

**Eileen Chang—The Unknown Story:
The Rice-Sprout Song and *the Naked Earth* under
the USIS Book Translation Program**

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Abstract

This essay mainly deals with the relationship between Eileen Chang's two novels *The Rice-Sprout Song* and *The Naked Earth* and the United States Information Service (USIS) in Hong Kong. I argue that these two novels were commissioned and authorized under the USIS Book Translation Program. Moreover, they are products of anti-communist propaganda promulgated by the U.S. Aid Literary Institution. However, their production processes and properties were not identical under the translation program. *The Rice-Sprout Song* began as Chang's independent writing, but was later incorporated into the USIS Book Translation Program. On the other hand, *The Naked Earth* was originally a writing of *Farewell to the Korea Front* which applied by the Hong Kong political commentator Hsu Tung-Pin. This story was written in close collaboration with USIS. Chang took over the writing project and she continued to write under the same outline. Then, *The Naked Earth* was broadcast under the China Reporting Program. Finally, I emphasize that Chang still retained her own distinctive writing style under the U.S. Aid Literary Institution producing, in a sense, free writing under an unfree institution.

Key Words: Cultural Cold War, U.S. Aid Literary Institution, China Reporting Program, Anti-Communist Literature