

Hu Shih, in an address given at the  
Peking National University, June 10, 1930.

My constant preaching that learning and knowledge offers the only way to the salvation of China may sound a little trite to you..... But what kind of education can save China? Only higher education. St. John's university, Shanghai is a little over 50 years old, while as a seat of high learning it has a history of only 31 years. Many in Europe can point to a history of 8 or 10 centuries. With a country so backward in higher education the paucity of talent and leadership in China should occasion no surprise. Modern civilization is a joint product of the Reformation, the Renaissance and the New Science, but those who made these movements possible were all university men. Copernicus, Galileo and Martin Luther are cases in point.

China's problems are more difficult and complicated than those faced by any other country....we are dealing with a country never systematically organized, in fact, China has long ceased to be a nation.

Our ancients used to say, and with considerable truth, that the people are the foundation of a nation, but the rulers seem to take the attitude that while the people may all die of famine or be killed, they cannot give up their pasttime of civil war, giving vent to their private feeling against one another. Certainly you do not find this phenomenon in a well governed country.

I maintain that the real opponent of the Chinese National Revolution is not foreign imperialism, nor that vague influence, feudalism. The country is suffering from the presence of five demons or evil spirits, and unless they are exorcised there is