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Editor's Foreword

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Editor's Foreword

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This symposium is the third in our series of discussions around the theme of "paradigmatic issues in Chinese studies."¹ The articles in this volume all began as papers for a day-long conference at UCLA on May 9, 1992. The contributors have rewritten their papers with the benefit of the day's discussion.

The first pages of Frederic Wakeman's article, which leads off the symposium, summarize past and current scholarship and thus serves well as an introduction for the entire discussion. The article goes on to a criticism of the published works of William Rowe, and also of Mary Rankin, which have employed the model of "public sphere" in one form or another. William Rowe's and Mary Rankin's contributions can be seen in part as their responses to Wakeman's and others' criticisms and in part as developments of new ideas.

Richard Madsen's article takes the question of Habermas's public sphere to issues and events of contemporary China, and Heath Chamberlain's article analyzes the category "civil society" as it might be applied to contemporary China. Their articles show the essential identity in content between the two categories as they have been applied to historical and contemporary China.

My own piece attempts to define precisely what Habermas meant by public sphere, summarizes and comments on the other contributions, and proposes the concept of a "third realm" between state and society as a way to resolve some of the issues raised by this symposium.

NOTE

1. Beginning with my own "The Paradigmatic Crisis in Chinese Studies: Paradoxes in Social and Economic History," *Modern China* 17, 3 (July 1991), and followed by "Theory and Ideology in the Study of Modern Chinese Literature," *Modern China* 19, 1 (January 1993).

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