Notice of the Final Oral Examination
for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

of

YEN-KUANG KUO

MA (University of Victoria, 2009)
BA (University of Victoria, 2007)
BA (National Taiwan University, 1991)

“The History and Politics of Taiwan’s
February 28 Incident, 1947- 2008”

Department of History

Monday, December 21, 2020
9:00 A.M.
Conducted Remotely

Supervisory Committee:
Dr. Zhongping Chen, Department of History, University of Victoria (Supervisor)
Dr. Gregory Blue, Department of History, UVic (Member)
Dr. John Price, Department of History, UVic (Member)
Dr. Andrew Marton, Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, UVic (Outside Member)

External Examiner:
Dr. Norman Smith, Department of History, University of Guelph

Chair of Oral Examination:
Ms. Ann Elliott-Goldschmid, School of Music, UVic

Dr. Stephen Evans, Acting Dean, Faculty of Graduate Studies
Abstract
Taiwan’s February 28 Incident happened in 1947 as popular protests against the postwar policies of the Nationalist Party, and it then sparked militant actions and political struggles of Taiwanese but ended with military suppression and political persecution of the Nanjing government. The Nationalist Party first defined the Incident as a rebellion by pro-Japanese forces and communist saboteurs. As the enemy of the Nationalist Party in the KMT-CCP Civil War (1946-1949), the Chinese Communist Party initially interpreted the Incident as Taiwanese fight for political autonomy in the party’s wartime propaganda, and then reinterpreted the event as an anti-Nationalist uprising under its own leadership. After the rapprochement of Mao’s China with the United States in the 1970s, both parties successively started economic or political reform and revised their respective policies toward the February 28 Incident. Moreover, the Democratic Progressive Party rose as a pro-independence force in Taiwan in the mid-1980s, and its stress on Taiwanese autonomous pursuit in the Incident coincided with the initial interpretation of the Chinese Communist Party. These partisan views and their policy changes deeply influenced historical research on the Incident. This study reexamines both history and historical accuracy of these partisan discourses and relevant scholarship on the Incident, and further proposes to understand this historic event in the long-term context of Taiwanese resistance and political struggles.