

originally from a district near Shaoxing during the early years of the 20th century, it would be less confusing now to call the genre “ Shanghai opera ” or “ the Yue opera of Shanghai.”

A rather more serious confusion may arise because the author does not distinguish between “ historical plays in old costume ” (*guzhuang lishixi*) and plays that belong to the traditional opera repertoire. On page 45 we are told how the revival of traditional Peking Opera was heralded by a performance in May 1977 of “ a traditional opera called *Bishang Liangshan (Forced up Mount Liang)* which was adapted as a revolutionary piece.” In fact the play was not part of the traditional repertoire at all, but rather a modern “ creation.” A similar failure is found throughout the rest of the chapter on traditional forms of opera. This is rather a pity, because the production of new historical plays in old costume was one of the major growth areas in the performing arts after 1977 and a tendency found across a broad range of genres, from opera to the spoken play (Cao Yu’s *Wang Zhaojun*) and even the ballet and dance-drama (“ The Silk Road ”). Part of the confusion arises perhaps because the plays of the traditional repertoire had themselves undergone considerable revision by 1977, a fact which the author does not mention.

In short, this is not a particularly deep or systematic study. Its value lies rather in the information the author has gleaned from his contacts and travels and the generally thoughtful way he has appraised certain aspects of the arts. In a field so underdeveloped this is no mean service.

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The Taiwan Success Story: Rapid Growth with Improved Distribution in the Republic of China, 1952–1979. By SHIRLEY W. V. KUO, GUSTAV RANIS and JOHN C. H. FEI. [Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 1981. 161 pp.]

The success of Taiwan has intrigued more than one Western student of economic theory and of Chinese affairs. Most recently Professor Yuan-li Wu devoted some space to the phenomenon of simultaneous growth and equity, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the creation of the Republic of China in 1911, in a symposium edited by James Hsiung.¹

The monograph under review is an updated version of the three authors’ earlier publication on the subject.² Conventional wisdom has it that in the course of the modernization of agrarian societies, economic growth and equality of income are in conflict with each other. In other words, “ the distribution of income must first worsen before it can improve ” (p. 1). Taiwan is renowned for being the exception, in that growth and equity are “ complementary and mutually reinforcing, rather than competitive, objectives ” (p. xvii). The evidence why this should be so is the subject of this competent monograph. The historical date when the marriage of growth and equity came about was 1961. At that point in Taiwan’s process of modernization, the creation of a unified exchange rate led to a switch from import substitution to export expansion from agriculture to industry, from labour-intensive to capital- and skill-

1. James C. Hsiung, *The Taiwan Experience 1950–1980* (reviewed in *The China Quarterly* No. 91).

2. *Growth with Equity: The Taiwan Case*. Oxford University Press, 1979.

intensive activities and from low savings, investment and productivity to high saving rates, managerial efficiency and technological innovation.

However, on their own these changes could not have achieved both economic growth and social equity. Here a special catalyst had to activate the chemistry of the historical process. The transforming agent was provided by the redistribution of the landlords' property, "imposed by a government that was free of obligations and ties to the landowning class" (p. 49). (How different a situation this was from the one which existed before the GMD had to leave the mainland for Taiwan.) Only thus did it become possible "for economic growth to be compatible with and improved distribution of income" (p. 143). Without the redistribution of landed property the equalization of earned incomes would have had no chance. Herein, more than in anything else, lies the key to the Taiwan success story.

Looking at the first major political moves made by the two antagonistic regimes on the mainland and the island, the student of Chinese affairs is bound to be struck by their similarity, though the difference between the concept of expropriation in the PRC and that of compensation in Taiwan was bound to create dramatically different political climates on the two shores of the Formosa Strait. As awareness of Taiwan's unique position is growing in the PRC, some of the island's techniques which led to success are now being examined in China with interest, instead of being dismissed as irrelevant. This must be welcome, even if the reverse process is slow in coming on the island. Though both claim to represent China and both have had similar problems and experiences, the gulf remains as wide as ever. It would be an illusion to expect on the basis of a certain amount of common ground, that a marriage – such as the one between growth and equity – would be possible between the two incompatible political regimes that eye each other across the Taiwan *hai-hsia*.

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The Future Association of Taiwan with the People's Republic of China.

By DAN C. SANFORD. [University of California, Berkeley: Center for Chinese Studies, Institute of East Asian Studies, 1981. 86 pp. \$8.00.]

This monograph advances the thesis, perhaps more popular a couple of years ago than it is now, that although the formal, political unification of Taiwan with the rest of China seems unlikely, there is a trend towards an "association of interests" between the two parts of China. The trend will accelerate as the mainland joins Taiwan in sharing in the remarkable economic development of East Asia. The PRC's expanding trade with Japan, the U.S. and Western Europe will draw her increasingly into contacts with the same business elements which have long been profitable for Taiwan. The PRC would not wish to upset these new partners by belligerence towards Taiwan while the latter, by strengthening her trade ties with the rest of the world, is creating vested interests in her security. The end result could be a role for Taiwan in an "associated" China somewhat like that of Hong Kong, so useful to both the island and the mainland that the political obstacles to peaceful co-operation would be