

**THE CHINO-
JAPANESE TREATIES
OF MAY 25, 1915**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649482542

The Chino-Japanese Treaties of May 25, 1915 by G. Zay Wood

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G. ZAY WOOD

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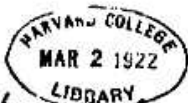
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NEW YORK CHICAGO
Fleming H. Revell Company
LONDON AND EDINBURGH

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(Class of 1877)*

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FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY

Printed in the United States of America

New York: 158 Fifth Avenue
Chicago: 17 North Wabash Ave.
London: 21 Paternoster Square
Edinburgh: 75 Princes Street

**TO
SINN-MING**

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I

INTRODUCTION

ONE stumbling-block which is not insurmountable, but has hitherto stood in the way of the establishment of cordial and friendly relations between China and Japan, is the so-called Chino-Japanese treaties of 1915. They constituted the burning point of the controversy between China and Japan at the Peace Conference at Versailles, where the Chinese delegates, for the reasons which we shall take up later, urged their abrogation, while the Japanese delegates insisted on their validity on the ground that they were duly entered into by the two countries and that they must be carried out if for no other reason than the proverbial sanctity of international treaties. China's claim for abrogation won the sympathetic hearing of President Wilson and Premier Lloyd George and many other leading delegates at the Conference. The issue became blurred, however, by the Shantung "settlement," although it is a known fact that in reaching that "settlement," President Wilson had refused to recognise