Abstract

Guo Moruo (郭沫若, 1892-1978) is probably one of the most versatile writers among contemporary Chinese writers. He had devoted his entire life to Chinese literature and politics. He had made literary contributions in diverse fields: poetry, historical drama, fiction, autobiography, translation, archeology and cultural history.

This academic exercise aims to present a study of the spirit and substance of Guo Moruo's historical drama written between 1923 and 1960, which includes the May Fourth Movement, the anti-Japanese war period and the early Communist Period.

Structurally, this academic exercise consists of seven chapters. The introductory chapter is a brief description of Guo Moruo's historical drama, followed by the approach adopted for this study.

Chapter two deals with the relationship between the background of Guo Moruo's historical drama and his own era and shows how he had successfully merged them into one entity.

Chapter three introduces the theory of Guo Moruo's historical drama and deals with sources from which the historical drama was derived.

The following chapter focuses on Guo Moruo's tragic historical drama and its themes of positive significance, while chapter five provides a detailed
examination of the sources and notions of romanticism and realism in his plays.

Chapter six emphasizes the unique role and image of women characters in his historical drama. The final chapter, by way of a summary, concludes the whole study.

This study shows how Guo Moruo had in substance successfully merged romanticism, realism and tragedy in his historical drama, with a creative spirit of making the past serve the present, and of cautioning the present against evil deeds with historical events of the past.

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