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China's Staunchest Advocates of Writing Reform

Lu Zhuangzhang
1854–1928
Pioneer reformer whose publication in 1892 of alphabetic schemes for several varieties of Chinese marked the beginning of Chinese interest in reform of the writing system.

Lu Xun
1881–1936
China's greatest writer of the twentieth century who passionately supported the Latinized New Writing of the 1930s.

Mao Dun (Shen Yanbing)
1896–1981
China's foremost novelist and one-time Minister of Culture who in 1962 was the first to call for a policy of "walking on two legs" that involved using two writing systems—the traditional character system and the new pinyin alphabetic system.

Wang Li and Lü Shuxiang
Two of China's most distinguished linguists who have come out strongly for writing reform; the former criticized intellectuals for their opposition to such reform, and the latter deplored the failure of lexicographers to produce dictionaries based on a simple alphabetic arrangement of entries.

Zhou Youguang
1905–
The most prolific and penetrating advocate of writing reform who emphasizes that a "two-script system" or "digraphia" has become an even more essential part of China's modernization if it is to make an efficient entry into the computer age.