## Comments from Scholars 学者评价

近十年来,宋永毅、丁抒等海内外学者以极大的历史责任感,禅精竭虑、集腋成裘,编辑出版了《中国文化大革命文库,1966-1976》第一、第二版, 这是为研究中国文革和当代史所做的奠基性工作。现在,《中国反右运动数据库,1957-》又成功编辑出版,进一步为研究极为复杂的中国当代政治史提供了另一个极为重要的资料库。我热切地期待他们尽快完成整个《中国当代政治运动史数据库,1949-》,这是具有重大历史意义的、史无前例的基础性学术工程。它们既为研究者提供丰富、全面、系统的材料,同时也为抢救和保全我们民族的集体记忆做出无可估量的贡献。"

"With painstaking efforts and out of a tremendous sense of responsibility for history, Song Yongyi, Ding Shu and their fellow scholars from inside and outside China have published, over the past ten years, both the first and second editions of *The Chinese Cultural Revolution Database*, 1966-1976. In so doing, they have laid a foundation stone for research on both the Cultural Revolution and contemporary Chinese history. Now, their *China's Anti-Rightist Database* 1957- has also been successfully completed and published. The debut of this project has resulted in the availability of yet another highly significant database for the study of the rather complex contemporary Chinese history. I eagerly await the publication of their entire database series entitled *The Database for the History of Contemporary Chinese Political Movements*, 1949-. This foundational undertaking of unprecedented historical and academic significance will serve to both provide researchers with rich, comprehensive and systematic archival sources and contribute immeasurably to the preservation of the collective memory of our nation's history."

Xu Youyu 徐友渔, Professor Chinese Academy of Social Sciences 中国社科院 China "1957年,是中华人民共和国历史的一个转折点,以后的大跃进、大饥荒、文化大革命,以至 1989年天安门事件,其最早的根源,都要追溯到 1957年的反 右运动。

但恰恰是这一段历史,在中国大陆,被长期强迫遗忘;在海外,也长期被遮蔽, 知之不详。

因此,近年来学术界不断有加强对 1957 年这段历史研究的要求,甚至有建立"1957年学"的呼吁。而本数据库的建立,就是一个极重要的基本建设,其所网罗的原始资料之广泛和丰富翔实,为这一领域史料研究之集大成,又为以后的研究奠定了坚实的基础。

被遗忘的历史终于被重新记起,并因此数据库而得以永存。这真是功德无量,并 惠泽学术。"

"The year 1957 signified a turning point in the history of the People's Republic of China. Many significant historical events can trace their origins to the Anti-Rightist Campaign of that year, such as the Great Leap Forward, the Great Famine, the Cultural Revolution, and even the 1989 Tiananmen Incident. Ironically, a national amnesia about that period of Chinese history has been imposed on people in mainland China for a long time. Outside China, the Anti-Rightist Campaign has been a low-visibility and murky subject as well. It is no wonder that, in recent years, there have been calls in the academic community for the strengthening of research on that period of history; there have even been calls for the start of a '1957 Study.'

The debut of this database marked the first step towards such an effort. The original archival sources included in this database are both extensive and substantive, making it the finest of resources available for historical research in this field as well as a solid foundation for future research on the Anti-Rightist Campaign. Indeed, with the birth of this database, the forgotten history has been brought back to life and will exist for ever. This invaluable database brings numerous benefits to both the academic community and the general public alike."

Qian Liqun 钱理群, Professor Beijing University 北京大学 China "The 1957 Anti-Rightist Movement was a major blunder with chilling effect on Chinese society. An over-confident Chairman Mao expanded on the Yan'an Rectification by calling for "letting hundred flowers bloom", but quickly authorized a crackdown on those who followed his urging to criticize the Communist Party. Consequently, 550,000 people, the cream of the thinking populace in an otherwise silent China, were labeled Rightists, intellectually humiliated and physically punished. While the campaign succeeded in strengthening the CCP's monopoly of power, the magnitude of its damage to China's progress was infinitely greater than Emperor Qin Shihuang's "burying Confucian scholars and burning books" and Emperor Han Wudi's "banning the hundred schools of thought" combined.

The immense importance of the Anti-Rightist Movement was understood by all who lived through it, but remarkably not a single book by China experts in the English speaking world specifically devoted to the topic has appeared except for one by an obscure Indian scholar more than 30 years ago. Moreover, Chinese publications are relatively few because the campaign remains a "forbidden zone", undoubtedly due in large part to Deng Xiaoping's key role in its implementation. The publication of this monumental *Chinese Anti-Rightist Database* is truly indispensable for better understanding and further study of this critical event. Like their magnificent *Cultural Revolution Database*, Song Yongyi and his fellow scholars have not only preserved a critically important piece of collective memory for the Chinese people, they have also again provided a tremendous service to China scholars around the world."

Warren Sun 孙万国, Professor Monash University Australia "Among the disasters of late Maoism in China, The Anti-Rightist Campaign of 1957 is less famous than the huge Great Leap famine of 1959-62 and the withering trauma of the Cultural Revolution in the late 1960s. But the Anti-Rightist Campaign was arguably the crucial turning point of the Mao era: it was then that public language was subverted, ideals destroyed, and political cynicism set onto a course that has extended to the present day. The Anti-Rightist Campaign Database casts far more light onto those fateful years than any other source we have."

Perry Links, Chancellorial Chair Professor University of California, Riverside USA "This database is a unique and significant contribution to promoting good scholarship that will lead to solid knowledge undermining the 'official story' of the Mao years in China. It should go a long way toward clarifying the cruel and negative impact of the Anti-Rightist Campaign in shaping China's subsequent political destiny."

Edward Friedman, Professor, University of Wisconsin at Madison, USA