ABSTRACT

This thesis focuses on the various activities of Kang Yu Wei during his exile in Singapore and Malaya (February 1900 - May 1911) after his Reform Movement was derailed by the Empress Dowager in late 1898. It analyses three major issues as follows:

1 Exile Life
To reconstruct the exile life of Kang Yu Wei in Singapore and Malaya, tracing the time and location of each of his trips to these places and recapturing his daily activities as much as possible in order to present a composite picture of Kang Yu Wei’s exile life in Singapore and Malaya.

2 Political Activities
To probe into the political activities of Kang Yu Wei during his exile in Singapore and Malaya and to determine their impacts. Of these activities, Kang’s “Saving The Emperor Movement”, his military scheme to topple Empress Dowager, his rebuttal of Dr Sun Yat Sen’s political feelers (eventually leading to the arrest of Dr Sun’s emissaries and their deportation with Dr Sun by the Singapore Colonial Government) and his relation with Khoo Seok Wan were analyzed and given new interpretation.

3 Literary and Philosophical Works
Kang Yu Wei’s poems, philosophy works and the speeches written in and given to the overseas Chinese in Singapore and Malaya during his exile in Singapore and Malaya were studied in depth. The impact of Kang’s ideology on the overseas Chinese in Singapore and Malaya was also emphasized.