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New Issue of Twentieth-Century China Available

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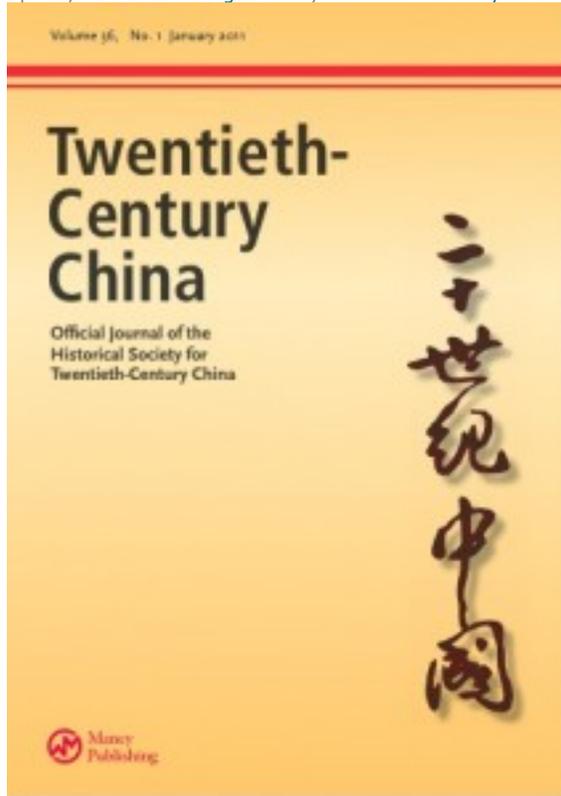
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New Issue of *Twentieth-Century China* Available

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The latest issue of *Twentieth-Century China* should be arriving in subscribers' mailboxes right now, bringing readers four research articles described below by Chief Editor James Carter in an excerpt from the journal's editorial:

Jan Kiely, "Shanghai Public Moralism Nie Qijie and Morality Book Publication Projects in Republican China"

Diran John Sohigian, "Confucius and the Lady in Question: Power Politics, Cultural Production and the Performance of *Confucius Saw Nanzi* in China in 1929"

Margaret Kuo, "The Legislative Process in Republican China: The 1930 Nationalist Family Law and the Controversy over Surnames for Married Women"

Michael Sheng, "Mao and Chinese Elite Politics in the 1950s: The Gao Gang Affair Revisited"

Jan Kiely and Diran Sohigian focus explicitly on particular texts. Kiely's analysis of public morality books, focusing particularly on the works of Nie Qijie, illustrates the way in which this traditional genre became part of the language of modernity, urbanism, and nationalism in the Republican era. Sohigian, in the same time period, explores the uproar surrounding the publication and performance of Lin Yutang's play, *Confucius Saw Nanzi*. The controversy over the Sage's fictionalized encounter with a woman, the Duchess of Wei, provided a lens onto the struggle by modernizers and traditionalists for control of the Chinese nation as well as its cultural patrimony.

Gender relations, modernity, and tradition are also central to Margaret Kuo's analysis of the Family Law of 1930. Enacted a year after Lin Yutang's play was first performed, this law and the accompanying debate over surname practices in the Republic foreground the struggle to

define Chinese society in this turbulent period, providing insights into the changing nature of both the family and the law.

Michael Sheng uses newly available texts, in the form of memoirs from participants and observers, to deepen our understanding of a very different, but no less turbulent period: the early years of the People's Republic. Already known as an evocative and revealing case of Mao Zedong's political *modus operandi*, the Gao Gang Affair is here shown to be an even greater example of Mao's devotion to Mao, and his extraordinary political abilities. Historians often rail against the overuse of the word 'inevitable' in discussions of historical events: Sheng's article demonstrates yet again how historical processes are contingent, sometimes on the will and abilities of a single individual.

Additionally, April is China Studies month at Maney Publishing, which puts out *Twentieth-Century China*. Head over to the [Feature of the Month page](#) at Maney's website and check out the resources highlighted there: a free Chinese studies virtual journal of over 50 articles from Maney's four China studies publications, videos from editors of *Early Medieval China*, *Ming Studies*, and *Twentieth-Century China*, and information about forthcoming special issues (including TCC's January 2012 issue on Chinese music and September 2012 focus on the May Fourth Movement). Discounts on both institutional and individual subscriptions are also offered at the site through the end of the month.