

THE THREE PRINCIPLES OF THE PEOPLE

SAN MIN CHU I

By Dr. Sun Yat-sen

With

Two

Supplementary Chapters:

1. National Fecundity, Social Welfare and Education
2. Health and Happiness

By President Chiang Kai-shek

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THE PEOPLE

By Sun Yat-sen

Translated into English by Frank W. Price
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of the History of the Kuomintang

DR. SUN YAT-SEN'S WILL

For forty years I have devoted myself to the cause of the people's revolution with but one end in view, the elevation of China to a position of freedom and equality among the nations. My experiences during these forty years have firmly convinced me that to attain this goal we must bring about a thorough awakening of our own people and ally ourselves in a common struggle with those peoples of the world who treat us on the basis of equality.

The work of the Revolution is not yet done. Let all our comrades follow my *Plans for National Reconstruction*, *Fundamentals of National Reconstruction*, *Three Principles of the People*, and the *Manifesto* issued by the First National Convention of our Party, and strive on earnestly for their consummation. Above all, our recent declarations in favor of the convocation of a National Convention and the abolition of unequal treaties should be carried into effect with the least possible delay. This is my heartfelt charge to you.

(Signed) SUN WEN
MARCH 11, 1925

Written on February 20, 1925.

THE NAME OF DR. SUN YAT-SEN is synonymous with the history of modern China. Born in 1866, he inspired the Revolution of 1911, which turned an age-old monarchy into a republic. As a political philosopher and revolutionist, he ranks among the greatest of all countries and all periods.

Dr. Sun drew upon both Chinese and Western sources for his Three Principles of the People, which can be summed up as Nationalism, Democracy, and Livelihood. Together, he said, they assure government of the people, by the people, and for the people of China.

Nationalism was of importance because China had been a sub-colony of various Western powers which had marked out spheres of influence. Democracy was prescribed because he wanted the people to be sovereign—but with pragmatic recognition of the distinction between sovereignty and ability. To meet the special needs of China, Dr. Sun invented the five-power system of government. Added to the Western branches of executive, legislative and judicial are co-equal organs of control (consent, impeachment, censure, and audit) and examination (civil service).

By Livelihood, the Founding Father of the Republic of China meant food, clothing, housing, travel and other aspects of economic and social well-being. To assure more equitable distribution of wealth, he advocated equalization of land ownership (which has been carried out on Taiwan), regulation of private capital and the development of state capital.

This invaluable source book sets forth the Three Principles in Dr. Sun's own words, as expressed during a series of his lectures in Canton in 1924. Because the lectures on the People's Livelihood were never completed, President Chiang Kai-shek, who was closely associated with Dr. Sun throughout the revolutionary period, has added two chapters covering national fecundity, social welfare, education, and health and happiness.

The Three Principles explain where democratic China is today and where it hopes to be when the Communists have been driven out from the mainland.