

PERSONAL STATEMENT

The materials being presented in this course, or series of six lectures are based on my own personal experiences, knowledge and having over six decades of experience in studying Chinese history, culture, society, business practices, business experience while living in Taiwan and having traveled to China over 150 times during the past thirty years.

I am of the firm belief that when studying any subject that relates to human behavior, any attempt to describe it or frame it as “scientific” is a misnomer and misleading. Science is reserved for the study of the laws of nature where it is possible to control the variables being examined in a laboratory environment. When studying or analyzing human behavior there can never be control over the possible variables at play in determining the actions of human beings. Thus, terms such as social sciences are misleading.

When studying human history or trying to explain contemporary events involving human behavior, either individually or collectively, at the very best, all we can hope for is a degree of impartiality, of intellectual honesty, and a thorough understanding of the author or lecturer’s background which had led to their conclusions.

In 1963, I made my initial trip to Taipei, Taiwan. After graduating from college, and lacking any specific future plans, I accepted an invitation from my Aunt and Uncle to spend a year with them in Taipei – sort of a graduation gift holiday. I had almost no idea of where I was going. Upon arriving as a young man of 23 years of age, virulent and looking for dates, there was a rapid realization that almost no one spoke English and I had better learn the Chinese language. I enrolled at a missionary language school, the only language school available, where I was the only non-missionary taking language classes. Within three months I learned enough of the language to both get in trouble and begin to develop an appreciation for a distinctly different culture.

There followed a scholarship to attend the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii where my formal education began with some brilliant professors who have influenced me to the present day. Those two years included another six months studying in Taiwan, and then acceptance to the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. I was the recipient in consecutive years of National Defense Foreign Language Fellowships, a University of Michigan

Fellowship, earning a Master's Degree enroute to a Ph.D. I learned and studied with some of the greatest minds in Chinese History, Philosophy, Economics and Geography. Pursuant to researching my dissertation on the 1911 Revolution that ended over 2,000 years of Imperial government, I was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship, and then one from the joint committee of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies. I studied at the Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, and was the first American graduate student and only the second American, granted access to the historical archives of the Kuomintang Party. In 1972, I received my Ph.D. degree from the University of Michigan. After being a visiting Professor at the University of Illinois, and California State University at Long Beach, I secured a tenure track position at California State University at Fullerton where I taught for thirty years until my retirement in 2003. In addition to teaching Chinese history, I also taught U.S. history, Ancient World Civilizations and a seminar on modern Asian leaders.

I also enrolled at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles where in addition to my regular law classes studied comparative law of China and the U.S. under a fellowship from the Social Science Research Council. I graduated law school in 1976 and become a member of the California State Bar in 1982 and remain an active member.

Keeping abreast of developments in China, I began to speak at various events in Orange County, California regarding the potential opportunities in China following the death of Chairman Mao and the new programs of Deng Xiao Ping. That led me to being invited to join a fledgling company in Los Angeles, the China Overseas Trading Company. In turn that led to my first visit to China in the winter of 1985/86. Since that initial visit, I have traveled continuously until my last trip in 2019 – over thirty years. The fledgling company lacked sufficient capital to stay the course, so that after two years, I opened my own office at a consultant on China trade as part of my law practice. I have thus consulted on doing business in China and represented companies in the U.S., and several in Latin America until the combination of Covid and the beginning of our trade war with China ended my consulting business.

During the course of my over thirty years and about 150 trips to and traveling in China, I have visited places in about 80% of the country, toured hundreds of factories, met with

thousands of factory leaders, engineers, and workers. I have met with prominent government and Communist Party officials and with thousands of ordinary people. No one, including myself, can claim that they have a total understanding of China and the Chinese people. There are probably some who have greater knowledge than I in certain areas. However, to the best of my knowledge, I am the only person in the U.S. who has a Ph.D. in Chinese history and philosophy, an attorney at law, and over thirty years of experience in consulting about China and doing business in China.

Lastly, a brief word regarding procedures. This class is scheduled for one hour and 15 minutes. I will make every attempt to limit my discourse to one hour and leave 15 minutes at the end for questions. In addition, here is my personal email address: samuel.kupper@att.net. You are welcome to email with your questions and comments. I will attempt to reply and/or reference and answer your questions at the beginning of the next scheduled lecture.