GUAN ZHONG (C.719 - 645 B.C.):
STATESMAN AND THINKER IN ZHOU CHINA

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A THESIS SUBMITTED IN FULFILMENT
FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS

TO THE
UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA

JUNE 1996
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Acknowledgements

I wish to acknowledge my gratitude to my supervisors, Associate Professor Dr Gong Wei Ai and Associate Professor Dr Lim Chooi Kwa from the Department of Chinese Studies, University of Malaya, for their encouragement and constant supervision in the preparation of this thesis. I am grateful to them for reading this thesis and offering me numerous suggestions for improvement and also improving the style of my English.

I am especially indebted to my friends Mr. Kee Tong Kiak, Miss Yee Koon Peik, Miss Chew Poh Choon, Miss Tan Ah Peng, Mrs Voong, Mr. Tan Kim San and Miss Janet Yong from the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics, University of Malaya, who gave much of their precious time advising me and helping me to improve my thesis in one way or another.

My gratitude also goes to my friends Mr. Ng Ying Yong and Miss Chua Hui Na for their kindness to lend me their computer and printer. Besides, I am grateful to my friends Miss Ngeh Hoong Eng, Miss Neo Su Min, Pastor Wong Poh Kien, Mr and Mrs Danniel See You Li, Rev. Kong Chi Hai, Mr. Teng Hawk Sing, Mr. Yap Kah Hin, Miss Ding Seong Lin and my housemates and other friends for their
moral support. I wish to thank Miss Ting Leh Khing for her assisting me in typing my thesis.

Finally, a special note of thanks is also due to the University of Malaya for granting me the full scholarship during the period of my study. In assembling the source materials, much help has been given by the staffs of the Main Library of University of Malaya. I also wish to express my thanks to them.
SYNOPSIS

This is a study on the political thought of Guan Zhong (719 B.C. - 645 B.C.) and his reforms at the court of Duke Huan of Qi (r. 685 B.C.- 643 B.C.). Guan Zhong was a famous statesman and thinker during the Spring and Autumn period (770 B.C. - 476 B.C.). He became the Prime Minister of Qi when Prince Xiao Bai succeeded to the throne as Duke Huan. He was 40 years at the helm of the state of Qi. As the Prime Minister of Qi, he implemented various reforms in ruling the state. His reforms in the political, economic and military areas successfully brought the state of Qi to the peak of its power as hegemon. More importantly, he had safeguarded the Chinese from the invasion of the barbarians.

The thesis consists of six chapters. Chapter one, the Introduction, gives the historical and political setting in the Zhou Dynasty (c. 1066 B.C.- 256 B.C.), and explains how Guan Zhong was able to plan his strategies and policies according to the circumstances of the time. Chapter Two relates the family background, year of birth and death of Guan Zhong, his friendship with Baoshu Ya, his character and his achievements. The problem between Guan Zhong and the work reputedly
written by him, Guan Zi, is also discussed in this chapter.

Chapter Three is an evaluation of Guan Zhong's achievements at the court of Duke Huan of Qi. The main points discussed include his political ideology in administrating the state of Qi, his strategies and the practical measures he introduced to strengthen Qi and attain hegemony.

Chapter Four assesses the position of Guan Zhong in the history of Chinese political thought. It discusses the connection between Guan Zhong and the Legalist School. Legalist tendencies and Legalist concepts in Guan Zhong's thought are illustrated and highlighted in this chapter.

The significant role played by Guan Zhong in Chinese political and intellectual history is analysed in Chapter Five. The influence of Guan Zhong on the political thinking of China can clearly be seen through his contribution to the attainment of hegemony by Qi. His theory of enriching the state and strengthening the army greatly influenced the other states of the Spring and Autumn period. Meanwhile further development of the Legalist School after Guan Zhong affirms his position as the forerunner of Legalist School.

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Finally, the Conclusion in Chapter Six emphasizes that Guan Zhong's solution to the political problems of his age was indeed remarkable. The guidelines that he established in 650 B.C. were not only crucial to the political history of China during his time but also exerted their impact on the later political development of China.
SINOPSIS


Bab Ketiga menerangkan kerja-kerja Guan Zhong dalam kerajaan negeri Qi. Butir-butir utamanya ialah idiolegi politiknya dalam pemerintahan Negeri Qi, strategi dan caranya untuk menguatkan Qi supaya menjadi negeri agung.


Pengaruh Guan Zhong dalam sejarah politik dan sejarah pemikiran Cina dianalisa dalam Bab Kelima. Pengaruhnya dalam pemikiran politik Cina adalah jelas apabila melihat kejayaannya membawa Qi ke arah puncak pemerintahan agung. Teorinya mengenai memperkayakan negeri dan menguatkan tentera telah mempengaruhi negeri-negeri lain pada Zaman Chunqiu. Pada masa yang sama, perkembangan aliran Legalis selepas Guan Zhong telah menonjolkan statusnya sebagai perintis Legalis.

Akhirnya, Bab Keenam yang merupakan penutup, secara keseluruhannya membincangkan cara penyelesaian Guan Zhong semasa menghadapi kesukaran politik pada zamannya. Garis panduan yang dikemukakannya pada 650 S.M. bukan sahaja menyumbang kepada sejarah politik negara China pada masa yang tetapi juga memberi kesan kepada
perkembangan politik negara itu sehingga masa kemudian nya.