The Cultural Revolution can be considered one of the historic events in China. The ten years of cultural re-evaluation not only brought sufferings to the people but also greatly affected the political and economic life of the country.

Liu Xinwu is a writer who rose to fame shortly after the Cultural Revolution for his thorough criticism of the unhealthy influence brought about by the "Gang of Four".

Zhong Gu Lou is one of his most well-known literary works. Deeply critical of the values and thoughts of the Cultural Revolution, Zhong Gu Lou, also reflects the societal and family values of the ordinary Chinese. Furthermore, Zhong Gu Lou is unique in its style and artistry: fifty characters are incorporated into just twelve hours of story time and just one story venue.

This thesis is a comprehensive study of the novel, focusing on the themes, character study and artistry. Liu Xinwu's biography, his collection of works as well as criticism of the novel by other scholars are taken into account.

As Liu Xinwu has been presented several literary awards, his contribution to contemporary Chinese writing is indeed significant.