OA.500

Gu Xin, 'Bolin yu ziyou minzuzhuyi sixiang' ('Berlin and Liberal Nationalism'), in Liu Junning and Wang Yan (eds), *Zhijie minzhu yu jianjie minzhu* [*Direct Democracy and Representative Democracy*] (Beijing, 1998: SDX Joint Publishing Company; *Gonggong luncong* [*Res Publica*] series no. 5), 227–42

The Chinese scholar Guxin (now [2012] professor at Peking University, then a fellow at Singapore National University) introduces and discusses IB's liberal nationalism. Is liberal nationalism possible? Before discussing this issue, Gu introduces the two cornerstones of IB's philosophy: liberty and pluralism of values. IB's classic essay 'Two Concepts of Liberty' is very important for the Chinese reader because the concept of liberty has always been misunderstood in China, even in ancient times, and there has been scarcely any Chinese thinker who treated discussed negative liberty in the way that IB did. China has almost no. such tradition.

If the need to belong clashes with individual liberty, IB would side with individual liberty. IB's writing on Zionism displays the communitarian element in his thought. It is a matter of regret that IB never talked about national self-determination systematically. Should all nations erect their own States? In what sort of regime can liberalism and nationalism best coexist? IB never answered such questions straightforwardly. Multiculturalism, especially liberal multiculturalism (e.g. Kymlicka's), may give more answers than IB.