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Yibao Xu* (yuxu@bmcc.cuny.edu), Department of Mathematics, Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY, 199 Chambers Street, New York, NY 10007. *The Tragedy of the Chinese Mathematician Zhang Zongsui (1915-1969)*.

Zhang Zongsui was arguably the most prominent applied mathematician in the 1940s through the 1960s in China. He attended Tsinghua University, and studied with Ralph H. Fowler at Cambridge University, where he received his Ph.D. in 1938. He also studied with Niels Bohr at the Institute of Theoretical Physics at the University of Copenhagen in 1939 and again at Cambridge with Paul A. M. Dirac from 1945 to 1946. He was a member at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton in 1947. Shortly after the Institute of Mathematics was founded in the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1952, Zhang was appointed a research professor there and was elected an academician four years later for his contributions to statistical physics and quantum field theory. In the next decade, he devoted himself both to his research and to educating a new generation of mathematicians. But when politics gradually began to dominate scientific research and education in China, he found himself at odds with the authorities. Following the beginning of the Cultural Revolution in 1966, he lost all hope and committed suicide on June 30, 1969. Zhang's personal tragedy in many aspects reflects the fate of Chinese mathematics during the Revolution. This talk will analyze how politics transformed Zhang's life and work. (Received October 09, 2005)