

# Black Lives Matter: Solidarity between Indigenous and Chinese Australians?

Dr Xu Daozhi

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*English Research Seminar, 10 September 2020*





Source: ABC News

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-06/melbourne-black-lives-matter-protest-organisers-fined-by-police/12329514>



# Indigenous-Chinese interrelations

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As Mitchell Rolls notes “[t]here is very little scholarship considering the relationship between these cohorts (Indigenous and “ethnic” immigrant) in the context of the legacy of Australian Aboriginal-settler relations. There is even less scholarship revealing the attitudes towards and perceptions of Australian Aborigines held by Australia’s ethnic communities and various diaspora” (2014, 38).



# Indigenous-Chinese interrelations

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- ❖ Research Question: why do interactions between Indigenous and Chinese Australians remain unrecognised and misunderstood?



# Outline

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- ❖ I. **Conceptual** and **historical** divides between race (Indigenous people) and ethnicity (Chinese migrants)
  - conceptual barrier that bifurcates race and ethnic relations
  - historical overview of the racially discriminatory legislation
  - legacy of single identity: dilemma of identity politics
- II. **Transnational** connectivity of the racial discourses



# 澳华人总工会参加悉尼反种族歧视大游行

2020-06-06

来源：吴景亮

评论2条

特约记者陈青松记者吴景亮报道 自从美国黑人佛洛伊德George Floyd 在明尼苏达州被一名白人警察跪压锁喉致痛苦死亡后，触发了从2008年以来积累的收入两极分化及种族歧视造成的一系列社会矛盾，在美国一百多个城市爆发了游行示威等抗议活动。



Source: Today's Sydney  
[https://www.sydneystoday.com/  
content-102023671540008](https://www.sydneystoday.com/content-102023671540008)



# Australians join Black Lives Matter protests in Perth and Darwin as refugee rallies held in Sydney, Brisbane and Melbourne

Posted Sat 13 Jun 2020 at 10:20am, updated Sat 13 Jun 2020 at 9:33pm



Protesters gather at a Black Lives Matter rally in Perth.

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Thousands of people have marched in a Black Lives Matter protest in Perth, as hundreds more people joined anti-racism and refugee rights demonstrations which unfolded across Australia.

The protest in Western Australia's capital city went ahead [despite the WA Premier urging organisers to postpone the event and the City of Perth refusing to grant a permit for it to take place.](#)

[The Perth protest organisers were calling for an end to racial violence](#), a reduction in the Indigenous incarceration rate, an end to both systemic racism and the removal of Aboriginal children from families and for "sovereignty now".

Hand sanitiser and about 11,000 masks were available at the event via hygiene stations spread across the venue and organisers encouraged social distancing.

## Key points:

- Protests in Darwin and Innisfail were approved by state authorities under COVID-19 measures
- A Black Lives Matter protest in Perth went ahead against the urging of Premier Mark McGowan
- Smaller refugee rights demonstrations went ahead in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney, despite the NSW Supreme Court prohibiting the rally there

Source: ABC News

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-06-13/black-lives-matter-and-refugee-rights-protests-across-australia/12351952>

Hand sanitiser and about 11,000 masks were available at the event via hygiene stations spread across the venue and organisers encouraged social distancing.



Source: West Australasian Media  
Network

[https://wamnnews.com.au/news/  
chinese-community-supports-  
black-lives-matter-rally-with-mask-  
donations/](https://wamnnews.com.au/news/chinese-community-supports-black-lives-matter-rally-with-mask-donations/)

# CHINESE COMMUNITY SUPPORTS BLACK LIVES MATTER RALLY WITH MASK DONATIONS

June 12, 2020

Written by [Sarah Smit](#)

Published in [National News](#), [News](#), [Perth & WA News](#)

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317 p



Chung Wah Association WA President, Dr Ting Chen



# Conceptual divide between race and ethnicity

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- ❖ Race relations: black and white, colonised and coloniser, Indigenous and non-Indigenous
- ❖ Ethnic (or multicultural) relations: Anglo Australians and non-Indigenous minorities
- ❖ The dynamic interactions beyond the bifurcation of race and ethnicity—in this case, Indigenous and Chinese relationships—fall into a peripheral, marginalised position



- ❖ “Precisely because it [indigeneity] references B’s [colonisers’ or late comers’] temporality,” as Mary Louise Pratt (2007, 399) points out, “it generates agencies and interests that B must recognize, and must recognize as separate and distinct.”



- ❖ Peter Read (1997, 91) observes that the contested Indigenous-settler relations are of little interest to many migrants from Asia and elsewhere. For them, colonial invasion is a *completed* event.
- ❖ Scholars have recently called forth an overdue recognition that immigrants—would-be or probationary settlers—have benefited from Indigenous dispossession and are complicit to varying degree in enduring processes of colonisation (Edwards and Shen 2003, 6; Stephenson 2003, 62; Veracini 2010, 26)



# legislation on Indigenous people & Chinese immigrants

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- ❖ Aboriginals protection and restriction of the sale of opium act 1897 (Qld)
- ❖ The Northern Territory Aboriginals Act 1910 (SA)
- ❖ Aboriginals Ordinance 1911 (Cth)
- ❖ Chinese Immigration Act 1855 (Vic)
- ❖ Immigration Restriction Act 1901
- ❖ ...



# identity politics

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- ❖ Yin Paradies, who self-identifies as an Aboriginal-Anglo-Asian Australian, argues, “despite this heterogeneity in the Indigenous community, asserting a multi-racial Indigenous identity is neither common nor straight-forward because racial loyalty demands that anomalous individuals choose to be either exclusively Indigenous or exclusively non-Indigenous” (2006, 357).



## II. Transnational connectivity of the racial discourses



source: SCMP



source: <https://www.future-tech.co.uk/how-big-is-ten>



# Public Accounts (gong zhong hao) on WeChat



Welfare (Melbourne Wei Sheng Huo, meaning Melbourne life), 230,000 followers



WESYDNEY (Wei Xini, meaning Micro Sydney), 500,000 followers

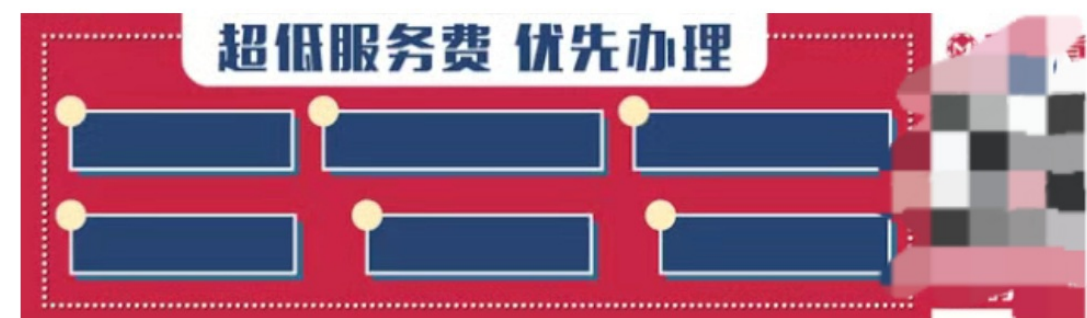


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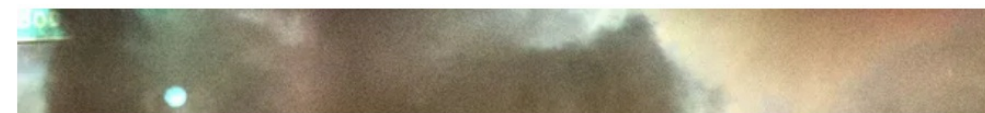
所有华人远离CBD！墨尔本即将3万人大游行！几个月抗疫恐前功尽弃！

原创 小微 墨尔本微生活 6月4日



注意安全！

美国的暴乱已经持续了一个多星期。



III

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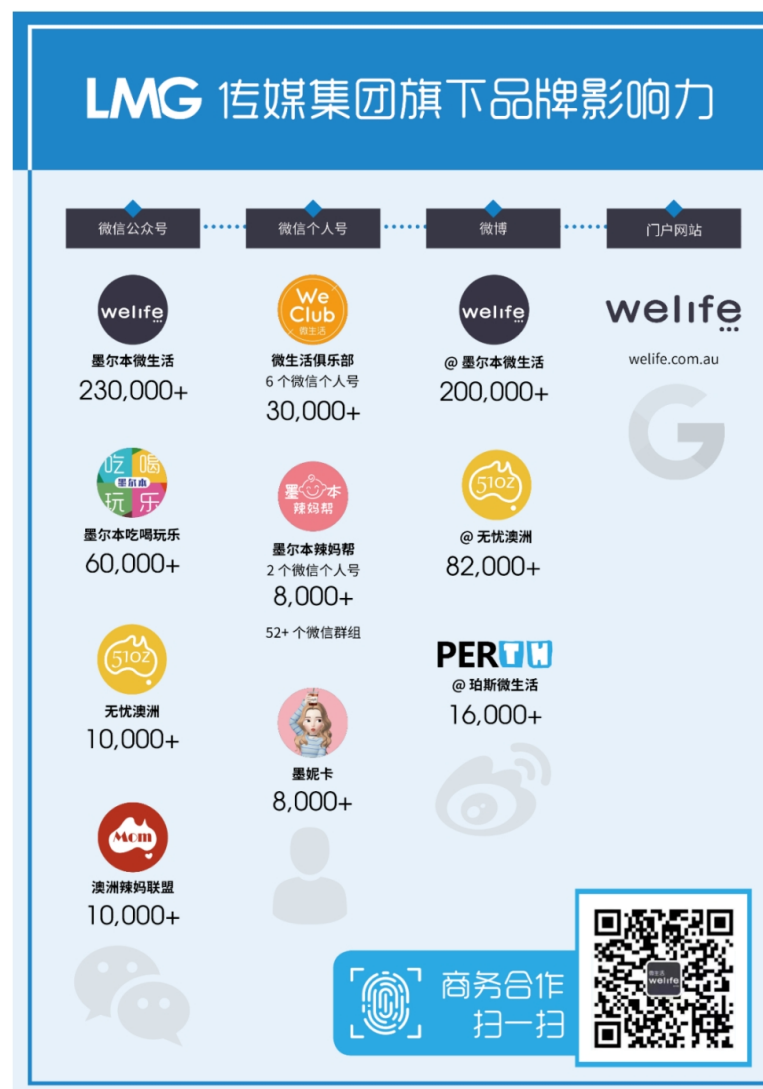
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“All Chinese Australians keep away from CBD! A rally of 30,000 people will take place in Melbourne! Covid-19 efforts will be in vain!”

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墨尔本微生活 >

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文章已于2020-06-04修改

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III

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This article, published on 4 June 2020, has received 88,000 views.





“Urgent! Australian CBDs have been taken over! Tens of thousands people are protesting on the street! People are everywhere! Townhall has been shut down! A second wave of Coronavirus infections is almost on the way! China warns: do not go to Australia!”

This article was published on  
6 June 2020

100,000+ views







微悉尼 >



另外，抗议者代表Faith Black也声称，

**“我们不会停止示威游行，我们希望大家看到我们的存在，和我们站在一起。”**

小编只想默默的问一句，站在一起干什么？

一起感染新冠病毒然后去死吗？



对于抗议者这一根筋的思路，小编也不知道该说什么好了。

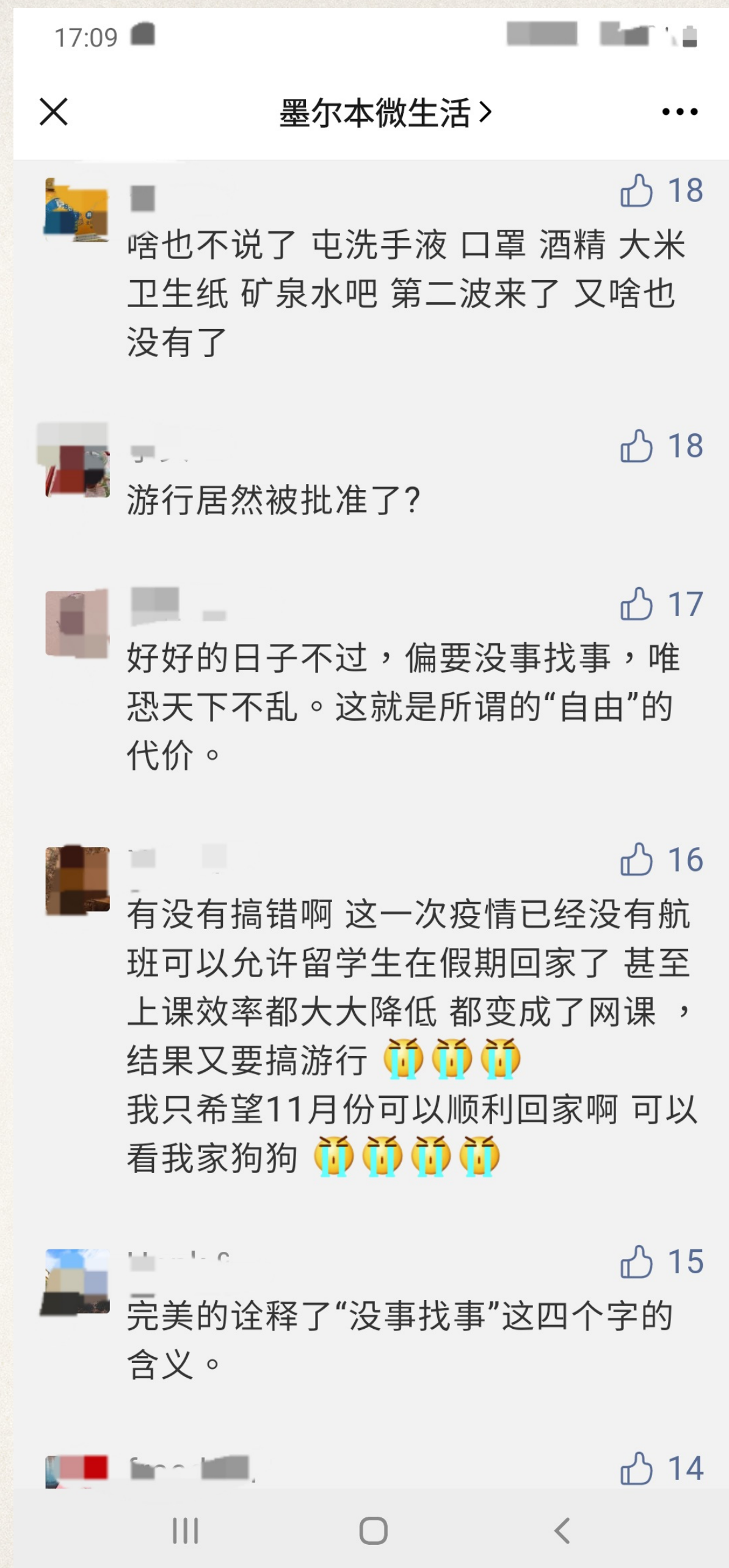
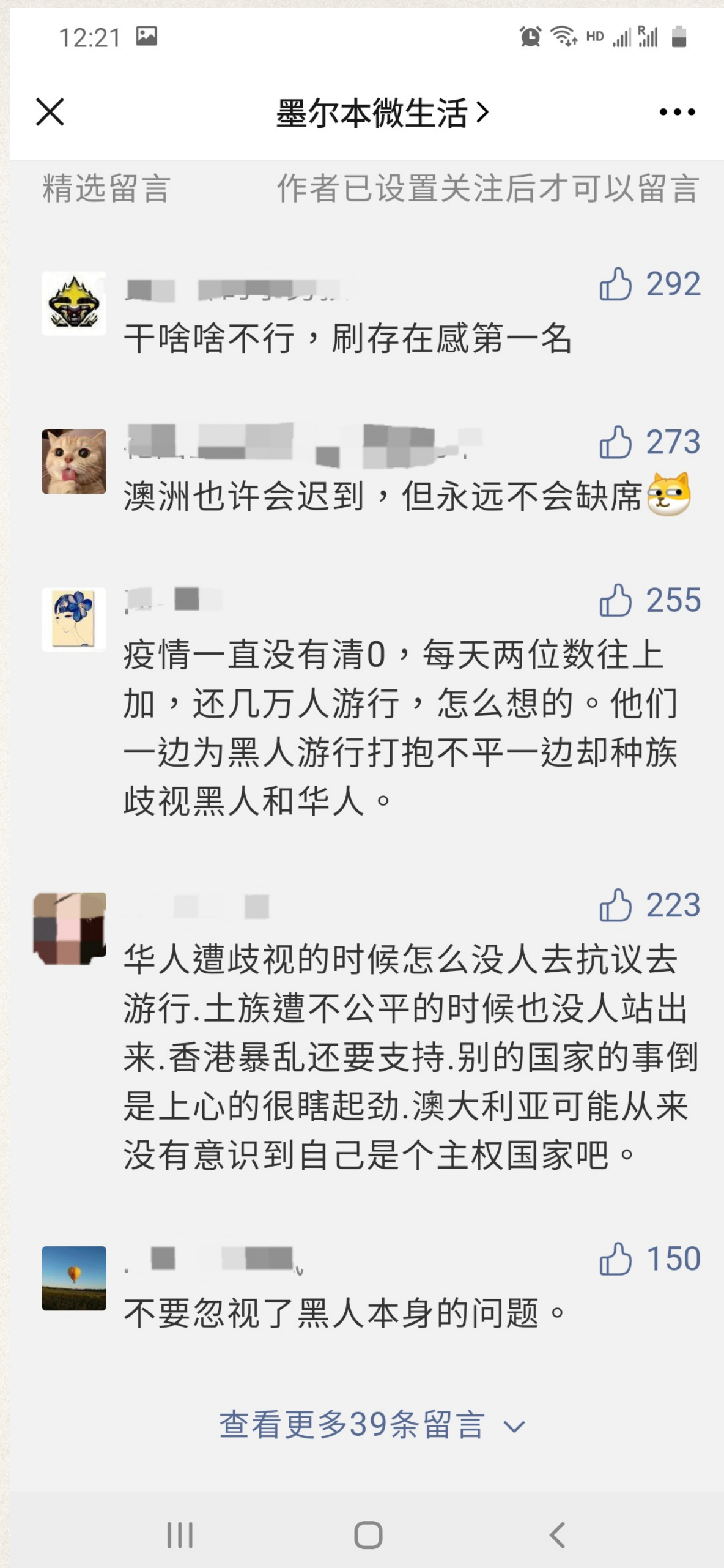


WESYDNEY article:

Faith Black claims “We won’t stop—we want people to look at us, hear us and stand with us.”

The author of the article refutes scathingly: “Stand with you for what? Contract the coronavirus and die altogether?”



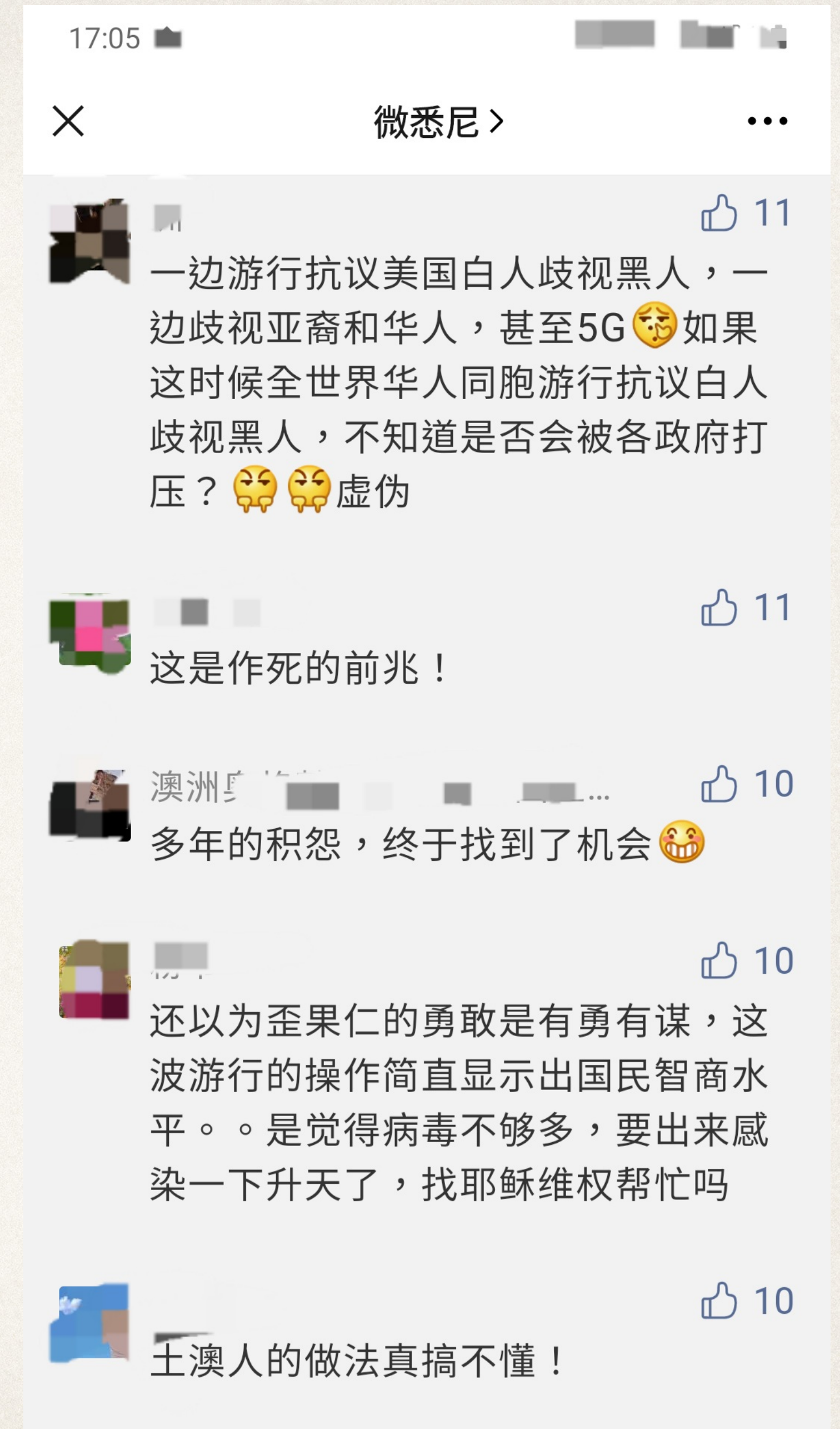
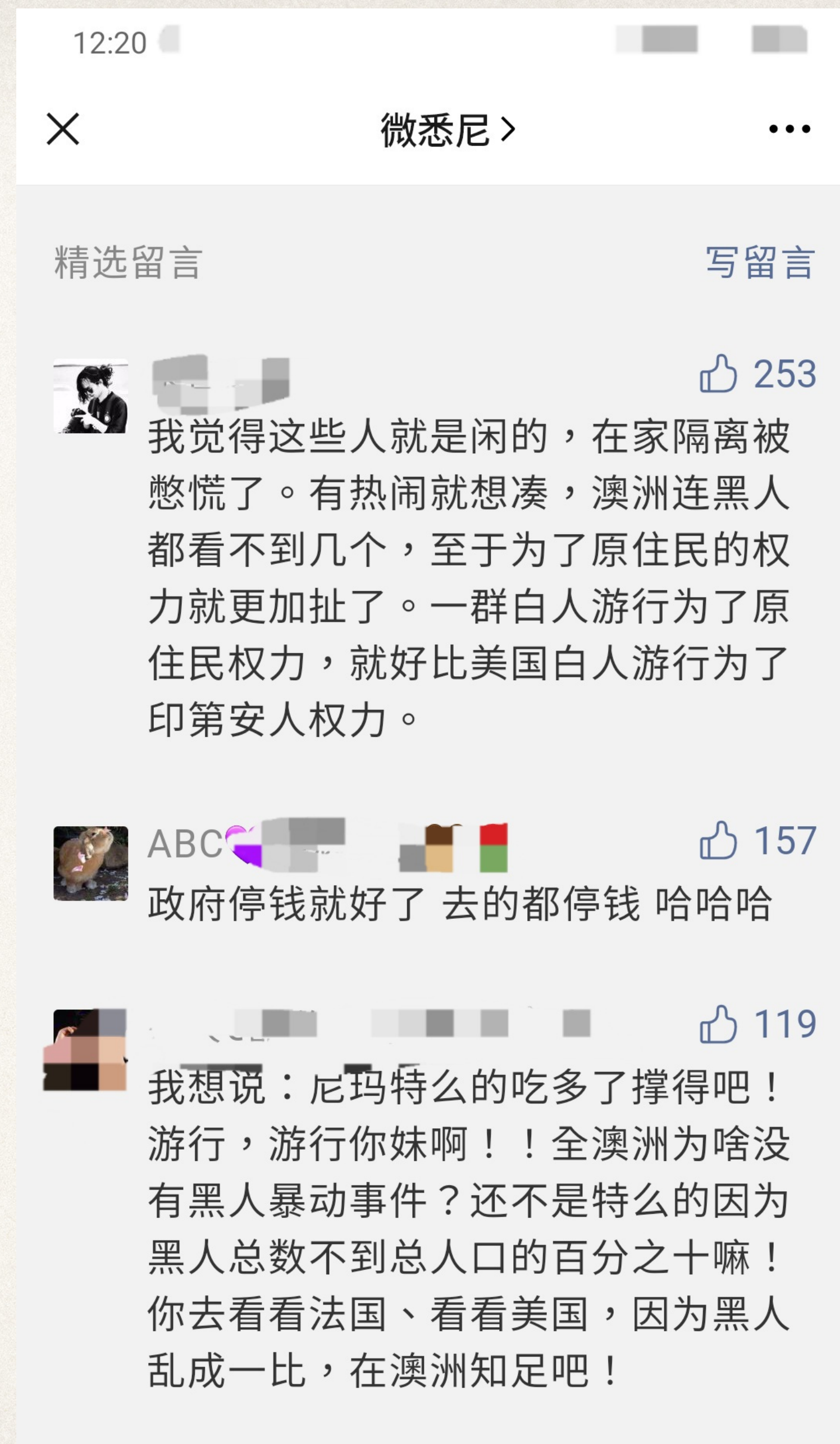


Welife article : 44 posts



# WESYDNEY

article: 60 posts





- ❖ “These protesters got nothing to do, too boring to be stuck at home. They cannot help taking to the streets as long as there is something going on. Few black people are seen in Australia. It makes even less sense that they support the rights of Indigenous people. That white Australians support Indigenous rights is analogous with that white Americans fight for the rights of native Americans.” (The comment that received the most “likes” with 253 persons giving a thumbs-up at the end of the WESYDNEY article; quotes in Chinese are translated by the author)



- ❖ “They [protesters] are to protect human rights of Indigenous people, but how about Asian Australians? Do Asians suffer less from racial discrimination?”
- ❖ “When Asian people were discriminated against due to the pandemic, why weren’t there any marches?”
- ❖ “Black Lives Matter. How about other lives?”
- ❖ “CHINESE LIVES MATTER!”
- ❖ “They march to protest against discrimination against black people on the one hand; and on the other, they discriminate against Asians and overseas Chinese, including 5G.”
- ❖ “Do not ignore the problems caused by black people themselves.”



- ❖ Dana Diminescu terms “connected migrant[s]”, as opposed to “uprooted migrant[s]” (2008, 565)
- ❖ In her longitudinal ethnographic study of Chinese international students in Melbourne, Fran Martin (2018) opines that these students “are not only victims of racism in Australia (although they certainly are that), but also are embedded into complex, transnational racialized hierarchies, and may themselves be complicit in racisms that morph and evolve along with educational mobility” (4).



Genghis Khan (1162-1227)

Kublai Khan (1215-1294)

image source: CSUSB



- ❖ The Yuan Dynasty (1271–1368) was established by Kublai Khan from the Mongol clan who conquered China.
- ❖ The Qing Dynasty (1644–1912) was ruled by Manchus from the North East who defeated the Han people.

image source: unknown





# *Shan Hai Jing* (4<sup>th</sup> century BC)





# Chinese reformers (the late 19th and early 20th centuries)



source: <https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E5%A4%A9%E6%BC%94%E8%AB%96>  
<http://history.sina.com.cn/bk/jds/2015-06-01/0945120717.shtml>



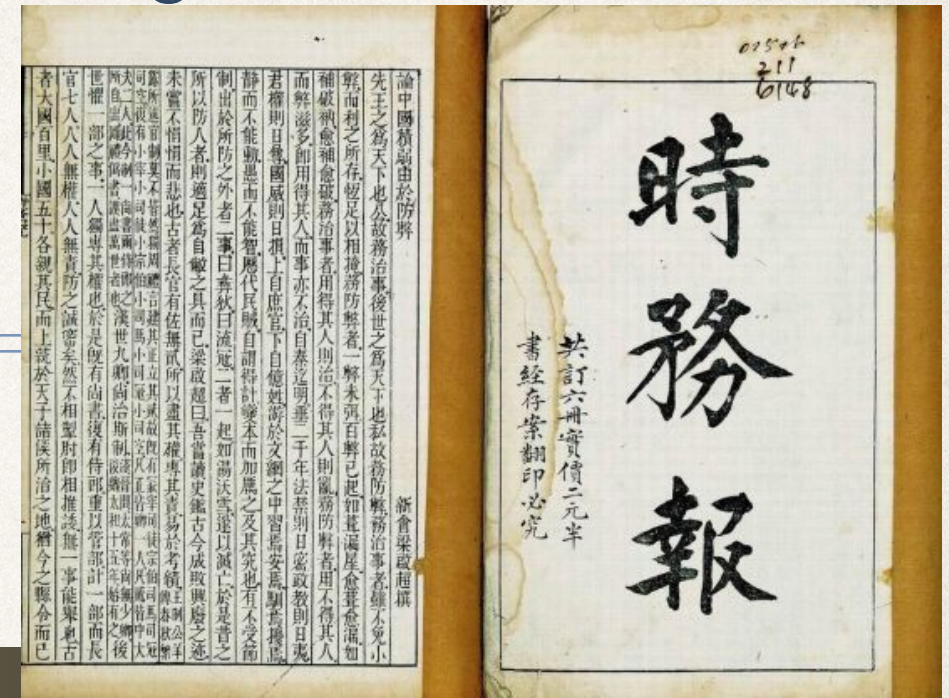
Yan Fu



Kang Youwei



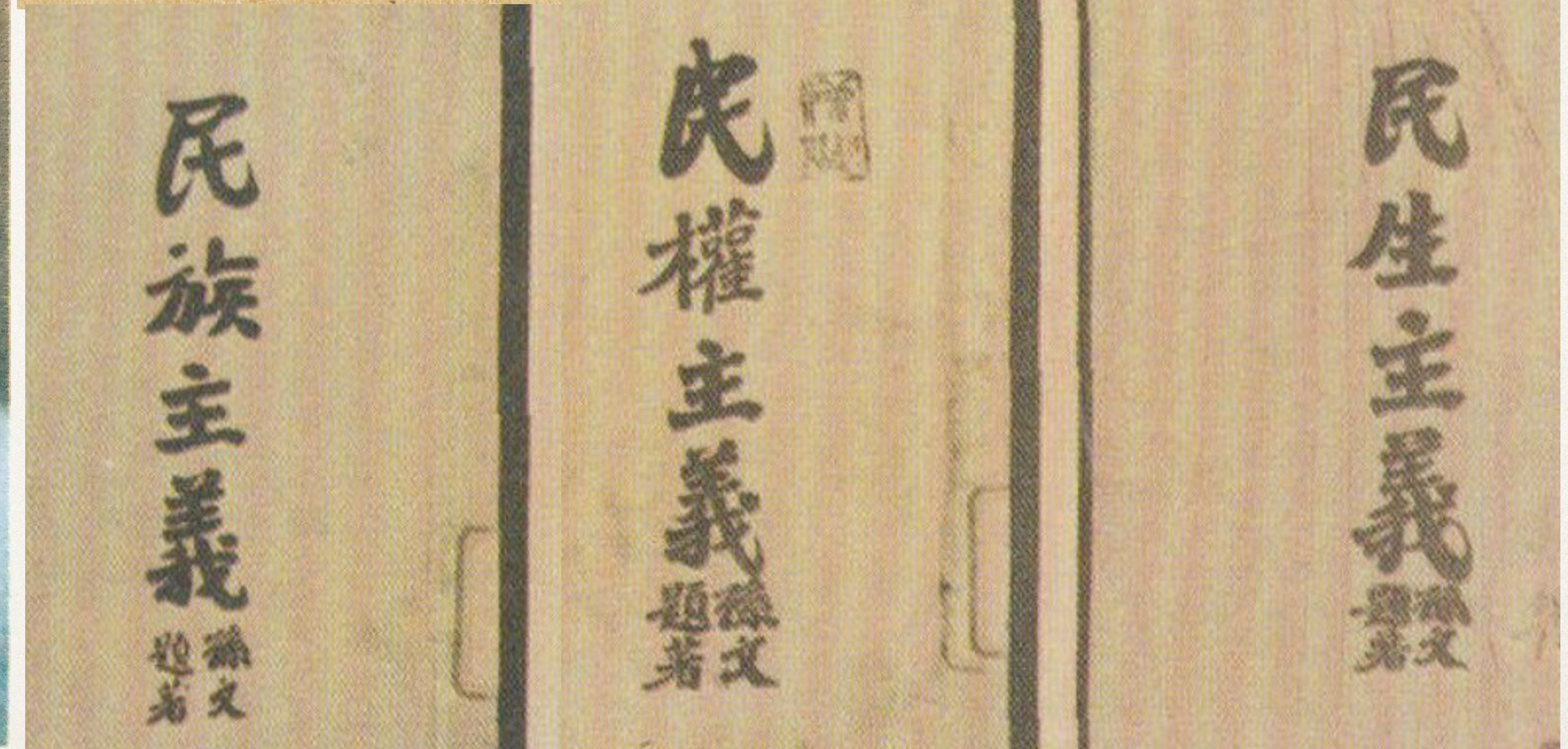
Liang Qichao







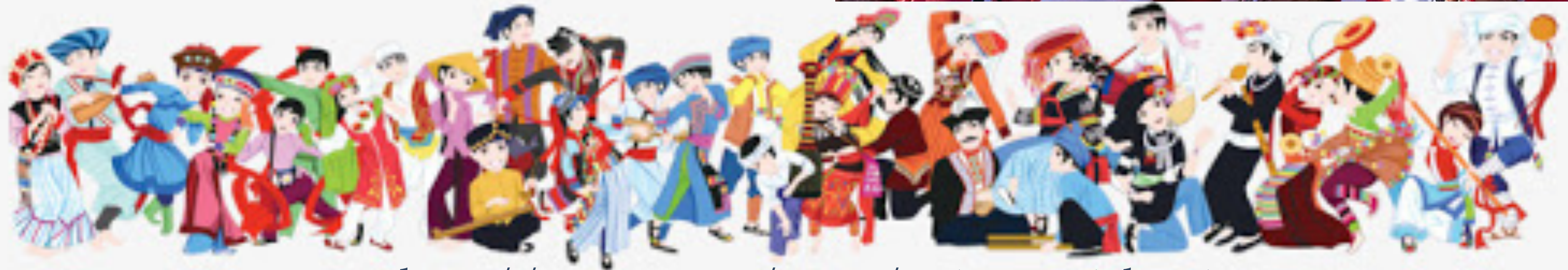
Sun Yat-sen (1866 –1925)





# The Chinese nation (Zhonghua Minzu)

source: Imaginechina



source: <http://616pic.com/suca/1pkiw759k.html>



# Africans in Guangzhou, China



sources: CNN, 13 April 2020



# Controversial draft rule on permanent residence for foreigners



sources: HK01, 6 March 2020





# Conclusion

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- ❖ This presentation has examined the conceptual, historical and transnational factors that may render the recognition of Indigenous-Chinese interrelations difficult in today's culturally diverse Australia.