USIS-Commissioned Translation in Hong Kong in the 1950s

--- With Reference to Mae Soong's Chinese Translation of American Literature

Bo LI (City University of Hong Kong)

June 29, 2017

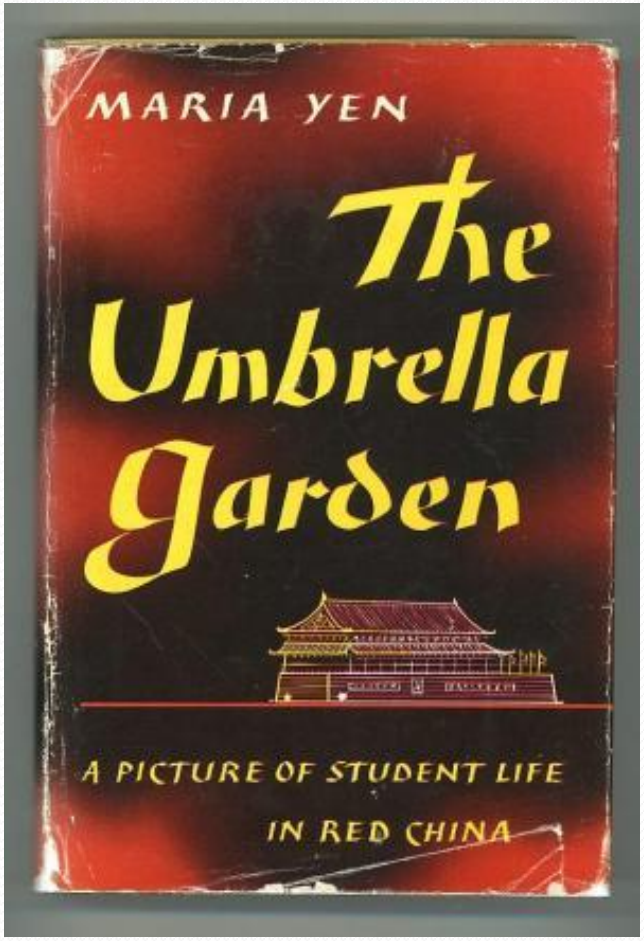
Outline

- 1. Introduction
- 2. censorship, self-censorship, patronage against the background of Cold War
- 3. Mae Soong and her translation of American literature
- 4. Discussion and conclusion

Introduction:
Umbrella Revolution, Hong Kong 2014

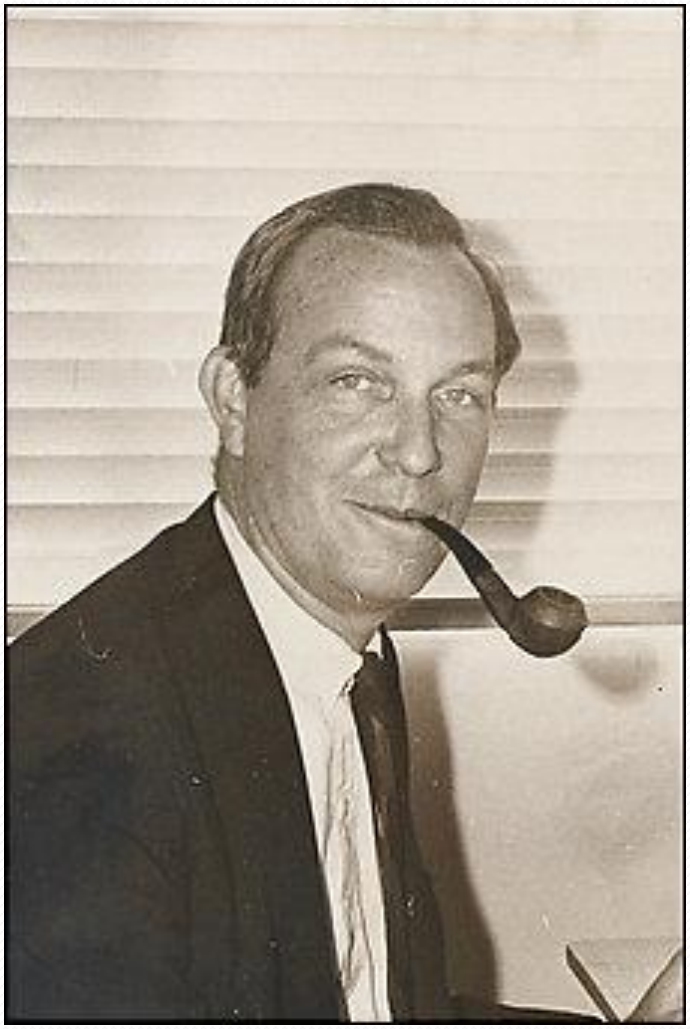
紅旗下的大學生活/ 燕歸來著(Hong Kong 1952)

The umbrella garden: a picture of student life in Red China/ Maria Yen; Richard M McCarthy (New York 1954)



Wang (2015)

McCarthy: “old China hand” 1950-57 in Hong Kong USIA

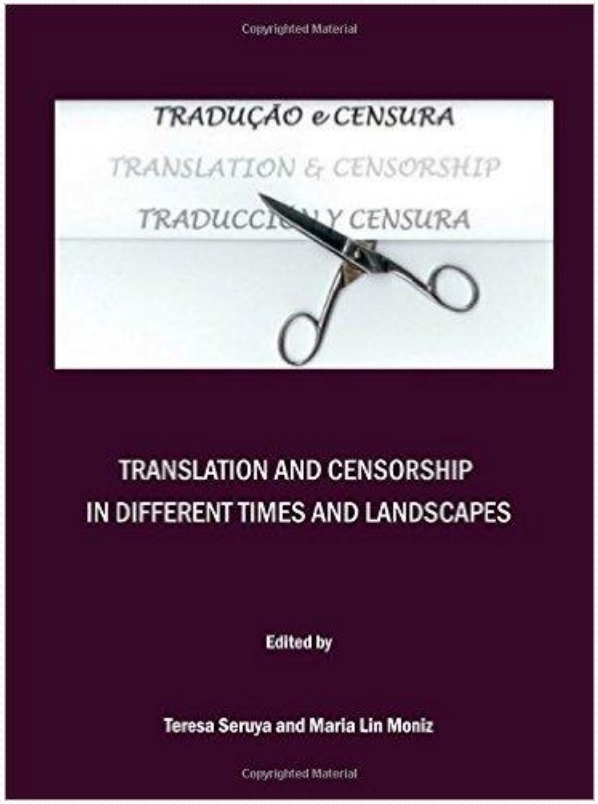


Patronage: André Lefevere

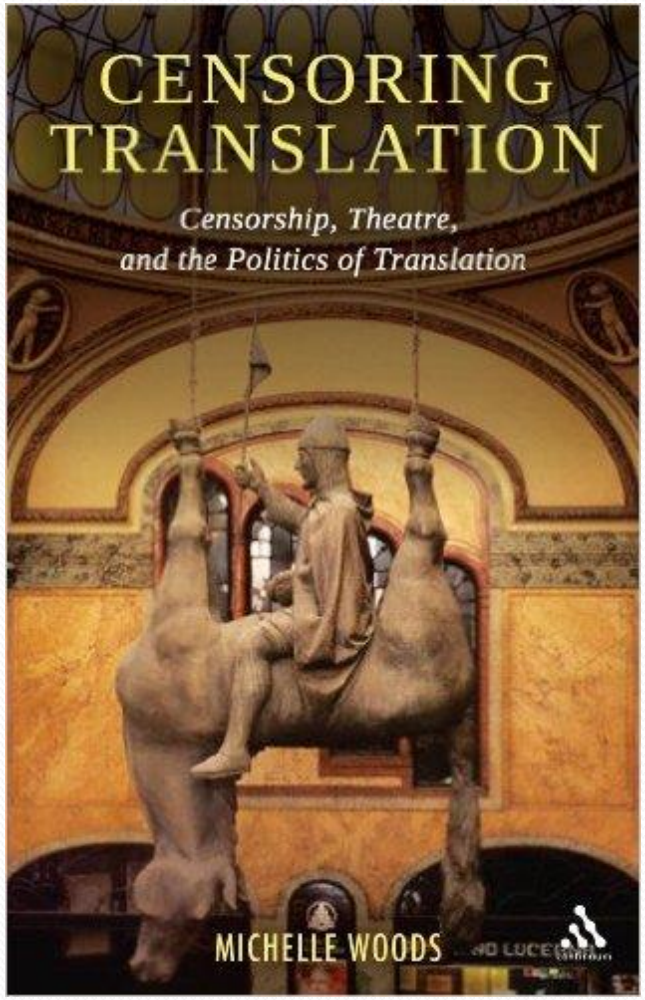
- the patron as defined by Lefevere, namely, “something like the powers (person, institutions) that can further or hinder the reading, writing, and rewriting of literature” (Lefevere 1992:15). According to Lefevere, a person can exercise control by imposing ideological constraints, conferring economic provisions, and bestowing status on translators and rewriters (1992:16).

- *Translation, Rewriting, and the Manipulation of Literary Fame*, Lefevere, 1992.

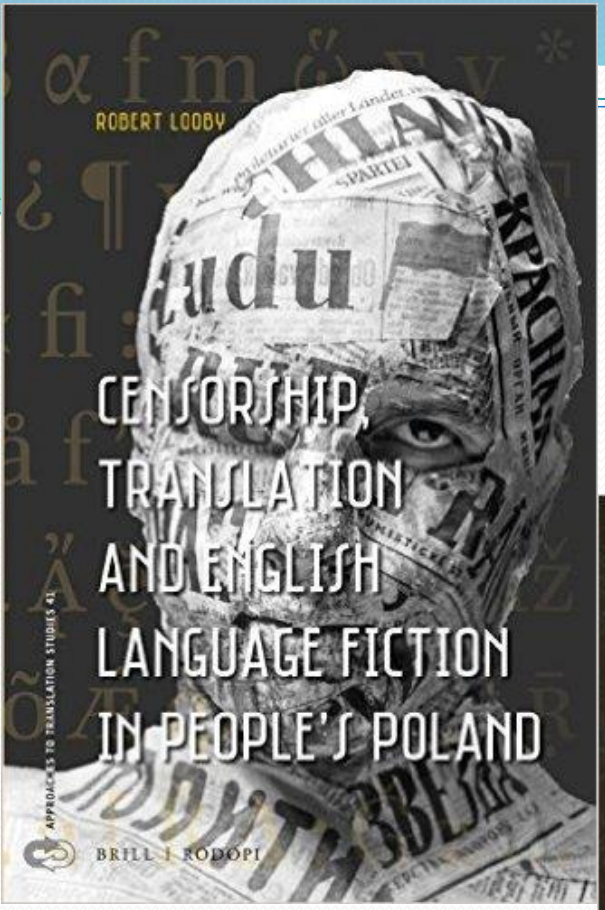
Censorship, self-censorship, patronage, and translation



Seruya and Moniz, 2008

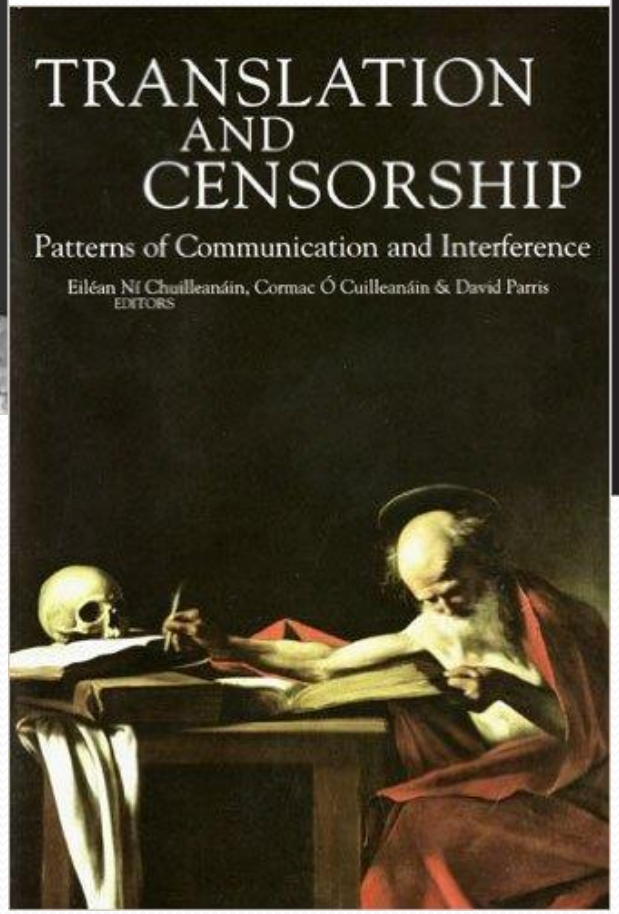


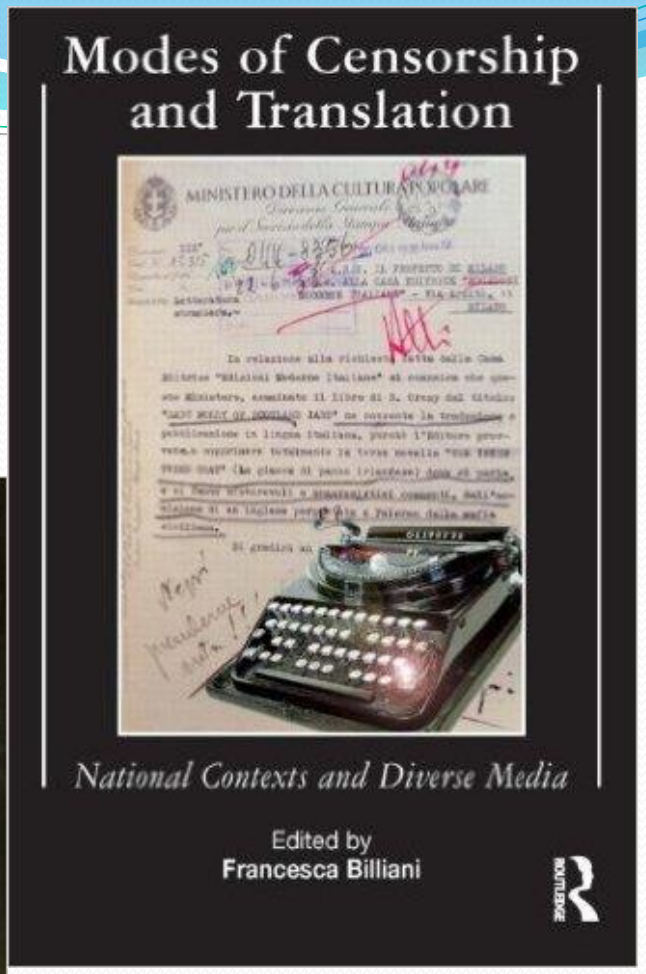
Woods, 2012



Looby 2015

Chuilleanáin et al, 2009



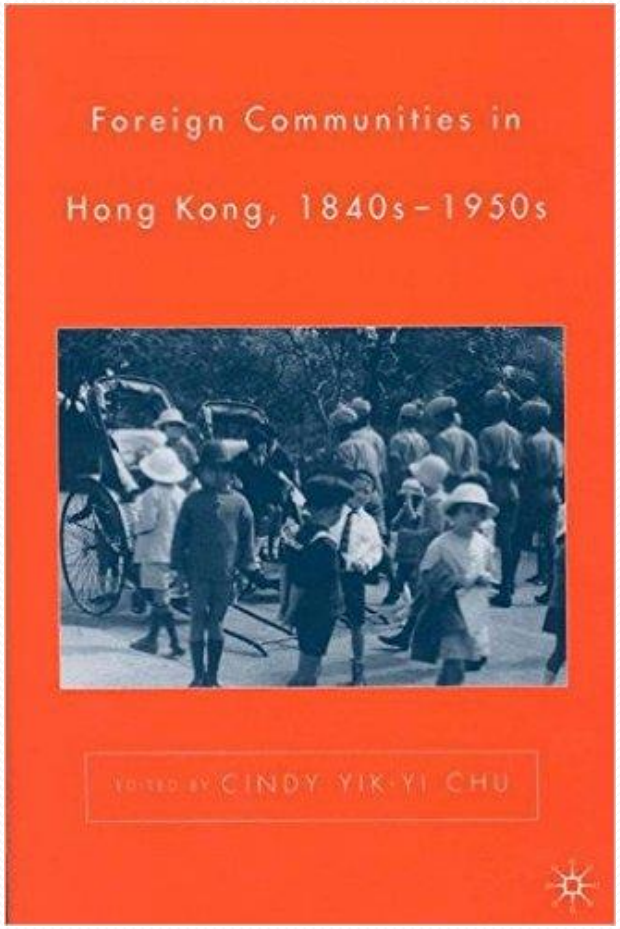


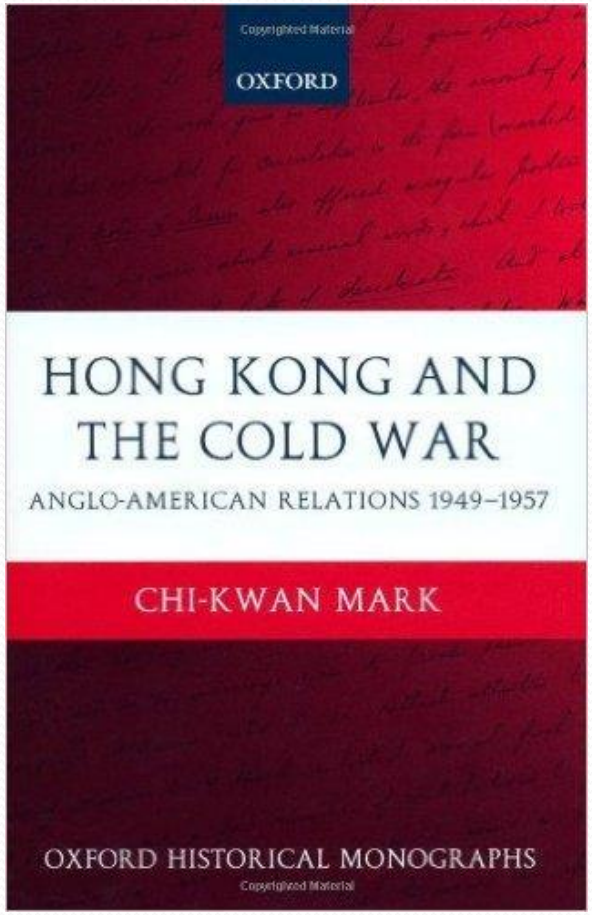
Billiani, 2006

In *Translation and Censorship* 2009

- Maria Tymoczko: Censorship and self-censorship in translation: ethics and ideology, resistance and collusion.
- Piotr Kuhiwczak: Censorship as a collaborative project: a systemic approach.
- ……

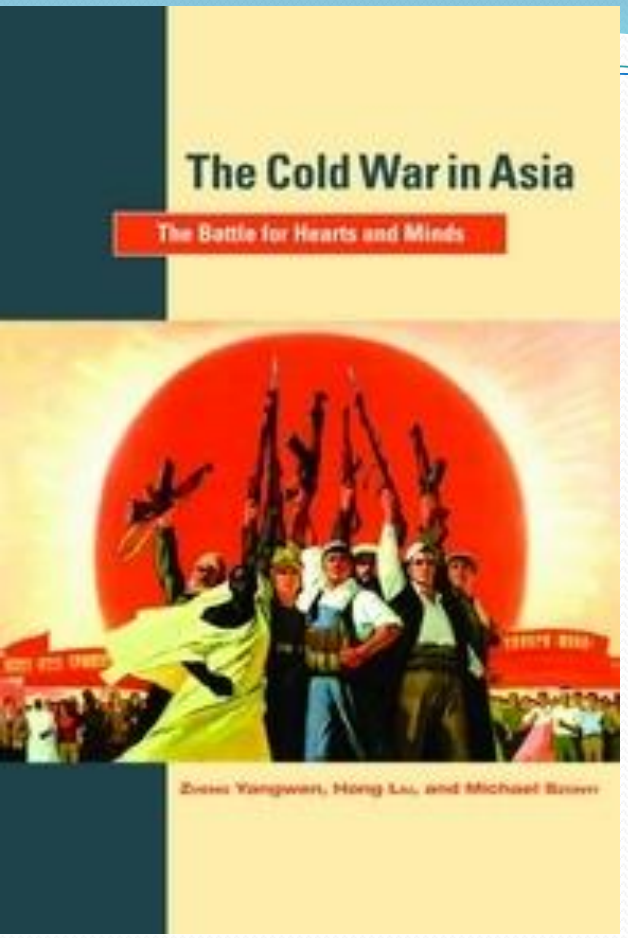
Cold War and Hong Kong in 1950s





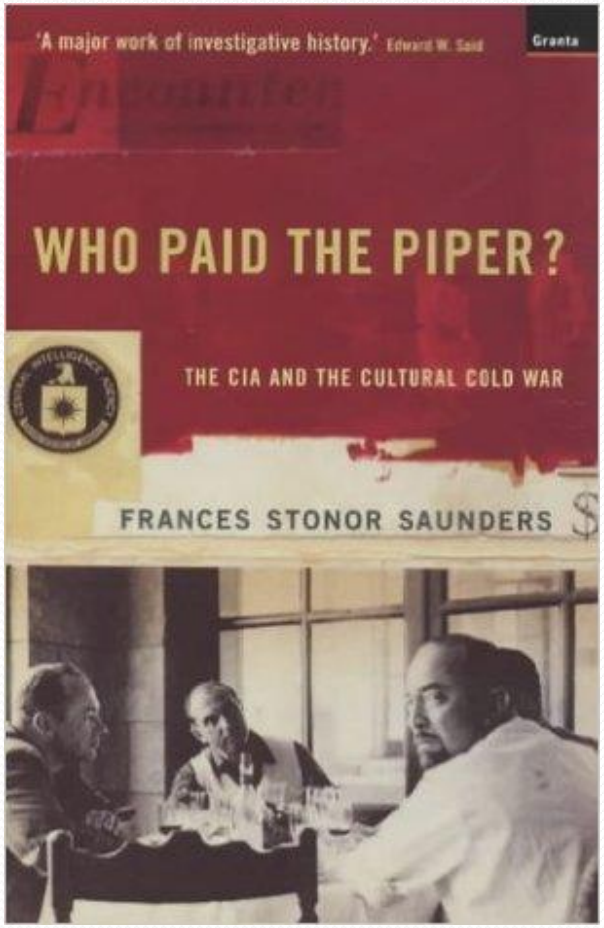
Cindy Yik-yi Chu 2005

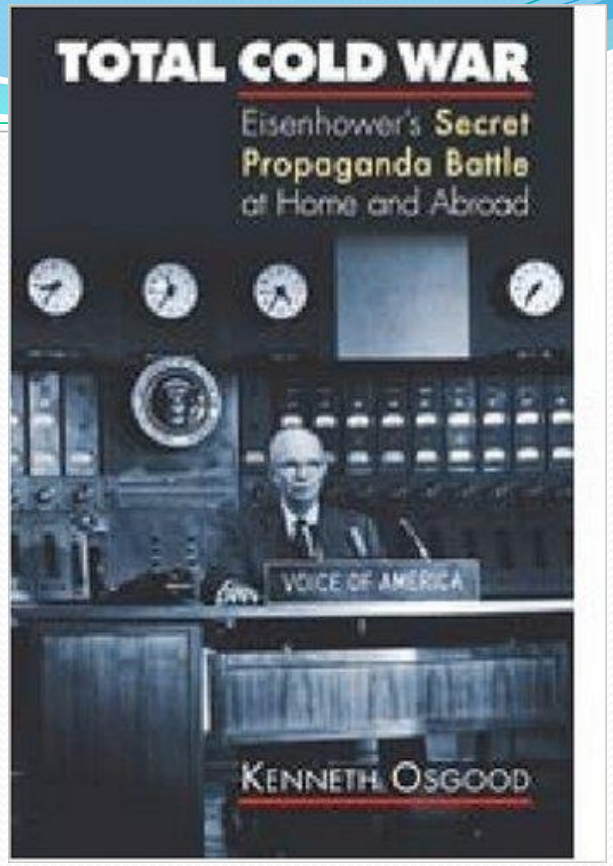
Chi-kwan Mark 2004



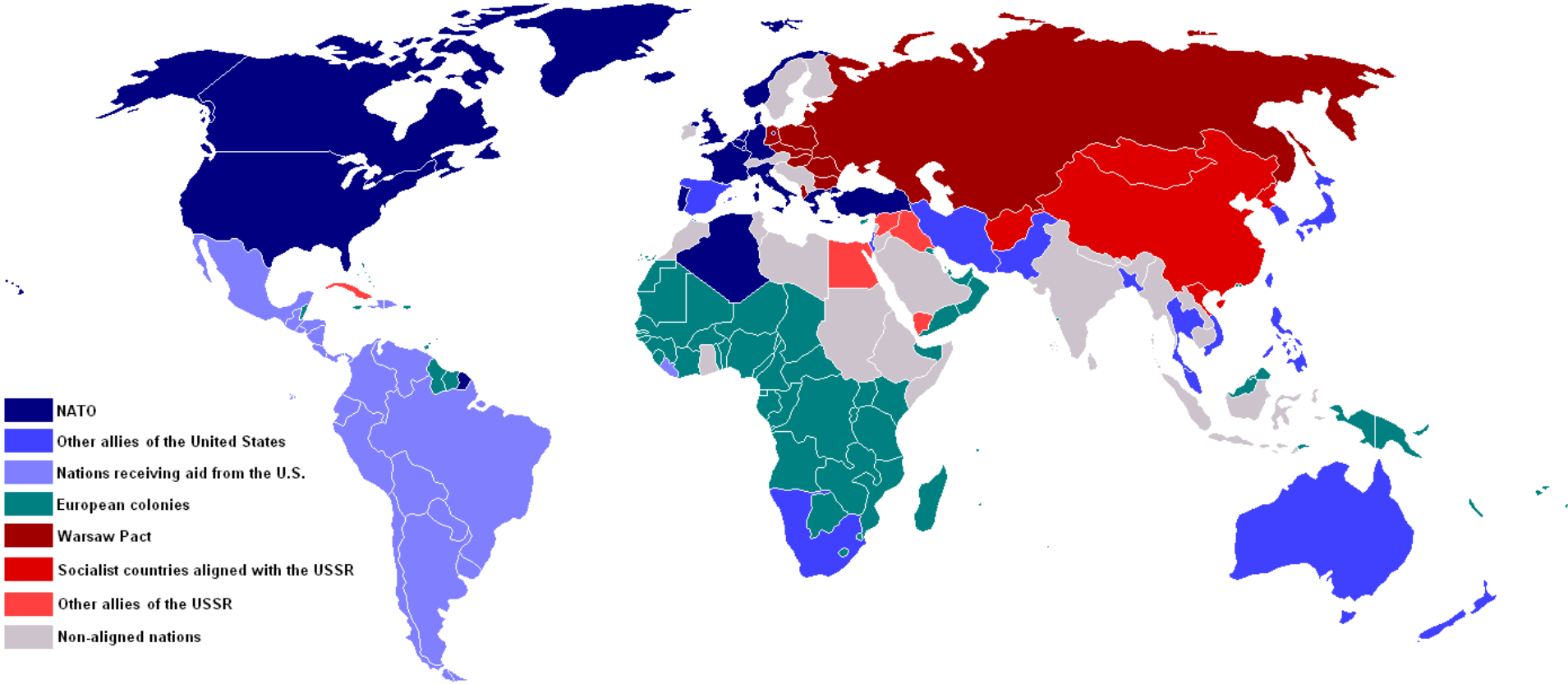
Zheng, et al. 2010

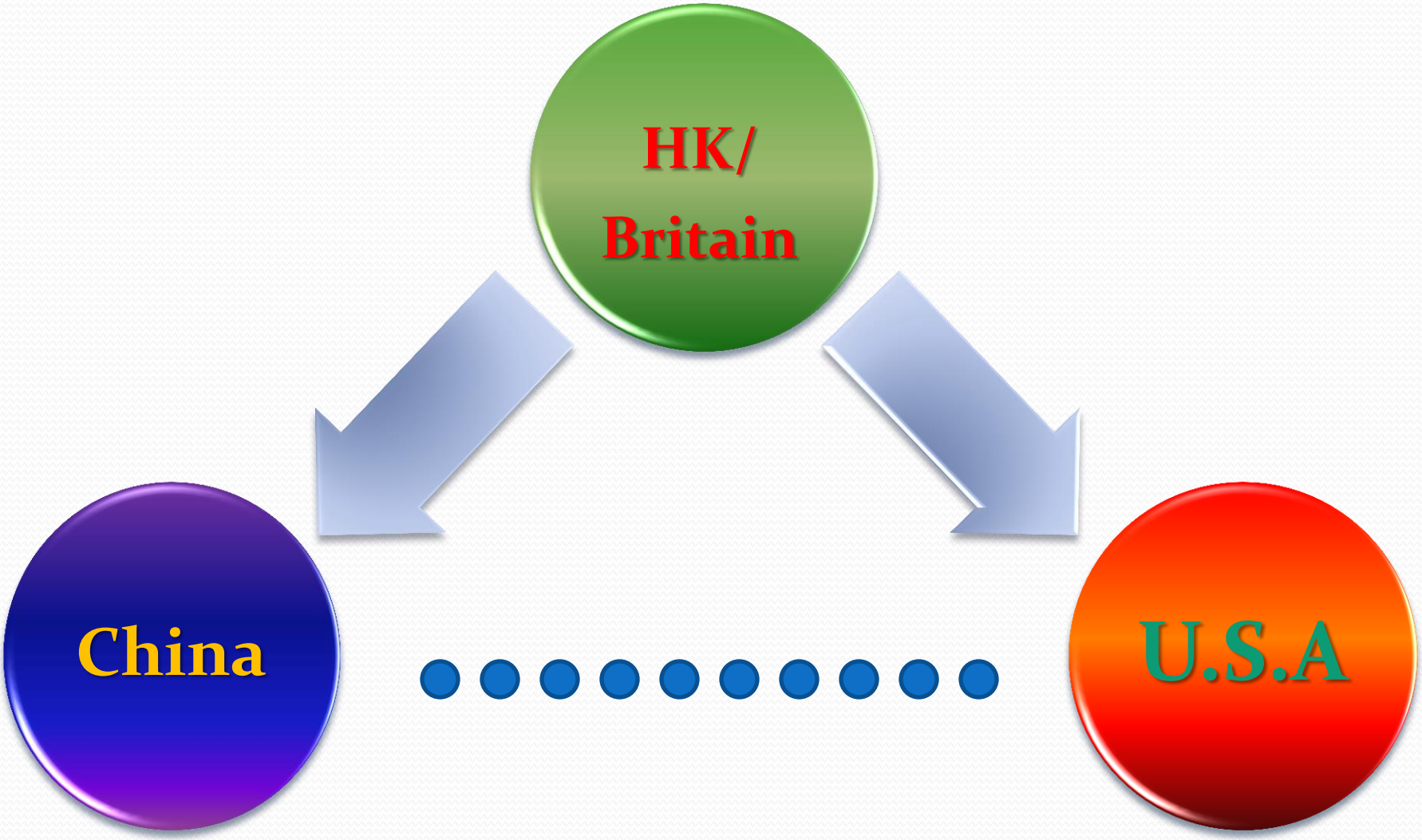
Saunders 2000





Osgood, 2006


NATO
Other allies of the United States
Nations receiving aid from the U.S.
European colonies
Warsaw Pact
Socialist countries aligned with the USSR
Other allies of the USSR
Non-aligned nations


HK/
Britain
China
U.S.A

- After 1949, Hong Kong became a principal listening post for the Americans because of its proximity to the mainland, the difficulties of running human agents in a totalitarian state, and, more importantly, the availability in the territory of Chinese refugees with first-hand experience of what was happening on the mainland.

Overt propaganda

- The United States Information Service (USIS) in Hong Kong was responsible for the production of anti-communist materials for overt or white propaganda. Its main publications included *World Today* (or *America Today* prior to 1952), a semimonthly magazine attributed to USIS, and *Four Seas (Sihai huabao 四海畫報)*, a monthly pictorial that was unattributed.

1952

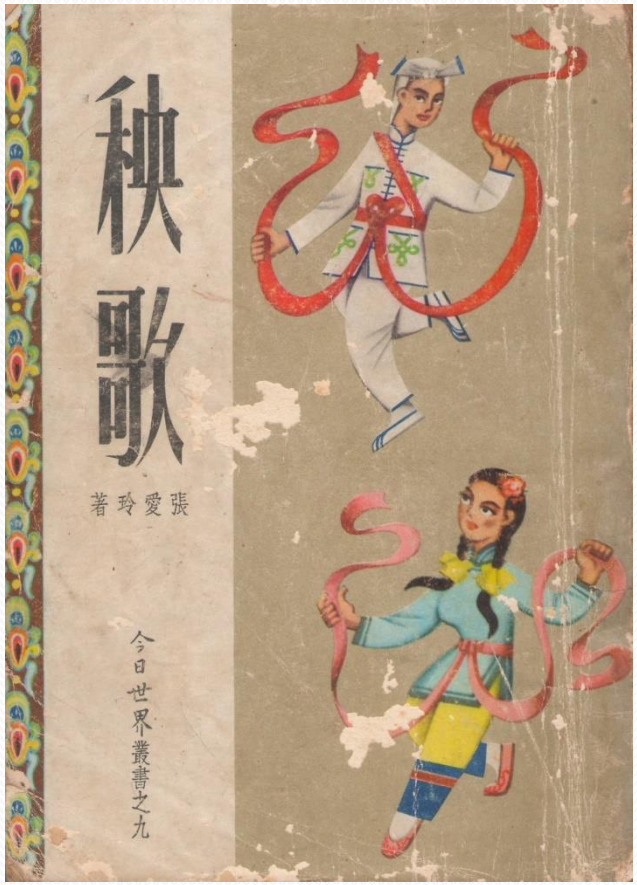
World Today

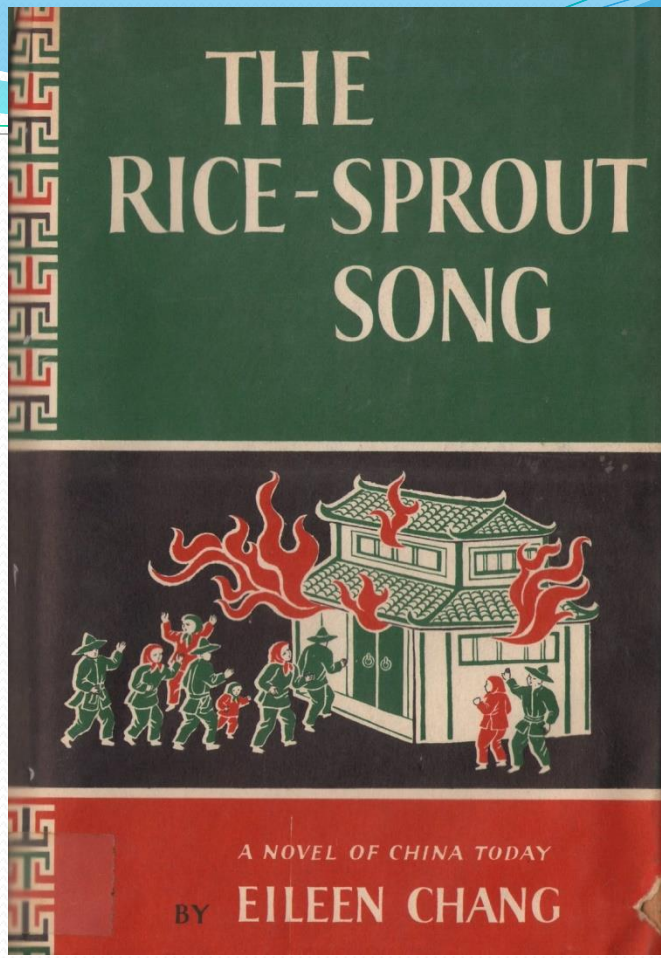
- By the mid-1950s, the central function of the USIS in Hong Kong (and, to a lesser extent, USIS in Taiwan) was to produce print materials to influence and ‘win’ the overseas Chinese audience. One major project was the commissioning or optioning of novels with a subtly anti-communist theme from Hong Kong authors (the Hong Kong staff declared themselves ‘quite genuinely’ proud to have had connection with one such novel, Eileen Chang’s *The Rice-Sprout Song*)…

- *The Cold War in Asia : the battle for hearts and minds* / edited by Zheng Yangwen, Hong Liu, Michael Szonyi

1954

1954





1955

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Scholarship and Professional Work - LAS

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

2014

On the Dimension of Narrative: Zhang Ailing's Self Translation of Her Novel, Spring-Sprout Song

Xiaoqing Liu
Butler University, xliu@butler.edu

在敘事的層面上

——張愛玲的自譯作品《秧歌》

劉小青

《翻譯季刊》Issue 71

- While it is well-known that the Americans --- and indeed the Chinese, Communists, and Nationalists alike ---- used Hong Kong for intelligence gathering and other Cold War purposes, it is not clear to what extent U.S. officials on the ground enjoyed the support of the British colonial authorities, who were highly sensitive about provoking Beijing.

- *Foreign Communities in Hong Kong, 1840s-1950s*/Chi-kwan Mark

- With regard to intelligence collection from open resources, U.S. consular officers also enjoyed close cooperation with the British. The Press Monitoring Unit within the U.S. consulate translated into English and published a daily digest of the Hong Kong Chinese language press, the *Survey of China Mainland Press*, and the *Current Background Series*. The American then exchanged their monitoring output with the translation service of the Hong Kong branch of the British Regional Information Office, which was much smaller in scale.

- *Foreign Communities in Hong Kong, 1840s-1950s*/Chi-kwan Mark

- The Hong Kong government had strong reservations about certain USIS activities in Hong Kong, especially those targeted at the Hong Kong audience. It was sensitive to “anti-Chinese communist propaganda.” U.S. information officers had been cautioned against the use of Hong Kong as “a production or distribution point for material which would in any way antagonize Communist China and, thereby, jeopardize the future safety of the Colony.”

- *Foreign Communities in Hong Kong, 1840s-1950s*/Chi-kwan Mark

Wang （2015）

- Wang “asserts that unattributed power hoped to convey anti-communism messages by weaving them in to symbol systems. Literary works were used to both disseminate and hide politically motivated messages, thereby revealing the many faces of American power”.

- Wang, Mei-Hsiang, Literature, Power and American Propaganda in Hong Kong and Taiwan during the Cold War (1950-1962), *Taiwanese Journal of Sociology*, 2015, 57:1-51.

國立清華大學

社會學研究所博士論文

隱蔽權力：

美援文藝體制下的台港文學

（1950-1962）

指導教授：姚人多

研 究 生：王梅香

學　　號：948804

2 0 1 5 年 1 月

隱蔽權力：

美援文藝體制下的台港文學

（1950-1962）

Statistics show

- 1949.10-1958.12.
- English literature 224
- + American literature 228
- = total: 452
- VS. 3,526
- Russian literature from Soviet Union

- Wang Jiankai (2003)

- Translated American literature
- China: 1951: 8
- 1952:9
- LU Yuling (2011)

- VS.
- Hong Kong: about 10 (Book Translation Program)
- Zhao Qinan (2005)

3. Mae Soong's Translation

Soong Qi and Mae Soong

Eileen Chang

Mae and her son

宋以朗（Roland Soong，1949年－），香港知名博客東南西北（zonaeuropa.com）的創立人。他是統計學博士，曾任全球第二大統計公司KMR的顧問，父親宋淇，筆名林以亮，是著名《紅樓夢》翻譯家之一，曾任電懋製片，拍過梁醒波主演的《南北和》。母親鄺文美，曾在美國新聞處工作，以方馨一名，翻譯文學作品。宋以朗現擁有張愛玲小說的版權。

中文书名/Chinese titiles	译者/Translator	英文书名/English titles	作者/Author	中译本出版年/Year of Pub	页数/pages	备注/notes
无奇不有	方馨	*Anything Can Happen*	George and Hellen Papashvily	1953	189	中一出版社/Chung Yi
欧文小说选	张爱玲方馨 汤新楣	*The Best of Washington Irving*	Washington Irving	1954/1963	290 方译： 李伯大梦 鬼新郎 胖先生 鬼屋奇缘	今日世界出版社/World Today 附林以亮的《关于李伯大梦》
碧庐冤孽/黛丝·密勒	秦羽/方馨	*The Turn of the Screw/ Daisy Miller*	Henry James	1956	291	今日世界出版社/World Today，根据版权页，第一版是1956，然后分别是1957，1963，1968，1970，1975。
黛丝·密勒	方馨	*Daisy Miller*	Henry James	1967	98×2	今日世界中英对照/World Today
睡谷故事/李伯大梦	张爱玲方馨	*The Legend of Sleepy Hollow/Rip van Winkle*	Washington Irving	1967	72×2	今日世界中英对照/World Today
无头骑士	张爱玲方馨 汤新楣		Washington Irving	1954	290	今日世界出版社/World Today

Censorship, self-censorship, collaborative project, identity

- External interference: translator's notes, preface, etc.
- Overt

- Internal interference:
- Covert

Anything can happen/无奇不有

George and Helen Papashivily

1953

Deletion

- Two chapters from the original are left out in the Chinese rendition:
- The Man without Manners
- The Ground Knows

The Man without Manners

“I laid down and fell asleep to dream what a wonderful country is America. No mistake”. (p 28)

This introduces my personal representative. Please treat him accordingly.（p 36）

The Man without Manners

- Zhao Qina points out, “In 1950s, there are many pro-communist publications, journals and newspapers, which discuss current affairs from the communist perspective. For example, they alleged that America launched biological war against Korea; that there are cases of laborers being exploited by capitalist managers; etc.

- Zhao (2005)

Allegations that the United States military used biological weapons in the Korean War (1950–53) were raised by the governments of People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union and North Korea in 1952. The story was covered by the worldwide press and led to a highly publicized international investigation. US Secretary of State Dean Acheson and other US allied government officials denounced the allegations as a hoax.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allegations_of_biological_warfare_in_the_Korean_War

The Man without Manners

- In May 1953, the Hong Kong Police confiscated a truckload of USIS leaflets containing a speech by the U.S. Secretary of Labor to be distributed to local workers. The Hong Kong government was always sensitive to the pro-Beijing and pro-Nationalist elements in labor unions, and would not welcome any U.S. involvement.

- *Foreign Communities in Hong Kong, 1840s-1950s*/Chi-kwan Mark

The Man without Manners

- U.S. information officers realized that the local authorities were “particularly touchy” in this sensitive field, and their operations had to be “as unobtrusive as possible”. As a result, USIS Hong Kong decided to stop producing and distributing materials designed primarily for Hong Kong workers. The showing of motion pictures (together with the lending of books to union reading rooms) remained the only effective means of reaching labor.

- *Foreign Communities in Hong Kong, 1840s-1950s*/Chi-kwan Mark

- The Ground knows
- But often and often I'm still thinking and still I don't convince myself. Can't be such a thing as a man with land and his own two good hands can't earn his bread on a farm. Impossible? Because if that be so then how we started our world from the beginning. No. Is some other reason. But what? （George and Helen，1945：189）

Translator's notes and preface

- **<u>Praise of America</u>**
- In Issue 16 of *World Today*, Fang Xin, Mae's pen name, writes before the translation:
- "在路上，不用说，当然是笑话百出，同时却又见识了美国大地之美"（方馨，1952：18）
- "Unavoidably, they made a lot of jokes on their way to California to seek new life; meanwhile, **<u>they saw the beautiful landscape of America</u>**." (Fang, 1952, p18)

- In the book translation (1953), there is a long translator's preface, where, Fang writes:
- 在这里，我们就可以看出美国这个国家的力量的秘密来。它是一个新兴的国家，一方面不断地吸收新的个体，并且让他们保留他们旧有的优良传统，可是同时却使他们在一个大熔炉中融化为一体。他们互相容纳，尊重，却并不排斥，拒绝。所以他永远是朝气蓬勃，永远对一切充满了乐观和信心。（方馨，1953：3-4）
- America is a new country. On the one hand, it absorbs every new individual, and help them keep their good traditional values and ethics; on the other, she help them to be adapted to this melting pot. These new individuals accept and respect each other. They don't deny each other. Therefore, America is always energetic and optimistic. (Fang, 1953, p2-3)

Translator’s notes and preface

- **<u>Discredit the former Soviet Union</u>**
- In the book translation, when discussing one of the stories in the book, Fang writes,
- 至于他和他的朋友们的舍己为人和友爱的精神，真令我们从心底就觉得一股温暖，同时觉得奇怪，在这么富于人性的乔其亚人中，怎么会产生像斯大林和贝利亚这种魔鬼来？（方馨，1953：2）
- “He (the main character) and his friends are so kind and helpful, which make us feel so warm from the bottom of our hearts. Meanwhile, we might feel weird: among these kind and humanistic Georgians, how could they have such monsters like Stalin and Beria?”

- Fang, 1953:2

Joseph Vissarionovich Stalin

Lavrentiy Pavlovich Beria

Covert internal interference

- Daisy Miller into 《黛絲・密勒》

1956

Henry James

- Miss Daisy Miller looked extremely innocent. Some people had told him that , after all, American girls were exceedingly innocent; and others had told him that, after all, they were not. He was inclined to think Miss Daisy Miller was a flirt --- a pretty American flirt. …she was very unsophisticated; she was only a pretty American flirt. … he wondered what were the regular conditions and limitations of one's intercourse with a pretty American flirt. (p.15)

黛絲・密勒小姐看上去真是天真無邪。有些人告訴他：美國女郎都是天真無邪的；另外有些人卻對他說：美國女郎並不天真無邪。在他印象中，黛絲・密勒小姐多少有點搔首弄姿——不過是個有姿可弄的女郎。。。。她並不是風月場中老手，她只不過是一個喜歡搔首弄姿、容貌美麗的女郎。。。。同時又進一步研究：同這樣一個女郎來往，究竟有沒有什麼一定的規矩和限度？(p15)

- The adjective “American” is gone!!

- “She’s got to give me some candy, then,” rejoined his young interlocutor. “I can’t get any here --- and American candy. American candy’s the best candy.”
- “And are American little boys the best little boys?” asked Winterbourne.
- “I don’t know. I’m an American boy,” said the child.
- “I see you are one of the best!” laughed Winterbourne.
- “Are you an American man?” pursued this vivacious infant. And then, on Winterbourne’s affirmative reply --- “American men are the best!” he declared.
- …
- “Here comes my sister!” cried the child, in a moment. “She’s an American girl.”
- Winterbourne looked along the path and saw a beautiful young lady advancing. “American girls are the best girls!” he said, cheerfully, to his young companion.

“那她（小男孩的母親）應該給我點糖果吃。”對方答道。“在這裏，我從來吃不到糖果——美國糖果。美國糖是全世界最好的糖果。”

“告訴我，美國男孩是不是全世界最好的男孩？”溫德朋問他。

“那我可不知道。我自己是個美國男孩。”

“我早已看出你是個最好的男孩！”溫德朋笑起來。

“你是美國人嗎？”那活潑的孩子反問他。在溫德朋承認自己的國籍後，他連忙接下去，“美國男人是全世界最好的男人！”

。。。

“我姐姐來了！”一會兒，孩子嚷起來。“她是個美國女人。”

溫德朋看見一個美麗的少女正從小徑上施施然走來。“美國女人是全世界最好的女人。”他笑盈盈地對小朋友說。

- Out of the five “best, four are modified with adverb “全世界“ (of the whole world). This serves to highlight the strength of America.

- Miss Daisy Miller looked extremely innocent. Some people had told him that, after all, American girls were exceedingly innocent; and others had told him that, after all, they were not. He was inclined to think Miss Daisy Miller was a flirt—a pretty American flirt. …she was very unsophisticated; she was only a pretty American flirt. … he wondered what were the regular conditions and limitations of one's intercourse with a pretty American flirt. （James, 1967:15）

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- 黛丝·密勒小姐看上去真是天真无邪。有些人告诉他：美国女郎都是天真无邪的；另外有些人却对他说：美国女郎并不天真无邪。在他印象中，黛丝·密勒小姐多少有点搔首弄姿——不过是个有姿可弄的女郎……她并不是风月场中老手，她只不过是一个喜欢搔首弄姿、容貌美丽的女郎……同时又进一步研究：同这样一个女郎来往，究竟有没有什么一定的规矩和限度？（方馨，1967：15)

- But the young man was conscious, at the same moment, that it had ceased to be a matter of serious regret to him that the little American flirt should be “talked about” by low-minded menials. These people, a day or two later, had serious information to give: the little American flirt was alarmingly ill. （James, 1967:94）

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  - 可是同时他也感觉到，这位美国小姐如此为人们所“议论”，在他再也不成其为憾事。一两天之后，这些人又传来更惊人的消息：这位美国小姐病得很厉害。（方馨，1967:94）

- 林以亮在《碧庐孽缘》前言中指出，“黛丝·密勒是詹姆斯作品中唯一在他生前受到读者普遍欢迎的中篇小说。费城的一个杂志编辑认为这篇小说对美国的风俗习惯有不敬的地方，而且对美国少女是一种侮辱，所以将它退回原作者。”（林以亮，1956：13-14）这里提到的“对美国少女是一种侮辱”，包括原文中反复用American flirt这个说法，是詹姆斯有意为之，他对美国女孩的缺点和局限——或者更准确来说是她们的真性情——毫不留情地进行批评，但也充分肯定她们的个体独立性。

- Fogel指出，这部小说的成功要素之一，就是詹姆斯在小说中所要传达的、人类社群中传统和旧习的功能（the role of convention and stereotyping）；他借助“温德朋”的视角，传达出社会中——特别是当时欧洲社会中——这种对女性的传统和旧习的看法。詹姆斯想要通过米勒这个形象，对抗这种世俗的看法，所以故意用American flirt来刻画一个离经叛道的美国女孩形象，而这样一个女孩形象，正是詹姆斯自己理解的独立、个性的精神象征（Fogel，1990：8）。

- 可惜的是，译者处于“面子工程”，对这种形象塑造进行了“合情合理”的改写，却没预料到对小说原本的意图，造成了致命的伤害。

discussion

- 绿背文学旨在“揭露控诉中共红色政权黑幕”和描写“南下香港难民”，而通过以上分析我们可以观察到，绿背翻译服务于同一赞助人的意识形态，但却有不同的表现形式。除了个别文学作品反映中共红色政权黑幕，中译美国文学主要以攻击苏联共产主义意识形态和建构美国美好形象为主旨。

- 一开始，美新处在资金扶植翻译方面以反苏为主，《无奇不有》出版于1953年7月，在书后附的“中一出版社出版图书目录”可以看到，有范思平译的《老人与海》，还有孟起译的《苏联大清党》、雷泽林译的《苏联真面目》、古佛安著的《两条路》、齐文谕译的《莫斯科的寒夜》等，可以明显看出，美元支持下的中一出版社，出版的也都是针对苏联的作品。在《无奇不有》中，译者方馨也通过译序等副文本，不遗余力地对苏联进行攻击。 范思平，即张爱玲，具体出版日期为1952年12月。

- 另一方面，方馨在《无奇不有》中删除了部分负面描写美国劳资纠纷的章节，旨在建构一个美好美国的正面形象；而且，宋淇主持的美新处译书部选择的“美国文学”也别有一番用意。在1957年致送给本地大学图书馆的版本中，《无奇不有》 (*Anything Can Happen* 被收入“关于美国的350本丛书”系列第239本，并且因为美国是移民国家，该书被标榜为文学的一个特殊分支：美国化的文学（the literature of Americanization）。选译此书的用意也不言而喻。最后，在《黛丝·密勒》的中译文中，译者用心良苦地想要改写对女主人公的负面描写，殊不知，却与作者本意背道而驰。

- 宋淇对美国很有好感，但因为肺部疾病，无法移民，其子宋以朗回忆说，“所以我爸爸说，这辈子移民到美国无望了”。而宋邝文美的母亲本身就是美国公民，邝文美也于1972年年底赴美申请了绿卡。无论是绿背翻译的中方执行人宋淇，还是翻译的实践者宋邝文美，在身份认同上都与美新处和美国联系在一起。宋以朗在《张爱玲私语录》中解释道，“邝文美之母邝林怜恩生于加州沙加缅度（Sacramento, CA），是美国公民。1972年邝文美赴美，就是为了申请绿卡。但因为宋淇的健康问题，他们夫妇俩并未在美定居”（张爱玲、宋淇、宋邝文美，2010：327）。

- 虽然宋淇在美新处译书部只做了一年，宋邝文美却一直做到1971年。在与张爱玲的通信中，多处看到邝文美对工作和办公室的一些不满，虽然未必全是针对美国人，但她1971年离开的时候，宋淇写信给张爱玲说，“我们看美国人是越来越幼稚和天真，所以文美在暑假中就辞职不干，免得看他们的嘴脸，听他们骨头轻的话生气。”（张爱玲、宋淇、宋邝文美，2010：197）

- 但是，在香港20世纪50年代的特殊背景下，刚从大陆移居到香港的宋淇夫妇，却对中共的意识形态和艺术方针，表达出强烈的不满和反感；而加入美新处，在“特殊礼聘”下(注），他们很快对美国文化和民主产生强烈的认同。通过对译本进行“诊症式阅读”（symptomatic reading）（Venuti，1994：25），我们在翻译中发现了美方赞助人意识形态的痕迹，反映出绿背翻译的主旨和有别于绿背文学的特殊之处。

- 出自宋淇写给皇冠编辑方丽婉的信，参见宋以朗为《张爱玲私语录》写的“全书前言”。

Conclusion

- The group of intellectuals and elites, mainly forced to leave communist China after 1949, identified more with the sponsors, the U.S. government, which is highlighted in the self-censorship in the translation of American literature into Chinese in Hong Kong in the 1950s.
- Against the background of Cold War, USIS–commissioned translation serves to discredit the Soviet Communist Party and to picture the US as a beautiful paradise against the background of Cold War.

Thanks