other data in that brief space, but the material is undigested. The book reads rather like a China almanac.

The author is very sympathetic toward Mao Tse-tung, even to the point of historical distortion. For example, he blames ex-President Liu Shao-chi for China's economic troubles of 1960–61 which were in fact occasioned by the aftermath of Mao's disastrous Great Leap Forward. He is remarkably sanguine about China's development over the past two decades and equally optimistic for the future. It's hard to find a critical word in the entire book. Professor Chai even dismisses the bloodshed of the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (1965–69) as a successful avoidance of civil war and a mere bagatelle compared to the Taiping Rebellion of the mid-19th Century. By that standard, the Vietnam war was successful in that nuclear weapons were not used and fewer men were killed than in World War II.

It is difficult to recommend the book for introductory courses on China because students would have difficulty dealing with the stream of data given the lack of thematic cohesion. Neither does the book advance the extant scholarship on contemporary China – indeed, Professor Chai himself makes no such claim for his efforts. It may, however, be worth the purchase price for many serious students of the Chinese People's Republic as a brief reference work. The table of contents and appendices are well suited for that purpose, although the index is marginal.

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Without question, the publication of Professor William Skinner's Modern Chinese Society, An Analytical Bibliography is a bibliographical landmark significant not only for the study of China today, but also for its development and refinement of the whole field of bibliography.

The work is in three volumes, each of which is designed on identical lines, and each of which can be used independently of the others. The first volume includes publications in Western languages covering the period from 1644 to 1972, the second, publications in Chinese, covering the period from 1644 to 1969, and the third, publications in Japanese, covering the period from 1644 to 1971. If necessary each volume can be purchased separately from the others, but in terms of usefulness for the student of modern China, the purchase of all three are advisable, since the bibliography makes Chinese and Japanese publications accessible through romanization and translation of the titles for identification purposes. It is a reasonably simple matter to secure the material and use the service of a reader with a knowledge of Japanese or Chinese.

The bibliography was commenced in 1963, when China was closed to scholars, and their only alternative was to examine the available literature which was fortunately deposited in libraries in Taiwan, Japan, Europe, and the United States. It could not be effectively tapped in the form of library holdings without a thorough published subject analysis. This is provided by the bibliography.

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Now that the door has been partly opened for mainland China, the new materials we are receiving still require the historical perspectives and the balanced world approach of the literature written from West-European, American, Japanese, Chinese, and Russian standpoints.

In spite of its size, this is a selected bibliography, selected from an initial base of 90,000, itself only a fraction of the total available literature. The 90,000 entries were examined and all which were not relevant to the project were rejected. The bibliographical format of the remainder was changed where necessary, and coding and annotation were provided. In this process the total number of entries was reduced to 43,000. Some 10,000 entries were edited out, reaching the final total of 31,443.

Among materials excluded are all items on China covering the period prior to 1644, items without social science interest, and items on China's non-Han minorities, such as Mongol, Turki, Uighur, Tibetan, Korean, and Chuang peoples. Also excluded are items on foreign policy, international relations, foreigners in China, materials on the physical sciences, literature, and linguistics, unless any of the excluded materials relate to Chinese society. Only published secondary items have been included. All unpublished materials, excepting dissertations and theses, have been excluded.

The entries are arranged in a relatively simple classification or subject code of 72 classes, with 40 subclasses. These are displayed on the front end papers of each volume. No system of classification, no matter how perfect can transform the multidimensional nature of knowledge into its intrinsically unidimensional schedules. The multidimensional effect which is achieved in a library card catalog by the use of subject headings is obtained more rigorously in the bibliography by including in each entry a note of other aspects of the subject code which relate to the entry. Instead of mixing in geographical and historical aspects in the subject code, an aspect of other subject classifications, these have been separated from the subject code, and are covered by a historical period subarrangement of each class, or subclass, and by a geographic code.

Each entry also has a source code which indicates whether the secondary source is based on field research by a trained observer, on personal observation by a general observer, on research in primary sources, on secondary sources, or where the sources are not documented or are poorly documented.

One third of each volume is taken up by analytical indexes. The first of these is the historical index, which is in the order of the main classification, but gives all possible (except for noted exceptions) entries under each period with each class or subclass. Its presentation is very much richer than the presentation in the main body of the bibliography. A similar index again arranges the total body of entries by the order of the main classification, and then by geographical areas. A final analytical index arranges entries by major geographical area, and then by type of local system, that is whether it is urban or rural, and a classing by size of the community. The analytical indexes are followed by two conventional indexes, one for authors, and the other for subjects. Together these indexes provide for a systematic control of the materials for social science purposes far beyond that provided by research bibliographies.

Examining the effect of the indexing systems on a subject field such as higher education, there are a total of 1,709 entries (614 in Western languages, 859 in Chinese, and 236 in Japanese) in the higher education entries in the