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Jean W. Richard* (jrichard@bmcc.cuny.edu), BMCC/CUNY- The City University of New York, Department of Mathematics, N524, New York, NY 10007, and Abdramane Serme (aserme@bmcc.cuny.edu), BMCC/CUNY- The City University of New York, Department of Mathematics, N770, New York, NY 10007. The intellectual journey of Hua Loo-keng from China to the Institute of Advanced Studies.

This talk is about the intellectual journey of Hua Loo-keng from Kunming University during the Sino-Japanese war, to the Institute of Advanced Studies at Princeton University in 1946. The talk explores the influence that the German mathematician Hermann Weyl (1885-1955) had on the self-taught Chinese mathematician Hua Loo-keng. Hermann Weyl and Hua Loo-keng were two of the twentieth century's most important mathematicians. Hua Loo-keng was a self-taught mathematician who left school at the age of fifteen and produced considerable work in number theory, algebra, geometry, and complex analysis. Hermann Weyl was a mathematician and philosopher with interests that ranged from foundations of mathematics to geometry, analysis, Riemann surfaces and was involved in the development of the theory of general relativity alongside Albert Einstein. While exploring the influence of Hermann Weyl on Hua Loo-keng, we will describe how, Hua Loo-keng created the movement of popularizing mathematics among the industrial workers and farmers in 1958 in the People's Republic of China. The Chinese industrial workers applied optimization methods extensively in solving industrial problems in almost all the Chinese provinces during the period of the movement of popularizing mathematics. (Received September 22, 2010)