ABSTRACT

This honours thesis focuses on the approach Qian Mu (1895-1990) embarked on towards the restoration and renewal of culturalism in modern China, from a historian’s perspective. This is unique to this area of study.

Qian Mu is part of the generation who experienced the era in which China took off on a dramatic turnover in both political and cultural climates. Unlike those Chinese intellectuals who turned to Western Enlightenment ideas and rejected cultural values of the Chinese past, Qian Mu tried to reconstruct traditional values.

The present study has narrowed down to an attempt to explore Qian Mu’s efforts in rebuilding Chinese Culture and to evaluate his standpoint in contemporary intellectual history through the comparison and discussion of different schools of academic research findings on Qian Mu’s thoughts. This is a newly attempted field of research regarding the unveiling of the mentalities and lines of thought of modern intellectuals who dealt with Qian Mu’s views on the restoration of culturalism.

I have noted a special characteristic on the nature of the approach which Qian Mu had carried through his life. It is the display of the aspects of a fox, in contrast to a hedgehog. The implications disclose the elements of traditional values that had been deep-rooted in Qian Mu’s thoughts. This analogy will provide an answer to the arguments revolving Qian Mu’s identity as a historian or a philosopher.

Hopefully, with the presentation of present day research done on Qian Mu’s thoughts, due recognition could be given to him for his efforts in the renewal of beliefs in culturalism.