

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSION

If a “*rich and prosperous nation*” was the dream of Chinese people in the early twentieth century, a democratic state is their aspiration for this century. The common aim of both the West and China is coming closer despite the different understandings of democracy based on historical, cultural, social contexts. Many years the view of Chinese people to democracy has changed to a necessary means for protecting individual liberties. Yet they maintain different views on the application of democratic institution, such as multiparty competition and general elections. A basic converging point is now rule by the people and the rule of law.

China has developed its own Democracy during 1911 – 1949, which obtained in the rule of law with several conditions leading to an absolute democracy. In 1911, before the reform revolution era, Dr. Sun Yat – sen was a Chinese revolutionary and political leader. His idea was brought from the West and also, he played an instrumental role in overthrowing the Qing Dynasty in October 1911, the last imperial dynasty of China.<sup>1</sup> Besides, Dr. Sun Yat – sen cited his idea of revolution on three principles: Nationalism, Democracy and Equalization. In fact, these three principles were elevated to the status of basic principles: the Three People's Principles. The first of these held that Chinese government should be in the hands of the Chinese rather

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<sup>1</sup> *Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia*. s.v. “Sun Yat – sen,”  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun\\_Yat-sen](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun_Yat-sen) (accessed January 21, 2010).

than a foreign imperial house. Government should be republican and democratically elected. Finally, disparities in land ownership should be equalized among the people, wealth more evenly distributed, and the social effects of unbridled capitalism and commerce should be mitigated by government.<sup>2</sup> China was suffered from the downturn of Economics in the period of Qing Dynasty. Of all the Chinese dynasties, the Qing was the strongest and most glorious. It was also the last. After flourishing in the 18th century, it fell apart in the 19th. The Qing dynasty could not adjust as new problems arose. Bad harvests, warfare, rebellions, overpopulation, economic disasters, and foreign imperialism contributed to the dynasty's collapse. The fall and collapse of the Qing dynasty was caused by external and internal changes within and outside the dynasty, peasant revolts, the rise of Sun Yat-Sen and overall western influence.<sup>3</sup>

The Qing Imperial Court did attempt to reform the government in various ways, such as the decision to draft a constitution in 1906, the establishment of provincial assemblies and local councils in 1909, and the preparation for a national assembly in 1910. However, many of these measures were opposed by the conservatives of the Qing Court, and many reformers were either imprisoned or executed outright. The failures of the Imperial Court to enact such reforming measures of political liberalization and modernization caused the reformists to steer toward the road of revolution.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Richard Hooker, "Sun Yat – sen," *Modern China*, June 6, 1999, <http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/MODCHINA/SUN.HTM> (accessed January 21, 2010).

<sup>3</sup> Frederick Evans Wakeman, Jr., *Fall of Imperial China* (1975; repr., New York: The Free Press, 1977), 141-153.

<sup>4</sup> *Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia*, s.v. "Democracy in China," [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy\\_in\\_China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Democracy_in_China) (accessed November 22, 2009).

The development of revolutionary during in 1911 – 1949, it can be seen as a slow process. China had lots of internal obstacles and included the pressure from outside as the Western World. This led to a new policy from the Chinese palace to allow Chinese governmental officers contacted with the western world in the century of 19<sup>th</sup>. The aim of this policy was to adjust all the new science and new technology from the Western world into China. However it was adapted only in the big cities in China. At the same time, investors from the Capitalism in China had deeply relationship with the Kuomintang's one-party (1928 - 1949).<sup>5</sup> From Chinese investors action shown that all the investors which came from the Capitalism in China at that period had no authority, no roles to speak out loud for their own benefits, like the rule of law related to lead their benefits which seen as Democracy method. As Cheng and Haggard mentioned in the journal of Democracy that the producers and investors did not play important role to support the democratic law revolutionary as well as political system.<sup>6</sup>

In the complex of Chinese democratic structure, the model of democratization supported economic development in its own country. However it does not exclude the possibility of a catalytic role for economic difficulties and crisis. Besides, one of the reasons that the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)<sup>7</sup> now is working hard to obtain a soft landing for the heated economy, despite rapid development, and to control

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<sup>5</sup> *Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia*, s.v. "History of the Republic of China," [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_the\\_Republic\\_of\\_China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Republic_of_China) (accessed November 22, 2009).

<sup>6</sup> Tu-jen Cheng and Stephen Haggard, "Taiwan in Transition," *Journal of Democracy* 1, no. 2 (Spring 1990): 63 -74.

<sup>7</sup> Bruce Gilley, *China's Democratic Future: How It Will Happen and Where It Should Lead* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2004), 145-251.

rocketing inflation, a volatile stock market and the over heated real estate because of the experience which learnt from the former Soviet Union shows that radical transition triggered by economic crisis may be disastrous for the society. Hence, Chinese major goal for these efforts is to calm down is the restive public and to avoid major social turbulence.

The way to democratize is not easy for the CCP and the international pressure over them also in another hand. The political struggle between the reform group and the conservative group in China will shape the process of democratization. However, whether the reform group can lead a “negotiation pact” transition is likely to be determined by the support of civil society and a democratic political culture. The maturity of civil society and a free, competitive political culture not only provide incentives and support for the reform group to pursue a democratic transition. Series of reforms bring China to the global power stage and China itself has lots sacrifices being taken over its capitalization. China displays an increasingly mature civil society. Despite Chinese strong government control and censorship, there is an ever increasing number of Netizens, Non - Governmental Organizations (NGOs), and Internet blogs in China.<sup>8</sup> A freer media is more inclined to report and investigate sensitive cases and play a supervisory role. Moreover, the public is playing a more active role in overseeing the government and presenting different views on policy making.

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<sup>8</sup> Jie Chen, “Popular Support for Village Self-Government in China: Intensity and Sources,” *Asian Survey* 45, no. 6 (December 2005): 865-885 .

As China has its own history and culture that can't be left in the past. Each evolution presents nation's history and cultural suitability so the word democracy and meaning can vary on how the citizens are comfortable with the liberty and freedom and civil society. It doesn't need to be exactly what western doctrines' idea in forming a democratic state. Moreover, as Keynesian theory says, as long as citizens doesn't demand more over status, as long as peace and prosperity stick to nation state, as long as individuals have satisfaction on own life without worries and risks, we can say the democracy is exists in this nation state. All we can conclude is how this nation will be successfully going on its capitalized democratic way.

In 2010 March, Mr. Li Fei, deputy director of the legislative affairs commission of the standing committee of the National People's Congress, announced that China will not adopt Western - style democracy, marking a rare instance in which a member of the government here openly rejects Western-style liberal political reforms. As he cited as quote that "different countries have different election rules and a socialist China won't follow Western election campaigns."<sup>9</sup>

The Chinese system generally reinforces the rule of the Chinese Communist Party, which has governed the country in an authoritarian manner since 1949, when it won the civil war. Many Western scholars have said elections at local levels have not given voters true alternatives to the Communist Party. After the amendment to the main electoral law on March 14. The amendment reportedly gives rural residents the

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<sup>9</sup> Edward Wong, "Official in China Says Western – Style Democracy Won't Take Root There," Asia Pacific, *New York Time*, March 20, 2010, <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/03/21/world/asia/21china.html> (accessed March 21, 2010).

same rights in selecting representatives to the National People's Congress as residents in cities.

To sum up, the decision for the election from the Chinese government was seen as the most important step for successful democratization in the eyes of rural area villagers, in addition, the promotion of intra-party democracy by Hu and Wen also signals a positive trend in China's elite oriented, top-down, democratic transition in the future, although many uncertainties exist.