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Edited by John K. Fairbank

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THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY
OF CHINA

General editors

DENIS TWITCHETT and JOHN K. FAIRBANK

Volume 10

Late Ch'ing, 1800–1911, Part 1

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GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

In the English-speaking world, the Cambridge histories have since the beginning of the century set the pattern for multi-volume works of history, with chapters written by experts on a particular topic, and unified by the guiding hand of volume editors of senior standing. *The Cambridge Modern History*, planned by Lord Acton, appeared in sixteen volumes between 1902 and 1912. It was followed by *The Cambridge Ancient History*, *The Cambridge Medieval History*, *The Cambridge History of English Literature*, and Cambridge Histories of India, of Poland, and of the British Empire. The original *Modern History* has now been replaced by *The New Cambridge Modern History* in twelve volumes, and *The Cambridge Economic History of Europe* is now being completed. Other Cambridge Histories recently undertaken include a history of Islam, of Arabic literature, of the Bible treated as a central document of and influence on Western civilization, and of Iran and China.

In the case of China, Western historians face a special problem. The history of Chinese civilization is more extensive and complex than that of any single Western nation, and only slightly less ramified than the history of European civilization as a whole. The Chinese historical record is immensely detailed and extensive, and Chinese historical scholarship has been highly developed and sophisticated for many centuries. Yet until recent decades the study of China in the West, despite the important pioneer work of European sinologists, had hardly progressed beyond the translation of some few classical historical texts, and the outline history of the major dynasties and their institutions.

Recently Western scholars have drawn more fully upon the rich traditions of historical scholarship in China and also in Japan, and greatly advanced both our detailed knowledge of past events and institutions, and also our critical understanding of traditional historiography. In addition, the present generation of Western historians of China can also draw upon the new outlooks and techniques of modern Western historical scholarship, and upon recent developments in the social sciences, while continuing to build upon the solid foundations of rapidly pro-

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PREFACE

gressing European, Japanese and Chinese sinological studies. Recent historical events, too, have given prominence to new problems, while throwing into question many older conceptions. Under these multiple impacts the Western revolution in Chinese studies is steadily gathering momentum.

When *The Cambridge History of China* was first planned in 1966, the aim was to provide a substantial account of the history of China as a benchmark for the Western history-reading public: an account of the current state of knowledge in six volumes. Since then the out-pouring of current research, the application of new methods, and the extension of scholarship into new fields, have further stimulated Chinese historical studies. This growth is indicated by the fact that the History has now become a planned fourteen volumes, which exclude the earliest pre-dynastic period, and must still leave aside such topics as the history of art and of literature, many aspects of economics and technology, and all the riches of local history.

The striking advances in our knowledge of China's past over the last decade will continue and accelerate. Western historians of this great and complex subject are justified in their efforts by the needs of their own peoples for greater and deeper understanding of China. Chinese history belongs to the world, not only as a right and necessity, but also as a subject of compelling interest.

JOHN K. FAIRBANK

DENIS TWITCHETT

June 1976

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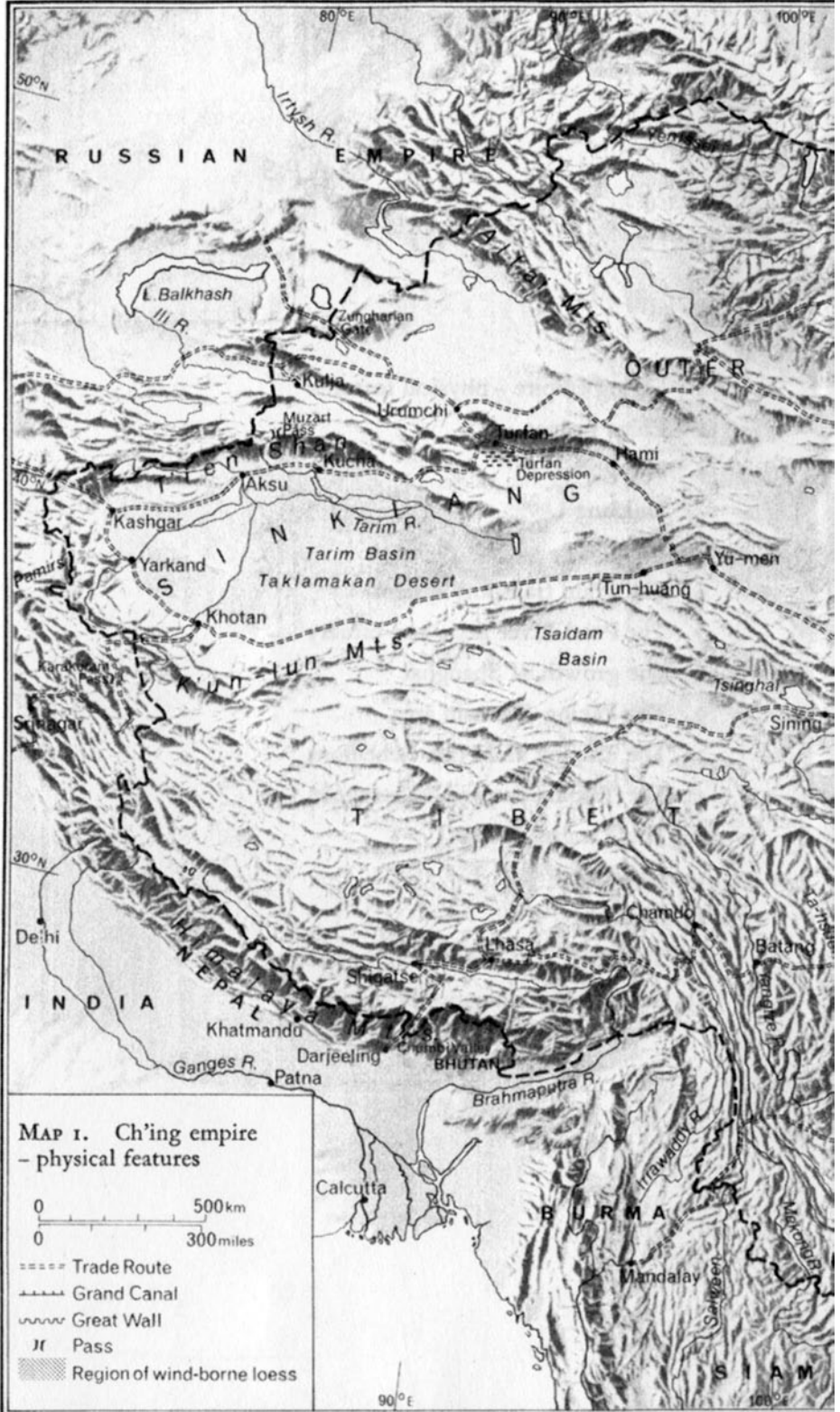
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PREFACE TO VOLUME 10

Historians writing about the late Ch'ing period for an English-reading audience have no choice in selecting a system of romanization of Chinese into English. The Wade–Giles system with its unfortunate use of the apostrophe is no doubt less simple and efficient than the new *pinyin* system of the People's Republic of China, but it is still the system used in nearly every reference work on China now available to a reader of English. From the corpus of dictionaries, bibliographies, biographical dictionaries, place-name gazetteers, maps and other research aids, the Wade–Giles system has permeated the Western literature on China too deeply to be substituted. We use it here.

However, as we ponder differences such as that between *chiang* and *ch'iang* (wondering, for example, if *chiang* is actually *ch'iang* with the apostrophe omitted by error), we should not blame our discomfort entirely on Sir Thomas Wade. Other cooks than he also contributed to our mess of romanized pottage. Nineteenth-century China's dialectical differences were reflected in the Imperial Post Office romanization which is generally used for *major* place names. Thus we spell the province Kiangsi, as in the *Postal Atlas of China*, not Chiang-hsi as it would be in Wade–Giles – *except* that our Bibliography follows Wade–Giles, and the gazetteer of Kiangsi will be found under Chiang-hsi, naturally.

To this place-name ambivalence (is Wade–Giles' Chiu-chiang such a major place that we should romanize its name by the Post Office's Kiukiang?), there is added only the unpredictable capacity of great men for lexicographical deviation. In this volume only the master comprador Tong King-sing (whose name sounded like that) seems to have beaten the system, as Sun Yat-sen will do in the next volume.

Works cited in footnotes with minimal data will be found listed alphabetically with full data in the Bibliography, which is divided into two sections. All entries with transliterated titles and Chinese and Japanese characters are listed in one section, and the remaining works in the other. We have avoided the constant repetition of p. and pp. The notation 2.27 refers to page 27 of volume 2 (in Western or modern-bound books) or *chüan* (of traditional Chinese works).

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Places mentioned in the text are as far as possible shown on one or more maps; page numbers of such maps are in italics in the Index.

Acknowledgements

A *Cambridge History* is meant to be indebted to every significant contributor to its field. Our footnotes indicate the range of our debts inadequately yet they can hardly be otherwise expressed. We deeply regret the death of one of our contributors to this volume, the late Ting-ye Kuo, who was the first Director of the Institute of Modern History at Taipei.

JKF