

**AN OUTLINE HISTORY OF
CHINA; PART I; FROM THE
EARLIEST TIMES TO THE
MANCHU CONQUEST A. D. 1644**

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An outline history of China; Part I; From the earliest times to the manchu conquest A. D. 1644
by Herbert H. Gowen

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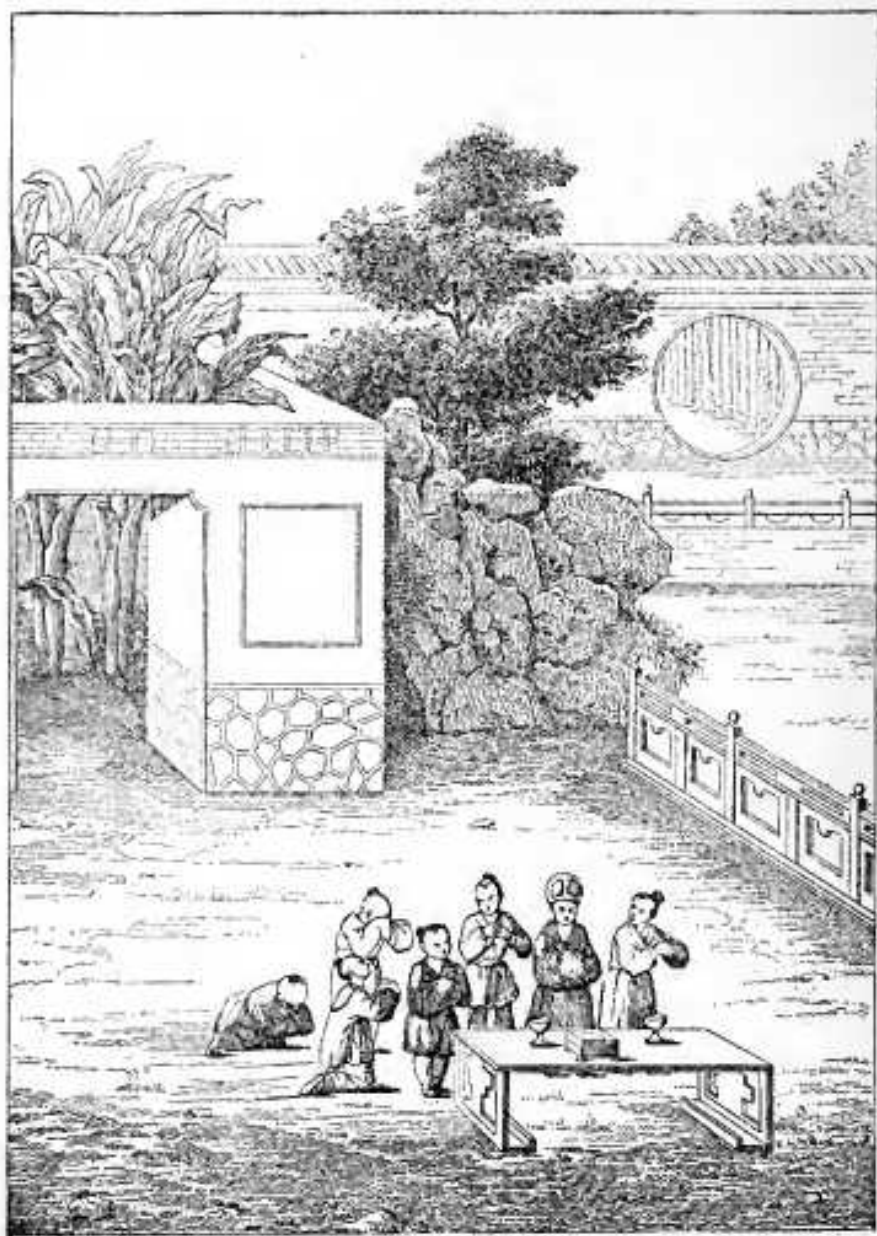
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HERBERT H. GOWEN

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AN OUTLINE HISTORY
OF
CHINA

PART I

FROM THE EARLIEST TIMES TO
THE MANCHU CONQUEST
A. D. 1644

BY

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PREFACE

The writer claims for this little book nothing more than its title implies. It is, in the strictest sense of the word, an *outline* sketch of the pre-Manchu period of Chinese history which, it is hoped, the student will fill in from a wider reading. Some of this is suggested in an Appendix. The excuse for presenting it to a public already deluged with works on China consists in two facts. The first is the importance of the subject. If in Juvenal's time there were those who were interested in knowing

"Quid Seres, quid Thraces agant,"

much more is it the case to-day. "China's New Day" makes it more than ever necessary to know something of her wonderful past, since it is out of that past that the present has, in the main, sprung.

Secondly, the early history of China has been seriously neglected by English and American writers. Chinese history has almost invariably been treated from the point of view of Foreign Relations, with the result that a few pages have sufficed for the four millenniums prior to the Manchu occupation, while hundreds of pages have

PREFACE

been used to discuss (from a foreign point of view) the events of the past few decades. The consequence is that, to the best of the writer's knowledge, there is no work in English giving the student such a sketch of pre-Manchu times as will enable him to grasp the singular continuity of Chinese political and social life. It is too much for the writer to suppose that he has completely filled the gap, but it is hoped that he has made some such contribution as will bring home to many in our schools and colleges some part of the interest which lies behind the veil. It is impossible here to mention all the sources to which this book is indebted. Most of them will appear from the notes and from the attached bibliography. Special acknowledgment, however, should be made to the writings of Professor Hirth of Columbia, G. Pauthier, Abel Rémusat, Chavannes, Legge, Williams, Giles, Mayers, Douglas and D. C. Boulger.

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