

THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

FORTY-FOURTH CONGREGATION

Conferment of the Degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*

A Citation

Professor Ezra F Vogel, LittD

China's economy went through two metamorphoses in the second half of the twentieth century. 1949 saw the beginning of socialist planned economy, putting all sectors of economic development under central control. 1979, on the other hand, marked a departure from central control when Deng Xiaoping's socialism with Chinese characteristics was introduced in the coastal regions of Jiangsu, Guangdong, Fujian, etc. It now seems certain that a third wave -- recently referred to as socialist market economy -- is scheduled for implementation in the next decade, coinciding approximately with the run-up to 1997 when Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule.

According to Professor Ezra F Vogel, Dillon Professor of International Affairs, Harvard University, the job of a social scientist is to describe the broad social base against which changes are bound to take place. A social scientist, in other words, cannot predict. And yet one only needs to look through Professor Vogel's list of publications to be convinced that he has a fairly good sense of things to come as well as how these changes bear upon the common people. Canton Under Communism (1969) was a classic regional study, based mainly on the information gathered in Hong Kong. Then One Step Ahead in China appeared exactly twenty years later, in 1989, soon after the June 4th incident. Based on months of research, visits and interviews with local work units, factories and economic officials, the book gives detailed descriptions of economic activities in the province. In Professor Vogel's future plan, the third part of his China trilogy will deal with China and Hong Kong at the turn of the next century as an assessment of China's economic reform as this gradually takes shape after Deng's visit to Guangdong in early 1992. So it is quite clear that Professor Vogel's research dovetails more or less with the economic changes in Guangdong and, for that matter, the rest of China. To borrow a figure of speech from him, his scholarship is one step, perhaps several steps, ahead of the rest of us in having better insight into the future shapes of a relatively isolated society.

Professor Vogel is, of course, more than a sociologist, specializing in one specific area of study. He is also a public figure, liaising among world leaders, particularly between North America and this part of the world, including Japan, China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. He has had good working relationships with high-ranking cadres in Guangdong and has accompanied on several occasions governors of the State of Massachusetts and presidents of Harvard on their visits to China and Hong Kong. Of course, his expertise in Japan is equally admirable. His best seller, Japan as Number One (1979) has such a wide appeal that it has been translated several times over in Japan, China and Taiwan, apart from translations into French, Portuguese, Indonesian, etc. For the universal nature of his advice, he has actually been looked upon as a mentor by readers not only from North America but also from Asia and, most likely, from other parts of the world.

Professor Vogel got his doctorate from Harvard in 1958 and has since devoted most of his time to teaching, doing research and performing administrative duties at his alma mater. He has headed the East Asian Research Center (1973-77), Council on East Asian Studies (1977-80), Program on US-Japan Relations (1980-87), and has served on various committees on China and Japan. In recognition of his outstanding achievements, he has been awarded honorary degrees from Kwansai Gakuin (1980), Wittenberg College (1981), Bowling Green State University (1982) and University of Maryland (1983). He has also won the Harvard Faculty Prize for Book of the Year 1970, and Guggenheim Fellowship (1972).

Mr Chancellor, for his broad range of knowledge, his insight into the relationships between society and economic developments and for his contributions in improving mutual understanding between Hong Kong, China, Japan and North America, may I request that Professor Ezra F Vogel be awarded Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*.

15th October, 1992