

## PREFACE

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29 Sep 93

[First installment of serialized article by Kao Hsin (7539 2450) and Ho Pin (0149 7340): "Zhu Rongji's Biography"]

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[Text] Hanging beside the doorway to the Yuelu Academy of Changsha, Hunan, one of the four great academies of the Song Dynasty, is a couplet which reads "More flourishing than this; Only the Kingdom of Chu [B.C.7400-330 country which included present-day Hunan] has talent." It is an indisputable fact that since the 19th century, natives of Hunan have "topped the list" of leading players on the political scene in China. Without bringing up the era of Tseng Kuo-fan and Tso Tsung-tang when "Without Hunan, an army cannot be formed" or Hwang Hsing and Tsai E of the period surrounding the 1911 Revolution, but speaking only of the Chinese Communist Party and the Kuomintang, many famous individuals from Hunan have been creating a stir on the political stage of the Chinese people!

There are fewer Hunan natives in the Kuomintang but the current Vice President, Li Yuan-tsu; the Minister of Justice, Ma Ying-chiu; and the Chairman of the Taiwan Provincial Government, Sung Chu-yu all happen to be Hunanese. The examples in the Chinese Communist government are too numerous to list completely. Mao Zedong, Liu Shaoqi, and Hu Yaobang are all well known. Peng Dehuai, He Long, and Luo Rongheng were three of the ten greatest Chinese Communist generals. Among the highest level of leadership in the Chinese Communist Party today, the Hunanese politician who attracts the most attention is Zhu Rongji.

Although he was listed fourth in the membership list of the Politburo Standing Committee of the 14th National Congress of the Communist Party and is ranked beneath Li Peng in the list of the State Council leadership, no one doubts that among the top leaders of Communist China today, he is the most oriented toward substantive tasks, has the most economic leadership ability and has great control over economic matters in Mainland China. As early as when Deng Xiaoping named him to serve as Vice-Premier in the State Council, when Zhu's party position was only that of Alternate Member of the 13th National Party Congress Central Committee, there were people overseas praising him as "China's Gorbachev." After he ascended without a hitch to the Chinese Communist "leadership core" - the Central Committee Politburo Standing Committee - in 1992, and especially in 1993 when State Council Premier Li Peng had a "serious flu" for a long period and was not closely involved in governmental affairs, people overseas were even more impressed with Zhu's political career.

Back when Zhu Rongji was in charge of Shanghai, this writer pointed out in an essay that regardless of Zhu

Rongji's future political position or political accomplishments and regardless of the future direction taken by China, it is unquestionable that Zhu Rongji will play a key role in the top Chinese Communist leadership.

When Jiang Zemin replaced Zhao Ziyang as General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party after the "4 June" suppression incident in 1989, an individual who claimed intimate knowledge of the behind-the-scenes political workings of the top Chinese Communist leadership revealed to this writer that old Deng's thoughts on a successor were not only on Jiang Zemin alone and the next person would come from Shanghai. The same person also told this writer that within two years, Zhu Rongji would be promoted to a position in the central government. As it turned out, only one year and seven months after this individual said this, Zhu Rongji went to Beijing to assume the position of State Council Vice Premier. After another one year and seven months, Zhu Rongji's position within the party leaped to membership in the Central Committee Politburo Standing Committee, and his name was listed first among the three new members nominated to the Politburo Standing Committee.

As time passes, Zhu's position becomes more and more prominent, but his political image, actual political views, and factional allegiance within the top Chinese Communist leadership are all still vague and imprecise. His personal history and family background are especially not well-known. The inspiration for writing this book was the hope of providing authoritative information from all angles to allow interested readers to truly understand this person, Zhu Rongji!

## CHAPTER ONE: Of the Misfortunes "Widower, Widow, Orphan and Childless," the Zhu Family Is Stricken by Three Out of Four

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[Text] If it is said that "widower, widow, orphan, and childless" represent the four greatest misfortunes that can befall mankind, then Zhu Rongji and his family encountered three out of the four. When Zhu Rongji was still a fetus in his mother's womb, his mother became a widow. Losing his mother when he was a young child made Zhu Rongji an orphan. Fortunately his uncle treated Zhu Rongji as his own child, but unfortunately his uncle lost his wife in his middle years.

This tragic family background gave Zhu a difficult childhood and caused him to mature early. The adversity gave him his strong-willed, stubborn, and unyielding character.

At a meeting of the Ninth National People's Congress in Shanghai on April 23, 1988, Zhu Rongji, as a candidate for mayor, was asked by the delegates at the meeting to describe his own background. He answered everyone's question very frankly, "I am truly a person with a background of suffering. From the time of my early