

Kuangren riji -
Diary of a Madman

SEPTEMBER 25, 1881
OCTOBER 19, 1936

LU XUN



Group 5

WL. Chen, T. Drobot, S. Moeckli, A. Podkolodnaya, S. Schroeder, R. Yuan



INTRODUCTION

Biography

Diary of a Madman

Impact

Conclusion

LU XUN



Biography:

- Important years of life



Diary of a Madman:

- Analysis of the Diary



Impact:

- Social, Political and Media spheres



BIOGRAPHY

Introduction

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BIOGRAPHY

Birth:

September 25, 1881

Place:

Shaoxing, China

Name:

Zhou Zhangshou

Death:

October 19, 1936



Education:

- Classical Chinese education based on Confucian texts
- Typical for his generation
 - turned to modern literature



1904: started to study medicine in Tokyo, Japan



After the Russo-Japanese War in 1904/05

- Lu Xun turned to literature because people needed evolutionary change



BIOGRAPHY

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BIOGRAPHY



„**Kuangren Riji**“ (The Diary of a Madman) in 1918:

- Written in Western literary style (baihua) → national career
- Followed by more short essays

1919–1926: most creative years:

- He wrote around 24 short stories to awaken the nationalistic consciousness

Based on his youth in Shaoxing → very popular among young people

- Stood in for the abolition of the traditional family system which enslaved women and youth



BIOGRAPHY

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BIOGRAPHY

- Fled from Beijing to South China, where he taught at Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou



1927

he moved to Shanghai, where he lived hiding until his death

1930

Co-Founder of the League of Left-Wing Writers

1929

cooperation with the Communist Party
- although he never joined them

died six years later from tuberculosis

CONTENT

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IMPACT

Conclusion

IMPACT:

Self consideration:

tongluren
(fellow traveler)

Political position:

hengzhan
("horizontal stand")

Core concept:

"resistance of despair"

- Classes
- Structure
- Thought

Society



- Key figures
- Ideology
- Western thoughts

Politics



- Language
- Translations
- Style

Media



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IMPACT

Conclusion

IMPACT: Society

- Aims of eliminating Sinocentrism (Wong, 2013)
 - “domesticated” Western text translations to popularize them among society

“Popularize foreign concepts, so as to introduce new Western ways of thinking that could spur internal reforms in a backward China”

- Wong, 2013

E.g. adoption of Nikolai Gogol’s style in “Diary of a Madman”

- Through generations he held on to a reputation of having sharp, critical and judgmental mindset
 - > allowed him to become an incisive observer and commentator

- Classes
- Structure
- Thought

Society



Take over the brush of polemics, struggle to the end, 1975

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IMPACT

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IMPACT: Politics

Mao Zedong called Lu Xun:

“the saint of modern China”

His way of thinking, ability to appeal to society through social realism made him an icon, that was used by Communist movements long after his death (Xiaoming, 2013).

1949+

Politicians used Lu Xun's name, portrait and writings as a justification for political opposition, this way he associates with political struggles & national movements

- Key figures
- Ideology
- Western thoughts

Politics



Studying the revolutionary spirit of Lu Xun, becomes a pathbreaker in the criticism of Lin Biao and Confucius, 1974

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IMPACT

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IMPACT: Media

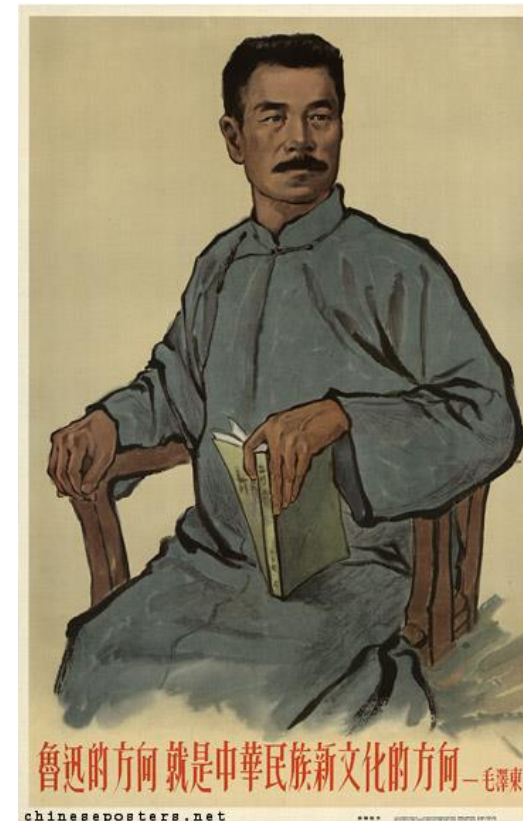
- **Language:** Vernacular Chinese, Classical Chinese
- **Translation:** "translation theory"
- **Style:** clear lucid style which was to influence many generations, in stories, prose poems and essays

Other:

- Use of pseudonyms as the government prohibited his works
- Significant contribution to nearly every modern literary medium
- Major part in the popularization of non-Chinese art and the reappraisal of traditional Chinese art

- Language
- Translations
- Style

Media



The direction of Lu Xun is the new cultural direction of the Chinese people - Mao Zedong, 1956

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CONCLUSION

CONCLUSION: Key facts



Biography:

- Medicine student/Political awakening



Diary of a Madman:

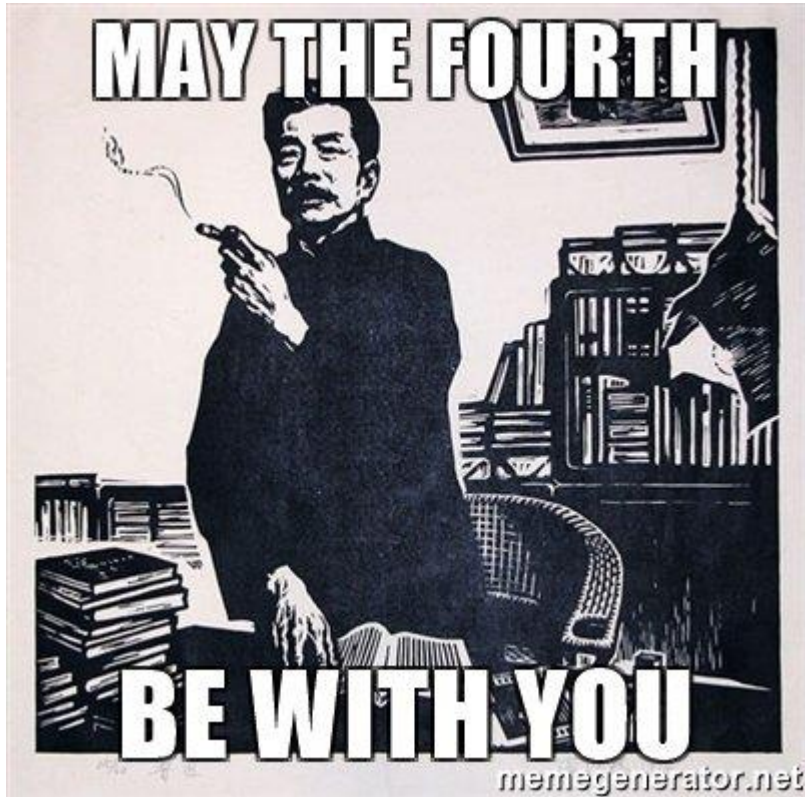
- Parallelism/Metaphors



Impact:

- Western Ideas/Icon of political movements

Thank you for your
attention!



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<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Lu-Xun>