ABSTRACT

Hu Yuzhi (胡愈之) was one of several remarkable journalists in the Singapore Chinese media during the 1940s. He was the chief editor of two leading Chinese newspapers, namely Nanyang Siang Pau (南洋商报) and Nan Chiau Jit Pao (南侨日报), as well as the founder and chief-editor of Below The Wind (风下), a very successful weekly magazine of his times. During his stay in Singapore, Hu Yuzhi had written more than 600 editorials and commentaries. However, these editorials and commentaries have never been systematically analysed. This academic exercise thus aims to provide a comprehensive study of the contents and views of these articles.

Recently, some studies have shown that Hu Yuzhi had been a communist since 1933, and was sent by the Communist Party of China to Singapore in 1940. Nevertheless, in Hu Yuzhi's articles, he always claimed that he was a non-partisan. This academic exercise, therefore, also attempts to investigate his political stand and mission here.

Chapter one of this academic exercise deals with the aims and scope of the study. Chapter two traces the reasons for his coming to Singapore, and discusses his activities here. Chapter three provides a quantitative analysis of the contents of his editorials and commentaries, and highlights the issues and the countries which he was interested in. Chapters four and five examine how Hu Yuzhi's editorials and commentaries viewed or responded to selected international and local issues relating to politics, economics, society and culture. Chapter six, the concluding chapter, gives the findings of this academic exercise.

There are two main findings in this academic exercise. Firstly, Hu Yuzhi had paid much attention on political issues, mainly due to the unstable political situation during the forties. Secondly, although Hu Yuzhi claimed that he was a non-partisan, one of his intentions here was to spread communism.