

Prelim Examination

2005

Please answer two questions each from Section A and B:

Section A

1. The questions of nationalism and nation-building have generated an enormous scholarship in the China field in the last decade. Discuss the main debates growing out of this scholarship and assess their significance in furthering our understanding of twentieth-century China.
2. Recently there is a surge of studies on the Republican period (1927-1949) from a range of new perspectives and approaches including cultural studies and woman's studies and global history. Discuss and evaluate the extent to which these revisionist works have changed our view of Republican history.
3. In what ways do you think studies of marginal areas such as Hong Kong or Taiwan or marginal subjects such as prostitutes and Chinese diaspora can contribute to a different understanding of Chinese culture and history?

Section B

- Recent studies have contributed to our understanding of the complexity of identity politics. Given China historians' interests in variations in local society and culture in late imperial China, to what extent can one say that there is a Chinese people sharing a common culture? If there is one what explanations have been advanced to account for it?
2. While there was no bourgeoisie in late imperial Chinese cities, these were merchants in big and small cities. Did they play a role in governing local society? Did they develop a class consciousness that distinguished them from other groups? In what ways were they different from the bourgeoisie?
 3. Recent studies of Chinese society have focused more on local variations than general pattern. Evaluate various approaches in how elites maintained their domination in late imperial China. Did they share a common source of power? What are the merits and weaknesses of these studies?

September 13, 2002

Preliminary Examination

Ph.D. Examination in Traditional China
for

Please answer **two** of the following questions. Make sure you refer to specific works in your discussion.

1. How do you explain the rise of textual criticism (*kaozhengxue*) in the Qing period? Does it represent the development of a new epistemology? Please discuss the major views on this intellectual movement.
2. The nature of Chinese society in the Ming and Qing periods has been characterized by many as a "gentry society." How do you understand the nature of the gentry? What was their social origin? How did they maintain their status? Did they constitute a small "hereditary" elite?
3. A recent study considers the civil service examination a "cultural prison." Do you agree with this view? How does this characterization compare with other studies that focus on its effect in providing opportunity for social mobility?
4. Given the vast territory of the Chinese empire and the presence of multiple ethnic and dialectical groups in the Ming Qing periods, how was the population come to identify themselves as Chinese? or did they? What were the major ties that held the heterogenous population together? Make sure you make reference to specific studies in your answer.

