

# Preface

I started to think about human rights protection system in China when I was working on my Ph.D. dissertation entitled *The Study of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) in 2008. In fact, at that time, I viewed issues from the perspective of the influences made by the UDHR. I read extensively including both Chinese and English literature, and many documents issued by the government, such as the white papers: *Human Rights in China* (1991), *China's Efforts and Achievements in Promoting the Rule of Law* (2008), and so on. Based on this extensive reading, I found that human rights protection system in China was a very important topic to be further explored.

In 2009, I applied for the research subprogram of the third stage of “211 Program” of China University of Political Science and Law. The subprogram is: *Equity and Justice, Efficiency, and Human Rights Protection of Chinese Judicial Practice Viewed from the Perspective of Judicial Language* (The Subprogram No. 10108329). The program provided financial support for the initial research of this book. In 2010, I successfully applied for the program for young teachers to be further promoted abroad with an invitation from the University of Exeter. In the same year, I applied for the inclusion of the first “National Philosophy and Social Science Research Excellence Library” with my doctoral thesis (Sun, 2009)—*The Study of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which was successfully incorporated into the “National Social Science Foundation Post-funded Projects” (its number of approval: 10FFX010). These research projects further facilitated my research in human rights protection system in the Chinese context.

In February 2011, I went to the UK to continue with my research. During my time at the UK, I proposed and taught a postgraduate level module on *Human Rights in China* as a course for MA students in the School of Law (LAWM706), the University of Exeter. Before starting the course, I recognized that the Western world should know more about the progress and achievements of human rights protection in China. Therefore, I designed the teaching module including five topics: 1. Nature and Development of Human Rights in China; 2. Socialist Legal System with Chinese Characteristics; 3. Judicial Protection System with Chinese Characteristics; 4. Human Rights Education and Research in the Chinese Context; 5. New Development of Human Rights Protection in China. In order to meet the requirements of teaching, I started to write English articles about human rights protection system in China, which further facilitated and encouraged my research.

Based on the previous research projects and the teaching module, this book focuses on human rights protection system in China. The first chapter is based on the delivery of the first lecture for MA students at the School of Law at Exeter. The following six chapters systematically introduce the dynamic development and progress of human rights protection in China, attaching great importance to the first white paper on *Human Rights in China*, “The state respects and guarantees human rights” included in the Constitution, the *National Human Rights Action Plan* as a milestone, and then putting forth fundamental principles for achieving international human rights standards and specific measures to improve human rights protection standards in China. Then the book further discusses “Foundations of human rights guarantee in contemporary China” and “Human rights, culture and their reconstruction in the Chinese context”. The last two chapters include “Several issues on the formation of a socialist legal system with Chinese characteristics” and “Judicial protection of human rights in China”. With 11 chapters as its main content, the present book will generally introduce human rights protection system in China.

In appendices, the book covers the introduction of the teaching module: *Human Rights in China* (LAWM706), four important documents on human rights in China, as well as a list of the author’s major articles and works in the past 10 years.

This book is a starting point rather than a conclusion in exploring human rights protection system in China, and there are a lot of issues worthy of further studies. However, it will serve as a window, through which the western world will have a better understanding of theory and practice of human rights protection in the Chinese context.

Hopefully, as a final academic achievement for China Academic Translation Project of the National Social Science Fund—*Socialist Protection System of Human Rights with Chinese Characteristics* (its number of approval: 12WFX001), this book will lay a foundation for further exploration of this area and play a part in the communication with the western academia.

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Pinghua Sun



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Sun, P.

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