Transcript of the Interview with Jianchuan Fan (樊建川)

China Boom Project, Asia Society
2008

Fan, Jianchuan (樊建川)
Founder, Jianchuan Group

Industry: Business

Fan Jianchuan, a private collector, founded China’s largest museum, the Jianchuan Museum, in 2006. Fan’s project includes eight museums commemorating the Sino-Japanese War. Twelve others deal with the 10-year Cultural Revolution, initiated by Mao Zedong in 1966. Fan displays more than 200,000 historic photos, posters, stamps, chinaware, letters, uniforms, badges and other antiques from the Mao era. The museums also house his collection of more than 10,000 paintings, manuscripts and other relics from wars in China’s modern history, before the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949. Fan has spent 30 million yuan (US$3.6 million) over the past 20 years collecting the antiques. His museums, covering 33 hectares, cost another 100 million yuan to build. Fan, 47, had been a soldier, a teacher and vice mayor of his hometown Yibin City for two years before founding the Chengdu-based Jianchuan Group, which is involved in real estate development, hotels and cultural projects.

Museum Website:
http://www.jc-museum.cn/cn/

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Transcript

Interviewee: Jianchuan Fan (樊建川)
Interviewer: John Delury
Videographer: Josh Chin
Date: June 3 and 4, 2008
Place: Chengdu (China)

BOOM TAPE LOG: Sichuan 2

Content: Jianchuan Museum B-Roll
Date: 2008.06.03
Location: Jianchuan Museum, Sichuan
Shooter: Josh Chin

00:00:07:16 00:00:54:29
Cultural Revolution museum entrance, vertical pan of years 1966-1976 ending with video of Tiananmen rally.

00:00:55:01 00:01:22:11
Close up of photo of smiling peasant, pull back and rotate to reveal photos hung in light well.

00:01:22:13 00:01:55:11
Close up of workers jacket (安全生��控), pull back and pan right past bed to CR paraphernalia hung on brick wall (Mao portrait, 1972 calendar, bag 学大口)

00:01:55:13 00:02:18:01
Close up of old bowls and lamp, pull out and pan up past newspaper wallpaper to lg framed portrait of Mao framed by revolutionary couplets.

00:02:39:25 00:03:17:26
Close up and downward pan showing framed 收肥工分日口(流水)公开牌 from 1967 with tears in middle, followed by pan up from bottom. (Slight camera reflection in glass.)

00:03:17:28 00:03:27:17
Medium shot replica soldier’s beds, red star caps lying on folded quilts.

00:03:44:19 00:03:53:05
Low angle med shot 3 soldier’s wash tubs with towels and toothbrushes lines up on table.

00:04:01:28 00:04:10:05
Med close-up soldier’s bed, cap on quilt, Little Red Book peaking out from under pillow.

00:04:10:07 00:04:20:05
Still med shot, posters and photos on wall of soldier’s room exhibit: “口守口律的八口口定” and “口口革命口口永口口前口”

00:04:20:07 00:04:33:26
Off-kilter long shot, museum attendant leaning up against worker’s room exhibit, red door in background.

00:04:33:28 00:04:43:23
Med shot, tour guide explaining cadre’s room exhibit to John Delury, others.
Close up of Mao portrait wood carving, pull back to reveal red Mao quote poster hanging on wall next to others. “我□的□利是□□的？是工人□□□的，是□下中□□的…”

Med shot, two museum attendants standing next to worker and peasant room exhibits, red door in background, Lei Feng portrait in foreground; quick pull back to long shot of same.

Close up of Liberation Daily front page, headline: 我国第一□原子□爆炸成功

Tour guide explains Great Leap Forward propaganda photo of several horse carts linked together.

Close-up pan of GLF horse cart propaganda photo (strong camera reflection in glass, unsteady).

Angle med shot, CR-era radio station, microphone wrapped in red cloth, box in background says 人民服□， quick pull-back to long shot, shows desk covered in prop posters.

Close-up, exhibit sign: Country Medical Station. Chinese pan down to English.

Med close-up of medical disposal bin, pan up then out to show door w/ red cross, eye chart, medical bags hanging on wall.

Close up, exhibit sign: Broadcasting Station.

Med long shot, museum attendant walking past huge Mao portrait on wall.

Low-angle side shot of tin cup exhibit (slight camera reflection in glass)

Close-up of tin cup, pull back to show full display (slight glass reflection)

Close-up, CR-era educational booklets. 工□基□知□，算□
Close-up, low angle, Little Red Books (slight camera reflection in glass)

Med shot, “保国” in large lettering on wall, hanging lamp in foreground.

Wide shot, attendant in 保国 display hall, glass cases.

Med wide shot, museum guard in Nationalist military outfit standing at top of staircase.

Close up shot, panning left, revolutionary shadow puppets.

Close-up shot pull out to med shot, revolutionary banjos

Close-up, exhibit sign: Performing Arts Propaganda Team

Close-up, side angle, exhibit sign: Performing Arts Propaganda Team

Close-up, revolutionary ballet slippers in display case.

Med shot, CR-era store replica shelves, stocked with cups, teapots, clocks, etc.

Exhibit sign: Supply and Marketing Cooperative; close-up.

Store exhibit, teapots and plates, farmers’ hats on wall foreground; med shot.

Store exhibit: “保障供國” above enamel basins; med shot.

Female guards in Nationalist army uniforms standing near nuclear attack propaganda display; wide shot zoom into to close-up.
Museum staff study propaganda video under propaganda slogans: □□□□□□□活□；med shot, from rear.

Museum employees, seated on benches, studying Mao film on TV under two slogans: □□□□□□□活□，and 敬祝毛主席万□元疆；med wide shot, from rear.

Close-up of film showing Nixon, Kissenger meeting with Mao and Zhou, pulls back to med-wide shot of museum employees seated in benches under slogan □□□□□□□活□ (unsteady)

Close-up of replica mango in Mao glass case, pull back to med wide shot of exhibition hall. (Slight shooter reflection in glass)

Close-up of rows of miniature Mao busts, pull back and pan up to show large Mao statue behind.

Good close-up of rows of miniature Mao busts, crooked pan up to show large Mao statue.

Med close up of slogan painted on metal plaque welded into bed railings: 毛主席□□ — 我□要关心国家大事，要把无□□□文化大革命□行到底！

Mao quotation cards on square plexiglass display: Close up on back of card (我□要学□他), blurry red fronts of other cards in foreground, pull back and shift focus to med close up of eight cards (毛主席□□□□ printed across top).

Med shot, pan down of entrance to □色年代瓷器□列□ (someone's elbow in left side of frame)

Med shot, entrance to porcelain exhibit, tour guide explains Mao statue to John Delury, pair exit left (no sound).

Close up, side angle of white porcelain statue, Mao with hand raised in greeting, at entrance to porcelain exhibit.
Med close, head-on shot of white porcelain statue, Mao with hand raised in greeting, at entrance to porcelain exhibit.


Med wide shot, tour guide explaining porcelain jars in plexiglass cases. to John (mostly off-frame) (no sound).

Earthquake debris: Close up of broken employees boxes, pan right to med-close shot of workers shifting broken Bank of China signs.

Earthquake debris: Med close, low angle shot of broken Bank of China sign.

Earthquake debris: Med close shot of hollow, broken computer casing in pile of other debris.

Earthquake debris: Extreme close up of broken clasp on Bank of China lock-box, pull back to show more debris.

Earthquake debris: Med close up of bent bicycle wheel, quick zoom into extreme close up of wheel hub, slow pull back to med shot of wheel surrounded by other debris.

Earthquake debris: Med shot of worker holding up damaged Bank of China business hours sign.

Earthquake debris: Extreme close up face of Chinese brand cassette deck, pull back to show deck lying at center of other rubble.

Earthquake debris: Med close, low angle shot of broken chandelier lying on edge of rubble, worker in background.

Earthquake debris: Med shot, worker sifts through rubble, pulls out broken computer.
Earthquake debris: Workers cover debris with red tarp.

Earthquake debris: Med close shot of bank workers’ broken cabinets, slow zoom to extreme close up of name on cubby hole.

Med shot, panning right of slogan above museum complex hotel: 四川很有希望 - 毛□□

BOOM TAPE LOG: Sichuan 3

Content: Fan Jianchuan interview
Date: 2008.06.04
Location: Chengdu
Interviewer: John Delury
Shooter: Josh Chin

00:01:14:28 00:01:56:17
John asks for self-introduction

00:01:56:17 00:02:50:24
Fan self-intro

00:02:57:27 00:05:35:13
Fan introduces museum:

00:02:57:27:
Lists museum statistics: number of museums, total area, etc.

00:04:14:25:
“The purpose of this museum...[World War II and Cultural Revolution] are the most important events for Chinese people in the last century...Honest memories”

00:05:35:13 00:06:01:23
John question: “From a historical perspective, how do you understand the past 30 years of China’s development?”

00:06:01:23 00:07:07:18
Fan: “China’s modernization process up to this point has probably taken 100 years...Up to the 8 Allied Army incident, China was relatively backward, relatively barbaric and feudal,
always being invaded…Since then, people have been continuously contemplating 'What road should China take?'…

00:07:07:18 00:08:07:09
Fan: “Over the past 100 years, there have been four people who have pushed this history forward. One is Sun Zhongshan…The second person, I think, is Mao Zedong. Mao Zedong has influenced every single Chinese person’s life…The third is Chiang Kai-shek, because he led the war against Japan…The fourth is Deng Xiaoping…”

7 00:08:07:09 00:08:58:29
Fan: “From these four people you can see, for the past two thousand years China has been slowly progressing but all the while maintaining it’s tradition…backward…so the nation has always been stuck in a predicament…”

8 00:08:58:29 00:10:50:18
Fan: “Now against this background, every one can see, in the last 100 years, we’ve gotten rid of the emperor…we’ve been through the Anti-Japanese War…we’ve had a civil war. The first 50 years, it was always this 波...the last 50 years have been relatively united and peaceful...The first 30 years of that second 50 years China was developing, from an agricultural nation to an industrial nation...but there were many mistakes, for example the ‘Anti-Rightist’ movement, the Cultural Revolution.

9 00:10:50:18 00:13:17:14
Fan: “Now, staring with the end of the Cultural Revolution, we can’t keep doing this...we can’t keep relying on this violent, feudal-style revolution...From that point on, whatever problems we’ve encountered, we know we can’t go back...everybody wants to go forward...From Sun Zhongshan (孙中山) to Chiang Kai-shek (蒋介石), all the leaders have been taking us in this direction, to gaiye kaifang...Development has now become the common dream of all 1.3 billion people...I think it’s an inevitable result of history.”

10 00:13:17:14 00:13:38:05
John asks: “As a Sichuanese, what sort of particular impression do you have of this development?”

11 00:13:38:05 00:18:47:18
Fan: “Over the 2000 years of Chinese history, Sichuan is a blessed place. It’s been blessed because of Dujiangyan...It’s always been a place where you could eat your fill...but it’s always relied on agriculture...Over the past 30 years of this reform and opening, it’s been changing...It’s industry has developed...for example, mining...It’s service industry has also developed...tourism...”

00:16:57:25:
“Sichuan is in a basin …”
“Look at the changes in Chengdu...with cars, before it couldn't have been more than 1000, now it’s over a million...

00:18:39:01: “This basin, this relatively closed off place, has opened up to the world... (Great hand movement)

00:18:47:18 00:19:09:29 John asks about 有□者

00:19:09:29 00:27:15:21 Fan: “For the first 30 years of New China, from ’49 to ’79, we essentially had a property-less society. It wasn’t just me who didn’t have any property. 部□ also were property-less...Mao Zedong’s (毛泽东) furniture was provided to him by the State Council...I have documents here that show Mao Zedong’s furniture was rented...every month he paid, I think, 80 RMB in rent for his furniture....”

00:20:18:02: “At most, you owned a watch, or a bicycle, a ???, or a radio. Radio’s were rare. All of these were very rare. If a single family had all four of these, then they were a rich family...”

00:21:25:24: “民□企□家. If you're speaking clearly, they're just capitalists...”

00:22:46:04; “At this time, in 2008, China has produced a segment of society, probably 300 to 500 million people, that has a certain amount of property....”

00:24:12:17: “As soon as someone has property, they have roots. When he has roots, he starts to worry. He doesn’t want revolution...”

00:26:21:27: “I think this is a very significant change, and it’s a change that will influence way the entire structure of society changes, including political change...物□法，□富差距...”

00:27:15:21 00:27:43:26 John asks about earthquake, “What does it mean in historical terms?”

00:27:43:26

00:41:39:14 Fan: “I’m one of the biggest developers in the quake zone...More than 1000 families live in houses I built...I’d estimate more than half the houses in the area were damaged, but mine were fine.”
"I think this proves we still have some problems...

We had an earthquake in the 1970's...This is a lesson for us...But the CCP reacted quickly...a few hours later...faster than Bush with New Orleans...much better than in the past."

"What did this earthquake reveal? Humanity...

Morality, willingness to help is within us. Cub

"With our buildings, not only were lives saved, but property was saved...we feel very lucky."

Describes exhibit plans, one month period, etc....We decided today, we're definitely going to do it. We have a week...

"I think the ultimate meaning of this earthquake is...no, it has two meaning. First, from the level of 精神, it's made Chinese people stop and think, 'Our lives are more important (than all this material striving)... 00:38:48:25 the second has to do with architecture...buildings built for middle-class people and up were fine, the problem was with buildings built for poor people...All of the houses in China are going to get better as a result of this...

"Last question...you've talked a lot about the past and recent events. What do you see in China's future?"

"In the past 30 years, China has built up its infrastructure...dams...roads...but老百姓的生活水平 has stayed pretty much the same...I think in the future, there's no way we'll keep moving this fast...you need sustainable development...this explosive development, you can't sustain it.

"
11

00:45:26:21:
“30 years ago, workers earned a couple hundred RMB per month, now they still earn a couple hundred RMB...this is a huge problem.

00:45:53:06:
“On politics, there will definitely be, uh, ...uh...?? In ten years or so...Taiwan, Ma Yingjiu...if we can build the legal system, we'll definitely have a political breakthrough...平□的□展...it’s good for the whole world.”

00:00:00-00:00:41
John asks for self-introduction

00:41:-01:36
Fan: My name is Fan JianChuan, right now I am the director the JianChuan Museuem. I was born in Sichuan Yibin, our place here is a beautiful, rural village. I have been a farmer, a soldier （*some kind of solider*), also a military training officer in a school, I was a party official, I was a professor, and finally a businessman, My current role, I should say is, a proper businessman, but when I entered into business I did so at a museum. But perhaps in between starting a business and a museum I am at once a business man and a, how to say, founder. Thats my current situation.

1:37-1:44
John: Can you introduce the museum? When did it start, what is its purpose?

1:45 -4:24
Fan: Our museum houses over 8 million artifacts, has 91 national treasures. Current area is 50,000 (some unit),we have already opened 10 museums to the public. Among them are the Japan War Museum, three reflect upon the cultural revolution, three more of them reflect traditional culture. Speaking for myself already more than thirty years of accumulation , 32 years of collection history, but the founding of the museum started in 2003. We started to by land in 2003, and then November 28th, 2004 we began construction, and then opened to the public on August 25th, 2005. Our museum has established 10 different museums, but are target is to establish 25, so we’re about halfway there. Our purpose for establishing these museums is, are primary content deals with the second world war, *something else*. and a part about the cultural revolution. Now, these two things, these important historical incidents, are the most important events in the past 100 years of Chinese history. The most important things to happen to Chinese are that were at war with the Japanese for 10 years, and then *something*, and then we went through internal catastrophe of the cultural revolution, which was an inevitable disaster, and afterward started down the road of reform and opening. These two events of the past century. So, the meaning of my doing this work is to collect and preserve traces of what really happened for history, and leave it for the people after me to be able to conduct
meticulous and thorough inspection, and be able to, for Chinese people, whole world, leave behind a cultural inheritance, some experience, some lessons, this is my motivation.

4:24-4:46
John: This is the thirtieth anniversary of gaige kaifang, we are curious as to how you from the perspective of Chinese history, how do you understand this thirty year period. What is its meaning? What type of periodization does it have? When were its greatest changes?

4:46-12:04
Fan: Really, China’s modernization, I think that up until now has 100 years. Because (some war) to the opium war to the 8 army incident, all of china as been in a state of backwardness, ignorant, under the control of a feudal monarchy. We went through a process of abuse and colonization. **something** We have been continuously contemplating how we should walk this road? How can we obtain, from thousands of years of feudalism, little by little, from national strength, to the social system to the law, the bread of the whole country, to the constitution of the people, where everything was bad, how can we become a strong socialist nation? I believe that our country, in the past 100 years, has four people that will forever remain an important part of our history. One is Sun Yatsen, both the communists and nationalists both see him as forefather. The nationalist party also wants to put statues of Sun Yat Sen, the communist party in Tiananmen, also portray him as a our people’s pioneers. The second is Mao Zedong. Mao Zedong has influences the lives of every single Chinese Person, every Chinese family, even today he is still an enormous influence. The third person is Chiang Kaishek. His success at the time was he lead northern war, and lead the war against Japan. the fourth person is Deng Xiaoping. Deng Xiaoping organized the enormous opening up of the Chinese people. I think from these three people you can see that in reality China’s 2000 year (**something**) history, it is continuously, slowly progressing, it protects and passes on the peoples cultural traditions. But the feudal society was progressively antiquated. Its ability to produce, development of circulation, legal system, identity, were all very weak. It backwards. So the Chinese people were very more in a state of crises. So it was continuously thinking, desiring to change the country for the better. I think that these 4 people are very representative, they are the representatives of the Chinese people, they were continuously striving. With this background everyone can see that in the past 100 years we got rid of the emperor, fought the war against the Japanese, afterward the civil war. So by the middle of the last century, 1949, the first fifty years we were continuously fluctuating, on the other side we had another fifty years, existed in a fairly united, peaceful environment. In this period, the first 30 years, 1949 to 1979, even though the main current was still developing, from an agricultural to an industrial nation, from a country with a low level of education to a country with a relatively high level of education, from a country with a low life expectancy to a country with relatively high life expectancy. The country was sill developing in the first 30 years, but in them a lot of mistakes were made, there were a lot of twists and turns. For example the anti-rightist movement, this had a lot of problems, for example the cultural revolution, and the great leap forward, which came before, also made a lot of mistakes. By the end of Cultural Revolution, everyone knew that we couldn’t continue on that way. In a very feudal, continues violent revolution, one after another, I think met a *something*, this
John: As a Sichuanese, to the sichuanese the development process has had what kind of characteristics? What are their feelings or opinions? What are the differences with other places in China?

Fan: I think that Sichuan, it is a in if you speaking from the perspective of 2000 years it is a blessed place. It has been a blessed place because of Dujiangyan. This is during the Han Dynasty, Qin Dynasty, it was a joint Qin-Han Project. After Dujiangyan it had water irrigation, so it was a blessed place. It has always been a place where you could eat your fill. The surroundings have a lot of mountains, it was always a place where you could eat your fill, it was always very abundant. A chinese heaven. It was for 2000 years even though very abundant it was always agricultural, for 2000 years it has been agricultural. Now, when we established the new country, in 1949, sichuans identity, its face was still an agricultural face. Everyone knows that in sichuan there is a lot of grain, we produce pigs. suchuans pork is produced for the whole country. It is a farmer product. Its a huge agricultural market. During the first phase of Gaige Kaifang, during the 1970's, it was with the face of an agricultural market that it appeared before the world. After going through these 30 years of.gaige kaifang, i believe it is changing. Right its situation is changing, one is that its piece of industry has begun to increase. For example is machine assembly, mining industry, *bunch of stuff*, has begun to restart.**** also the food industry, is also really starting to get moving. There also other industries, for example medicine, Chinese medicine. It is changing from a large agricultural market to a large industrial market. the second is its service industry. right now finance, for example now there are five or six foreign banks here. For example, Citibank is here, also other singaporean, taiwanese,
Hong Kong banks, also its securities exchange, financial industry, real estate industry, tourism industry. the tourism industry has developed especially fast. the tourism industry has already become a sichuanese pillar. I believe that given the circumstance that agriculture will be fundamentally maintained, and industry develops fast, services develop fast, i believe this is very important. Services, including education, culture, this kind of thing. so gaige kaifang brough with it very significant changes. I believe an even more important change has come from education, and our thought process. Because sichuan is a basin, before all he people lived in a basin , once they were old wouldn't even take one step out. Right now sichuanese understand a lot. People from all over the world come here, and our old though process, sichuanese people become a part of the whole country, the whole world, I believe this is a pretty obvious circumstance. the changes brought on by gaige kaifang aren't simply just lifestyle changes. I think that in chengdu, before gaige kaifang, cars, there were probably only one thousand cars. and now, there has to be over one million. phones. at that time, phone.... (something about how between four families there wasn't even a single phone...) My point is that in a material sense, including housing, i think this cities , i think that the architecture area has increased by 20 square feet. in a material sense there has been a lot of changes, but the bigger change has been in the way people think, the sichuanesese's vision, they people in basin, people from a very close off area, became a place with a vision that is in sync with the world. They are aware of everything that occurs in the world. I think that this is the change of the future.

17:34-17:55
John: On the topic of housing, before you mentioned people with property, you said that to chinese people that this a rather new phenomenon. could you please, especially to us americans, explain this change, what relationship it has with gaige kaifang and development, and what societal meaning it has?

17:55:
fan: Its like this. in the first 30 years of "new China", '49 to '79 chinese basically had no property. It wasnt just me who had no property, not just my family had no property, no chinese had property, including the party secretary , department heads, no one had personal property. because a department head every month just took a little more, 20 kuai, his house is publicly owned. Chairman Mao, his furniture, was also belonged the oversight department. Right here we have artifacts that prove it Mao Zedong’s furniture was rented, his bed was rented, he had to pay rent money. His dresser was rented. We have artifacts here. He had to pay about 80 kuai per month. all of the communist part members, none of them had property or were capitalists, none of them had property. Your house wasn’t yours. Your house belonged to the state, after it it was built it was rented out to you. Your bed was also rented. What kind off property could a person have. Possible someone could have a watch that was theirs, or a bicycle that was theirs, or a radio that was theirs. but these were extremely rare. Those items I just mentioned, the watch, the bicycle, the radio, these were extremely rare property. If a family owned all three of these items, then they were extremely rich. But if you added them together, these would only amount to a few kuai. An entire family’s property was only a few kuai. not even one hundred dollars. out of normal Chinese families, it was very rare that one would have more than 100 dollars property. most people were below the 100 dollar mark. That is all of their personal
property. Including the bed they use in their homes, their dresser, mirror. probably less than one hundred people where this way. After gaige kaifang, doesn't they saying go "let some of the people get rich first." They allowed people to employ * * something**, and then slowly they allowed for private entrepreneurs, but private entrepreneurs, if you speak clearly, are just capitalists. After there is the so called "landlord", who works in agriculture, *something*, in a scaled up way produce food, those just are "landlords", they just changed their image.

After these thirty years, especially after the housing reform. That is, the country no longer gives you a house. Your house is what I portion out to you, and afterward you give me rent. But then they stopped doing it. People had to struggle to buy houses.

I think that out of people in the city, the greater portion of them have already bought a house. Some of them have bought 2 or 3, and they have also bought *something*. Out in the country side they have started to build their own houses. You guess, before if you walked out, 30 years ago farmers houses all were all straw. And if they have tiles on top. That is considered already to be very prosperous. Now, they don't even have tiles everything is made out of concrete. The farmers also have houses. They all built there own houses, while people in the cities have all bought houses. A lot of people in the city have also bought cars. So at this time, that is 2008, I think that a segment of society has appeared. This segment I think is about 300 to 500 million people. These people have become Chinese people with fixed property. For example, I own a barber shop, I have a good house, that I bought myself, I have a good pu mian that I rent out, so I have income. Also i bought some stocks. I bought a company's stock. I also bought some bonds, or some gold. This is already very common. I think that normal Chinese people, normal white collar Chinese people, families with over 500,000 kuai are already very common. There are also many families with over 1 million. For example, the high level, the managers of this company, their property is probably all over 1 million. The appearance of this situation, such a fast appearance, this number is increasing rapidly. This is an excellent trend. When a person has property they have a root, when they have a root then they have a harvest *gua lian*, Then they don't want this society to have a revolution, or become chaotic or have riots, are to fluctuate too much. These people say, I have property, are you going to destroy my 10,000 kuai, are you going to rob me? They want the society to succeed. they greatest kind of stability is to have some people with property, and their numbers must be ever increasing.

We have been walking in this direction, and also developing very quickly. i think that if we use this method to develop, in another twenty years we will....our current government has also brought up this issue. demanded that we increase workers entitlements, for example insurance for the elderly, *something*, they demand that the workers wages, before weren’t the workers wages very low? well now they demand that we increase them. I believe that this process will increase in speed. propertied people in china will become more and more, and if their are more people with property, the society will become more and more stable. This is my understanding.
fan: For example, here in Chengdu, so many city dwellers, including our companies employees, have all bought there own cars. ten years ago this would have been unbelievable. How could we possible have cars in the home? people in our company all have more than one house. they have 2 or 3 houses. so this is a very deep change. and is also very meaningful. because this is property they can pass down. they can pass it down to their children. so then this society has some continuity, it has some stability. before there was nothing. we didn't even have the concept have "inheritance". now we do have this concept. i think this is a very profound change. also this change will in the change will influence the entire society to change. including the change in the political look of the country, and legal system. for example **some law that just passed**. there was a lot of conflict, but it was still passed. leftists say, doesn't this law just encourage power of the capitalists and corrupt officials. back then I also opposed it, I thought it was bad for society. but the rights of the laborers must be protected. so this law passed in the middle of controversy.

“The purpose of this museum...[World War II and Cultural Revolution] are the most important events for Chinese people in the last century...Honest memories”

*The full-length video of this interview is available in the online repository of Rutgers University Libraries: http://rucore.libraries.rutgers.edu*