ABSTRACT

The Political Thoughts of Carsun Chang

China after the Opium War (1840 AD) saw a swift and violent surge of political revolutionary fervour amidst the intrusion of Western powers. In order for the country to survive, many intellectuals embarked on a quest for equal international standing and a re-birth of national confidence. As a reformer, Carsun Chang (张君劢) devoted himself actively in the cause of radical constitutional reform. This thesis is a comprehensive study of his political thoughts.

The first chapter provides an overview of the trend of thought during that transitional era. Chapter 2 discusses Carsun Chang’s democratic thought with reference to his compromised agreement towards excessive liberalism and executive power. Chapter 3 examines his views of Chinese nationalism. Viewed as a pioneer responsible for the establishment of the Constitution of the Republic of China, Chapter 4 attempts a thorough examination of his constitutional thoughts. The concluding chapter reveals that Car스n Chang was an ardent advocate of parliamentary government despite believing that technocracy is a key leading to a strong government.

For modernization and constitutional reforms, Carsun Chang, more than anybody else, had helped to provide a systematic and practical political structure to China.