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## **Nevadomsky and Li: The Chinese in Southeast Asia**

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**THE CHINESE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA: A Selected and Annotated Bibliography of Publications in Western Languages, 1960-1970**, by Joseph John Nevadomsky and Alice Li. Berkeley: University of California Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies Occasional Paper No. 6, 1970. xvi, 119 pp.

The overseas Chinese communities of Southeast Asia are undergoing rapid change, both internally and in relation to their host-country societies. Political scientists, economists, and cultural anthropologists are paying them an exceptional interest which is not simply academic.

Inter-ethnic harmony, economic growth, and the maximizing of cultural assets in nine young nations of the region will depend on a true understanding of and cooperation with the blocs of resident Chinese.

The work under review is prepared by two University of California graduate students. Miss Li's field was library science; she is now in Hong Kong. Mr. Nevadomsky is an anthropologist. Their compilation of more than 660 books and scholarly articles is a valuable tool for researchers, students, lecturers, writers, and policy makers concerned with Southeast Asia. Listings include graduate theses and dissertations, and papers published after major seminars and conferences. College libraries in this region should place this book high on their order list.

The writings listed were published between 1960 and 1970, a decade during which nationalism took hold in these newly independent lands. Problems arose as to how consensus and solidarity could be forged from within their pluralistic peoples, rather than be imposed coercively from above as was normal under the colonial system. Bibliographies for the pre-1960 period exist. However, such has been the pace of change inside and around the overseas Chinese communities, that in areas apart from history, most writings on them of pre-1960 vintage are out of date or even misleading.

The format of this paper-bound book is 8-1/2 by 11 inches. The photoelectric printing from a tidily organized typescript is admirable; the proofreaders did their work well.

The first entries listed are those relevant to the whole region. Then writings on each country are arranged in alphabetical series. In the region-wide section and for Indonesia, Malaysia-Singapore, the Philippines, and Thailand, works are sub-classified by subject matter under headings of general treatment, history, economics, politics and government, social sciences, education, and demography.

Annotations after such entries as could be consulted usually state concisely the central thesis of the publication, and sometimes add conclusions reached or hypotheses advanced by the author. These annotations are helpful for research and stimulating for reflection. They are objective, perceptive, and show that the compilers covered the whole

spectrum of attitudes towards the Chinese in their selection of "important writings."

We offer a brief sampling of some of these notes:

"The political orientation of the Chinese (e.g., nationalism and communism) is not the decisive issue in group conflict. The crucial factor is the existence of economic competition which becomes competition on a group basis" (The Siau Giap, 1966). "A main reason why the Chinese are disliked in Southeast Asia is economic envy" (Lennox Mills, 1964), "their monopolistic tendency" (Wesley Pruden, 1965).

"Nationalization policies directed against the Chinese bar a rational use of two essential productive factors, managerial skill and capital. They therefore hinder an optimum economic growth" (Jeromin, 1966). "The Chinese succeeded not only because they were energetic immigrants, but because they knew how to handle money. This they could do because 1) they respected the pursuit of riches; 2) they were relatively immune from confiscation measures in their host lands; and 3) they conducted financial dealings between kinsmen and friends" (Freedmann, 1961).

"Political assimilation (in government and politics) is the only sensible alternative in the newly independent nations where the Chinese minority has been feared and resented. Political isolation is at the crux of Chinese separation...and persecution. Should the Chinese participate in politics, other problems of assimilation would be solved" (Williams, 1966).

"Nowhere in Southeast Asia are people being welded into a viable nation" (Hunter, 1966). "We want to be ourselves. A sharing of national interests is imperative, and readiness to disregard racial interests" (Lee Kwan Yew, 1967). "The attainment of national independence does not necessarily imply a stride toward the achievement of universalistic human values" (Wertheim, 1964).

"The Chinese wish to voice pride in the resurgence of China; as businessmen they want to pursue capitalist profits. As Chinese they desire Chinese education for their young; but they also want to avoid suffering the discrimination which cultural non-conformism draws down on them" (Willmott, 1966).

"Peking had to choose: either 1) to help its overseas Chinese and lose Indonesia's friendship, or 2) not to interfere, and lose its claim as protector of Indonesia's resident Chinese" (Roll, 1960). "Anti-Chinese riots demonstrated to the Chinese community Peking's lack of ability and/or willingness to ensure protection" (*Economic Review*, 1963). "Loyal Indonesians of Chinese extraction believe that Peking regards all Chinese of Indonesia as expendable" (Warner, 1967).

Skinner "challenges the racial mythology that the overseas Chinese do not assimilate" (1960). Dr. Wang Gungwu feels that, while Chinese influence and migration historically played a great role in Southeast Asia, China's overall influence in the area may be on the decline. (1962). "The status of the Chinese community is increasingly marginal. Indeed this community is itself an instrument of acculturation in which the immigrant is prepared for a new life that is no longer compatible with traditional Chinese patterns" (Hayase, Toshio, 1965).

"The perspective of the Chinese as aliens or a fifth column is a false one" (Freedman, 1966). "The main thesis is a refutation of the hypothesis that the Chinese communities in Southeast Asia are a fifth column for Chinese expansionism" (Purcell, 1962).

It is significant and somewhat disturbing that two thirds of the entries in this bibliography are works of writers with Western names; half of the remaining third are overseas Chinese writers, and several Japanese authors who write with authority as well. The number of indigenous Southeast Asians doing scholarly work on this vital question has been, at least up till 1970 and in English, regrettably small. Prospects are good that the 1970s will find them ably and duly represented in the field.

Occasionally, but seldom, the compilers offend by omission. However, at the University of California Libraries, they had access to journals which are not found in Manila. Two entries, for instance, seem intriguing:

604. Jiang, Joseph P. L. "The Chinese and the Philippine Political Process," *Australian Journal of Politics and History* (Vol. 13, No. 1 (1967), pp. 189-203.

The author investigates the issue of whether or not there will be a systematic persecution of the Chinese and, if so, how this would affect the Philippine political process as a whole. Included is a discussion of Filipinization in historical perspective, the Chinese and Philippine Peso politics, and Chinese resistance to Filipinization.

612. Eitzen, D. Stanley. "Two Minorities: The Jews of Poland and the Chinese of the Philippines," *Jewish Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 10, No. 2 (1968), pp. 221-40.

This study sets out to compare two different minorities in two diverse cultural settings so as to develop cross-cultural generalizations. Among other concerns, the author asks to what degree each minority has responded similarly to acts of repression.

Three other entries treat of this "Jews of the Orient" theme (nn. 37, 56, and 466).