

A Review on the "Terminology of the Classical Chinese Treatise Xici Zhuan ("Commentary on the Appended Phrases") and Its Projection on Phraseology of the Contemporary Political Discourse", a Paper Written by Vladislav Kruglov

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Of all the Chinese Classics, the *Yijing* (*Book of Changes*), an oracle book, is by far the most revered, mainly because of the terse and cryptic nature of the main text, which helps to give the book its mystical aura, and the cosmic and moral themes of the commentaries, which offer spiritual and temporal guidance to the readers. The main text and its commentaries also provide suitable material for the typically Chinese four-character maxims, or *chengyu*, in later dynasties.

The "Xici zhuan" ("Great Treatise" or "Treatise on the Appended Judgements"), which expounds in depth the philosophy of the hexagrams, trigrams and their lines, and forms two of the so-called "Ten Wings" in the *Yijing*, is instrumental in bringing the mystical book closer to its readers. The treatise, being the longest of essays incorporated into the book, provides the main bulk of material for the nation's *chengyu* collection, either in the form of ready-made four-character phrases or as phrases that were later turned into four-character maxims. These, together with material found in the judgements of the lines in the main text, are representative of the mystical, moralistic and yet practical nature of the *Book of Changes*. Naturally they were often quoted in the writings of courts and governments of later dynasties.

In identifying the usage of these maxims in the political speeches of the three most prominent leaders of new China, namely Mao Zedong, Deng Xiaoping and Xi Jinping, and by giving those maxims etymological and semantic explications, Mr. Vladislav Kruglov has shown us how these old maxims have been accorded relevance in modern-day China, and will in so doing enable his readers to gain a deep understanding of Chinese culture as a whole. Mr. Kruglov's erudition is impressive, and his contribution to Sinology is immense.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. M. Ho', with a stylized, cursive script.

Richard M.W. Ho

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