

英文中國之命運讀本

CHINA'S DESTINY READER

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CHINA'S DESTINY READER

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1. CHINA'S DESTINY

China's destiny is being decided at this moment. The imminent defeat of the Axis aggressors will see the emergence of a new and freer world. Remember this—China will be the proving ground of the ideals for which men of all Allied nations have been fighting and dying. Our future is linked with that of the rest of the world. The success, failure, survival or death of democratic principles depends upon the sincere application of the Atlantic Charter. China is destined to become the laboratory where the post-war aims of the democracies will be put to their supreme test.

China is fighting this war not merely to regain her independence; she is fighting for more than the survival of her race. She desires the peace and freedom of all nations, large and small. China wants this to be the last war, for she has probably suffered more at the hands of the aggressor than any other nation. China has been the victim of imperialist powers for more than 100 years. We realize that only by the complete independence of all nations, only by mutual respect in international affairs, can permanent peace be assured.

What is the cause of war? To answer the question frankly—imperialism is the cause of war.

Therefore I maintain that the end of this war should mean the end of imperialism.

Since our Chinese race has suffered longest and deepest from imperialism, our request for freedom and equality is most anxious. The reason for this anxiousness is not, as some of our doubting friends think, that we want to be a leader in Asia.

At this juncture I want our own people, as well as the nations of the world, to be clear about two points: First, after China has attained independence and become strong, she will never put on the shoulders of other nations the suffering which she has had to bear. She will never be willing to follow in the footsteps of the Japanese imperialists. Second, to attain independence, China intends to stand on her own feet. She must strive to develop and improve her national defence, economics, political administration, and her civilization as a whole.

This motive of China is not a selfish one. We simply wish to share in the responsibility for maintaining world peace and emancipating mankind. In other words, China is against the survival of imperialism and will never walk in its footsteps.

China intends to see to it, also, that the other peoples of Asia have opportunity for freedom and equality. We remember our own century of suffering at the hands of imperialists too acutely to sit back

and ignore the fate of our fellow Asiatics.

Questions

1. For what China is fighting this war? 2. By what can permanent peace be assured? 3. What is the cause of war? 4. What must China strive to attain her independence? 5. What is the motive of China?

2. GROWTH OF CHINA

Do you realize how big Asia is, and what a future it has? The area of Asia is a quarter of that of the whole world. The population of Asia is more than a third of that of the entire planet. Yet, most 5 of the Asiatic races have suffered as long and as much as China has. If China cannot become free and independent, then all the tribes of Asia will remain under the cruel rule of Japan, and we cannot find a permanent world peace. Therefore, China's 10 independence means a peaceful Asia. The freedom and equality of Asia guarantees the peace of the world.

We are essentially a peace-loving people. The history of the Chinese race goes back more than 5000 15 years. It is the only surviving nation that has such a long history. The Chinese race has never exceeded its natural requirement in the matter of territory. It has never expanded its force outside its own country. Tomorrow, as a powerful country of 450 million 20

people, China will be one of the foundations of a permanent world peace.

When we Chinese say we hate imperialism, we speak from experience. For more than 100 years, my country has been bound in the chains of imperialism and aggression.

China became the fishpond of the world. All nations, large and small, came and spread their nets over our land, our economy, and our national life. All of them enriched themselves by exploiting and undermining our national independence. The inexperience of our people in the ways of imperialism and power politics made them easy prey.

Questions

1. How big is Asia? 2. How large is the population of Asia? 3. Why China's independence means a peaceful Asia? 4. How long is the history of China? 5. How long has China suffered in the hands of imperialists?

3. UNEQUAL TREATIES

China's national disgrace and bondage began with the signing of the first of the "Unequal Treaties." This was the so-called Nanking Treaty between Great Britain and China—the direct result of the disastrous defeat China suffered in the Opium Wars. Under the terms, China ceded the island of Hongkong to

Britain, and agreed to opening five ports to foreign residence and commerce—Canton, Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo and Shanghai. Also, China granted Britain the right to appoint consuls who were given extra-territorial jurisdiction, and nationals of foreign powers were given unlimited opportunity in trade and commerce.

Later, Britain, France and the others, taking further advantage of the ignorance of the diplomats of the Ching dynasty, expanded and added to their privileges. What is more, whenever one country obtained new privileges from China, the others demanded such privileges, too. They did this by referring to themselves as "most-favored nations." Also, by different interpretations of the clauses of the treaties, they obtained similar privileges. By claiming these privileges as facts, these countries forced China to recognize what they had taken.

Example of this is the foreign concession, which became an accomplished fact before China was even asked to agree to it. This was but one excess arising from the privileges granted by the Nanking Treaty.

Then came the Tientsin Treaty of 1858. In the 16 years since the Nanking Treaty, the various power had done most of their trading in Canton. In this area, western imperialism flourished. The impression the imperialists made on the country pro-

voked the abortive revolt of Hung Hsiu-ch'üan. The revolt spread from Kwangsi to the Yangtze Valley, and almost overthrew the Ching dynasty. Britain and France saw another opportunity here, and sent
5 their armies to Canton, which they invaded; then they conquered Tientsin and reached the gates of Peiping. Chinese resistance collapsed.

The Tientsin Treaty that followed was signed under the pressure of the Allied Army. Prior to its
10 signing, the attitude of the Ching dynasty toward the powers was one of self-conceit and belittlement; after that it changed to one of appeasement and self-abasement.

This treaty provided for consular extraterritorial
15 jurisdiction, and control over the maritime customs. Under the terms of consular extraterritorial jurisdiction, cases involving foreign nationals living in China came under the jurisdiction of the respective consuls. Chinese officials were to have no authority over them.
20 Civil cases involving Chinese nationals and foreigners were to be settled out of court by the foreign consuls. If the consuls failed in their attempts, the case would be tried by a joint court composed of Chinese officials and foreign consuls. In criminal cases between
25 foreign nationals and Chinese, the foreign nationals were to be tried by their own consuls, and the Chinese by Chinese judges.

Later, the foreign consuls expanded their powers to take over both civil and criminal cases involving Chinese nationals living inside foreign concessions. Under this ruling, not only did foreign nationals escape Chinese laws—they even impeded Chinese authority, and took a hand in the trials of Chinese.

Questions

1. With what did China's national disgrace and bondage begin?
2. What are the terms of the so-called Nanking Treaty?
3. How did the foreign powers expand their privileges?
4. How was the Tientsin Treaty signed?
5. What did this treaty provide?

4. RESULT OF UNEQUAL TREATIES

Before the signing of the Tientsin Treaty, the Shanghai customs was already under foreign control. The treaty further eliminated Chinese control by the appointment of a British inspector general of customs. Furthermore, the right to fix customs duties was taken out of Chinese hands. With the exception of tea, lumber, metals and spices—on which the duty was 10 per cent—tariff on other products was reduced to the minimum of five per cent. This meant complete surrender of the control and supervision of Chinese exports and imports.

What was the result? Because the foreign powers were able to direct Chinese trade and commerce, as well as control the inland ports of the Yangtze Valley,

they were able to flood the Chinese market with foreign consumer goods. Also, Chinese-made goods became dependent upon foreign vessels for transportation even inside China.

- 5 During this period, the foreign powers established several foreign concessions, on their own initiative, without waiting for Chinese approval. These concessions included the international settlement and French concession of Shanghai; the British con-
10 cessions of Yingkow, Hankow, Kiukiang, Chingkiang, Amoy; the British and French concessions of Tientsin, Canton and the international settlement of Chefoo.

The authority taken by the consuls was originally
15 meant to give them power to deal with people, and not with areas. But with the establishment of these concessions, the interpretation changed. From then on, foreign countries took over sovereign power in these areas. *This amounted to the establishment of*
20 *numerous small, independent countries within China.*

Questions

1. How was the Chinese customs affected by the signing of the Tientsin Treaty? 2. What was the result of it? 3. What foreign concessions were established during this period? 4. What was the authority taken by the consuls originally meant? 5. What did the establishment of these concessions amount to?

5. GUNBOAT "IMPERIALISM"

The treaties further gave foreign gunboats the right to navigate in Chinese waters, and to anchor in Chinese ports. Foreign gunboats had already been navigating in Chinese coastal waters and inland rivers, but the Tientsin Treaty made this legal. Thus, 5 China was deprived of any coastal defence. Our big ports and cities were put under the "gunboat policy" of Western imperialism.

After that, whenever there was any diplomatic argument, the gunboats of the foreign powers could 10 take off the covers on the guns and force the Chinese Government to consent to the "requests" of the foreign diplomats.

You will see, therefore, that China's national status was weakened by the unequal treaties. These 15 treaties—as I will show presently—caused an unprecedented degeneration in the moral character of the Chinese race during the past 100 years. The territory necessary for the survival of our race has been conquered and divided until the oppression 20 caused by the treaties threatened to cut off the life of our nation. Deterioration in political administration, economics, society, ethics—even in the Chinese psychology—made it impossible for the nation to continue as a sovereign state.

Questions

1. What were made legal by the Tientsin Treaty? 2. Why China was deprived of coastal defence? 3. What power the gun-boats of the foreign powers had in case of a diplomatic argument?
4. What did the unequal treaties cause in the moral character of the Chinese race? 5. Why China was unable to continue as a sovereign state?

6. EXPANSION OF FOREIGN IMPERIALISM

China had been defeated by Japan. The foreign powers, hurrying to take advantage of her weakness, began a wild competitive scramble for the partition of China into leased territories. Each foreign country tried to establish its own sphere of influence through the erection of barracks, construction of harbors for exclusive military use, construction of railways, and the exploitation of Chinese resources and mines.

- 10 Hongkong, Formosa, Indo-China, Burma and Korea, one after the other had fallen subject to foreign rule. China proper was faced with the danger of actual partition by the various foreign powers. The reason for this wholesale grab in China was the defeat by Japan. Japan annexed Korea. One after another, the other powers rushed in, to follow suit.

(1) *Great Britain.* After Britain annexed

Hongkong, she obtained Weihaiwei and Kowloon as leased territories; and together with Russia marked the Yangtze as her own restricted territory within which she alone was to build railways. At the same time, certain private British firms secured rights to open mines in Shansi and Honan.

(2) *France.* The French annexed Indo-China, then extracted a promise from the Ching dynasty never to release Hainan territory to other countries. A year later, France obtained a similar promise with 10 regard to the provinces of Kwangtung, Kwangsi and Yunnan. Like Britain, she also reserved the exclusive right for the construction of certain railways. In her case, it was the Yunnan-Indo-China Railway. She obtained the right to open mines in the three 15 provinces. Within another 12 months, she secured Kwangchow as her leased territory.

(3) *Germany.* Germany grabbed Kiaochow as her leased territory and obtained rights to open and operate mines within a radius of 30 miles along the 20 Kiaochow Railroad.

(4) *Czarist Russia.* The imperial government of Czarist Russia placed the three northeastern provinces under its influence. And it obtained Port Arthur and Dairen under lease. Besides this, as 1 25 mentioned, Russia and Britain divided the Yangtze Valley into separate spheres of influence.

(5) *Japan.* After the annexation of Korea, Japan obtained the island of Formosa. Next, Japan forced the Ching Government to guarantee not to let the province of Fukien and the neighboring coastal districts ever fall under the influence of any of the other powers.

Questions

1. How did each foreign power try to establish its own sphere of influence? 2. Why Hongkong, Formosa, etc. had fallen subject to foreign rule? 3. What did Britain obtain? 4. What did France obtain? 5. What did Czarist Russia obtain?

7. COLLAPSE OF POLITICAL LIFE

This division of China by the various powers into autonomous spheres of influence was the forerunner of the partition of China. Eventually, it brought about the collapse of my country's political life. The foreign concessions and the spheres of influence caused a conflict of authority. This resulted in the breakdown of Chinese administration. Gradually, this administration was usurped by the foreign powers.

15 First, Czarist Russia forced the Chinese Government into permitting the stationing of Russian troops along the Chinese Eastern Railway. Russia's pretext was that it was obliged to protect its nationals.

Once Russia had obtained this permission, other powers followed the lead. Within a short time, for-

foreign troops of various powers were stationed in China.

Thereafter began the total disintegration of China's national life. The powers were no longer merely content with shipping their goods into the country at a minimum import duty. They now obtained special privileges for building factories and importing factory machinery.

Questions

1. What was the forerunner of the partition of China?
2. What brought about the breakdown of Chinese administration?
3. What country was the first to station troops in China?
4. What did other powers do after Russia had stationed troops in China?
5. What special privileges did the powers obtain?

8. ECONOMIC COLLAPSE

Now we had a situation in which foreign commerce was able to produce and distribute its products under a highly-industrialized and efficient system. These products were thrown into competition with China's own domestic commodities, produced under practically primitive conditions. How could China compete even for her own internal market? This was the final blow to my country's independence.

But that was just the first phase of an international struggle between the various powers. The result was the proclamation of the "Open Door Policy," under which even the last vestiges of China's

independence were swept away.

Erection of factories and industrial plants had stepped up the competition between the different national groups. This commercial competition led to an alliance between Great Britain and Japan. Czarist Russia viewed this as a threat, and allied herself with France.

The scramble for the free markets of China, which was strangling Chinese economy, led to the American proclamation of the Open Door Policy. This policy was approved by Great Britain. But neither Russia nor Japan were willing to give up possession of the Liaotung Peninsula and the northeastern provinces.

Conflict of interests culminated in the Russo-Japanese War. This war—fought on Chinese soil—brought untold suffering to our people, cost millions of lives, and resulted in Japan emerging a conqueror.

Immediately after their victory in 1905, the Japanese began preparing for the eventual conquest of the whole continent of Asia.

Questions

1. How did foreign products compete with the Chinese domestic commodities?
2. What was the result?
3. What led to the American proclamation of the Open Door Policy?
4. What brought about the Russo-Japanese War?
5. What did Japan begin to prepare after her victory?