



FROM TNGSUA TO SOUTH SEAS

Subtitle

- So far, we learnt that:
 - Chinese community in Singapore is not homogenous
 - Diversity still present in food culture, customs and festivals
 - Complex layers of identity related to the administrative/cross administrative, and language networks in China

- The next logical deduction will be: Chinese in China is not homogenous
- Therefore, the questions we should be asking:
 - Who were the Chinese?
 - Why they came from?
 - Where are they going?

- Tngsua (Hokkien\Teochew); Tangshan (Mandarin) 唐山
 - Not to be confused with Tangshan city in Hebei China
 - Common name for “China” in major southern dialects
 - Tng/Tang: Tang Dynasty (618-907)
 - Sua/Shan: mountains (territory)
-
- South Seas 南洋: generally referring to South East Asia

<https://www.mewatch.sg/watch/The-Awakening-S1-E2-42090>

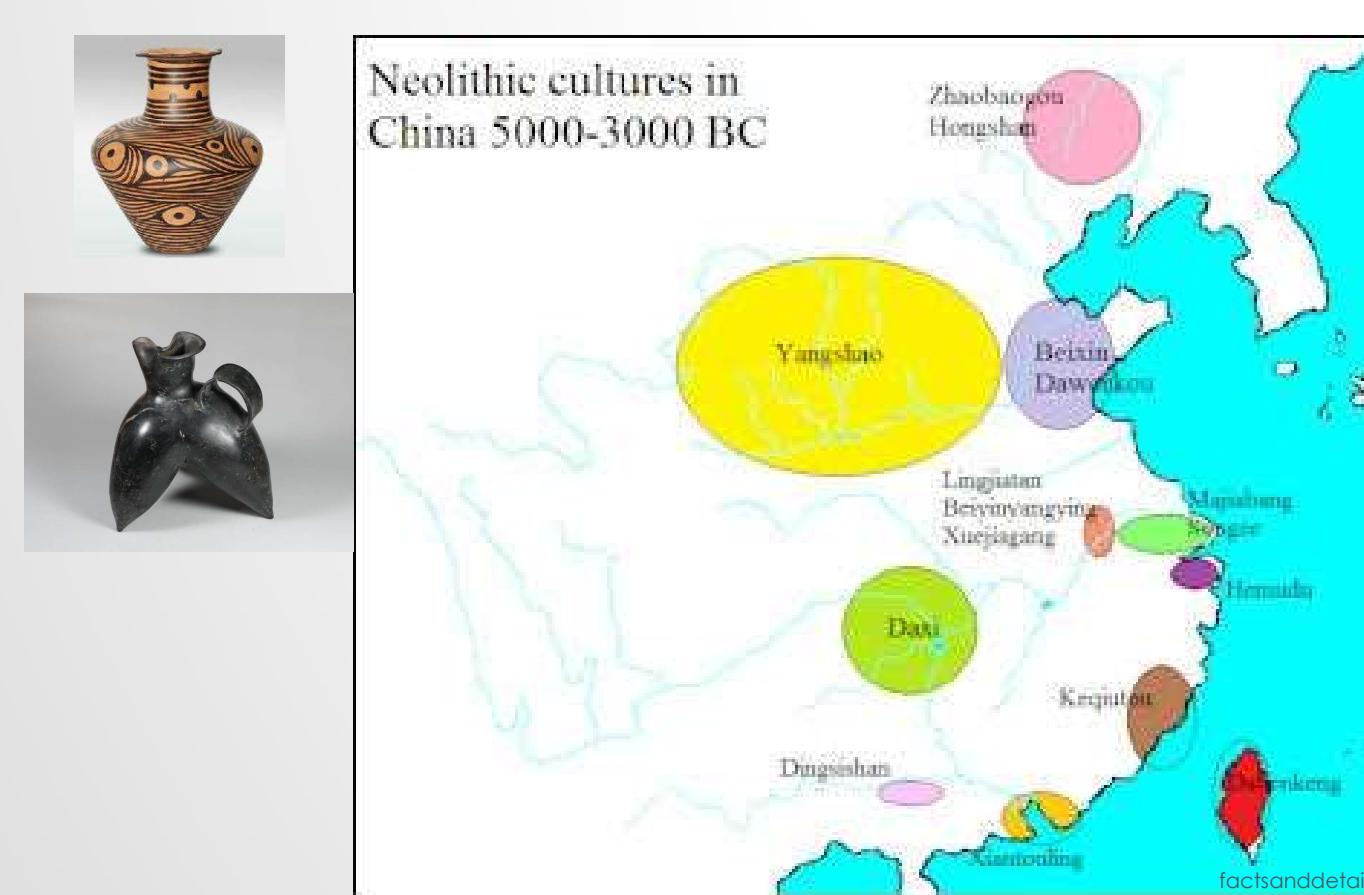
23:24



❖Core Ideas

- Culture was never homogenous or unchanging
- Migration is an on-going process

MULTIPLE ORIGINS 1



MULTIPLE ORIGINS 2



ALL UNDER HEAVEN 1

FIRST THE QIN 秦, THEN THE HAN 汉



206 BCE – 220 CE



MOVING SOUTH 1



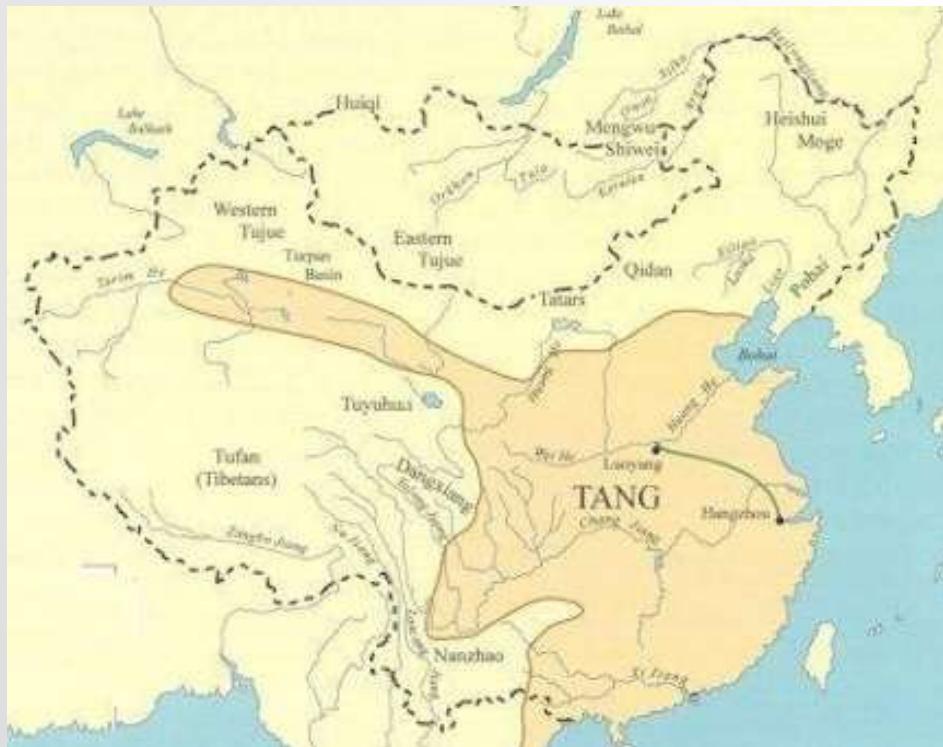
Northern &
Southern Dynasties
Period



- Lost of northern territories to non-Han groups.
- Fled of the royal family and great clans to south China.
- The succession of dynasties and great clans in the south understood themselves as keepers of Han-ness.
- Intensifying the cultural changes in south China.

ALL UNDER HEAVEN 2

FIRST THE SUI 隋, THEN THE TANG 唐



MOVING SOUTH 2



Late Tang and Five Dynasties Period.

Large influx of northern “Tang” people
To south China

(SOMEWHAT) ALL UNDER HEAVEN 3



MOVING SOUTH 3



Southern Song (1127-1279)

- 1, Development of lineage organization
 - Ancestral rites
 - Communal Property
 - Compiling Genealogies

- 2, Proliferation of religious networks
e.g. Mazu



ALL UNDER HEAVEN 4



Southern provinces
incorporated

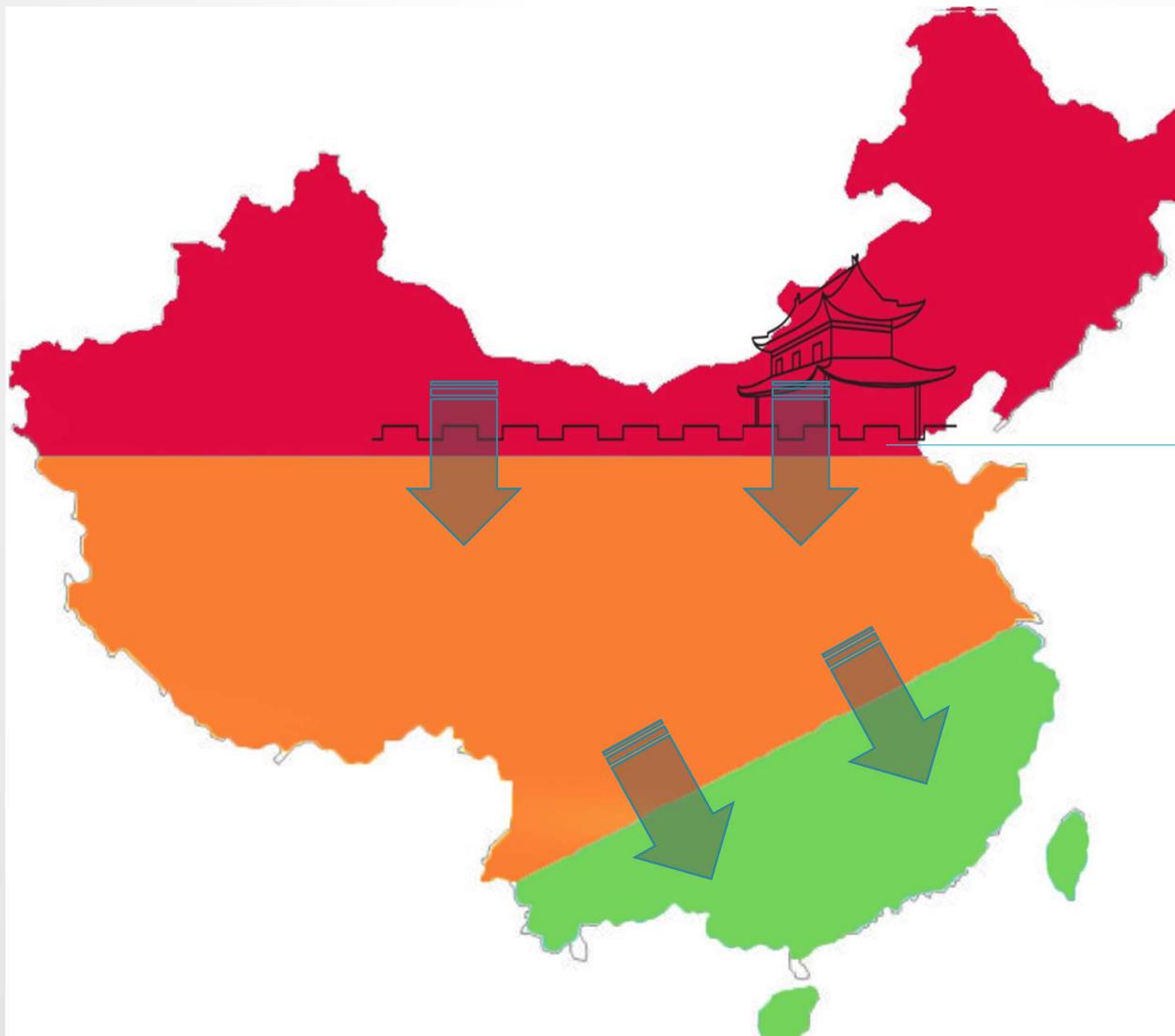


Qing
1368-1911

Hu

Hu-Han

Han-Yue



The Great
Wall

THE CHINESE DYNASTIES

China 



Min & Minnan Dialects

Min: Fujian province
 Minnan: Southern Fujian



YUE SUPERGROUP AREAS



DIFFERENT BORDERS

➤ **Administrative borders**

- Province (Fujian, Guangdong etc.)
- Prefecture / City (Quanzhou泉州, Zhangzhou漳州, Chaozhou潮州, Qiongzhou琼州, Guangzhou广州)
- County

➤ **Culture & Linguistics “borders”**

- regions

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF TNG



1. Cultural Identity

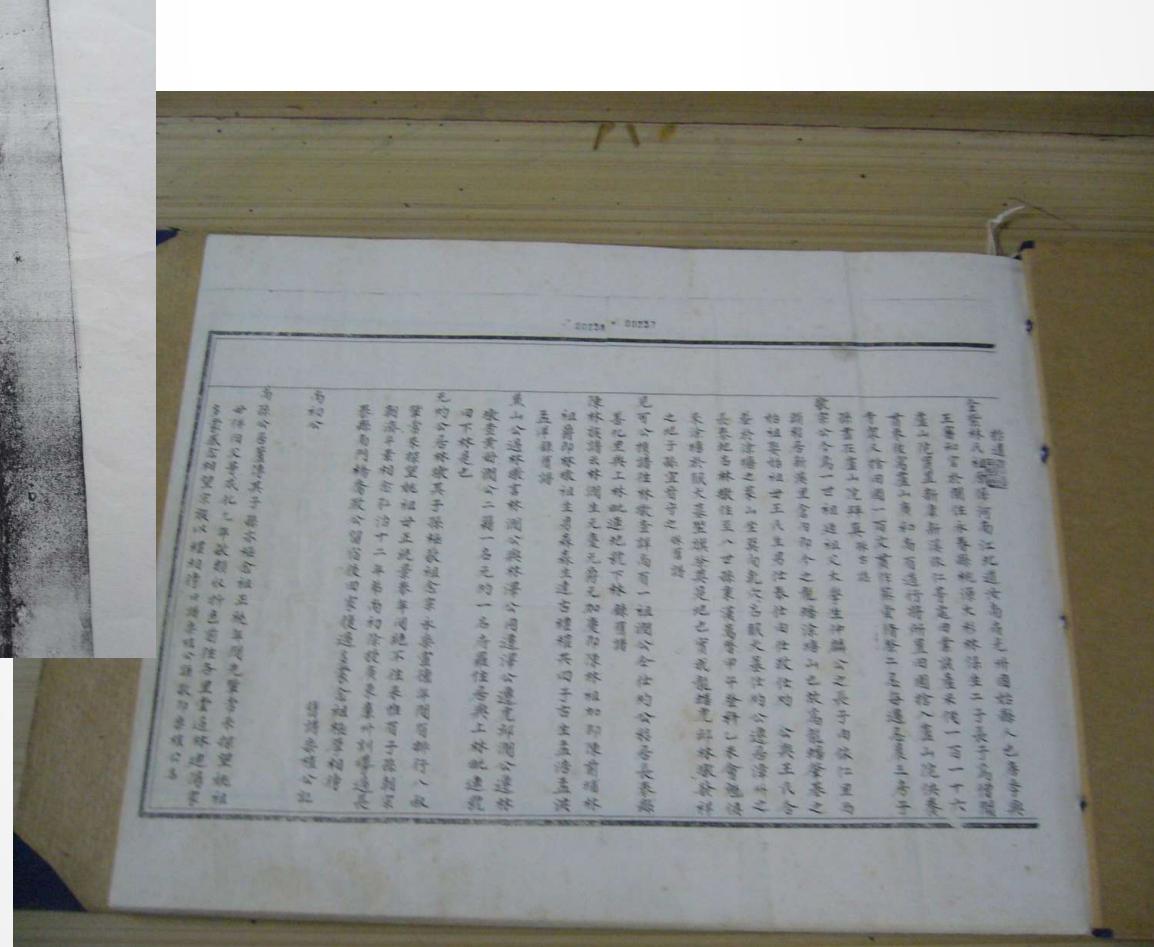


2. Family history



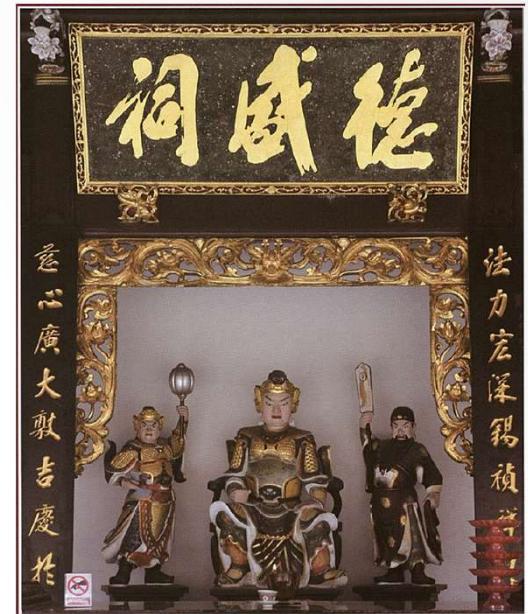


Ancestral hometown
 : North China
 -- Henan province –
 Guangzhou -- Gushi



Migrated south during the Five-dynasties period,
 and helped to established the Min kingdom

Kaizhang Shengwang – Chen Yuanguang
(开漳圣王: 陈元光)
“The sagely king that civilized Zhangzhou”



Military colonization of Southern Fujian during the late Tang.
Leader canonized as a god.
Chen (Tan) groups claiming descent from common ancestor.
Developed into a regional cult: Southern Fujian, Teochew, Taiwan,

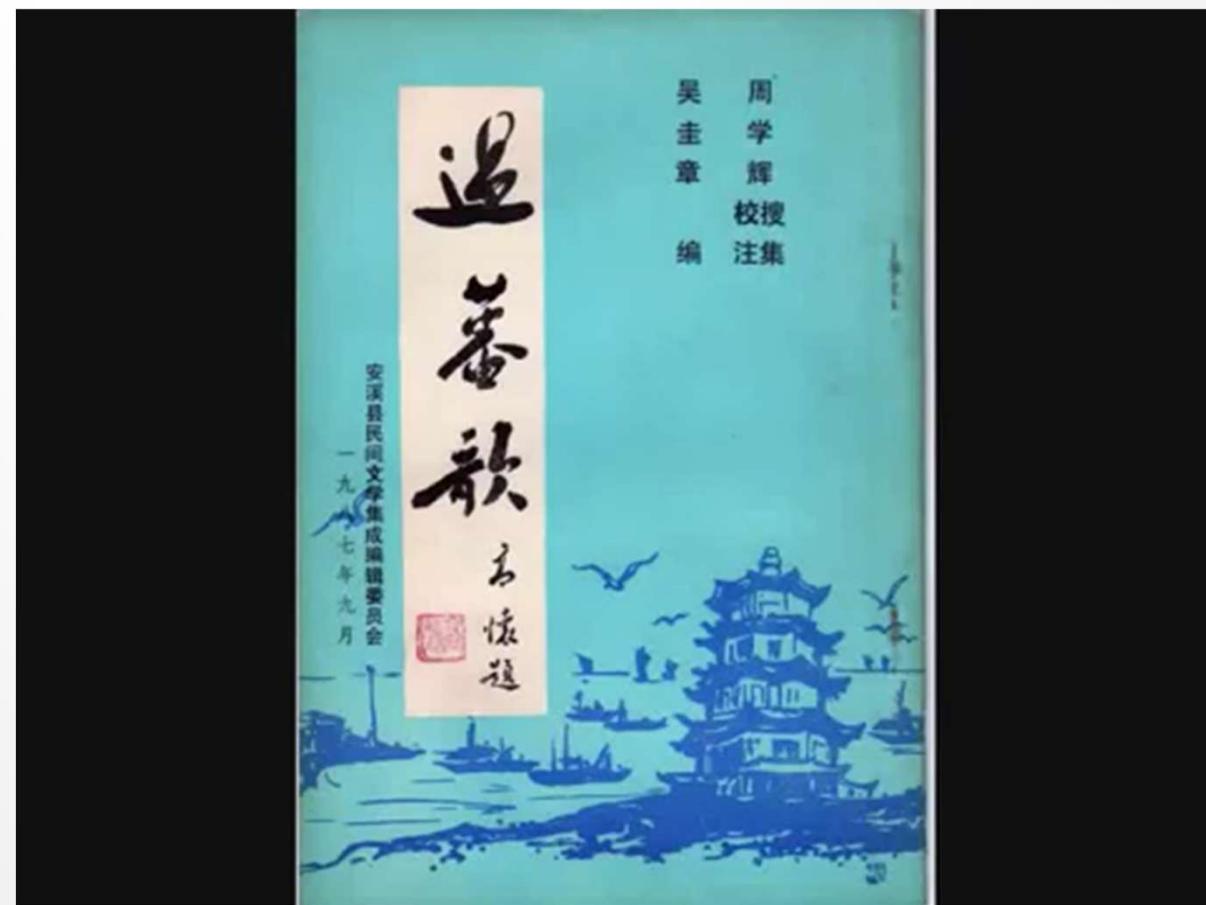
MOVING TO THE UNCIVILIZED LAND

过番



SINGAPORE HOKKIEN VERSION

Seven Chinese characters per line.
@ 45th second:
“there was really no hope back at
Thgsua,
therefore we have to move to the alien
land (guo fan 过番) together”



WAVES OF MIGRATION

The “modern times” mentioned in the title begin (symbolically) with the year 1567, when a long-standing imperial ban on private maritime trade (a ban long ineffectual) was formally lifted.

Philip A. Kuhn, *Chinese Among Others – Emigration in Modern Times.*

THE BABAS AND THE SINKEH



RIPPLES OF MIGRATION

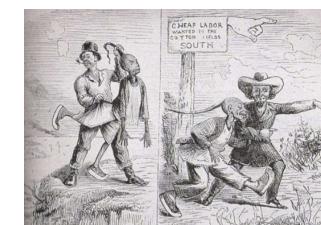


- Zhangzhou was the approved port to engage in maritime trade in 1567.
- Zhangzhou merchants (men!) sojourning in major Southeast Asian ports.
- Fall of Ming dynasty in 1644, loyalists left and never returned to Qing China.
- Married local women.

WAVES OF MIGRATION



- Opium war 1840; Treaty of Nanking 1842.
- Xiamen as one of the five treaty ports.
- Xiamen was under the jurisdiction of Quanzhou.
- Demand of labor in mines and plantations.
- Free immigrants and forced indentured laborers.



THE EARLY LEADERS

- Tan Tock Seng (1798-1850)
- Si Hoo Keh
- Malacca
- Straits Chinese (Nyonya - Baba)
- Cheng Hoon Teng Temple (1673)



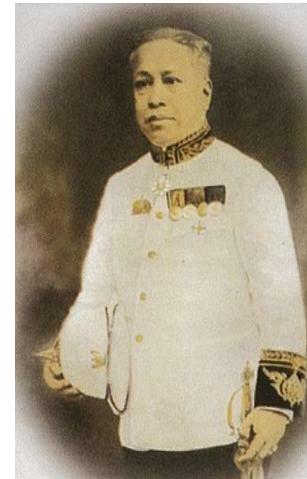




Tan Tock Seng
1798-1850



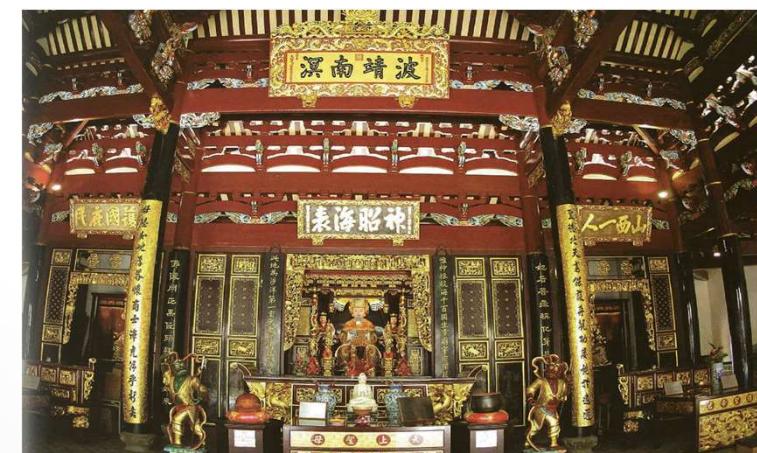
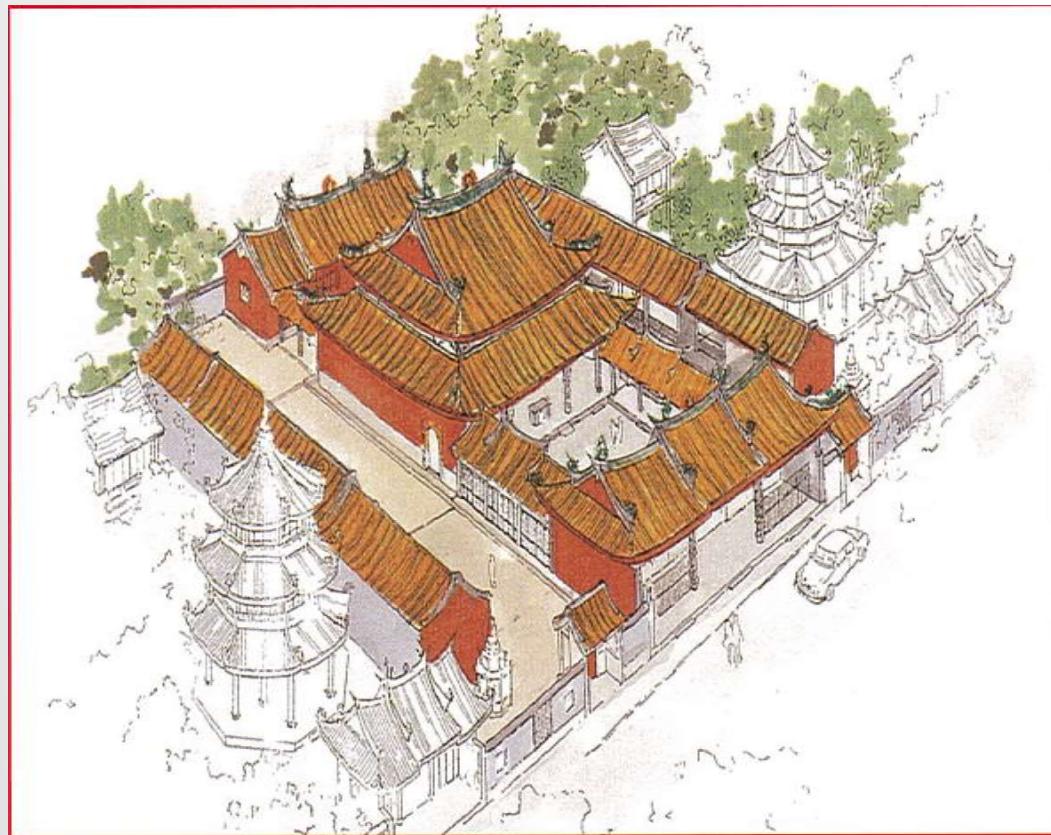
Tan Kim
Ching
1829-1892



Tan Boo
Liat
1875-1934

THIAN HOCK KENG

MAZU – GUARDIAN OF ALL SEAFARERS
TIANHOU – QUEEN OF HEAVEN



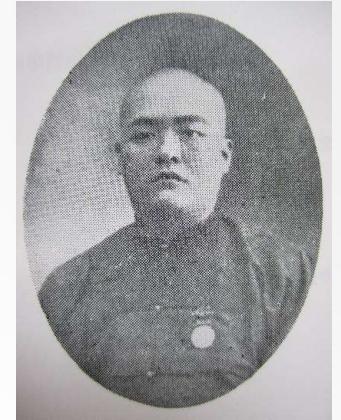
FROM TEMPLE TO SECULAR ORGANIZATION

➤ 1915

- Regroup, drawing new constitution, and attempt to institutionalize

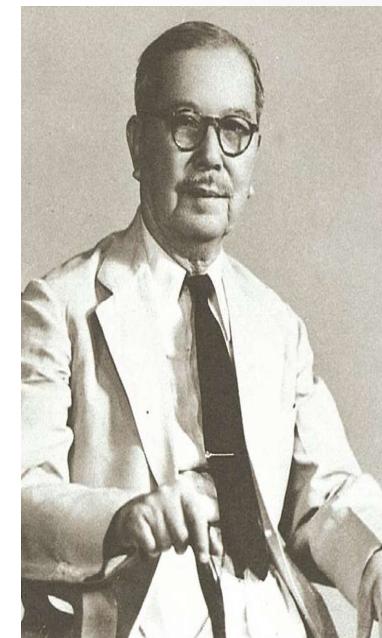
➤ 1916

- Officially “Thian hock Keng Hokkien Huay Kuan”. First president: See Tiong Wah (1886-1940)
- See Tiong Wah was born in Singapore, received his education at St Joseph Institution, great grandson of Si Hoo Keh.



THE RISE OF THE SINKEH IN THE NEW CENTURY

- Tan Kah Kee (1874-1961)
- Born and died in China.
- Rubber King
- Parallel philanthropy
 - Fujian
 - Singapore



- 1913 Chip Bee Primary
- 1918 Chip Bee Normal School
- 1921 Xiamen University

- One of Tao Nan founders
- Tao Nan's chairman from 1911-1929
- Assisted in establishing Ai Tong and Chong Hock Girls Chinese High School, 1919



- 1929
- New election of council members
- Formation of executive council
 - General affairs
 - Education
 - Finance
 - Construction
 - Welfare
- Formation of supervisory council
- When funds were handed over, Thian Hock Keng had a cash balance of \$40 000; Hokkien Huay Kuan had funds amounting about \$15 600.

- 1937, Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan
- Non-profit organization
- Took over all properties of Thian Hock Keng Hokkien Huay Kuan and managed all affiliated temples and cemeteries.