

# **THE CHINA QUESTION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649369027

The China Question by James Mac Donald

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JAMES MAC DONALD**

**THE CHINA  
QUESTION**



#

22  
3  
296.

THE  
**CHINA QUESTION.**

1. THE COMMERCIAL CONVENTION OF 1869.
2. LORD CLARENDON'S CHINA POLICY.
3. THE MISSIONARIES; AND OPIUM CULTIVATION.
4. NOTES. CHINA AND THE CHINESE.

BY  
**JAMES MAC DONALD, F.R.G.S.,**  
FORMERLY OF SHANGHAI.

LONDON:  
EFFINGHAM WILSON, ROYAL EXCHANGE.  
1870.

Chico-11

SE 18 1933

H. J. Coolidge.

For those not conversant with Chinese affairs who may read the following pages, it may be useful that I explain some of the terms frequently used.

*Mandarin* is a word of Portuguese derivation, and denotes Government officials generally. The Chinese is *Kwan*.

The *Pecul* weight is equal to  $133\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. Aver. In Chinese, *Tan*.

The *Tael* is a Chinese ounce—about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  oz. Eng. Their accounts are kept in ounces of silver, and the English value is about 6/0, according to the rate of exchange. In Chinese, *Leang*.

*Shanghai* is the Mandarin pronunciation. In the local *patois* it is *Seonghae*.

The *bale* of *China Raw Silk* weighs about 106 lbs., and is worth £120 to £150.

The *chest* of *Opium*, for some years past, has been quoted at about £125 to £160.

## PREFATORY.

---

A MAN'S worth and value is often more fully appreciated after his death. Had my excellent friend, the late Mr. Samuel Gregson, M.P., President of the East India and China Association, been now alive, it is probable the blow which this day threatens the future prosperity of Lancashire, would never have been attempted to be struck. Had that good and shrewd man been here to be consulted, I cannot doubt that Her Majesty's Government would have paused before thinking of ratifying this new Convention. But with Mr. Gregson's death, the Association, as such, seems to have expired, or to have degenerated into "meetings." Nevertheless, I trust there is yet time to prevent the ratification. I foresee its injurious effects *here*,—the exasperation it will cause *there*,—and the calamitous consequences to China, that sooner or later will follow from that exasperation. And, therefore, I have hastily resolved to publish these my views, as, I believe, for the public weal; and I claim, and confidently rely on receiving, every indulgent consideration for all the imperfections attending this honest and independent expression of opinion.

February 28th, 1870.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

31

32

33

34

35

36

37

38

39

40

41

42

43

44

45

46

47

48

49

50

51

52

53

54

55

56

57

58

59

60

61

62

63

64

65

66

67

68

69

70

71

72

73

74

75

76

77

78

79

80

81

82

83

84

85

86

87

88

89

90

91

92

93

94

95

96

97

98

99

100



## CONTENTS.

	PAGE
The writer's qualifications . . . . .	1
The two great phases of the question . . . . .	2
The Convention would not work well . . . . .	2
Chinese Government could not enforce its observance . . . . .	3
Chinese accustomed to pay small duties . . . . .	4
Inland charges hitherto exaggerated . . . . .	5
Trade in manufactures beneficial, and must be guarded . . . . .	6
Proposed increase of silk duties . . . . .	7
French would object to it . . . . .	8
Proposed increase of opium duty inadvisable . . . . .	9
Other "important advantages" of the Convention . . . . .	10
Are almost worthless . . . . .	11
Origin of the Convention . . . . .	12
Mr. Hart and Mr. Burlingame . . . . .	13
Mr. Alexander Rutherford Alcock, a Consul of 1844 . . . . .	14
His failure at Foochow . . . . .	15
How the duties were "economised" after he came to Shanghai . . . . .	16
His embargo on the Grain Fleet in 1848 . . . . .	17
The missionary affair at Taingpo in 1848 . . . . .	18
Captain O'Callaghan and the battle of "Mudflats" . . . . .	19
The "situation" at Shanghai on Mr. Alcock's exit . . . . .	20
Mr. Alcock's grand progress through Japan . . . . .	21
His deportation of Mr. Moss and the consequences . . . . .	22
Convention leaves American interests untouched . . . . .	23

### CHAPTER II.

The Clarendon Peace Policy both just and expedient . . . . .	24
Origin of the first or Opium War . . . . .	25
How to have brought Canton to reason . . . . .	26

	PAGE
Should have sent a Minister to Peking in 1842-3 . . . . .	27
Should not give Minister the war power . . . . .	28
Sir J. F. Davis and the "Canton raid" . . . . .	28
Sir George Bonham . . . . .	29
Sir John Bowring and the Lorchs War . . . . .	29
Treaty of Tientsin, 1858 . . . . .	29
Repulse of the Peiho, 1859, and War of Revenge, 1860 . . . . .	30
Sir Frederick Bruce's career at Peking . . . . .	30
A war or stoppage of trade welcome sometimes . . . . .	31
The forcible opening of the Chinese North Coast Trade . . . . .	32
Results of the Lorchs War . . . . .	33
Our troublesome missionaries . . . . .	34
Their sympathy for rebellion—Dr. Taylor . . . . .	35
Educated Chinaman's notion of our religion . . . . .	37
Chinese Government represents the people . . . . .	38
Mr. Hart and the Burlingame Mission . . . . .	39
Cause of hitch in accepting Burlingame Treaties . . . . .	40
Mr. Burlingame in America . . . . .	41
Sir Charles Dilke on our Chinese Policy . . . . .	42
The Celestial Railway from Calcutta to China . . . . .	43
The China Ship of State a crazy old junk . . . . .	43
Chinese Government must advance—Railways from Shanghai . . . . .	44
System of foreign travel for Chinese officers . . . . .	45
What the Chinese traveller might see and learn . . . . .	46
The future—The opium spectre . . . . .	47-8
The opium infamy in India, how to deal with it . . . . .	49
God and man alike outraged by it . . . . .	50
Our old animosity to the Chinese . . . . .	51
The reality of the greatness of China . . . . .	52
Should press our innovations in a conciliatory spirit . . . . .	53

## NOTES.

Chinese impatience of taxation . . . . .	57
Canton turbulence . . . . .	57
Hwangchuker murders . . . . .	58
Shanghai temporary Customhouse in 1854 . . . . .	59
My cruise on the coast of Corea in 1851 . . . . .	59

	PAGE
Chinese as seamen . . . . .	60
Aberdeen appointments of 1844 . . . . .	61
The murder of a missionary in 1869 . . . . .	61
The same in 1846 . . . . .	61
The Shanghai local rebels of 1854 . . . . .	62
Rev. W. Milne on rebel character . . . . .	63
Tartar Dynaasty not oppressive as such . . . . .	63
Mr. Burlingame's Letter of Credentials . . . . .	63
Mr. Horatio Nelson Lay, C.B., on Chinese gentlemen . . . . .	63
Mr. J. B. Robertson on Chinese patriotism . . . . .	64
My examiners in Chinese—Thom and Gutzlaff . . . . .	65
Mr. Alcock's race-course failure . . . . .	66
The silk district . . . . .	67
Sir J. Bowring's Oxford gown . . . . .	68
A temporary difficulty valuable . . . . .	68
My first visit to Soochow . . . . .	69
Missionary misrepresentation . . . . .	70
Commodore Biddle—the Chinese language . . . . .	71
The Foreign Inspectorship of Customs . . . . .	72
Mr. Lay, Lord High Admiral of China . . . . .	73
The Russian Bogie . . . . .	73
The foreign trade of China . . . . .	74