

## Political Censorship in British Hong Kong

Drawing on archival materials, Michael Ng challenges the widely accepted narrative that freedom of expression in Hong Kong is a legacy of British rule of law. Demonstrating that the media and schools were pervasively censored for much of the colonial period and only liberated at a very late stage of British rule, this book complicates our understanding of how Hong Kong came to be a city that championed free speech by the late 1990s. With extensive use of primary sources, the free press, freedom of speech and judicial independence are all revealed to be products of Britain's China strategy. Ng shows that, from the nineteenth to the twentieth century, Hong Kong's legal history was deeply affected by China's relations with world powers. Demonstrating that Hong Kong's freedoms drifted along waves of change in global politics, this book offers a new perspective on the British legal regime in Hong Kong.

**Michael Ng** is Associate Professor of the Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong and has published widely on the legal history of China and Hong Kong in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He has been appointed as visiting fellow of the University of Cambridge, visiting scholar of the University of Melbourne and the National University of Singapore, and visiting Associate Professor of National Taiwan University. He was a founding officer and executive committee member of the International Society for Chinese Law and History.

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*Freedom of Expression and the Law (1842–1997)*

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Michael Ng  
*University of Hong Kong*



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original documents during his time as a journalist and editor from the 1920s to the 1970s provides valuable evidence to attest to the operation of the little-known political censorship regime in colonial Hong Kong.

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## Abbreviations

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BBC	British Broadcasting Corporation
CCP	Chinese Communist Party
CPCO	Control of Publications Consolidation Ordinance
CPG	Chinese Central People's Government
CR	Commercial Radio
CUHK	Chinese University of Hong Kong
ERO	Emergency Regulations Ordinance
FCO	Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK)
FEER	<i>Far Eastern Economic Review</i>
GIS	Government Information Services
HK	Hong Kong
HKFS	Hong Kong Federation of Students
HKFTU	Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions
HKU	University of Hong Kong
HRC	UN Human Rights Committee
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ISD	Information Services Department
JUSTICE	International Commission of Jurists
KMT	Kuomintang (Chinese Nationalist Party)
LIC	Local Intelligence Committee
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (China)
NCNA	New China News Agency
OPO	Objectionable Publications Ordinance
PLA	People's Liberation Army
PRC	People's Republic of China
RDF	Rediffusion
RHK	Radio Hong Kong
ROC	Republic of China (Taiwan)
RTHK	Radio Television Hong Kong
SAR	Special Administrative Region
SASI	Secretary for Administrative Services and Information
SCMP	<i>South China Morning Post</i>

xvi	List of Abbreviations
SCOPG	Standing Committee on Pressure Groups
TVB	Television Broadcasts Limited
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UPGC	University and Polytechnic Grants Committee
US	United States of America
WKYP	<i>Wah Kiu Yat Po</i>