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NOTE DE L’ÉDITEUR

Translated from the French original by Philip Liddell

1 This autographical account by Phüntso Wangye, the first Tibetan communist and founder of the Tibetan Communist Party (1939) before it merged with the Chinese Communist Party (1949), is a significant contribution towards understanding Sino-Tibetan relations during the first half of the twentieth century. The book reveals the intellectual journey of a Tibetan, a witness to the seizure of power by the Chinese nationalists and to the various attempts by his region (‘Ba’ thang) and by his province (Khams) to win independence. As a devoted reader of Lenin and Stalin, he goes on to give his practical experience of communism by outlining the stages—as seen from “inside”—of Tibet’s unification with China in the 1950s and its problems with members of the Chinese Communist Party. He ends with his years in prison and his rehabilitation.

2 Today, Phünwang is still faithful to his socialist ideals and convinced that the thinking of Lenin and Stalin may benefit the development of Tibetan society.

3 His account of a rare personal experience, based exclusively on Phünwang’s memoirs and edited in the first person, parallels Tsering Shakya’s book covering the same events on the basis of written sources.
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