

The Case of Wang Bingzhang

The first time I knew the name of Wang Bingzhang was in the early 1980s when I was a Physics Engineering student at Tsinghua. The government media published his wife's denouncement of Wang's betrayal of our beloved country and people: our poor country has paid you to study Medical Science in Canada; upon graduation, however, instead of returning back to our motherland to serve our people, you went to New York to conduct reactionary activity under foreign agencies against our government! This is an immoral name of high treason.

Even inside the tiny circle of overseas Chinese democratic activists, Wang Bingzhang's name was infamous enough that he was expelled from the Alliance for Democratic China, which was founded by himself. People avoided him, or pretended not knowing this name.

The June 4th Tiananmen Incident did not help to improve Wang Bingzhang's image. A new "opposition" generation emerged from the incident, and Wang and his followers were not welcome to the new movement. Most activists were afraid that our healthy movement would be under his control. He was invited only as a guest to attend the founding conference of the Front for Democratic China in Paris in 1989. That conference becomes the only time I met him. Wang was silent in the whole days during the conference. People seemed to say: yes, respectful Dr. Wang, you endured unthinkable pain, but your role is over.

Regarding himself the second revolutionary of Dr. Sun Yet-san in China's modern history, Wang never stopped his activity, but nonetheless was almost forgotten from the overseas Chinese communities. This is partly because Wang is a practitioner rather than a propagandist, partly because the democratic movement has lost its direction of political independence. Wang received public attention again in 1998 when he used a U.S. passport to enter China and was immediately expelled from China. That story itself is not impressive. Harry Wu (Wu Hongda) told us a much adventurous story in his published book how he enjoyed a VIP prisoner treatment equivalent to Chinese governmental minister-level status, - no need to mention, with a U.S. passport. Ruthlessly toward its own people though, the Beijing regime dare not treat U.S. citizens harshly. In the case of Wang, this time, however, it revealed that, after decades-long life in exile, Wang was still stateless. He used a false U.S. passport to enter his motherland.

That is impressive, partly because I myself is also still a stateless refugee. When the Japanese government offered me the professorship and citizenship, I refused. I don't look down on these overseas Chinese with a foreign citizenship, but when you put your life under a foreign state's law protection, you are not qualified as a Chinese politician. Wang shows that in the overseas democratic movement, at least there exists a true politician.

Certainly, true politicians are not enough to promote Chinese democracy and human rights; China also needs revolutionaries who are willing to sacrifice their own rights, including life. The 17th century British Philosopher John Locke's theory, that the people has the right to overthrow the government, is still too revolutionary to the current 21st century PRC regime, which inherited the power from the largest revolution in the human being history. The Shenzhen Middle-level Court's 2003 February judgment of Wang to life sentence is the certificate that establishes Wang as today's China's leading revolutionary. As Confucius said, seeking for "ren"

(faith/truth/salvation/Tao), you received it.

The Chinese democratic movement had a vital mismatch of Fang Lizhi as its leader before the Tiananmen Incident in 1989. I received a letter from Professor Fang just before the Tiananmen Incident in which he stated that he did not mind his personal life for our democracy course, and many of us trusted him. However, the professor abandoned his students and fled to the U.S. Embassy during the high tide of the movement. Since then, the movement has entered astray without a recognized leadership.

The heroic Chinese democratic movement is not lacking of backbone and courage, but is desperately lacking of political leadership with knowledge, obligation and responsibility. The world cannot live with an undemocratic China. China's democratization does matter for the future development of the world. With advanced Western education, decades-long political activity experience outside of China, and this time's certificate of life-long sentence inside China, rather than just a cheap card in the international politics maneuver (such as a hostage in the coming Olympic Games), Wang Bingzhang now has in his grasp the opportunity of becoming China's Nelson Mandela or Kim Dae-jung.

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