



# De-modernizing the History of Chinese Logic

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# De-modernizing the History of Chinese Logic



## I. The Discovery of Chinese Logic

*The Emergence of the Modernist Paradigm*

## II. From Discovery to Integration

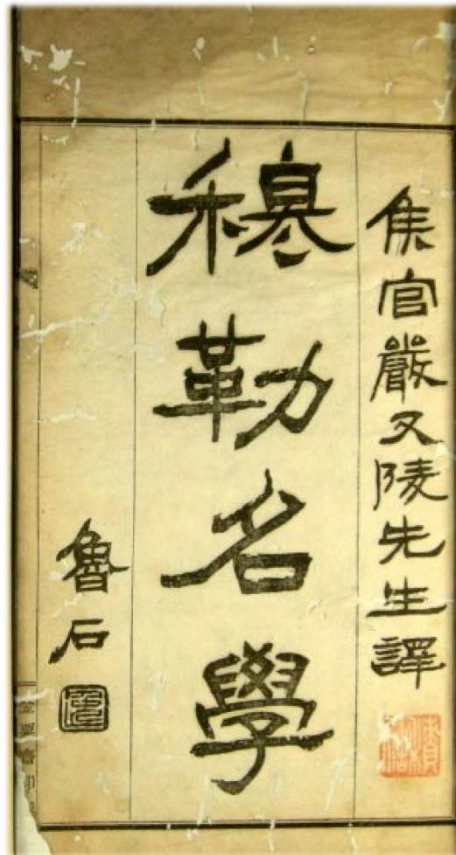
## III. From Integration to Separation

## IV. From Separation to Independence

*Beyond the Modernist Paradigm*

## V. A History of Argumentative Practices

# Yan Fu 嚴復, 1853–1921



*Mule mingxue* 穆勒名學 (Mill's Logic), 1903–1905

## Yan Fu 嚴復, 1853–1921

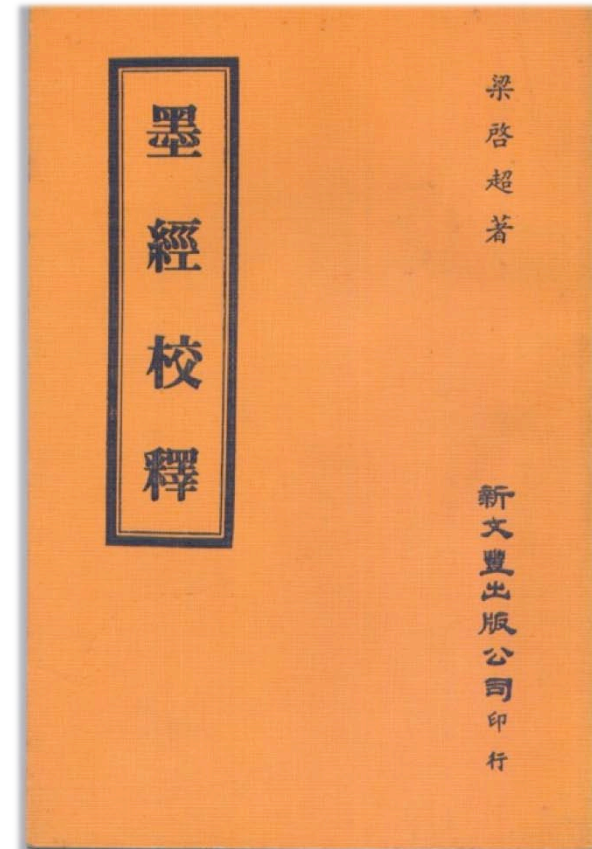
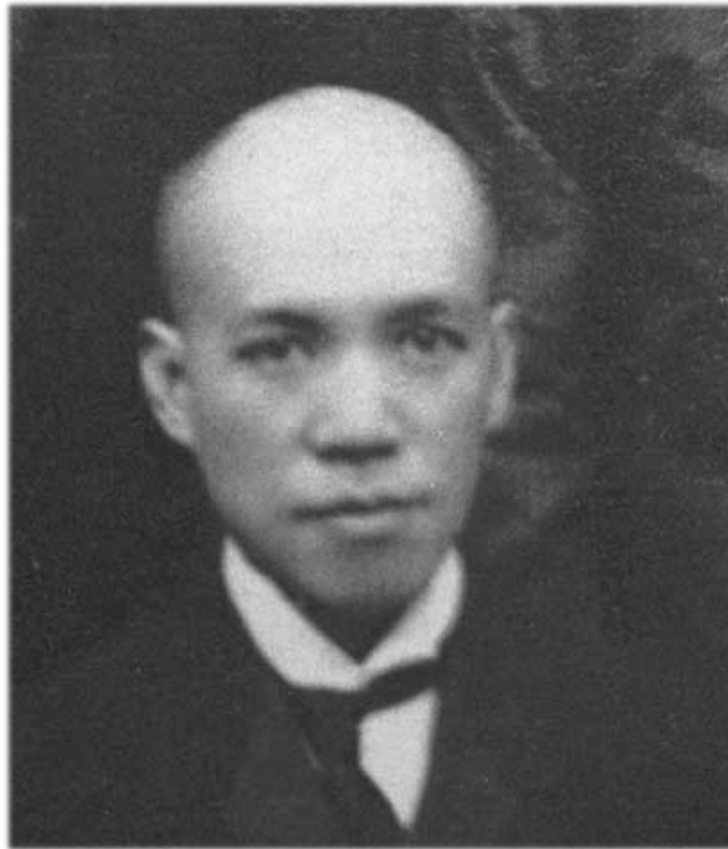


“The insights in [Mill’s Logic] are as numerous as silk threads in a cocoon. ... They will do away with 80 or 90% of China’s old patterns, and people’s minds will gain utmost strength from their application.”



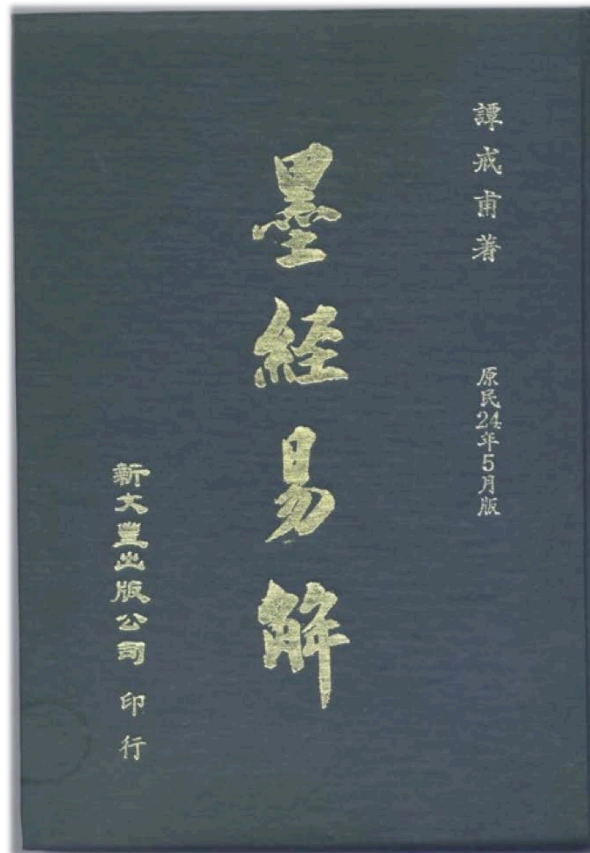
*Mule mingxue* 穆勒名學 (Mill’s Logic), 1903–1905

# Liang Qichao 梁啟超, 1873–1929



*Mojing jiaoshi* 墨經校釋 (The “Mohist Canons,”  
Collated and Annotated), 1920

# Tan Jiefu 譚戒甫, 1887–1974



*Mojing yijie* 墨經易解 (The “Mohist Canons,”  
Simplified and Explained), 1935

# Hu Shi 胡適, 1891–1962

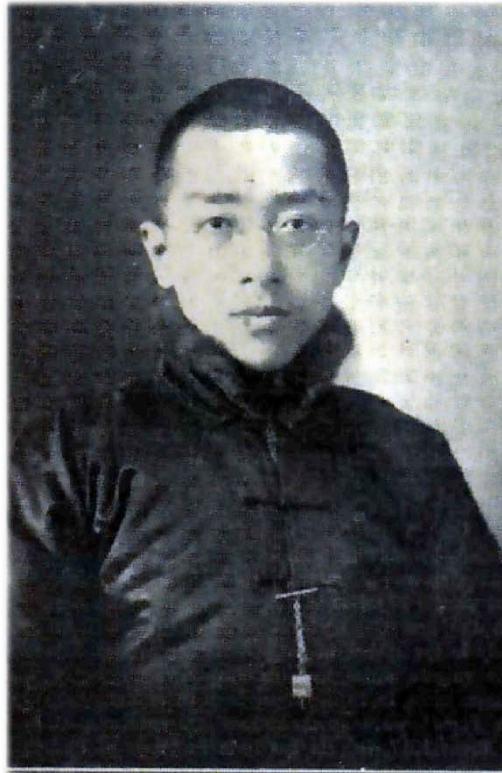


Dr. Hu Shi  
胡適字適之  
(Hu Shih)  
(H<sup>o</sup> 211P)  
留學美國  
Dr. H<sup>o</sup> 211P



*The Development of the Logical Method in Ancient China, 1922 (1917)*

# Hu Shi 胡適, 1891–1962



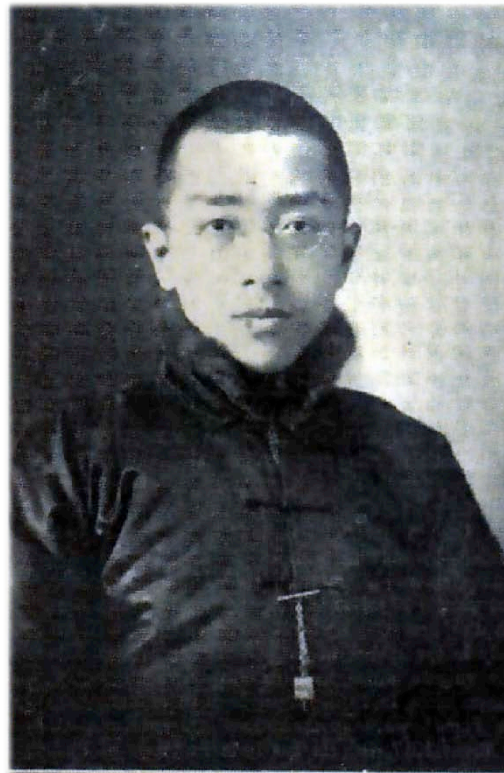
Dr. Hu Shih  
胡適字適之  
(Hu Shih)  
(H<sup>o</sup> 2P1P)  
留學美國  
Dr. H<sup>o</sup> 2P1P

“How can we Chinese feel at ease in this new world which at first sight appears to be so much at variance with what we have long regarded as our own civilization?”

*The Development of the Logical Method in Ancient China, 1922 (1917)*



# Hu Shi 胡適, 1891–1962

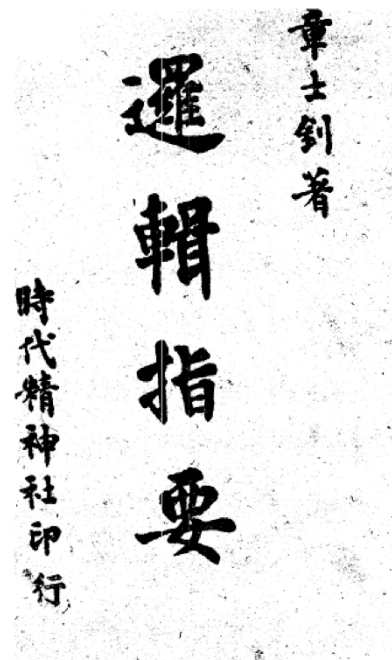


Dr. Hu Suh  
胡適字適之  
(Hu Shih)  
(H<sup>o</sup> 2P1P)  
留學美國  
Dr. H<sup>o</sup> 2P1P

“Only when we study these long-neglected native systems in the light and with the aid of modern Western philosophy ... can [we] feel truly at ease with the new methods and instrumentalities of speculation and research.”

*The Development of the Logical Method in Ancient China, 1922 (1917)*

# Zhang Shizhao 章士釗, 1881–1973



*Luoji zhiyao* 邏輯指要 (Essentials of Logic), 1939 (1917)

## Zhang Shizhao 章士釗, 1881–1973



“The science of names in the pre-Qin period and European logic are like two wheels of a carriage; they rotate each other when moving forward.”



*Luoji zhiyao* 邏輯指要 (Essentials of Logic), 1939 (1917)

## Zhang Shizhao 章士釗, 1881–1973



“[I will] take European logic as the warp and our nation’s patterns of names as the weft, weave the two intimately together, and propagate them as a single science, thus opening a new page for this discipline.”



*Luoji zhiyao* 邏輯指要 (Essentials of Logic), 1939 (1917)

# Zhang Dongsun 張東蓀, 1886–1973



*Zhishi yu wenhua* 知識與文化 (Knowledge and Culture), 1946

## Zhan Jianfeng 詹劍鋒, 1902–1982



“Once social development advances to a certain stage ... people begin to study thinking itself, summarize the thought experience of their forebears, abstract its forms and laws, and establish a scientific discipline—in our case, logic. Since logic emerged in ancient India, and then again emerged in ancient Greece, it had to emerge in ancient China, too. Had it failed to do so, this would have violated the laws according to which thought develops.”

*Mojia de xingshi luoji* 墨家的形式邏輯  
(Mohist Formal Logic), 1956



# Wang Dianji 汪奠基, 1900–1979



中国逻辑思想史

汪奠基著

上海人民出版社



*Zhongguo luoji sixiang shi* 中國邏輯思想史  
(A History of Chinese Logical Thought), 1979

## De-modernizing the History of Chinese Logic



*A non-modernist approach entails:*

- I. A shift in perspective: instead of chasing theoretical fragments, it aims to reconstruct actual practices of argumentation
- II. A shift in focus: instead of tracing explicit rules of reasoning, it aims to understand implicit and explicit standards of validity



## De-modernizing the History of Chinese Logic



*Reconstructing standards of validity requires to identify:*

- I. Conventions of description, habits of inference and analogy, ways of using and disputing evidence
- II. Implicit and explicit criteria of veracity, credibility, coherence, relevance, applicability, etc.

## De-modernizing the History of Chinese Logic



*Reconstructing standards of validity requires to identify:*

- III. The terms, in which arguments and knowledge claims are evaluated, disputed and defended
- IV. The sources from which such metalanguages are built, and
- V. The fields in which they are applied and recognized



Thank you!