

BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF REPUBLICAN CHINA

HOWARD L. BOORMAN, *Editor*
RICHARD C. HOWARD, *Associate Editor*

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EDITOR

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EXPLANATORY NOTES

NAMES

The romanization systems used are the Wade-Giles (with the omission of some diacritical marks) for Chinese and the Hepburn (with the omission of some macrons) for Japanese. The major exception to this rule is Chinese place names for large cities, which are given according to the Chinese Post Office system. In the case of Kwangtung province, Cantonese spellings often have been indicated: Nanghai (Namhoi). For place names in Manchuria and in the case of Peking, we generally have followed contemporary usage. In such outlying areas as Sinkiang, Mongolia, and Tibet, any given place might have several names. For convenience, we have standardized the place names in all outlying areas according to the dictates of common sense.

Chinese personal names are given in the Chinese order, that is, with the surname first. In general, the articles are arranged alphabetically by the Wade-Giles romanization of the subject's surname and given personal name (ming). However, the biographies of Chiang Kai-shek, Eugene Ch'en, H. H. K'ung, T. V. Soong, Sun Yat-sen, and a few others appear under the name most familiar to Western readers. The courtesy, literary, Western, alternate, and common pen names of subjects of biographies are listed at the beginning of each article (see ABBREVIATIONS). The reader should note that the ming and the tzu (courtesy name) frequently are confused in modern Chinese sources.

THE CALENDAR

Dates are given according to the Western calendar, converted in many cases from the Chinese calendar. The word sui often is used

in referring to age. In China, a person is regarded as being one year old at birth and two years old at the beginning of the next Chinese calendar year. Thus, a person's age by Western calculation will be less than his sui. We have retained the sui form in many articles because of the difficulties of conversion and, frequently, the lack of precise information about month and day of birth.

MEASURES OF MONEY AND LAND

From 1911 to 1949 the values of Chinese monetary units varied so greatly that it is impossible to assign them standard values in Western terms. Until 1933 the official unit of value was the Customs tael (Hai-kuan liang). Other monies, such as silver dollars (yuan), also were current. In 1933 the silver dollar (yuan) became the standard legal tender of China. In 1935, by law, a managed paper currency (fapi) replaced the silver. A gold dollar unit (yuan) was briefly introduced in 1948, but the Chinese monetary system remained unstable until after the establishment of the Central People's Government at Peking in October 1949.

Standard units of land measurement used in this work are li and mu.

1 li = 1/3 mile

1 mu (or mou) = 733 sq. yards

6.6 mu = 1 acre

MILITARY ORGANIZATION

We have used Western military terms to describe the organization of Chinese armies. Thus:

chün = army

shih = division

lū = brigade

t'uan = regiment

ying = battalion

lien = company

p'ai = platoon

The reader should note that the organization of Chinese armies was not so standardized as that of Western armies, and the size of units varied considerably. During the second phase of the Northern Expedition (1928) armies were combined for field operations to form larger units, although they retained their individual designations (e.g., First Army). The combined forces were known variously as army groups (*chün-t'uan*), direction armies (*fang-mien chün*), and route armies (*lu-chün*). Above this level was that of group army (*chi-t'uan-chün*). Although these were temporary designations, they achieved the permanence of organizational categories.

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

The administrative divisions, in ascending order, of each province at the end of the Ch'ing period were:

- hsien = districts or counties
- chou = departments
- fu = prefectures
- tao = circuits composed of
2 or more fu

We have used the terms military governor and civil governor in referring to provincial rulers of the 1912-28 period. At the beginning of the republican period the Chinese title for the military governor of a province was *tutuh*. The official designation was changed to *chiang-chün* in 1914 and to *tuchün* in 1916. Beginning about 1925, the title was changed in some areas to *tupan*, a designation which implied that the governor's primary responsibilities were demilitarization and social rehabilitation.

We have used the term governor in referring to the top-ranking officer of a provincial government after 1928, rather than the more literal rendering of the Chinese (*sheng cheng-fu chu-hsi*) as chairman.

The term *tao-t'ai* refers to the official in charge of a circuit. A number of the men who held this office during the Ch'ing period were important in foreign relations because often the *tao-t'ai* was the highest Chinese official available for negotiations with foreigners.

Mention should be made of the *likin*, an inland tax on the transit of goods which was introduced by the imperial government at the time of the Taiping Rebellion (1850-64). *Likin* stations soon proliferated throughout China.

The tax revenues were beyond Peking's control and often were used to finance regional armies. The *likin* tax on local trade was not suppressed officially until 1933.

THE EXAMINATION SYSTEM

In the Ch'ing period, the official class was defined by statute, and its composition was determined by the results of examinations in literary and classical subjects. Although the examination system was abolished in 1905, a brief discussion of it is necessary because many prominent people in the republican period were members of this class by achievement or purchase and because the examinations and degrees have no Western equivalents.

Preliminary examinations were conducted on three successive levels: the *hsien*; the *fu*; and the *sheng*, which was conducted at the prefectural capital. Successful candidates received the *sheng-yuan* degree, which entitled them to assume the dress of the scholar and exempted them from forced labor. However, they had no legal right to or opportunity for official appointment. They were subject to *sui-k'ao*, examinations given regularly in the prefectural capitals under provincial supervision. Success in the *sui-k'ao* meant that they received a small stipend annually to further their studies. Roughly equivalent to the *sheng-yuan* degree was the *chien-sheng* degree, which, however, could be purchased. Accordingly, holders of the *chien-sheng* degree were not subject to periodic examination. Holders of the *chien-sheng* and the *sheng-yuan* degrees, who were neither commoners nor officials, comprised a large and changing group.

Those who wished to qualify for official status took the provincial examinations, composed of a preliminary examination, or *k'o-k'ao*, and a *hsiang-shih*, or provincial examination. Successful candidates received the degree of *chü-jen*, which made the holder eligible for office. The *kung-sheng* degree was roughly equivalent to the *chü-jen*, but was acquired by appointment, by examination, or by purchase.

The examinations for the highest degree, the *chin-shih*, which brought appointment to the middle levels of the imperial bureaucracy, were held at Peking. They were composed of the *hui-shih*, or metropolitan examination; the *tien-shih*, or palace examination; and the *ch'ao-k'ao*, an examination in the presence of

the emperor which led to specific appointment. Chin-shih who ranked near the top of their group usually were appointed to the Hanlin Academy, where their duties included drawing up government documents and compiling materials for official histories. Service at the Hanlin Academy frequently afforded access to the highest positions in the imperial government.

Candidates who passed the examinations in the same year were linked in the t'ung-nien (same year) relationship, a bond somewhat similar to that linking, for example, members of the Class of 1928 at Harvard College.

FINAL DATE FOR VOLUME IV

The final date for inclusion of information about the subjects of biographies in Volume IV was February 1970.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

This, the final volume of the *Biographical Dictionary of Republican China* contains a comprehensive bibliography. It lists the published writings, if any, of the subject of each article and the sources, both personal and written, used in preparing the article.

BIOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY OF REPUBLICAN CHINA

Volume 4: Yang-Bibliography

Howard L. Boorman, Editor
Richard C. Howard, Associate Editor

The fourth and final volume of the most important reference work on modern China published since the Second World War, this book deals with the biography, among others, of Yuan Shih-K'ai. The major portion of Volume IV is a comprehensive bibliography, compiled by Joseph K.H. Cheng, which lists the known works of all the subjects of biographies and the sources used in writing the articles on them. Titles of works in Chinese are given in both characters and romanization.

Over ten years in preparation, the *Biographical Dictionary of Republican China* provides a massive reference work, at once systematic and comprehensive, for all organizations, libraries, and individuals concerned with twentieth-century China. In addition to political and military leaders, the work includes detailed biographies-in-brief of individuals prominent in diplomacy, business and banking, literature, the arts, scholarship, social reform, education, the press and publishing, science, religion, aviation, medicine, and other fields. The principal criterion for inclusion is the importance of the individual's role in the life of China during the 1911-49 period.

The *Biographical Dictionary of Republican China* differs from other major biographical dictionaries in that it records the careers not only of those who have died but also of many persons still living. The completed series of four volumes furnishes the most informative and objective life-histories of some 600 Chinese figures of this century available in any language, including Chinese. In addition to the expansive bibliography contained in the final volume, a brief bibliography of basic sources for twentieth-

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