

歷|史|研|究

當代中國佛教外交與政治宣傳

學愚

摘要

公元前三世紀左右，印度阿育王大力推廣佛教，向世界各地派遣傳教僧侶，受到當地國王和人民的盛情接待，由此佛教亦肩負起世界文化交流和人民友好往來的使命。佛教傳入中國以及在中國的發展，就是中印文化交流和人民往來的結果，促進了兩國外交的發展。¹近代以來，隨著中國政治和社會的變化，中外佛教往來的內容和形式亦發生變化。本文嘗試運用公共外交理念，檢討二十世紀五十年代至六十年代中國佛教外交和政治宣傳的歷史。通過這樣的研究，我們希望進一步認識當代中國佛教與政治的關係，並由此加深理解佛教在社會主義中國改造的情勢。

關鍵詞：公共外交、佛教外交、中國佛教

學愚，香港中文大學文化及宗教研究系助理教授、人間佛教研究中心主任。

¹ 公元前2年(漢哀帝元壽元年)，博士弟子景盧受大月氏王使伊存口授《浮屠經》。(《魏略·西戎傳》)這是有關佛教傳入中國的最早記載之一，說明佛教的傳入與外交的關係。

Buddhist Diplomacy and Political Propaganda in Contemporary China

XUE Yu

Abstract

Buddhism from its very beginning has played a positive role in cultural exchange and friendly relations of different peoples during its long history of spreading. The introduction of Buddhism into China in the first century A.D. in fact initiated Indo-China diplomatic relations. This paper, by using the idea of public diplomacy, investigates the history of Buddhist diplomacy from the 1950s to early 1960s when the Chinese government worked hard in search of international friends. Special attention is paid to examine how the Chinese Buddhist Association responded to the government's efforts in carrying out Buddhist diplomacy by dispatching Buddhist delegations to Buddhist countries or inviting Buddhist leaders of foreign countries to China. Through this study, we hope to enhance our understanding of the close relationship between institutional Buddhism and the state in socialist China.

Keywords: public diplomacy, Buddhist diplomacy, Chinese Buddhism

XUE Yu is Assistant Professor at Department of Cultural and Religious Studies, and Director of Centre for the Study of Humanistic Buddhism, The Chinese University of Hong Kong.