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Editorial Office: (Mail Address)
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No.510 Zhongzheng Road, Xinzhuang Dist.
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Web Page: http://www.umrpc.fju.edu.tw
E-mail Address: umrpc@mail.fju.edu.tw
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Between Malaya and China—Homeland for the Chinese in Malaysia as Seen from Two Lives*

Danny Wong Tze Ken  
Professor, Department of History & Director of Institute of China Studies University of Malaya

Tan Ai Boay  
Assistance Professor, Institute of Chinese Studies Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman

Abstract: This paper will examine the lives of two Chinese who were caught in this situation of shifting homeland by maintaining political allegiance to both homelands between 1900-1941. The paper argues that this situation represents a very important phase in the history of the Chinese in Malaysia as the Chinese began to adapt to the idea of a new homeland in Malaya by not only shifting their political allegiance but also transplanting their religious systems to their new homeland. Others, torn between the two homelands, sought to maintain a balance between the two, thus creating a situation in which they operated in the two homelands, each representing a homeland that was either real or imagined.

Key Terms: Homeland, Political Allegiance, Religion, Leong Fee, Leong Sin Nam

1. Introduction

The Chinese in Malaysia migrated to the country en masse during the period from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century. During this time, Chinese of different classes

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