

*The Cultural Revolution: A Bibliography, 1966–1996.* Compiled by YONGYI SONG and DAJIN SUN. Edited by EUGENE W. WU. [Cambridge, MA: Harvard-Yenching Library, Bibliographical Series VI, Harvard University, 1998. xi + 521 pp. ISBN 0-941128-06-7.]

If Mao Zedong's successors had not decided to label the ten-plus years from the spring of 1966 through to the early autumn of 1976 "the Great Cultural Revolution," and if that label had not stuck, as it quickly did, it is doubtful whether any bibliographer would have been inclined to single out that *particular* stretch of time for a volume like this one. After all – to paraphrase a remark first attributed to Luan Zi, the ancient patron saint of Chinese anti-historians – the year 1966 really has no more in common with the year 1976 than a Marriage Monitor has with a Master of Foreign Music. Indeed, if the designers of Western university curricula were less ready to make the official PRC chronology their own, the market for a book with such a coverage would be limited. However, as things stand, at least one whole generation of students has been socialized into believing that a decade-long phenomenon called "turbulence" by some, "turmoil" by others and simply "chaos" by yet others, so dominated China then that as soon as one researches *anything* that happened after the "attack on Wu Han" but prior to the "smashing of the Gang of Four," one is somehow dealing with the "Cultural Revolution." What Song and Sun have done, with the generous support of the Harvard-Yenching Library and the grand old man of North American Asia librarians, Eugene Wu, is to aid those who may thus be called inescapist in their understanding of the place the Cultural Revolution occupies in PRC history by giving them an extensive, near-exhaustive, expert list of the relevant literature.

Potential buyers of this Big Red Book should know that it is a bibliography of secondary sources only. It lists publications that appeared outside China between 1966 and the present, but – with a handful of exceptions – only publications from inside China post-dating the passing of the Great Helmsman in 1976. Its coverage is very impressive: books, articles, unpublished theses and working papers in Chinese, English, Japanese and other languages on everything from elite and provincial level politics to grass roots social and economic conditions, from science and the arts to foreign relations, from Red Guards to Mao Zedong, rebels to "royalists." The overall arrangement is by subject, which is what most users will welcome. If by any chance a user is interested in a particular author's contribution to the field of what inside China today goes under the name of CultRevology (*wengexue*), he should be satisfied by the 35 page author index. Should anyone wish to use the bibliography as a guide to complete publishing information of a work merely known by its title, there is a 127 page title index as well. Who could ask for anything more?

Well, there is something one could ask for: yet another bibliography similar to this one, but devoted to primary sources such as books, journals, newspapers, tabloids, handbills, etc. actually *from* the Cultural Revolution. At this point, there is not a single good guide to the plethora of such sources that exists "out there." That would be a most welcome

companion volume to the present work and one can only hope that one day it too will see the light of day, perhaps again with the support of the Harvard-Yenching Library which, after all, has been supporting the publication of Sinological reference works like this one for over sixty years now. What we have here is a major new resource for anyone studying not just the immediate pre-reform decade, but the origins of the post-Cultural Revolution as well.

MICHAEL SCHOENHALS

*Doctoral Dissertations on China and on Inner Asia, 1976–1990.* By FRANK JOSEPH SHULMAN with contributions by PATRICIA POLANSKY and ANNA LEON SHULMAN. [Westport, CT and London: Greenwood Press, 1998. xxviii + 1055 pp. £195.00. ISBN 0-313-29111-X.]

What a scientist and scholar produces today will be antiquated in ten or twenty years. Each researcher's efforts to advance our knowledge, as Max Weber reminds us, produces some sort of scientific "fulfilment" and raises new questions which ask to be surpassed and outdated. Therefore, our growing body of knowledge, whether in the field of subatomic particles or China and Inner Asia studies, is forever changing. As more researchers contribute to this process, how can we make sense of these changes in our respective branches of knowledge? Specialists try to keep up with such change by reading learned journals and new monographs. Generalists rely on bibliographical guides to lead them to those works reputed to present the most recent findings of the day. For the amateur striving to become an expert, how does one learn about the latest knowledge relevant to his or her research specialty? One can only understand the current state of knowledge and pose new questions for research by having access to a large body of technical, new information.

A useful guide to such information, especially for an expanding field like China and Inner Asia studies, is a listing of all doctoral dissertations submitted at institutions of higher learning in America and other countries. A good number of these dissertations will have been transformed into journal articles or books, and the remainder will be on some dusty shelf of a university library or on a microfilm reel. Even so, by examining the relevant dissertations, one is well on the way to knowing what scholars have added to this branch of knowledge.

Frank Joseph Shulman and his colleagues have produced a bibliographical guide that lists 10, 293 doctoral dissertations completed during the period 1976–1990, as compared to 5,310 between 1945–1975. This remarkable explosion will undoubtedly continue into the future, meaning that information and knowledge will become ever more specialized. The book follows the same format as the two previous bibliographical guides by Shulman and associates covering the period 1945–1975. Every dissertation has an entry number that reappears in the indexes listing author, institution and dissertation topic. Every entry includes the author's name, dissertation title, year of completion, type of doctorate,