ABSTRACT

Lu Wenfu (陆文夫) is one of the most creative and accomplished authors in contemporary China. He was forced to stop his writing career during the Cultural Revolution. This ten-year trauma was a big blow to Lu Wenfu. As a result, after the fall of the Gang of Four (四人帮), he produced a large number of stories to criticise and repudiate this great calamity.

The scope of this academic exercise concerns only Lu Wenfu's fiction dealing with China's Cultural Revolution as its theme. It attempts to make a thorough study so as to revive interest in it and to affirm Lu Wenfu's achievement and status in the modern literary world.

This exercise consists of seven chapters. The introductory chapter shows the important status Lu Wenfu has gained in China's literary world. Chapter 2 provides information regarding Lu Wenfu's life. Chapter 3 discusses his literary pursuits which he himself regards as "Three times ascent, two times descent" (三起两落). Chapter 4 briefly introduces his six significant Cultural Revolution stories. Chapters 5 and 6 investigate the main themes and artistry of his work. The final chapter evaluates his Cultural Revolution fiction and confirms his status as a great fictionist.

As this topic is a first attempt at critically evaluating Lu Wenfu's fiction, it is hoped that it will stimulate readers' and future scholars' interests in this genre or contemporary literary work.