

1935 《可爱的中国》 笔记

- 方志敏 Fang Zhimin(1899-1935)
- As a nationalist, a communist, or a revolutionary, FZM may not be well known much less understood in the Western world. But as a martyr, he clearly possesses a set of human qualities people everywhere find familiar in those who were also martyred for various causes, political or religious. In this case, FZM is a window into the anatomy of martyrdom. Certain qualities seem always associated with the making of a martyr.
- (1) **A socio-political situation of epic proportion in a nation's history**, the Trojan War, [the Protestant Reformation](#), [the English Civil War \(the Diggers and Levellers\)](#); [the French Revolution](#), American Revolution, and Russian Revolution. Modern Chinese history is punctuated by such situations: the Opium War, the national defeat by Japan in the sea battle (1895), the Chinese Communist Revolution; these are times of catastrophe and national crisis in which the national psyche played an important role in Chinese self-representation. For people like FZM, China was a nation on the verge of total collapse, subjugated and conquered by international imperial powers from without.
- (2) **A religious persuasion or political aspiration whereby every aspect of the individual life takes on meaning**. For FZM, the unquestionable, all-encompassing and all-consuming beliefs were Marxism and Maoism as critical lenses through which to identify oneself as a revolutionary. He became radicalized by his political conviction as a communist. *"They think I only pay attention to the interests of workers and peasants, yet I ignore the interests of the nation, as if I did not love China as a nation. Do the interests of workers and peasants conflict with the interests of the country? It is those who commit themselves to the liberty of workers and peasants that commit themselves to the liberty of the nation"*.
- (3) **A set of highly dangerous and risky actions**; the attraction of these personal and/or collective endeavors comes from the fact that they satisfy the needs of the collective unconscious, to hate, to kill, to self-destruct; The military actions, overt or covert, of the Red Army to overthrow the nationalist government more than fulfilled FZM's role as a soldier, excited by the violent nature of this life-or-death political struggle. As a local communist leader during the Land Revolution, he ordered the execution of one of his uncles, a local gentry and landowner. To secure the supplies for the Red Arm, he kidnapped and killed Christian missionaries for random money.
- (4) **A death(-wish) as the ultimate affirmation of his love for his motherland, or as redemption of his existence**. Also referred to by people as "self-sacrifice", that is evidenced in Black Li and Gao Jue-Xin who see their own misery and deaths as badges of honor. In his pamphlet, FZM narrates himself as a child dying to save his helpless Mother unable to defend herself from foreign bullies and brutes. He was seeking not only the death of "filthy imperialists" but also in so doing his own final destruction.