

ABSTRACTS

The Origins of Chinese Fiction in the Ghost Tale

JOHN PAGE

THIS ARTICLE INCORPORATES THE WORK of Kenneth J. DeWoskin into a unified argument for the establishment of the source of Chinese fiction in the earliest Chinese historical writings. It then carries the exposition through the Six Dynasties' *zhiguai* to the *chuanqi* of Tang. The pivotal figure is shown to be the *fangshi*. Their activities as diviner, magician and heir to the shaman, as well as candidate for court favorite and royal adviser make their biographies and stories of their accomplishments as well as their own writings, key transitional texts.

Barter and Compensation Trade in China

MARISELA CONNELLY

CHINA IN HER CURRENT STRUGGLE FOR MODERNIZATION, is trying to obtain technology and equipment from the developed countries. In doing so, she has turned to barter and compensation trade in order to preserve her scarce hard currency.

In this essay the author explains how China uses barter and compensation trade and analyzes the main characteristics and viability of this kind of contract for the near future.

The Ideology of the Kings of the Gupta Dynasty

DAVID N. LORENZEN

THE INSCRIPTIONS OF THE GUPTA KINGS generally ignore the complex and paradoxical ideological system codified in the religious and legal texts of the Brahmins. The synergetic competition between the powerful ideological categories of *brahman* and *kshatra* is simply passed over. The Gupta kings, for obvious reasons, preferred to seek their legitimation in their own conquests as noble warriors and protectors of *dharmā* instead of relying on a costly and dependent legitimation by means of the supposed supernatural powers of the Brahmins and their sacrifices. Similarly the Gupta kings also generally ignored the ideology of moral kingship associated with Buddhism and Jainism. This suggests that the kings were also reluctant to tie themselves too closely to the influential communities of Buddhist and Jain monks.

Colonial Bastions in the Pacific: Kanaky (New Caledonia)

SUSANA B.C. DEVALLE

WITH THE AIM OF QUESTIONING PREVALENT WESTERN-CENTRIC perceptions of Pacific societies, this article focusses on the persistence to date of colonial situations in this region of the world. Colonialism is here considered to be a crucial factor operating in the configuration of the Pacific as a geopolitical area. In this context, the implications of the use made by international and regional powers of the concept of *small state* to judge the "viability" of the independent Pacific island states and to justify the continuation of their situation of dependence, are critically examined.

The current anticolonial struggle in Kanaky (New Caledonia under French control) is set in its historical and present economic and political contexts. In this way, the article proceeds to discuss the characteristics French colonialism acquired in Kanaky, the early Kanak opposition to colonial rule, the development of political organizations and parties and of the independence movement. The position of the French administration

vis a vis the demands for Kanak independence crystallized in the policy of "gradualism". This position is examined as it has been translated in the proposals of Ministers P. Dijoud, Pisani and Pons. It was particularly since 1981 that the conflict in the colony became acute and was accompanied by an increase in the repressive tactics of the French administration to contain the independence movement. The situation existing in Kanaky in 1987 and 1988 finally led to the referendum of November 6, 1988 on the future status of New Caledonia. It is the contention of this article that such a referendum, which postponed the independence of Kanaky for another ten years, only confirmed the old "gradualist" policy. At the same time, the referendum legitimized a new attempt to contain the process of decolonization in the Pacific, aimed at safeguarding the strategic and economic interests of the colonial metropolis.

Factors that Influenced "Underdevelopment" and the Consolidation of Political Unity of the African Continent

YARISSE ZOCTIZOUM

THIS ESSAY AIMS TO PRESENT SOME CHARACTERISTIC EXAMPLES of the numerous and complex factors that exert influence on the "underdevelopment" and consolidation of African Political Unity.

The author has set aside those examples that having become banalized, have come to hide true African realities.

After a theoretical introduction to the "Theories of Development and Underdevelopment", the author analyzes the contemporary as well as historical factors, both political and economic, that have played their part in Africa.

The article emphasizes the value of evidence obtained from precise socio-economic data, instead of the traditional theoretical characterizations upon which the theme of "underdeveloped" countries has been focused.