

Unit 7, Review Dialogue

Lǐ Píng (B), Tom (A), and Lǐ Wén (E) are talking in the Lǐ's living room.

- A: Nǐ zài kàn shénme bàozhǐ? What newspaper are you reading?
- B: Míng Bào. Míng Bào bú cuò, Míng Pao. It's pretty good, hěn yǒu yìsi. very interesting.
- E: Zài Měiguó yě xiàng Xiānggǎng zhèiyang, shénme luànqībāzāode xīnwén dōu wǎng bàozhǐshang xiě ma? In America is it the same as in Hong Kong: they put all kinds of crazy news in the paper?
- A: Píngcháng wǒ kàn Huáshèngdùn Yóubào. Zhèige bàozhǐ bú cuò, guónèi, guówàide xīnwén dōu yǒu, dāngrán guǎnggào yě bù shǎo. Zhōngwén bàozhǐ, wǒ yě kàn, nèi shàngbianr yě yǒu nǐ shuōde nèizhǒng "luànqībāzāo" de xīnwén. I usually read the Washington Post. It's a pretty good paper. It has domestic as well as international news. Of course there are a lot of ads, too. I read Chinese newspapers too, and they have "all kinds of crazy news" in them, as you put it.
- B: Nǐmen zhèiyang shuō, wǒ bù zěnmē tóngyì. Shénme shì "luànqībāzāo"? Shèhuì shēnghuó běnlái jiù shì zhèiyang ma! I don't really agree with what you are saying. What is "all kinds of crazy news"? That's exactly the way life in society is!
- E: Suàn le ba! Jīntiān shì shā rén, míngtiān shì xī dú, wǒ bú yào kàn. Forget it! Today it's killing, tomorrow it's drugs. I don't want to read that.
- A: Kàn háishi xūyào kànde, yīnwei shèhuì shēnghuózhōngde wèntí, wǒmen yě bù néng bú zhùyì a! We still need to read it, because we can't very well ignore the problems of life in society.
- E: Xiānggǎngde shèhuì wèntí zhēn duō! Shénme dìfangrde rén dōu yǒu, shénmeyàngrde wèntí yě dōu yǒu. Hong Kong sure has a lot of social problems. There are people from everywhere, and all kinds of problems.
- A: Shèhuì wèntí shì shìjièxìngde, bù zhǐ shì Xiānggǎng yǒu. Problems in society are worldwide. Hong Kong isn't the only place that has them.
- E: Ñg, nàme, rénmen duì zhèixiē wèntí jiù méiyǒu shénme bànfǎ ma? Mm, then is there nothing people can do about these problems?
- B: Bànfǎ hěn duō, dìfang bù tóng, bànfǎ yě bù yíyàng. Kěshì zhèixiē bànfǎ shì bu shì yǒu xiǎo jiù bù zhīdào le. There are a lot of ways to deal with them. Different places have different ways of dealing with them. But whether these ways work or not is another question.

- A: Yǒu rén shuō zōngjiào shì yìzhǒng bànfǎ, bù guān shénme jiào, dōu shì jiāo rén zuò hǎo shìrde. Kěshì wǒ xiǎng jiàoyu hěn zhōngyào, shòu jiào-yude rén yuè duō, shèhuide wèntí yuè shǎo.
- B: Érqiě jīngjī fādá yě hěn yào-jīn. Jīngjī bù fādáde dìfang, rénmen fàn zuìde jīhuì jiù gèng duō.
- E: Jiù shì ma, rén yào chī fàn, lián fàn dōu chībubǎo, tāmen zěnme néng bú fàn zuì ne?
- A: Wǒ xiǎng méi nàme jiǎndān. Fàn zuì hé hěn duō shì yǒu guānxi, tèbié shì hé jiātíng yǒu guānxi.
- E: Nǐ jiǎngjiang kàn.
- A: Zài jīngjī fādáde dìfang, xiǎo jiātíng yuè lái yuè duō, érqiě fùmǔmen dōu yǒu gōngzuò, dōu hěn máng, méiyǒu shíjiān duō guān hái zi. Yǒu xiē niánqīngde fùmǔ yě hěn shǎo xiǎngdao zìjǐde zé-ren, méiyǒu shénme jiātíng guānniàn.
- E: Nǐde huà yǒu dào lǐ, kěshì dà-lùde qíngxíng ne? Nǐmen zěnme xiǎng?
- B: Shì a. Dàlù jīngjī bù fādá, érqiě dàjiā yě dōu yǒu jiātíng guānniàn. Kěshì, kànkan bàozhǐ, dàlùshang fàn zuìde rén yě bù shǎo.
- A: Wǒ xiǎng zhè hé zhèngzhì bù āndìng yǒu guānxi, tèbié shì cóng Liù Liù nián dào Qī Liù nián.
- Some people say that religion is one way. No matter what the religion, it always teaches people to do good. But I think education is important. The more educated people there are, the fewer social problems there will be.
- And also, a developed economy is important. In places where the economy isn't well-developed, there are more opportunities for people to commit crimes.
- Exactly. People have to eat. If they can't even get enough to eat, how can you expect them not to commit crimes?
- I don't think it's so simple. Crime is related to many different things, especially to the family.
- Would you explain what you mean?
- Where the economy is developed, there are more and more small families; also, both parents have jobs and are very busy, so they don't have time to take good care of the children. Some young parents seldom think of their own responsibilities and don't have much of a sense of family attachment.
- That makes sense. But what about the situation on the mainland? What do you two think?
- Yeah, the mainland's economy isn't developed, and furthermore everyone has a sense of attachment to the family. But read the papers: there are quite a few people committing crimes on the mainland too.
- I think this has to do with the political instability, especially from '66 to '76.

B: Shì ma, nèige shíhou, shénme fǎlǚ dōu méiyǒu. Lián fàn zuì bú fàn zuì dōu nòngbuqīngchu, shèhuì wèntí zěnmé huì shǎo?

Yes. During that time there wasn't any law at all. If you can't even tell the difference between committing a crime and not committing one, how can social problems be reduced?

A: Nǐde kànfǎ, wǒ hěn tóngyì. Wǒ xiǎng, zhǐ yǒu shǐ zhèngzhì āndìng, jīngjì, wénhuà fādá, cái néng shǐ shèhuì jìnbù.

I agree very much with your view. I think that society can only be made to progress if the political situation is stabilized and the economy and culture are made to flourish.

(Grandma Lǐ walks in.)

G: Nǐmen zài tán shénme, tánde zhème gāoxìng?

What are you talking about so cheerfully?

A: Lǐ Nǎinai, wǒmen zài tán shèhuì wèntí.

We're talking about social problems, Grandma Lǐ.

G: Hǎo le, nǐmen tángòu le meiyǒu? Chīle fàn zài tán xíng bu xíng?

Well, have you talked enough? How about continuing the conversation after dinner?

A, B, E: Xíng, chīle fàn zài tán.

Okay! We'll talk more after dinner.