

Yanping Gao

### **Philosophies of Technology in Post-Mao Era (1978-1995)**

This paper examines the Chinese reception of philosophies of technology (POT) in post-Mao era from 1978 to 1995. With the end of the Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), the then leader of Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Deng Xiaoping (1904-1997) proposed the idea of using “science” and “education” as two forces to “achieve China’s modernization in four fields (industry, agriculture, national defense, science and technology)”. In this context, since 1978, the translations and introduction of POT mainly from Germany, the United States and Japan, were carried on by Chinese academics in philosophy study as ways to show the ontological importance of learning POT to support the modernization of “new” China. During the heyday of Deng’s call that “science and technology are the primary productive forces” in 1988 and the new leader of CCP in the 1990s Jiang Zeming’s (1926-) “National strategy for implementing science and education to invigorate the country” in 1995, national associations of POT, national conferences on the POT, and its establishment as a discipline in philosophy study of Chinese universities, have showed the burgeoning of research on POT among Chinese intellectual circles. This paper will argue, though Marxist-Leninist POT was guideline for Chinese translation and introduction of POT, Chinese scholars in the field had objectively contributed to the diversity of intellectual discourse in China by adopting a strategy of introducing new ideas of POT while criticizing them with a Marxist materialist outlook.