS CHARACTERISTIC OF F. Y. CHANG'S LIFE AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO CHINA SHOULD BE FOREVER REMEMBERED BY US ALL."

AS MY FATHER LOOKED BACK OVER HIS FIRST FIVE YEARS AT THE GUANWUSHU, HE WROTE IN HIS MEMOIR THAT "IMPERIALISM WAS UNJUST AND THEREFORE COULD NOT LAST; THAT THE BENEFITS TO BE GAINED FROM TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A WEAKER NATION AND BENDING THE LATTER TO THE FORMER'S INTEREST COULD NOT BE AS GREAT AS IF THEY WERE TO WORK MUTUALLY FOR EACH OTHER'S FULL DEVELOPMENT."

RESIGNATION AND REAPPOINTMENT

HAVING ACCOMPLISHED WHAT HE SET OUT TO DO, MY FATHER RESIGNED IN THE AUTUMN OF 1932. HE WOULD BE REAPPOINTED IN 1945 AGAINST HIS WISHES BECAUSE T.V. SOONG INSISTED THAT MY FATHER WAS THE ONLY MAN WITH THE EXPERIENCE AND INTEGRITY TO ROOT OUT THE RAMPANT SMUGGLING AND CORRUPTION AND RESTORE THE CUSTOMS SERVICE TO ITS FORMER ORDER AND EFFICIENCY. INDEED, MY FATHER WAS ABLE TO REESTABLISH THE ROUTINE BUSINESS FUNCTIONS OF THE SERVICE AND STRENGTHEN ITS MANAGEMENT. IN ADDITION, HE IMPROVED AND REVISED THE IMPORT DUTY POLICY, AS WELL AS THE TAX RATE AND REGULATIONS. MORE CHINESE CUSTOMS EMPLOYEES WERE SENT ABROAD TO STUDY AND APPOINTED TO THE SERVICE. BY 1949, THE CUSTOMS SERVICE, IN EFFECT, HAD BEEN NATIONALIZED WITH THE FOREIGN STAFF REDUCED BY ATTRITION TO 250 AND CHINESE STAFF INCREASED TO 7,600. OF THE KEY STAFF — COMMISSIONERS AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS — THERE WERE 101 CHINESE AND 22 FOREIGNERS.

WHEN THE NATIONALIST GOVERNMENT FELL IN 1949, MY FATHER PONDERED WHETHER HE COULD BE OF ANY FURTHER SERVICE TO CHINA BY GOING WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO CANTON. IN HIS MEMOIR HE EXPLAINED, "RECOLLECTING THAT IN 1928 WHEN I WAS DOING MY PART TO REGAIN CONTROL OF THE CUSTOMS, I HAD THE SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT, AND THAT SINCE AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR I HAD TO FACE THE REPEATED ATTEMPTS OF THE SECRET

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REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR JULIA CHANG BLOCH

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024: COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY TEACHERS COLLEGE

POLICE AND MILITARY TO DISCREDIT THE CUSTOMS AND HAD TO DO THIS WITHOUT THE BACKING OF THE GOVERNMENT, I CAME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT MY USEFULNESS HAD COME TO AN END.”

MY FATHER MODELED HIS LIFE AFTER THE CONFUCIAN “WEN REN,” OR “SUPERIOR MAN,” WHOSE INTEGRITY MATTERED ABOVE ALL — IT IS FITTING THAT I AM SPEAKING TODAY AT A PROGRAM COSPONSORED BY THE CHINA INSTITUTE’S WEN REN SOCIETY. MY FATHER DID NOT BELIEVE IN POWER, AS HE NEVER JOINED THE KUOMINGTANG OR TRIED TO BECOME A MINISTER. WISDOM MATTERED MORE. HE WANTED KNOWLEDGE AND READ MANY BOOKS. SUCCESS DID NOT DRIVE HIM, AND FAILURE DID NOT DISCOURAGE HIM. WHAT COUNTED WAS CHARACTER, DOING WHAT WAS RIGHT. HIS PHILOSOPHY WAS THAT IF A MAN WERE UPRIGHT, ALL CONSEQUENCES OF HIS LIFE WOULD FOLLOW THE PATH OF ORDER AND HARMONY. THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE, MY FATHER WOULD TRY TO BE AN UPRIGHT MAN, PUTTING THE INTEREST OF HIS COUNTRY ABOVE PERSONAL GAIN. MY FATHER DEDICATED HIS LIFE TO REFORM CHINA’S CUSTOMS SERVICE AND REGAIN HER TARIFF AUTONOMY BECAUSE IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. IN A TAPED INTERVIEW WITH RENOWNED CHINA SCHOLAR PROFESSOR JOHN KING FAIRBANK AT HARVARD, MY FATHER EXPLAINED, “CHINA MUST RECOVER ITS LOST RIGHTS, THAT’S ALL.”

LEGACY

IT IS BECAUSE OF HIS LEGACY THAT MY HUSBAND AND I ESTABLISHED THE FY CHANG FOUNDATION IN 1988 IN HIS MEMORY. TAKING A PAGE FROM THE BOXER INDEMNITY SCHOLARSHIPS, WHICH MADE POSSIBLE MY FATHER’S STUDY AT HARVARD LAW SCHOOL, THE FOUNDATION PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR CHINESE STUDENTS OF LAW AT HARVARD TO COMPLETE THEIR EDUCATION — FULFILLING MY FATHER’S DREAM OF TAKING WESTERN LEGAL EDUCATION TO CHINA. TODAY, ALUMNI OF THE FY CHANG SCHOLARS PROGRAM NUMBER MORE THAN 100, AND WE CELEBRATE THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FY CHANG FOUNDATION, AS WELL AS THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE US-CHINA EDUCATION TRUST, THE LARGEST PROGRAM OF THE FOUNDATION.

MY FATHER TAUGHT ME THE VALUE OF EDUCATION AND EXCHANGE, THAT IT CAN BENEFIT NOT ONLY THE STUDENTS, BUT ALSO THE INSTITUTIONS AND COUNTRIES INVOLVED. IN 1998, WHEN PEKING UNIVERSITY INVITED ME TO HELP REVIVE ITS AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER IN CELEBRATION OF ITS CENTENNIAL, IT ALSO HAPPENED TO BE THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF CAI YUANPEI’S APPOINTMENT OF MY FATHER AS LECTURER OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY. I READILY AGREED, AND WHEN I FIRST STEPPED THROUGH BEIDA’S WEST GATE NOW MORE THAN 25 YEARS AGO, I FELT THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE BOXER INDEMNITY SCHOLARSHIPS WAS ALIVE AND WELL.

AT PEKING UNIVERSITY AND LATER AT FUDAN UNIVERSITY IN SHANGHAI, I WOULD LEARN THAT THE IMPACT OF EDUCATION AND EXCHANGE DOES NOT STOP WITH ONE GENERATION. THE BOXER INDEMNITY SCHOLARSHIPS WOULD SERVE AS A MODEL FOR THE FULBRIGHT PROGRAM, AND CHINA BECAME THE FIRST COUNTRY TO PARTICIPATE WHEN A FULBRIGHT ACCORD WAS SIGNED IN 1947. MY FATHER’S LEGACY LIVES ON, MOREOVER, AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, IN THE F. Y. CHANG FOUNDATION AND THE US-CHINA EDUCATION TRUST, WORKING TODAY WITH OVER 70 CHINESE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS THROUGH THE AMERICAN STUDIES NETWORK, ESTABLISHED IN 2004, AND THE MEDIA EDUCATION CONSORTIUM, ESTABLISHED IN 2009. WE ARE ADVANCING MY FATHER’S VISION TO ADVANCE THE STUDY OF THE US IN CHINA — TO BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN THE

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TWO COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY TO HELP CHINA'S NEXT-GENERATION LEADERS UNDERSTAND AMERICA, LIKE THE BOXER INDEMNITY SCHOLARSHIPS.

MY EXPERIENCES HAVE ALSO TAUGHT ME THAT EDUCATION IS KEY TO BUILDING A STABLE US-CHINA RELATIONSHIP. I HAVE PERSONALLY EXPERIENCED THE POWER THAT IS EDUCATION AND EXCHANGE. DURING TWO OF THE BLACKEST PERIODS IN MODERN-DAY US-CHINA RELATIONS — THE ACCIDENTAL BOMBING OF THE CHINESE EMBASSY IN BELGRADE (MAY 7, 1999) AND THE DOWNING OF THE US SPY PLANE ON HAINAN ISLAND (APRIL 1, 2001), I WAS ON THE CAMPUS OF PEKING UNIVERSITY. WHILE STUDENTS, INCLUDING SOME OF MY OWN, MARCHED IN BEIJING'S STREETS TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE US EMBASSY, NO ONE CLOSED DOWN MY CLASSES OR PROGRAMS. MY FRIENDSHIPS WITH COLLEAGUES AND STUDENTS ALSO REMAINED UNCHANGED AS BEFORE.

THE INTRINSIC VALUE OF EDUCATION AND EXCHANGE IS THAT GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS MAY RUPTURE, BUT PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE RELATIONS ENDURE. MY FATHER'S LEGACY OF RESTORING CHINA'S RIGHTS WILL HOPEFULLY INSPIRE AND INFORM FUTURE LEADERS FOR YEARS TO COME. I THANK YOU FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE HIS STORY, TO OFFER A PATH FORWARD FOR ALL THOSE COMMITTED TO BUILDING A MORE JUST, EQUITABLE AND PEACEFUL WORLD. AT THIS RENOWNED TEACHERS COLLEGE, I THINK WE WOULD ALL AGREE THAT INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION IS KEY! LET US ALL LOOK FORWARD TO BETTER DAYS IN US-CHINA EDUCATION AND EXCHANGE AND US-CHINA RELATIONS.