

terior of rooms visited, the food and drink being served, his living accommodations, his travels by train, plane, auto, and sedan chair, the cities where he worked—Shanghai, Nanking, Kuling—Chinese life and psychology, custom and usage, and, of course, the events of the conflict, the policies and objectives of the protagonists, and his own views and criticisms.

Although Beal went to China, he admits, infected with the then prevailing impression in the United States that Chinese Communists were “agrarian reformers,” the regime of Chiang Kai-shek “corrupt and inefficient,” the experience of “seeing for himself” during a year and a half of direct involvement in the complexities of the situation led him to the realization that Chinese Communists were indeed Comintern Communists, as Chiang well knew, and to the recognition that though the regime was inefficient its leaders were not corrupt but hard working capable men who, he implies, could have achieved victory over the Communists and the inflationary economic situation had the United States not cut off arms and financial aid to them. Furthermore, as the meeting of the National Assembly approached in November 1946, Beal became convinced that Marshall’s mission was failing and that there would be no Communist-Kuomintang coalition, convictions which proved out when Chou En-lai and the Communists made clear to Marshall that they no longer wanted his mediation, and thus brought the mission to an end in failure.

Marshall departed in January 1947 to become United States Secretary of State. Beal remained for several months after the expiration of his contract, at the request of Chiang. Beal wanted to see completed the reorganization of the National government which he had followed with sympathetic understanding during the meetings of the National Assembly, meetings which he recorded. In summer he returned with his family to the States.

A fine introduction to the book by Mr. Robert Murphy gives recognition to the

significance of Beal’s account as a contribution to the literature on Marshall and to the critical study of U. S. foreign policy then and now. Perhaps Mr. Beal has more diaries he will expose to the light of publicity in due course. If so, they will be worth waiting for.

Reviewed by HENRY M. ADAMS

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## *The Chinese Nation*

**The Strenuous Decade: China’s Nation-Building Efforts, 1927-37**, edited by Paul K. T. Sih, *Jamaica, N.Y.:* St. John’s University Press, 1970. xxi + 385 pp. \$10.00.

THERE HAS BEEN an ever-increasing interest in studies of Chinese history since the Communist occupation of the mainland in 1949, an interest reflected in the large number of publications in this field that have appeared in the last two decades. We are often informed of the political strength of the Communist government and its importance in world politics, of the scientific progress under the Maoist regime and its achievements in modernization. Many have been led to believe that it is Communism that has built the Chinese nation and given it its firm foothold in the world as a major power. At the same time the notion has been spread that the Nationalist government was corrupt, ineffectual, and that it never succeeded in strengthening the country or winning the confidence of the people. Such beliefs are biased, dangerous and above all inaccurate and unintelligent.

In his introduction to the volume under review, Professor Sih points out that

Present-day China, like many other countries, can be comprehended only in

the light of its past. The nation-building efforts made by the Nationalist government, particularly in the political and economic fields, bore profound and far-reaching consequences in the years that followed.

To provide a historical study of the activities of the Nationalist government from 1927 to 1937, St. John's University, as part of its Centennial Year celebration, sponsored a ten-day symposium on modern China, organized by Dr. Sih and attended by prominent scholars and experts. Most of the participants had made direct or indirect contributions to the nation-building program, so that the proceedings provide valuable and original sources for research into modern Chinese history. Dr. Sih's introduction includes a comprehensive outline of the modernization process between 1894 and 1945.

The subjects covered include the international situation of China in the years before 1927, the subsequent political reconstruction, the modernization of currency and banking, the new economic and agricultural policies, the program of railroad construction, and the educational reforms. The symposiasts attest to the successful efforts at modernization in these various fields; a conspicuous example is the organization of the fiscal and revenue systems described by Dr. Poe. Even more impressive is the evidence relating to railroad construction and the formulation of a new educational program. All the symposiasts appear to agree that the only reason that some of the nation-building activity had to be left unfinished was the outbreak of the Japanese war in 1937.

Informative statistical tables occur throughout the book, and at the end there is an excellent chronology of the ten-year period from which the reader may gather a knowledge of the manifold external and internal problems confronting the Nationalist government and its successes in coping with them. As in all such symposia, the contributions represent differing varieties of

specialization, differing phases of scholarship and therefore differing levels of interest for individual readers. This disadvantage, however, is largely removed by the commentaries that follow each paper, so that the necessarily heterogeneous discussions are wrought into a comprehensive whole.

This book sheds much new light on Nationalist China and should force the fair-minded reader to a reevaluation of the Nationalist government. It presents new materials, especially in the fields of political and ideological history, and above all, new ideas relating to issues of paramount importance. It belongs in the library of every historian and every serious student of Chinese affairs.

Reviewed by HELEN KU

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### *Roots of Conservatism*

**The Conservative Tradition in European Thought:** an anthology selected and edited by Robert Schuettinger, *New York: G. Putnam's Sons, 1970. 385 pp. \$6.95.*

FOR MANY YEARS there has existed a need for an anthology in English as well as for a historical survey which would give a comprehensive view of the entire range of conservative political thought in Europe. Russell Kirk's *The Conservative Mind from Burke to Eliot* has provided a definitive history of the variety and development of conservative thought in Great Britain and the United States, while Peter Viereck's *Conservatism from John Adams to Churchill* has provided an intentionally abbreviated and introductory coverage to the same areas. In popular studies confined exclusively to American conservative thought, William