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Qian, Yongxiang/Sechin Y.-S. Chien, *Bolin de wenti jiqi liangnan [Berlin's Problem and Dilemma]*, interview with Suli Liu, *SOHO Xiaobao* no. 103 (2009 no. 7, 10 August 2009)

Summary:

Qian and Liu discuss IB's main concerns: pluralism and monism. The most basic problem IB raised is that of pluralism. The political experience of the 20th century led IB to examine the dangers of monism and the importance of pluralism. Had IB solved the problem of pluralism? Does IB's pluralism lead to relativism? Leo Strauss said so. Qian says IB's problem still needs to be solved: it is not straightforward and can't be disposed of as easily as Strauss claims. Although IB didn't give us a completely satisfactory answer, the pluralism he draws attention to (like Weber's) is still an important problem, and it crops up everywhere. The mainstream of political theorists has accepted the fact of pluralism. Qian quotes IB as saying that there really is a universal human nature. Its existence cannot be proved logically, however, but it really does matter. If we deny it, we shall really become relativists, and be unable to think and live. Qian agrees with IB on this. He also believes that, as Lecky wrote in *The History of European Morals*, human nature is gradually improving; or, as he wrote in another essay, he also agrees with Steven Pinker in *The Better Angels of Our Nature*.