

## Translation from Chinese

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# Tang Baiqiao's English-version autobiography, "My Two China's" coming soon (Figure)

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The English version of democracy activist Tang Baiqiao's autobiography, "*My Two Chinas*" is about to hit the U.S. market. It's already available for preorder in bookstores and on Amazon.com. The book will make an impact on Western readers, informing them about a significant piece of Chinese history.

*(Bauhinia, Radio Free Asia correspondent, reports from New York City)*



Photo: RFA

"My Two Chinas" by Damon DiMarco and Tang Baiqiao (Bauhinia photo)

"*My Two Chinas*," written in English, is subtitled: *the memoir of a Chinese counter-revolutionary*. In the book, Tang Baiqiao writes about his youth, how he took part in the June 4<sup>th</sup> Incident (known to Westerners as Tiananmen Square), and how he was thrown in prison for doing so. The book goes on to recount how Tang spent the next two decades abroad supporting the cause of national rights in China.

The Chinese government recently spent incredible sums of money to build for the 2008 Olympics and its economic Golden Age. But along with this economic expansion, the

consortium and politicians have gained unprecedented power. Tang Baiqiao hopes that his story will compel more Western support for the cause of human rights in China.

Tang Baiqiao says: "This book is of the utmost importance because it discloses to the world the true face of China. The book is a narrative, readable, and with mass appeal. We didn't want to write anything boring, like a textbook."

The Dalai Lama wrote a foreword for the book, and Tang hopes it will inspire the Chinese people's desire for democracy. Ed Koch, who was Mayor of New York City in 1989 and has since become a political commentator, evaluated "*My Two Chinas*" as follows: "'*My Two Chinas* is **beautifully written**. . . . The bravery shown by Tang and other Chinese students who stood up to the Communist Chinese government was extraordinary. Their story deserves to be known. This [book] is the place to start."

In his introduction to the book, Columbia University professor, scholar, and Tibetologist, Dr. Robert Thurman writes about how moved he is by the suffering and efforts of the Chinese people over the past few years. The success of China's true patriots, he says, is important to us all.

Tang Baiqiao: "Robert Thurman of the Columbia Religion Department . . . he gave [the book] some truly inspiring words. He said that everyone should pay attention to the book since it's not only related to the fate of China, but to the fate of the world at large. And he said that, if we do not attach any importance to [China's struggles for human rights] -- if we do not support dissidents -- the Chinese will keep walking down the path to hell and destruction. China will be ruined, yes, but also the world."

American writer, Damon DiMarco co-authored the book. DiMarco's other books include *Tower Stories: An Oral History of 9/11* and *Heart of War: Soldiers' Voices from the Front Lines of Iraq*.

DiMarco admits that he did not know much about China, Tiananmen Square, or the massacre in 1989 before he began working with Tang. But the more he studied these things, the more shocked he was that people overseas do not fully understand the role the June 4<sup>th</sup> Incident played in Chinese history, or how quickly it was covered up. He calls the story [of "*My Two Chinas*"] one of injustice, but also one of the Chinese people's indomitable spirit. This spirit, he says, can be admired by people all over the world.

Damon DiMarco: "No matter what country you come from, what ideology, if you do not put people first, the world will continue to fall."

In DiMarco's view, Tang Baiqiao's personal story offers a means by which people can cross the bridge of cultural understanding.

DiMarco says: "Tang Baiqiao is a hero, but he is also a man, not a knight or a prince. His determination has remained remarkable. Each of us faces challenges: we wonder how we can seek freedom for our families, for our communities, for our countries. Though living in exile, Tang has persisted in his struggle because he believes so strongly in his mission."

The Chinese government has asked Tang to recant his version of the events [surrounding the June 4<sup>th</sup> Incident and his subsequent imprisonment] in exchange for the ability to return to his homeland. Tang has refused to do so.

DiMarco: "Any government that does harm to its people cannot be regarded as a government, but rather must be considered a regime. In China, the current regime has propagated a complete neglect of human rights, abuse of prisoners, and the proliferation of a slave labor economy."

But is it too late for a book like this to come out now that more than two decades have passed [since Tiananmen Square]? DiMarco doesn't think so. "You cannot abandon this cause," he says. "You can blow out a candle, but a fire continues to burn. Over the years, it will burn more brightly."

DiMarco says, "More and more, the world is watching China. People respect China's cultural traditions, and I think everyone hopes that we can develop a true friendship with China, as well as common economic development. But before this can happen, we have to ask the question, 'Why do you treat your people like this?'"

"My Two Chinas" will be available in English on March 22, 2011, after which the authors hope the book will be released in Chinese and other languages.

*Correspondent Bauhinia reports for Radio Free Asia reports from New York City.*

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