

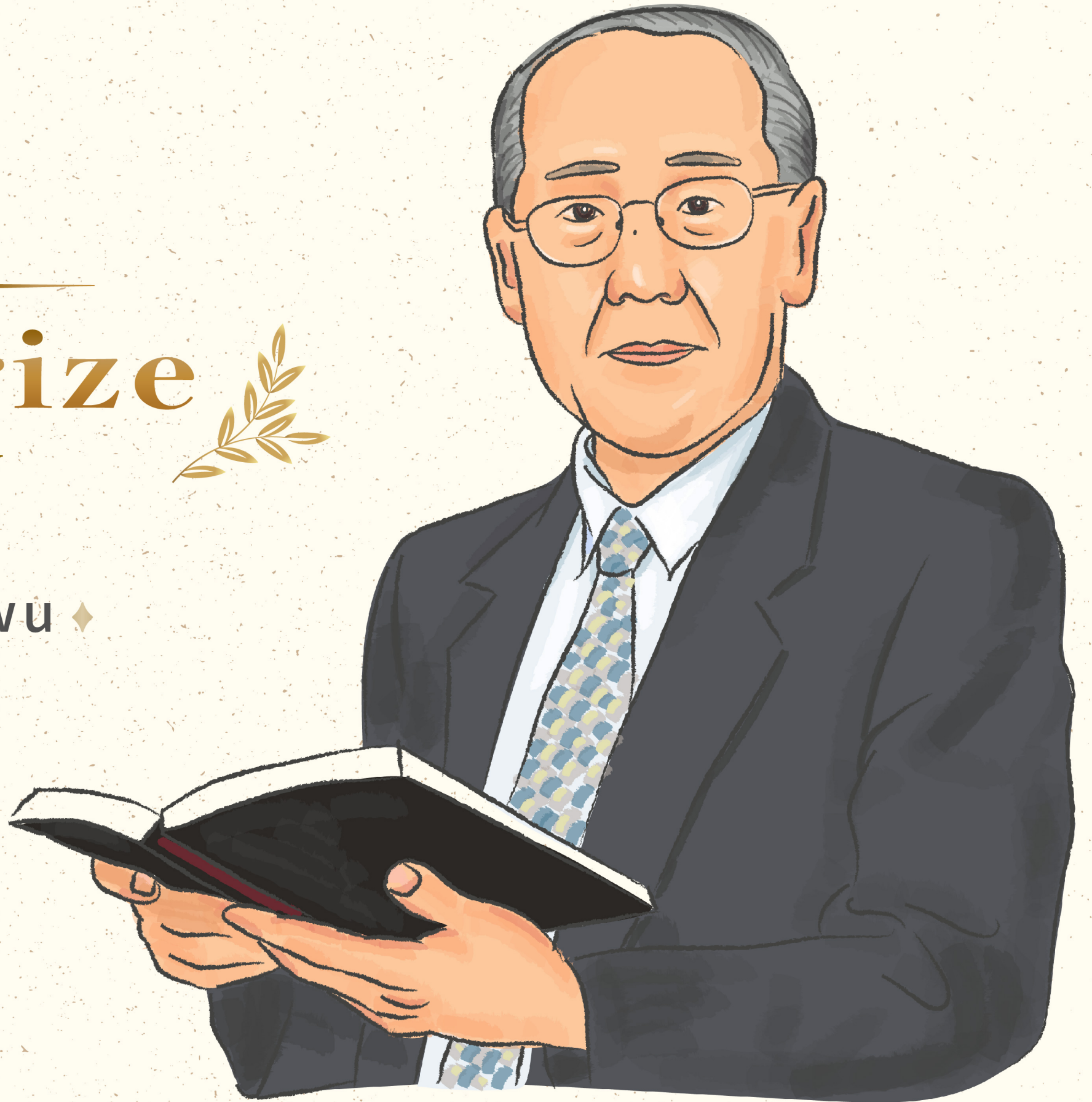


— • 2020 • —

Tang Prize

SINOLOGY

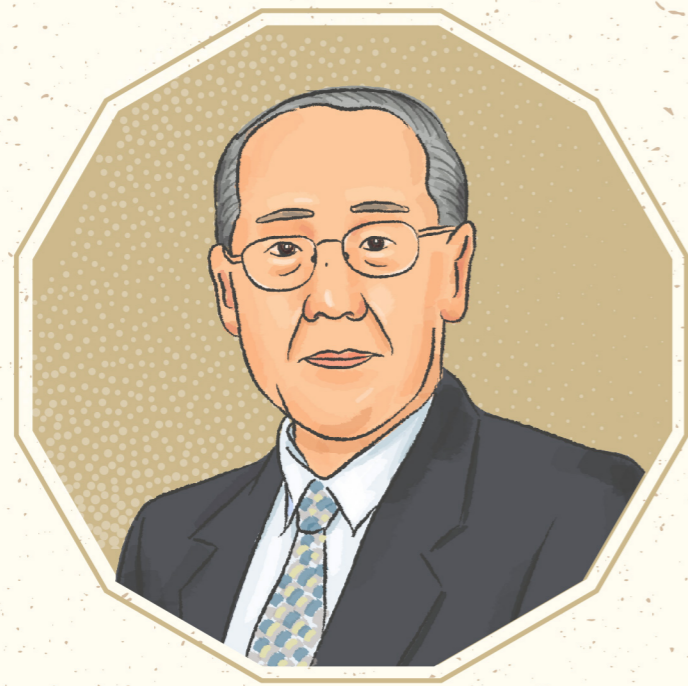
◆ Wang Gungwu ◆



Why the Tang Prize in Sinology is Awarded to Wang Gungwu

Leading historian on Sino-Southeast Asian relations, Wang Gungwu pioneered the unique approach of understanding China by scrutinizing its long and complex relation with its southern neighbors. His trailblazing approach parts ways with the traditional internalist and Western perspectives to carve out a new path that significantly enriched the explanation of the Chinese people's changing place in the world.

The Doyen of Chinese Overseas Studies



Embodies three scholarly personae:

1. Sinological historian
2. Pundit of Malaysian affairs
3. Expert on the Nanyang Chinese

An insider in Chinese Confucian culture and British academic tradition

Born in Surabaya (Dutch East Indies) and was educated in Ipoh, Malaya and London; his scholarly Chinese parents taught him Confucian classics at home

Outside looking in: Unique vantage point for interpreting China

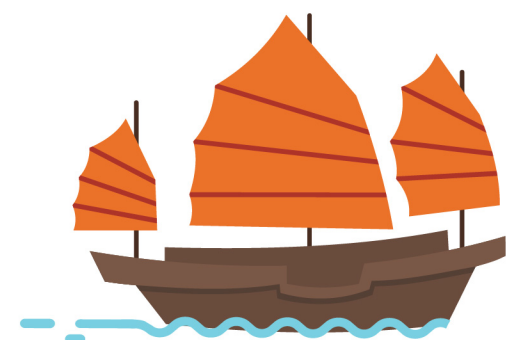
Established his academic career in Malaya, Australia, Hong Kong, and Singapore and published extensively in English

World authority on China studies and Chinese migration



China: Outside Looking In

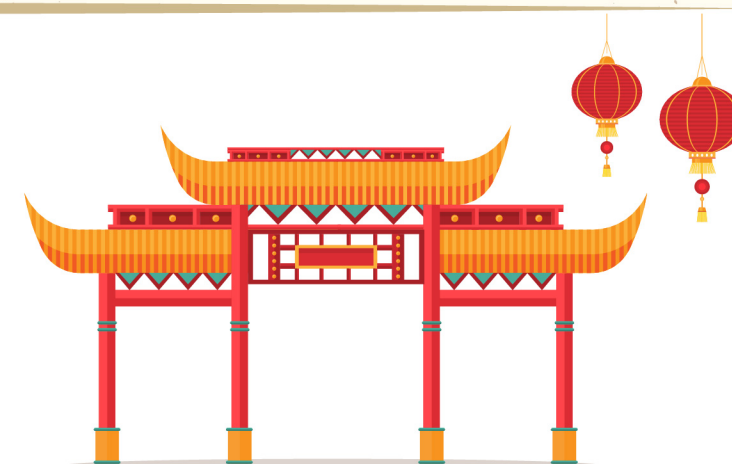
His research integrates critical issues tackled by the concept of globalization before the term was coined and made popular:



• Nanhai (South China Sea) trade •



• Sino-Southeast Asian relations and history of Southeast Asia •

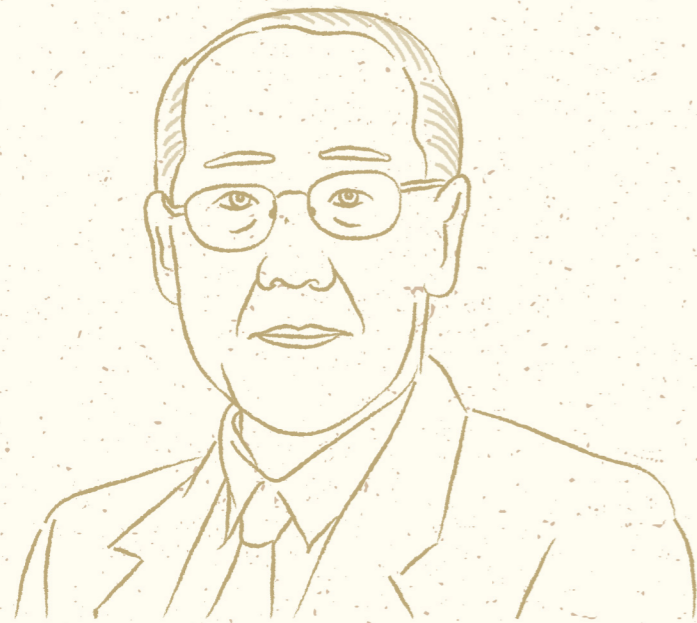


• Chinese overseas and trade routes •



• Chinese world order •

Chinese Overseas: Multiplicity of Identities



Wang Gungwu proposed using “**Chinese overseas**” to refer to everyone of Chinese descent living outside—replacing politicized terms such as *huaqiao* and diaspora to account for diverse perspectives, experiences, and values of Chinese communities.



When temporary becomes “permanent”:

Qiao (sojourner)

a journey or temporary stay—temporarily inhabit a place other than one’s homeland



Qiaoju (sojourning)

temporary residence—can be extended and even last a lifetime



Four Categories of Migration

Huashang (trader)

merchants, artisans
(miners, skilled workers)



Huagong (coolie)

peasants, landless
laborers, urban poor



Huaqiao (sojourner/ Chinese overseas)

historically associated with
revolution and nationalism;
now used generally to refer
to Chinese nationals living
in a foreign country



Huayi (descendants of Chinese)

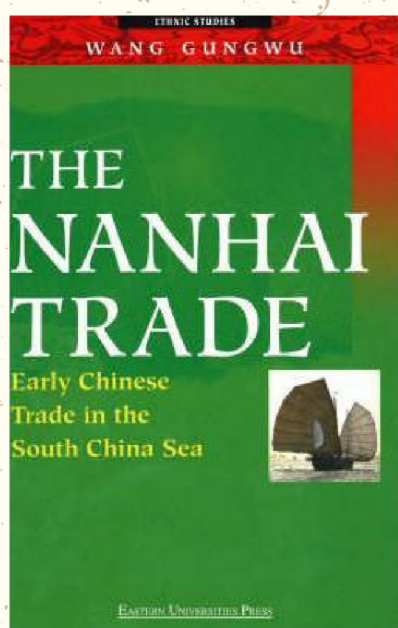
local nationals of
Chinese descent



- His insightful categories culled from historical analysis offered a conceptual lens for scholars to attempt to surpass the poverty of language to convey the richness and complexity of reality.

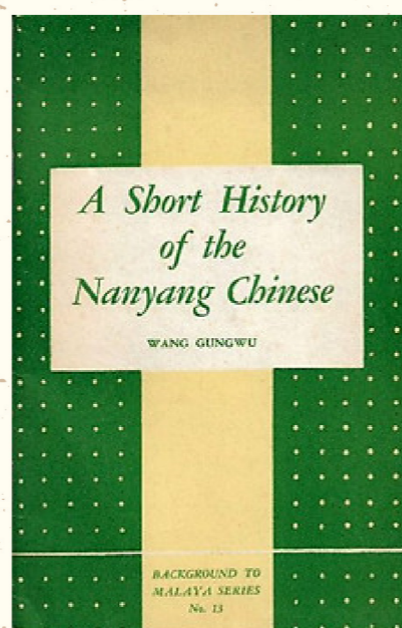
Blazing New Trails: Monographs are Classics in the Field

The Nanhai Trade



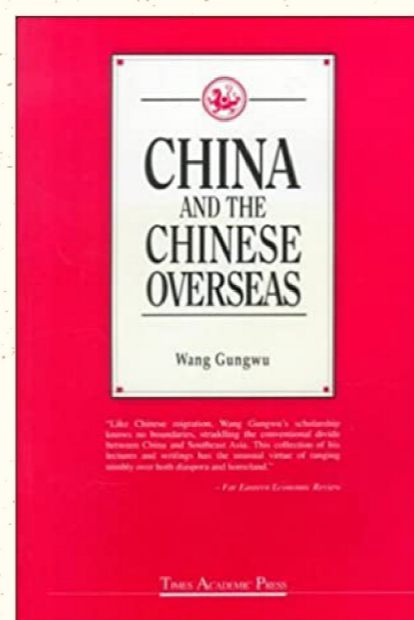
A must read for students of economic history of China and Southeast Asia

A Short History of the Nanyang Chinese

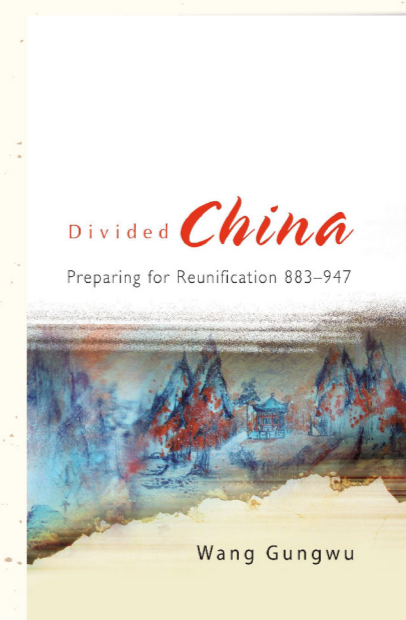


Pioneered the conceptual framework for studying Chinese overseas

China and the Chinese Overseas



Divided China: Preparing for Reunification 883-947



Innovative insights on the evolution of *tianxia* and structure of power in the Five Dynasties, which serves as the foundation for modern discussion on Chinese world order

- Wang Gungwu's works are fundamental references for research in the fields of Chinese history, Chinese overseas, Sino-Southeast Asia relations, and maritime trade. He has inspired and mentored countless scholars in these fields.