

CHINA

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China by Y. L. Liang & Neville Whymant

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PREFACE

It has hitherto been the habit of Western peoples to adopt one of two views of China and to hold to that view almost passionately. Either China was a quaint wonderland, in which whimsicality struggled with a topsy-turvydom forever, or she was a somewhat vague and shadowy part of the East in which great thinkers had flourished and great arts had been born—but still with a great measure of the incomprehensible and never to be completely understood. It never seemed to the ordinary person reasonable to expect to understand China!

This state of affairs is changing. China, the country, has been found to be much as other lands are, and her people no less human or humanistic than those of other countries. In our own day we have seen men and women, in khaki or blue, gaily undertaking the study of Far East languages and literatures with no more preoccupation than they would give to entering for a course of German or French. More than this, the comradeship in arms of many nations in the recent struggle has taught the ordinary citizen that, with a little effort, he can readily become acquainted with what China has been, is, and will eventually be.

This change of attitude is welcomed by the Chinese. There is little satisfaction to be gained from being complimented as quaint, but a deep and abiding joy in being one of the important entities in the family of nations working for the ultimate solidarity of mankind. Nothing could sound better in Chinese ears than the phrase "United Nations"; nothing could be more truly worth while than striving for its realization.

It is gratifying to note the growing realization that the ancient thinkers were right in postulating the existence of eternal verities. The numerous parallels between Chinese thought and that of the thinkers of the West which so surprised and delighted many of the early European visitors to China are now seen as common ground upon which the

nations can securely build that new world for which humanity is waiting. Burns was as Chinese as he was Scots when he wrote "A man's a man for a' that".

In introducing the foregoing work to the English-reading public, therefore, I would not lay stress on any part of it to the exclusion of the rest. We Chinese, like the ancient Greeks, prefer to "see things whole". In that attitude lies the only safe procedure if we are to shape the life of the community of nations so that peace, security and justice can prevail. The world must not only know more of its component parts; it must gain an entirely new conception of human rights and obligations. Nationalism in the narrow sense must give way to an enlightened internationalism which seeks the communal good wherever it may be found. It was an inspiration, surely, which led Sun Yat-sen, founder of the New China, to use the word MIN (people) in his triple platform for the construction of the Republic.

This book is addressed to the *people* of the world, for in their hands lies the good or ill of future generations. The story it tells is one facet of a many-sided jewel, cut and polished by innumerable hands down the ages. If *all* these sides are known and understood the peoples can look and move forward without fear or stumbling.

V. K. WELLINGTON KOO.

London, January, 1946.

STATEMENT OF DR. V. K. WELLINGTON KOO, CHAIRMAN
OF THE CHINESE DELEGATION, AT THE OPENING OF THE
DUMBARTON OAKS CONVERSATIONS, SEPTEMBER 29TH, 1944.

It is a matter for congratulation that the Government of the United States has arranged the present series of preliminary consultations for the establishment of an international system of peace and security. This is the great object set forth in the Four Nations' Declaration of October 30th, 1943, at Moscow, and these discussions constitute another significant step towards the realization of our high purpose. One part of the consultations has already taken place and yielded fruitful results. To-day's meeting marks the beginning of another part which will complete the first place in seeking an agreed set of proposals for approval by the Governments of the four signatory States to the above-mentioned declaration, and for recommendation to the other United Nations.

We of China, like you, Mr. Secretary of State, and like our British and American colleagues, attach the greatest importance to the work lying ahead of us, and we shall participate in it with the guiding thought of contributing to its success. The lack of security which has been responsible for the present world catastrophe, made my country its first victim. Just as the long years of resistance to invasion with all its attendant sufferings and sacrifices have been singularly painful for China, so the prospect of a new international organization rising to effectively maintain peace and justice is particularly welcome to us.

Our desire to see it come into existence is all the keener, not only because our appeals and warnings in the past did not always meet with the response they deserved, but also because, loyal to our traditional sentiment of peace, we have ever believed in the need and the wisdom of collective effort to ensure the peace and security of nations. Our common experience has made it clear to us all that the unity of purpose and the spirit of unreserved co-operation which have together yielded such striking results in our joint struggle against the forces of tyranny and barbarism, are equally essential in our striving to build a system of durable peace.

All nations which love peace and freedom, whatever their size and strength, have a part to play in any security organization which is to be set up. We believe that such an organization should be universal in character, and that eventually all nations should be brought into it. In order to achieve full and permanent success, the new institution requires such general participation in its membership. The responsibility of member States in safeguarding international peace and security may vary according to their respective resources, but sovereign equality as re-affirmed by the Four Nations' Declaration of Moscow should remain a guiding principle of the new organization.

There is a consensus of opinion among the freedom-loving peoples of the world that all disputes between nations should be settled solely by pacific means. Resort to force by any member State should be proscribed except when authorized by the new organization and acting in its name in accordance with its declared purposes and principles. Any breach of or threat to the peace should be stopped or forestalled by the application of measures which may, if necessary, take the form of military action. Since peace is the supreme interest of the world, vital for the well-being of all peoples, we think no effort should be spared in ensuring its maintenance. But to be able to carry out this primary duty, we firmly believe that the proposed structure should have at its disposal an adequate force which it can promptly use whenever and wherever it may be needed.