

是時候該將繁體及簡體漢字統一了

現今漢字的使用形式主要有簡體字與繁體字兩種，前者使用於中國大陸、新加坡、馬來西亞等地，而後者則使用於台灣、香港、澳門和相當一部分海外的中文報刊。面臨近年來客觀世界局勢的變化，漢字的形式應該如何調整來最好的適應各種變化是個非常值得討論的議題。

我們首先來看看有哪些因素須予以重視：

一· 中國大陸國力不斷提升，以購買力平價（PPP）統計的國民總生產值（GDP）在2013年便已超過美國，成為世界第一。這幾年軍事實力亦不斷提升，現今沒有任何國家敢於侵犯中國。中國在世界事務上的影響力與日俱增，很多國家會把中文列為必修的第二國語文，最近就有沙地阿拉伯和俄羅斯兩國，中文文字不統一將造成一定的混淆。

二· 台海兩岸的統一可能在幾年之內就會實現，文字的统一將大大促進兩岸人民的了解與友好。

三· 中華文化的傳承有賴於文字，文言文古典文學的傳承更有賴於對傳統繁體字的使用。

四· 五零年代中國大陸的識字率僅為10%左右的人口，為了提高國民教育水平而實行簡化漢字（簡體字）的使用是有必要的。如今中國大陸的識字人口已超過97%，簡體字的歷史任務是否已經完成？

五· 現今的數字技術進步，用電

◎佟秉宇

腦或手機輸入漢字大部分人用拼音方法，甚至用口述直接形成文字的軟件來書寫，筆畫的多少已不再是屏障。

民國初年的中國社會因百多年來國家的衰弱，受列強欺辱，極端缺乏民族與文化自信，反映在語言上就有魯迅認為“漢字不滅，中國必亡”，並認為“漢字是愚民政策的利器”，是“勞苦大眾身上的結核”，“倘不先除去它，結果只有自己死。”魯迅臨終前接受《救亡情報》記者訪問時指出：“漢字的艱深使大多數的人民永遠和前進的文化隔離，中國的人民絕不會聰明起來，理解自身所遭受的壓榨，理解整個民族的危機。”這些學者們忘記了中國在1820年以前一直是世界經濟最繁榮發達的國家，有著世界最高的國民生產總值（GDP）嗎？

在二十世紀初受蘇聯的影響，中國有不少學者和政治領導人物認為漢字必須拉丁化。毛澤東最早在1940年指出：“文字必須在一定條件下加以改革，言語必須接近民眾。”中華人民共和國建立後，在1956年中國討論文字改革的時候他說：“漢字是一種落後的字體，必須要改革成像拉丁文那樣，方便學習及辨識”，以使其能夠符合他救國的思想。所幸拼音日後只被用為標註發音的工具，漢字在中國大陸仍然以簡體

字的形式保留下來。

簡體字經過六十多年的實行，在提高中國人民識字率方面已做出相當的貢獻，如今大陸人民的識字率已高於97%，但在此同時也提高了現今七十歲以下的人對古文閱讀的難度，影響了中華文化的傳承，以及增加了對未來漢字改進的接受程度。

2017年我曾在中美論壇206期書寫“書同文，車同軌，行同倫”一文，提出關於繁體與簡體需統一的問題，其中幾段文字值得再度強調：

但凡關心中華文化發展而又對傳統繁體漢字與今日廣為使用的簡體漢字有一定認識的人，想必會認識到華文文字統一的必要性。在當前台海兩岸面臨統一的大環境下，對華文文字的梳理也有其緊迫性，文字的統一在一定程度上會減低交流的障礙，促進兩岸人民的相互理解。

大陸實施的漢字簡化的過程包括了兩個方面：

- 某些繁體漢字筆畫的減少如：
國 → 囯；廠 → 厂；
產 → 产；樂 → 乐
愛 → 爱；親 → 亲；
鄉 → 乡；兒 → 儿
運 → 运；開 → 开；
飛 → 飞；導 → 导
- 合併數個繁體字為一個簡體字，如：
幹，乾，干（干預）→ 干



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推進中美相互瞭解合作 促成海峽兩岸和平統一 倡導和諧平等多元世界

後面，皇后 → 后面，皇后
漢奸，強姦 → 汉奸，强奸
志向，日誌 → 志向，日志
公里，裡外，裏外 →
公里，裡外，里外
雲霧，不知所云 →
云霧，不知所云
制度，製造 → 制度，制造
特徵，征戰 → 特征，征战
板栗，不寒而慄 →
板栗，不寒而栗
等等，不一而足。

筆畫的減少讓書寫快捷方便了許多，即便有人批評愛裏沒了心（愛），親人不見面如何親（親），但這些心理障礙克服起來相對容易。然而數個繁體字用一個簡體字來替代的簡化方法，筆者實在不敢苟同。文字語言的發展趨勢應該是越來越細密，能夠表達及分辨出些微不同意義或概念，而不是將不同的意義概念籠統的歸併在一個字上。上面所舉的例子中，繁體的乾媽就會變成簡體的干媽，但干

字又在簡體字中可理解為繁體字的幹，干媽變幹媽，實在不雅。另外，簡體字庫中仍有不少筆畫多的字，例如：壑，贏，酸，塾，等等。

筆者建議在漢文統一的改革中起碼應做到：

簡體字與繁體字必須能一對一對應起來，而不是一個簡體字對應幾個繁體字，也就是說，簡體字庫與繁體字庫字數相等。也有朋友指出意義重複的繁體字如砲、炮、礮等，亦可由炮一字取代。

中華文化重和平而不重鬥爭的特質在現今紛擾的世界裏顯得格外可貴，有效的中華文化的傳承與傳播有賴於文字的统一與優化，這是涉及到加速中華文化復興與世界和平的大事，希望有關各方予以高度重視，以期早日實現。優化後的中文也會促進兩岸三地人民間的交流與融合，為中華民族的偉大復興帶來更好的明天！

國家例外特優主義與新世界秩序

隨著2023年接近尾聲，評論家們紛紛對過去進行回顧，並在各個方面（經濟、社會問題、生活方式等）展望未來，但不可避免地，國家政治和國際秩序還是特為突出，特別是鑒於即將到來的2024年美國總統選舉。哈佛大學的約瑟夫·S·奈教授最近在澳大利亞戰略政策研究所（ASPI，因其對中國持有偏見而使澳大利亞與中國陷入外交困境而使人注意）發表了一篇引人思考的文章，題為《2024年的美國例外特優主義》（American Exceptionalism in 2024）。奈教授選擇在文章標題中包含2024年，並在ASPI發表，或許是為了在2023年12月17日（時間戳記），通知國際觀眾他的新書《在美國世紀的一生》將於2024年1月由Polity Press出版。我喜歡讀奈教授的文章，儘管他只在最後提到了2024年選舉，沒有進行深入的討論。作者認為，奈教授在拜登陣營試圖保持現有秩序和特朗普追隨者試圖破壞它的觀點是正確的，但與國家例外特優主義相關的因果關係有待澄清。在本文中，作者希望討論這種聯繫。

要討論今天的國際秩序，瞭解美國例外特優主義是必要的，但不足夠，除非延伸到對‘國家例外特優主義’的理解（National Exceptionalism）。正如奈教授引用法國知識份子斯坦利·霍夫曼所說：“每個國家都認為自己是獨一無二的，法國和美國以為它們的價值觀是普世的。”（例外！特優！），作者認為世上存在‘國家’例外特優主義（不只美國或法國），它將在影響國際秩序方面發揮作用。廣義上說，國家例外特優主義，以美國例外特優主義為例，通過洗腦（媒體、好萊塢、教科書等），通過信仰深化（宗教+上帝選民，各種理論如種族主義和殖民主義等），以及通過國家力量如經濟力量、軍事力量和技术力量在現實中會產生深遠影響。美國例外特優主義與法國例外特優主義之間的相似性和差異可以追溯到它們的歷史、宗教、種族

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主義和文化，所有這些都發揮了作用，但國家力量在兩次世界大戰之後產生了明顯的差異（和後果）。英國、德國和日本都有他們的例外特優主義，受到上述因素的影響，但在不同的時階段，譬如海軍力量（對英國）、工業紀律（對德國）和模仿能力（對日本，模仿卓越）都強化了他們的國家例外特優主義。這在今日日本在其國家例外特優主義中產生了複雜（和受折磨的）感覺。

奈教授指出，“美國人可能希望相信他們的國家是一股善的力量”（奈教授的引言），但美國的外交政策和行為卻表現出虛偽。由於其強大的力量，自二戰以來，美國的外交政策對國際秩序產生了巨大的影響。奈教授評論說，如果希特勒或史達林贏得了戰爭，世界將會截然不同。如今，無論美國人是否願意承認，美國的力量正在相對地下降。大多數美國政治家更願意將其原因歸咎於中國的崛起，而不是美國對其國內和國際事務的處理不善。在客觀的分析中，我們可以看到中國人也認為他們是獨特的。中國有著悠久的歷史（遠遠超過法國和美國的歷史）。在其漫長的歷史中，中國曾經吸納了許多種族（但非侵略而是被侵略），因此種族主義在中國例外特優主義中並沒有起到重要作用。美國擁有巨大的土地（豐富的資源）和地緣政治優勢（被兩個海洋和兩個弱國包圍），而中國相反有14個令人頭疼的鄰國。當美國成為世界上最大的經濟體時，它考慮的是它的全球力量（Global Power），而中國從最貧困的國家崛起為世界第二大經濟體時，它考慮的是共同繁榮和共同發展。中國的國家例外特優主義來自於其輝煌的歷史（保持其自豪感）和在艱苦中的忍耐和勤奮的倫理，而不是像其它國家被軍事力量或宗教信仰所鼓吹。

奈教授評論說，在歷史上（美

國），孤立主義（及門羅主義）在‘全球力量’（Global Power）之前就存在。直到1917年，伍德羅·威爾遜總統派遣了兩百萬軍隊前往歐洲，才使美國成為全球大國。那時，中國政府和軍事非常微弱，別無選擇，只能接受美國調停日俄戰爭，迫使中國放棄主權，使俄羅斯和日本停火。美國的行為中沒有正義，只有全球力量的博弈。如今，中國憑藉經濟實力和軍事力量崛起。美國是否將繼續奉行其全球力量的外交政策，還是進行真正誠實的現實主義力量分析以接受現實呢？確實，美國仍然是第一大國，但其“美國優先”（America First）的

An Overview of Dr. Keyu Jin's Book "The New China Playbook Beyond Socialism and Capitalism"

Timothy Yu

I first heard of this book through a YouTube piece on an interview of the author by a reporter from the Washington Post. I was impressed by this very articulate young London School of Economics professor opining on the Chinese model of political economy and a host of other economic issues. As most book launches go, the interview centered more on her view on related current events rather than the details of her book. It piqued my interest to find out more: about how she advanced her points; what interesting stories/examples she cites; and whether the book is easy to read. Needless to say, I was also intrigued about her background: was she from China? Taiwan? Hong Kong? ABC? At that time, around late June 2023, there were long holds on her book at local libraries, suggesting it was a popular book. So, I purchased an audiobook. Not only is it timely, but the book is also a gem, a real treat, and a pleasant read.

So first, a few words about her background. She was born in Beijing in the 1980s. Her father was a high official in the China banking system (among the first to enter university after working as a laborer during the Cultural Revolution). She came to the US in 1997 as an exchange student, attending high school in Bronx, New York. With a BS and Ph.D. from Harvard, she is currently an economics professor at the London School of Economics.

Since she arrived in the US, she has often been asked questions such as when will China become a democracy and others. She found most prevalent Western perspectives on the rise of China are often simplistic, not well-informed, or even misinformed. The majority perceive China as going down, or its growth will end in disaster unless it adopts Western values and changes its economic and political system. Others regard China's rise as a threat. In the book, Dr. Jin presented a more nuanced, data/evidence-based picture debunking much of these Western viewpoints. She illustrated the Chinese system, which is effective, adaptable to changes, and widely accepted by its citizens. There is no turning back.

Dr. Jin argues that China's old economic playbook is based on GDP growth while the new playbook relies on innovation and technology, aiming at an orderly, regulated, monitored growth that is environmentally friendly and provides a better quality of life for its citizens. She described what she termed political economy, a centralized political and decentralized economic system that is

unique to China. She documented how this system enabled the miraculous growth of the Chinese economy. She discussed how the three principal agents - the state, the firm (including entrepreneurs), and consumers - interact under this system; how this creates or enables checks and balances within this system, along the way, she explains how the political centralization-economic decentralization system incentivized the mayor economy which fostered thriving local economies; why state-owned enterprise (SOE) is not what's portrayed in the West media; how history/culture makes the norm of accepting/trusting government leaders/decisions; and the impact of the one-child policy on the economy and the new generation.

The book covers other economic issues such as the household saving rate, the housing bubble, the stock market, rapid development of green industries such as electrical vehicle (EV), shadow banking, the financial system, the technology race as well as China's role in global trade and the global financial stage. She pointed out pitfalls and risks of the China model such as at times some policies may linger longer than necessary, causing adverse effects. She contended the biggest challenge or unknown is whether China can escape the middle-income trap and success in doing so will validate the China model. All in all, this is a positive, optimistic book, well-researched and documented with examples, statistics, charts, tables, footnotes, and citations. Above all, it is easy to read and follow.

I particularly appreciate her assessment of the new generation, of which, she is a member. She described how the one-child policy has inadvertently fostered a new generation that is better educated, more confident, more tolerant, and more willing to spend. While still rooted in Chinese culture and history, the new generation is also more clear-headed about Western democracy vs what China has accomplished. Unleashing the spending habits of this new generation has the potential to create a significant stimulus to the economy. Being more familiar with multi-cultures and more tolerant, they are better equipped to bridge the gap among different world viewpoints. There is high hope for a bright future for China.

A side note: No doubt this book and Dr. Jin's other professional dealings have contributed to a better understanding of the US and China. She came to the US in 1997 and flourished to be an accomplished economist, an endeavor that's almost impossible under the current political climate. A case for cooperation/peaceful co-existence? An "indictment" for sanction/big power hegemonism?

From 2023 to 2024 - A Forward-Looking US-China Relations

2023 was eventful, to say the least from an international relations point of view. There are plenty of highlights for news media to review. But there are many important news that were under-reported which would not top the year-end review lists of the mainstream media. When a columnist writes a year-end review for the organic viewers, one of the struggles is what to include in the organic list. The challenge is that if the column's selected list is identical or similar to the mainstream media's lists, the comments on the listed items cannot echo the mainstream narratives to appear boring and repetitive. If the selected list contains items missed or neglected by the mainstream media, this column runs the risk of being tossed away as an irrelevant review. This is the reason that this author writes this introduction and requests readers' attention to read beyond the sub-title headings to find their organic views. The following is a review of 2023 events that may be abundantly reported or scarcely covered. They are selected using a dual-purpose scope, one with a micro-focus to discover the important observations and their critical consequences and the other with a tele-focus to project their impact on the world, especially the US-China Relations.

Review of Highly Covered Events and News in 2023

I. Russia-Ukraine War (R-U Conflict)

This began on February 24, 2022. The West Media sometimes cites February 20, 2014, as the beginning of the R-U conflict, when Russia annexed Crimea and supported pro-Russia separatists fighting the Ukrainian military. But the real cause of the 2022 war lasted throughout 2023 to now with no end in sight is the expansion of NATO, recruiting ex-Soviet States to join NATO. Ukraine being the closest neighbor of Russia posted a national security threat to Russia by its desire to be a member of NATO. The U.S., EU, and NATO supported the R-U war but missed a couple of chances to start a peaceful negotiation when Ukraine was gaining in the fighting. China had tried to promote a peace talk, but currently, the U.S. seems to have no end-game plan for this conflict. Now the support for Ukraine is waned with the world in recession, both the EU and the U.S. were exhausted in their military support, in addition, the U.S. partisan politics was thwarting Biden's continued support for Ukraine. The recent break-out of the Israel-Hamas conflict has stolen the limelight from the R-U war.

II. Taiwan Strait Crisis

Biden has inherited an anti-China foreign policy from Trump and made it a systemic national security concern across the board thus engaging trade tariffs, technology sanctions, and investment restrictions. Biden has leveraged the U.S. alliances and tried to form a NATO-like Quad+ (U.S., UK, Australia, Japan, + India) to stop China's rise. However, the US 3D

Mainstream Media and Organic Views

Dr. Wordman

plan (Deterrence, détente, and Defeat China) may be sensible on paper but its implementation is far more difficult than wished. Thus, Taiwan was used as another pawn in its strategy to stir up another 'surrogate war'. The Taiwan Strait Crisis was widely reported by stories of US officials visiting Taiwan, 'promising' sales of military equipment to the island and offering 'unofficial' training to the Taiwan military force. These acts were all done under the ambiguous 'one China' policy. Taiwan is hyped by the media as the most dangerous place in the world and yet the Taiwan citizens express no desire for war nor any interest in engaging in this dancing with fire. On January 13th, 2024, Taiwan will have its presidential election, we will see a message from the election result, whether defeating the pro-independence DDP or not. President Xi's advice (three principles on unification with Taiwan) to Biden (indirectly to Taiwan citizens) in their San Francisco Summit indicated clearly that China will not use force unless peaceful reunification is impossible.

III. Israel-Hamas Conflict (I-P War)

On October 7th, 2023, the Israel-Palestine war broke out. This ongoing war started in 2023 has shocked the world simply because Israel has violated the international taboos in war behavior. The images of the atrocious bombings in Gaza have turned the world opinion against Israel and The U.S. for its unconditional support of Israel. Again, the U.S. does not seem to be able to rein in the Israeli military assault nor able to join the UN resolutions to stop the war. The U.S. reputation is damaged as reported by its mainstream media. At this point, the war is projected to go into 2024 with no endgame in sight. Biden, despite his low popularity rating and an F- grade on foreign policy from Rashid Khalidi (History Professor, Columbia University), Biden seems to be powerless as a world leader in dealing with the R-U war or I-P war. China on the other hand may play a positive role in 2024.

IV. Global South

The term, Global South (Asia, Africa, and South America), may not be familiar to many Americans but it has received a lot of news media attention. The U.S. has been wooing India for its new alliance strategy against China and India was happy to rise to the occasion to act like the leader of the Global South. The trend of growth in the Global South is clear, but its leadership is still evolving. The U.S. has attempted to promote the concept of The League of Democracy by selectively inviting members to join, but China has shown

concrete deeds through international organizations such as BRICS, SCO, and BRI Initiative. China's role in the Global South is practical and fruitful despite the jealous opposition.

V. AI and Technology

Technology sanctions have become a principal tool for the U.S. to suppress China's rapid development. Semiconductor and IC technology is the major focus. Both China and the U.S. are hurt by the sanction of semiconductor technology which is also a key hardware ingredient for AI technology. AI has become a hot search and application item in 2023 since the ChatGPT surfaced. Using large digital data, search capability, and self-learning software, AI has become the technology of the future. AI progress in 2024 will be very significant but more significant will be US-China collaboration in AI for mutual benefits.

Under-Covered Events and News in 2023

Under-covered events and news will not be found easily. We list three items here to call readers' attention because they are impacting society with severe consequences.

I. International Political Paradigm Shift

This item includes the international movements generally exhibited by election results and government changes. One example is the Polish election which indicated a trend of going to a multiple-party system. The author has written about the pros and cons of multi-party democracy (less efficient but having a safety valve to replace a bad dominating party). Taiwan's 2024 election will be a test for its maturity (to replace DPP). Another example is the Argentine's election is moving in the opposite direction.

II. Migration and Refugees in the World

The migration and refugee problems generated by wars are hardly covered in detail by the news media. The above-mentioned wars are creating tragic problems for the world. Even the migrants from the U.S. border were not fairly reported.

III. Discrimination against Asians and Rising Crime in the U.S.

This discrimination was never treated fairly by the mass media in the U.S. The problems are heightened by the U.S.-China competition. The Asian population in the U.S. must increase their efforts in protest and self-protection. The U.S. hate crime has increased.

The U.S.-China relations and issues are reported daily in mass media, but sadly many of them are fake news and biased analyses. The U.S. dominates world media which tends to toot the same horn. China applies its law strictly to expel reporters who report fake news but that gives the West media an excuse to generate tons of fake news to catch eyeballs without doing fact-finding. However, recently, more honest reports and analyses on the U.S.-China issues seem to appear. Hence, this author entitles this column, "From 2023 to 2024, A Forward-Looking U.S. -China Relations!"