SUMMARY

This dissertation comprises five chapters. The main points of each chapter are as follows:

Chapter one highlights the purpose of the dissertation which is to examine how correlative thinking emerged and its development in China. In addition, the scope of the dissertation and the source of material used are also discussed.

Chapter two is made up of three components. Various famous western sinologists' definition of correlative thinking is delineated. Their different in-depth perspectives are examined. Finally, the term “Correlative Thinking” is defined more precisely.

In chapter three, the process through which correlative thinking developed into a mature and large thinking system from the Shang Dynasty to Early Han Dynasty is discussed.

Chapter four mainly focuses on the different effects of correlative
thinking in ancient time and the contemporary world.

Chapter five is a conclusion. Although "Correlative Thinking" is not familiar to us, this thinking system dated back to ancient time of China when it emerged as Yin-Yang Wu-Hsing. As pointed out in this dissertation.

Yin-Yang Wu-Hsing forms only part of the system of correlative thinking. Moreover, it is noted that the impact of correlative thinking is one of the reasons resulting in the immaturity of modern science. Correlative thinking has become the mainstream thinking since the establishment of the Early Han Dynasty. In this dissertation, the various misconceptions of correlative thinking by the sinologists are pointed out. The proper concepts of correlative thinking are then presented.