



**A SENSE OF
BELONGING**

歸屬感

鴉片戰爭背後的歷史意義

5N 莊明懿

對中國人來說，鴉片戰爭與鴉片關係密切。可是，即使英國從沒輸入鴉片，一場中外戰爭仍是無可避免。若要界定這場戰爭是「無可避免」，就必須認清戰爭的前因後果，以及戰爭背後的歷史意義。

事實上，鴉片戰爭爆發前，中英兩國的貿易關係早已出現裂痕。由於當時中國尚未開放，未有外交部，又以「天朝大國」自居，對英人諸多阻攔。例如設立「防範外夷章程」，限制英人在華的活動，當中包括英人必須居住夷館、不得帶異姓進入等，又對貿易採「嘉惠遠人」的態度。而康熙於1757年，竟僅留廣州一地作貿易，又設立公行，對洋行勒索成本，稅務更一收再收，以致英人無利可圖，出現「出超」的情況，因此英人輸入鴉片，以轉局勢。由此可見，中國對英人貿易不重視。反觀西方國家則希望能公平貿易，增加通商口岸，多次派使者交涉，例如馬加尼、阿美士德等。可惜此舉不但無功而還，更受到中方不禮貌的待遇。例如律勞卑就被戲謔為「辛勞卑賤之人」，加深中英隔閡。以上例子都證實了中國認為英人是「夷蠻」的觀念。同時，中英之間有著不可解決的貿易態度上的差別，更重要的是，貿易衝突是鴉片戰爭的一大主因。

為甚麼鴉片戰爭是無可避免的呢？是因為這種貿易衝突以普通的外交手法或小規模的戰爭無法解決，「虎門一役」就是最好的證據。義律試圖以小型戰爭迫使中方開放港口，然而雙方最後依然未能達成共識。後期英國只好隨著林則徐的「虎門銷煙」一事為理由，開始鴉片戰爭，目的是強迫中方開放貿易。事實上，面對全球化的貿易，西方「工業革命」的接近，中國一直以來自給自足的保守政策的崩潰只不過是時間的問題。當時英國

「工業革命」後對外擴張，佔據了大批殖民地。據統計，1899年英國的殖民地人口有309億，土地面積達930萬平方公里。每天無論甚麼時候，總有一部分英國殖民地處在陽光的照耀下，因而英國有「日不落帝國」之稱。試想想，在「日不落帝國」的迫近下，中國一天不採取開放政策，英國也不會罷休，最後只會以另一口強行開放中國大門。因此鴉片只不過是戰爭的一個導火線。

的確，從中國角度來看，這場戰爭被稱為「鴉片戰爭」；於英國角度卻是一場「中外戰爭」。前者，明顯認為這場戰爭是衝著鴉片而來的，而後者卻是為著中英之間的差異而發動戰爭。這正正說明兩國的基本價值觀存在根本分歧，即使清廷肯接受英人的貿易要求，以平等關係對待，問題都不會解決。

或曰英國攻打中國，原因是林則徐銷毀鴉片。然而英人的目的真的是鴉片嗎？還是中國多年來一廂情願地把戰爭歸咎於鴉片？我們必須看清一點是：英國攻打中國的目的，而目的明顯是為了貿易。證據是英國稱「鴉片戰爭」為第一次中外戰爭和戰後《南京條約》內所定的條款，矛頭不是指向鴉片和林則徐。相反，六項條約當中有四項直接關係到中英貿易，例如《五口通商章程》、割讓香港島方便貿易、廢除公行制及稅收等問題，全部關係到英國貿易利益。因此，中國一天不開放，「鴉片戰爭」就多一天處於一觸即發的狀態，就只差一個導火線，而鴉片就只不過在這場戰爭成了導火線而已。

黃秋強老師評語：

作者精準拿捏所謂「鴉片戰爭」只不過是國與國之間爭奪利益的合理藉口，輔以具體史例增加說服力。鴉片戰爭距今已有171年，歷史證明經濟改革，港口開放是對的。接下來，中國人要思考的就是政治幾時改革，民主何日到來。

《落葉歸根》影評

GN 陳智君

《落葉歸根》是齣改編自真人真事的黑色幽默片，故事講述主角為了朋友劉全有的一句戲言：「就算死，背也把你背回家鄉」，於劉喝酒而死後便開始把他的屍首背返劉遙遠的家鄉。

這齣戲不單反映朋友間的友愛，同時亦反映不少人情冷暖和社會問題。先談劇中反映的社會問題，如賣血、大學生社會道德淪亡至不願意和社會地位卑微（撿垃圾）的母親相認見面、孤兒淪為流氓、工廠老闆給假錢作殮葬費等，這些都是中國基層普遍的問題，劇中沒有披露種種問題的利弊，沒有討論改善方案，更沒有要求觀眾對這些社會問題作出總結。而是淡淡地暗示一個個問題，令觀眾看後自行反思身邊看似太平的社會，原來有如此多的問題，反思如何改善這種情況。不敢說這齣能引起輿論，只能說導演別有用心，希望觀眾和社會關注這些問題，能提出有效的改善方法。

其次，「落葉歸根」是我國源遠流長的文化風俗之一，所謂「落葉歸根，入土為安」。雖然主角最終不能把好友的屍首入土為安，但仍能信守承諾，令好友落葉歸根，回到自己的家鄉。最感人的事是主角雖然感到辛苦，想過放棄，卻仍然堅持把好友送回家鄉；另一中國著重的儀式——哭喪，亦呈現在戲中。戲中有一老伯雖然未死，但感到自己孤單一人，死後無人為自己辦葬禮，便自資請人哭喪，可見中國人「慎終」的觀念十分強烈。雖然好友未能厚葬亦未能入土為安，但在艱苦的環境下仍能落葉歸根，也算是不錯的一件事！主角拍攝此片時，因為貧困而未能做足厚葬等中國人傳統葬禮的儀式，但戲中亦以配角淡淡帶出這些傳統文化習俗的思想，令情節帶有張力。

最後，也是本片最能帶出的，便是情。本片沒側重於說明某一種情，而是生活化地、貼近現實地表現出人情。戲中人情味濃，基層之間互相幫忙，如失戀的貨車司機，他見主角被偷錢後亦引起惻隱之心，載他一程；反之，亦有私家車司機欺騙主角；有洗頭妞仗義幫忙化妝及洗頭，充滿鄉土之情；亦有老闆無情無義，指出一條性命連五千元也不值，只值一疊假鈔廢紙。最後，戲中的警察雖依法辦事把屍體火化，但法律之外尚有情，仍幫助他們回鄉——雖然回鄉見到的只是一片殘垣敗瓦，但仍不負「落葉歸根」。眾多有情無情，都是人間百態，貫穿整套劇的仍是主角與劉之間的兄弟情義。一句戲言原可置之不理，但主角仍把它當作一個承諾，全因為兄弟之間的情。主角雖未能把劉全有好好運返家鄉，但其友愛是無私的，縱使他只是一個地位卑微，知識水平不高的工人，但他卻能確確切切地反映出手足間真誠無私的愛，對友人雖死猶生，這是世間難能可貴的真情真義。

本戲運用特別的拍攝手法，營造淡淡的格調效果，甚有張力，觀眾有反思、自省的空間。戲中所帶出的不但合乎現實，更能引伸出社會的種種問題。最難能可貴的是，這是一齣改編自真人真事的戲，能真切反映人間有情，而這情，則正正在我們身旁，一個沒沒無聞，社會地位低微的工人身上。

溫剛老師評語：

電影講述一個民工為友人殮葬的故事，智君能分析出其深刻的文化內涵，實屬難得。作者觀察力強，著眼於每個電影人物的情，通過對比展現出社會上小人物光輝的性格亮點。文章語言平實客觀，情理兼備，為電影作品下了精準的註腳。



Tsunami

2M Wong Sam Yin

Water flooded and flushed
People screamed and rushed
I sat at the top of the house
And cringed like a mouse

I looked at the flooded town
With my tears falling down
The tsunami brought us miseries
But couldn't carry away our memories

I closed my eyes
My tears never dried
I prayed and prayed
To ask for a breakaway

I thought I was astray
There was nowhere to stay
Finally the sky became bright
I could see brand-new light

Feedback from Ms. Chan Man Han:

The poet expresses deep sorrow over the destruction brought about by the tsunami. She cherishes the hope that she would finally survive the desperate situation.

War and Peace

3S Yeung Shing Hei

As I look around the world I sighed,
At least we could give peace another try.
Please, wars go away
Please peace come my way

Peace remained by my side until I understand
What she wanted from me so I can stand
Why have a war?
It has all happened before
No war, no violence,
And lots of silence.

In the sky we see a dove
The dove means peace, the dove means love
Peace is something the world should share
It is all about loving we need to care!

Feedback from Ms. Tin Ka Wai:

It is a meaningful piece of poem. I especially love the last stanza – It is all about love and we need to care. Hopefully, there will be no more wars and hatred in the world.



Ace Village

3V Lee Kam Tin

There once was a place,
Which was named Ace.
People who were living there,
Were living in happy air.

But on a sunny day,
Some people came for trade.
Suddenly they had weapons
The villagers were all frozen.

Their village was being occupied
Their village was being fired.
Many people lost their homes
And they were forced to stay in a room.

Finally another arm came,
And fought with those who were causing pain.
They saved the village
And became a story in age.

Feedback from Mr. Wong Yat Hong:

The rhyming pattern and short sharp rhythm truly embodies the marching of an army in a war. The poem can also summarise a story but can still give some description of the scene.

A School

4J Tsang Hau Sim

It is a kid's paradise
Where we learn and strive,
Acquire new things and take advice
Which can possibly change our lives.

It is a place where we meet
Our lifelong companies who assist
And with whom we play and joke
While both learning to exceed.

It is a home where we exist
In form of a rather big family.
Somehow we are made to see
The importance of union and harmony.

It is a centre where we come to deal
With all trainings of skills
We learn to fight fears and forgive
While reckoning how to use our gifts.

It is a place where we may find
Various troubles of stress and tease
Which then strengthen our nerve and mind
Making us a great, brave kid.

It is the most common place
Where we learn to say
The first word that is spelled
As "S-C-H-O-O-L"!

Feedback from Ms. Lam Teresa:

It is extremely wise to choose such a familiar and enjoyable topic – school. It brings back my memories of being a student.



Putonghua – a New International Language

6V Leung Hoi Laam

In 1997, Hong Kong has departed from the England Government and was returned to the Chinese Government. It was named Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. As Hong Kong is an international city and its economy greatly relies on tourism and trading, learning Putonghua is an irresistible general trend.

Hong Kong is a renowned international city so people's language proficiency should be of an international standard. In the past, English used to be an international language and Hong Kong people learned English to increase their competitiveness. Hong Kong people's English aptitude used to be very high among the world. Now, another international language has evolved which is the national language of China – Putonghua.

China has become much stronger in these ten years. It has grown to be a world power and the world's economy largely depends on China. After the introduction of the closer Economic Partnership Agreement, Hong Kongers have more chances to work across the border than before, so Putonghua has become essential. If Hong Kong people want to keep their strength and competitiveness, they should not give up the chance to learn Putonghua. Hong Kong is next to China that means we have higher chances to acquire Putonghua authentically.

Furthermore, if we know how to speak Putonghua, it benefits Hong Kong tourism. Many tourists from mainland China like to shop in Hong Kong. If we are able to talk to them with their

mother language, they will feel warm and happy, so we can give a professional and friendly impression to the tourists. We can get a lot of benefits when we know how to speak Putonghua.

Also, China is our mother country. We should learn Putonghua systematically other than knowing only Cantonese. I give my full support in setting Putonghua as a compulsory subject in Hong Kong Certificate of Education and Advanced Level examinations. If Putonghua becomes a compulsory school subject, we will have lots of chances to use it. Why don't we let students learn and use it, so the future of Hong Kongers can have a higher competitiveness and keep Hong Kong as a professional and international city. Although students need to study one more subject, they would see the positive outcomes in the future!

Feedback from 2M Lo Hoi Ling :

After reading this passage, I think I need to study Putonghua more. I never realized the benefit of using Putonghua to increase the amount of tourists coming from Mainland China. From my own experience, I know that many jobs require Putonghua nowadays.



Putonghua Should be an Option, not a Burden

6V Wong Hong Ki

Hong Kong has been returned to China since 1997. The One Country Two systems Policy and the introduction of the Closer Economic Partnership Agreement helps the relationship between the mainland and Hong Kong to become closer, not just in the economic relationship but also in our cultures. Many Hong Kong citizens now work across the border and they are frequently using Putonghua to communicate with their business counterpart. In order to equip the future generations with the capability of speaking Putonghua fluently, some people propose that Putonghua should become a compulsory subject in Hong Kong public examination. Yet, from my point of view I do not think Putonghua should be considered as a compulsory subject, though; and I have many evidences to support my argument.

First of all, Putonghua should not be compulsory due to the time constraint. The time constraint in the existing curriculum, as we all know, is serious. The time for the students to study the other subject areas in the public exam is very limited. Students are required to remember a large amount of information in a very short time. If we make Putonghua as a compulsory subject, it will only increase their burden but do nothing in improving their language proficiency. If we only give them very little time to practice, how can they speak the language fluently? It makes the students unable to strike a balance and all subjects will suffer.

Furthermore, the availability of suitable Putonghua teachers is another concern. A suitable Putonghua teacher does not mean one who solely possesses good language abilities. He or she should also have good teaching skills. Nowadays, there are insufficient qualified teachers in Hong Kong to teach Putonghua. If we make Putonghua compulsory, the government has to spend a lot of money on offering special training programmes for Putonghua teachers. Moreover, it is difficult to assess whether the number of teachers is sufficient to meet the demand if we make Putonghua as a compulsory subject.

Last but not least, if one wants to learn Putonghua, he or she may join Putonghua courses on a voluntary basis easily as Hong Kong is very close to mainland China. In this way, students' burden can be alleviated. It would be much better than setting it as one of the subjects in public exams because the result of public exam will greatly affect their future.

To sum up, I think Putonghua should be offered as an optional subject in the public exam taking into consideration the time constraint in the existing curriculum and availability of suitable Putonghua teachers. The school should consider such advice realistically as it allows students to have greater flexibility to choose whether to take the Putonghua in their public exam or not.

Feedback from 2N Chan Ming Man, Michelle:

After reading this article, I think it is difficult to make Putonghua a compulsory subject because there are many limitations to carry out this plan. Although most Chinese speak Putonghua, we need to consider if it is widely used in our living place.



War and peace

2V Chan Hong, 2N Luey Kwan Ho Christopher,
2S Li Wing Hei, 2M Chan Kwun Tat Gordon

- *A Poem to share in a Video Mega conference called **An Event for and by Students of the World** on 26 February 2010. The main theme of the VC this time is on Peace and Poverty.*

I have heard that our world is Beautiful
Peaceful, Wonderful, and Joyful
But what I see is Awful
Because wars make everything Painful

Why do we have wars?
They don't play a fundamental part in our lives
Nobody gains anything from violence
Struggling and striving is not splendid at all

Can we live on Earth comfortably?
Can we protect our home collaboratively?
It is not a world for us only,
But a world for all.

No war. Love and Peace is not only an illusion
All we have to do is to **TAKE ACTION**
To treat everyone like our relatives
And hope the Government can discuss this problem more active!

Feedback from Ms. Tang Sheung Yin:

The writers have shown the contrast of war and peace. As the world and life is beautiful, it is better for everyone to take action to protect it.