

## DOCTORAL THESIS

### 《華僑日報》與香港華人社會(1925-1995)

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《華僑日報》與香港華人社會（1925-1995）

*Wah Kiu Yat Po (Overseas Chinese Daily News) and the Development  
of Chinese Society in Hong Kong, 1925-1995*

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## 中文提要

《華僑日報》創刊於 1925 年 6 月 25 日，至 1995 年 1 月 12 日止，前後刊行長達七十年，是二十世紀香港歷史最悠久的報紙之一。它承接香港早期的辦報傳統，開創中文報紙的嶄新局面，第二次世界大戰後且成爲香港第一大報，見證了香港社會的急劇變化和迅速發展。該報在相當程度上亦能反映華人社會的訴求，傳達了華人精英的見解和廣大市民的心聲；在報導內地消息和服務海外僑胞兩方面，均作出了貢獻。

《華僑日報》的前身，可上溯至英文《孖刺西報》所辦的中文報紙，1857 年創刊時名爲《香港船頭貨價紙》，翌年改組爲《香港中外新報》，後來稱爲《中外新報》，1919 年香港華商總會接辦後，改名《香港華商總會報》。至 1925 年轉讓給報人岑維休，報社由砵甸乍街遷至荷李活道，稱爲《華僑日報》。因此，作爲《華僑日報》前身的報紙有三份，依次是《香港船頭貨價紙》、《中外新報》、《香港華商總會報》，前後刊行共達六十八年，《華僑日報》本身則刊行七十年。

《華僑日報》本身是香港歷史文化的一個組成部分，該報更是研究香港社會發展的珍貴材料。本文擬就《華僑日報》前身及該報本身的刊行經過作全面性的系統論述，並對報上登載的消息、文章、圖片、廣告等作詳細統計，說明該報在不同時期的內容和特色，進而探討《華僑日報》與本港乃至內地、海外社會的關係，分析該報在香港社團的發展歷程中所擔當的角色，以及香港社團對該報所作出的回饋，藉此考察二十世紀香港中文報刊與華人社會發展之間的互動作用。

本文分爲八章：第一章是緒論，旨在說明中文報刊與華人社會的關係；

第二章記述《華僑日報》創辦的經過、辦報宗旨和創始時期的新氣象，對作為《華僑日報》「前史」的三種先驅中文報紙亦作了必要的介紹，交代了幾種報紙之間一脈相承的淵源；第三章探討《華僑日報》與戰前香港社會變遷，及該報在香港淪陷期間的情形；第四章論述戰後香港社會復興與《華僑日報》發展的情形，以及該報與工商社團的關係；第五章分析《華僑日報》的組織和營運狀況，探討報社重要成員的活動和辦報理念，該報行銷的對象和主要讀者群組；第六章交代《華僑日報》後期的改革方向、廣告策略和社會聯繫，分析了該報易手和停刊因由；第七章剖析《華僑日報》參與香港社會福利事業、文教事業的具體情況，全面討論了該報在戰後發起和推動救童助學運動的詳情和貢獻，以及在倡導中文教育和推動華人文化等事項上所作出的努力；第八章是結論，指出《華僑日報》的本身歷史及該報的言論內容反映了香港社會的發展進程，該報刊行期間一直與華人社會有著互動關係，並就《華僑日報》對香港報界和社會文化的貢獻作了評價。

## Abstract

*Wah Kiu Yat Po* [華僑日報], also known as *Overseas Chinese Daily News*, was one of the most representative Chinese newspapers in twentieth-century Hong Kong. It was also a popular newspaper among overseas Chinese communities around the world. This analytical research on *Wah Kiu Yat Po* will correct erroneous records and biased views. It will also make a remarkable contribution in Hong Kong studies and the history of modern Chinese journalism.

*Wah Kiu Yat Po* started on 5 June 1925. The predecessor of this newspaper was the Chinese edition of *The Daily Press* [孖刺西報], which first came into being in 1857 with the title of *Heong-Kong Shun-Tow Fo-Kai Chi* [香港船頭貨價紙]. It was transformed into *Hongkong Chung Ngoi San Po* [香港中外新報] in 1858 and became a daily publication. From its earliest days, it was targeted at Chinese merchants and become a source of commercial information covering shipping, prices, advertisements and other relevant news. The title was altered into *Chung Ngoi San Po* [中外新報] during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Chinese Chamber of Commerce purchased it in 1919 and renamed it as *The Chinese Commercial News of Hong Kong* [香港華商總會報].

In 1925, The Chinese Chamber of Commerce considered the running cost of this newspaper was too high and sold it to Shum Wai Yau [岑維休], a Chinese journalist, who was interested in purchasing the newspaper, including the printing machines. The editorial office was moved from Pottinger Street to Hollywood Road, and the *Wah Kiu Yat Po* began its publication. From then on. Compared with other newspapers in Hong Kong, *Wah Kiu Yat Po* was always

found full of notices from many different Chinese social associations and cultural societies. This tradition was kept until that *Wah Kiu Yat Po* ceased its publication on 12 January 1995.

In the foundation period from *Heong-Kong Shun-Tow Fo-Kai Chi* to *Wah Kiu Yat Po*, the title of the newspaper changed several times. Yet, its uses as the venue for dissemination of information useful for the business world in Hong Kong, the notices from the social associations as well as the cultural societies were kept. The news that they published was historical materials worthy of telling in the history of a century. One of the major functions of the *Wah Kiu Yat Po* was to strengthen its linkage with Chinese merchants in Hong Kong and with the overseas Chinese. From 1948 onwards, the newspaper began to compile and publish an annual reviews of Hong Kong social development as well as a directory of all trading, business, schools and associations in Hong Kong, known as *Hongkong Yearbook* [香港年鑑]. Both *Wah Kiu Yat Po* and *Hongkong Yearbook* contributed to the social and cultural life of Hong Kong, and left a great impression among the people of Hong Kong.

The *Wah Kiu Yat Po* took up a sense of social duty, in addition to its concern with the development of cultures in Hong Kong. For this reason, a study of the *Wah Kiu Yat Po* is indeed a study of the development of modern Hong Kong society. In the past, the *Wah Kiu Yat Po* was neglected by the historical scholarship. Some attentions was paid to assessing the role in which the *Wah Kiu Yat Po* played in the history of journalism in Hong Kong. This research thus fills up an important gap and offers an assessment of the significance of the *Wah Kiu Yat Po* in Hong Kong's social and cultural history.

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