Wang, J. 王继霞: *A Study of Chinese Muslim Patriotic Periodical Literature (1906–1949)* (《中国穆斯林爱国报刊文学研究（1906-1949）》), China Religious Culture Publisher (宗教文化出版社), China, 2026. To be published.

In the field of Chinese multi-ethnic literature studies, modern periodical literature produced by ethnic minorities, including the Hui (Muslim) community, has received relatively limited scholarly attention to date. Professor Wang Jixia's recent monograph, *A Study of Chinese Muslim Patriotic Periodical Literature (1906–1949)*, offers a systematic examination and reconstruction of this body of work. Drawing on more than a decade of archival research and textual collation, the book addresses a notable gap in the existing scholarship by providing a comprehensive presentation of the historical development and context of Chinese Muslim patriotic periodicals. Through close analysis of literary texts, the study explores how Muslim writers articulated their experiences amid national crisis and shared a destiny with the broader Chinese population, thereby contributing valuable case-study material to the understanding of cultural and identity dynamics in the formation of modern China's multi-ethnic nation-state.

The book's primary contribution lies in its extensive documentary foundation and clear historical reconstruction. Facing the challenges of fragmented and difficult-to-access sources from Muslim patriotic periodicals spanning 1906 to 1949, the author demonstrates considerable archival diligence and persistence. She conducted a thorough collection of materials from libraries and institutional archives, and even traced the descendants of periodical editors, carefully collating and cross-referencing scattered newspaper texts and literary pieces. This rigorous process effectively delineates the historical trajectory of Chinese Muslim periodical literature, from its early emergence and gradual development to its fuller integration into the broader currents of the War of Resistance Against Japan and national salvation efforts. The appended comprehensive catalog of works constitutes a valuable reference tool, significantly expanding the evidentiary base for research in modern Chinese literary history and ethnic minority literary studies, while laying a solid groundwork for future scholarship in these areas.

Methodologically, the book adopts an interdisciplinary framework that effectively broadens the scope of analysis. Rather than limiting the study to textual interpretation alone, Professor Wang integrates insights from ethnology, communication studies, and history. This approach allows her to examine not only the aesthetic features and cultural meanings of the literary works but also the social and historical contexts in which they were produced, circulated, and received. By situating the periodicals within networks of publication, readership, and broader socio-political developments, the study moves beyond isolated literary analysis and offers a more contextualized understanding of how these texts engaged with issues of religious ethics, ethnic identity, and national resistance during a period of profound crisis.

The book's theoretical discussion combines analytical depth with accessibility. By situating Muslim periodical literature within the broader context of China's early twentieth-century Enlightenment movements and national salvation efforts, the author uses detailed textual analysis to show how these works reflect both traditional Muslim ethical principles—such as the emphasis on balancing worldly and spiritual responsibilities—and strong expressions of patriotic commitment aligned with wider Chinese experiences during the period. The texts are shown to document the social conditions and inner world of Muslim communities while depicting instances of inter-ethnic solidarity in the face of external threats and shared national challenges. This examination elucidates how literary narratives contributed to conceptions of ethnic coexistence and collective identity amid national crisis. The study identifies three

central characteristics — "realist spirit," "patriotic sentiment," and "vernacular aesthetic innovation"—that effectively capture key features of the literary ethos and artistic tendencies in Chinese Muslim writing of the time. Furthermore, while the monograph concentrates on the print media ecosystem of the early twentieth century, Professor Wang's meticulous reconstruction of production, circulation, and readership networks provides a valuable historical baseline for comparative reflections on the evolution of dissemination paths in ethnic minority literature—from the paper media era to the post-paper media digital age. Such a foundation invites future research into how these patriotic and identity-forming textual traditions might adapt, persist, or transform in contemporary online platforms, social media, and digital archives, thereby bridging historical literary studies with modern communication dynamics.

The book can also be situated within ongoing scholarly conversations about the construction of a cohesive national community in modern China. Through its detailed case study of Muslim patriotic periodical literature, the work demonstrates that research on ethnic minority literatures need not remain confined to specialized subfields but can contribute meaningfully to broader understandings of modern Chinese literary history. As a scholar of the Hui ethnic group, Professor Wang brings a culturally informed perspective to the material, which enriches the analysis while remaining grounded in rigorous archival and interpretive methods. This approach illustrates one effective way for scholars from ethnic minority backgrounds to integrate cultural empathy with scholarly objectivity, thereby engaging productively with mainstream narratives of Chinese modernity and cultural development without sacrificing analytical distance.

Professor Wang Jixia's study offers several methodological insights that may serve as useful points of reference for research in ethnic minority literature and related humanities fields. First, it exemplifies a focused yet expansive approach: by concentrating on a specific historical period, medium (periodicals), and ethnic group (Chinese Muslims), the work achieves considerable depth within a seemingly narrow scope while engaging broader questions about literary development, ethnic relations, and cultural aspects of nation-building in modern China. This balance between specialization and contextualization provides a practical model for scholars navigating the tension between detailed case studies and wider historical or theoretical frameworks. Second, the book's interdisciplinary integration—positioning literary analysis at the intersection of history, communication studies, and ethnology—demonstrates how cross-disciplinary perspectives can enrich rather than dilute the study of texts, illuminating their social functions, cultural roles, and historical significance more fully. Third, as a Hui scholar, the author successfully translates cultural familiarity and empathy into rigorous, evidence-based scholarship, illustrating one viable path for researchers from minority backgrounds to maintain both an insider's sensitivity and the analytical objectivity required for broader academic dialogue.

In summary, *A Study of Chinese Muslim Patriotic Periodical Literature (1906–1949)* constitutes a substantial contribution to the study of ethnic minority literature in modern China. Distinguished by its thorough archival documentation, careful historical reconstruction, and interdisciplinary methodological approach, the book provides important new source material and interpretive insights into a previously under-examined corpus. It enriches understandings of modern Chinese literary history, the role of periodicals in cultural and political discourse, and the interplay between ethnic identity, religious ethics, and national belonging during a pivotal historical

period. While the study's primary focus remains the print media context of the early twentieth century, its detailed mapping of production and dissemination networks provides a solid foundation for future comparative work on the evolution of literary circulation across media. The publication of this carefully researched volume is likely to encourage continued scholarly engagement with the diverse literary traditions that shaped China's multi-ethnic cultural landscape in the twentieth century.

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