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## A Symposium on China Today

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of bibliography. In its brief existence it has established itself as a necessary tool for all students of scripture and theology.

JOSEPH J. SMITH

## A SYMPOSIUM ON CHINA TODAY

SYMPOSIUM ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF THE FAR EAST. E. F. Szczepanik, ed. Hong Kong: University of Hong Kong Press, 1962. ix, 508 pp.

The book is a selection from papers read at the Golden Jubilee celebration of Hong Kong University in 1961. The papers and discussions have been arranged under five principal headings, Economic Changes in China, Economic Impact of Changes in China on the Far East, Political Changes in China and Their Impact on the Far East, Legal and Cultural Changes in China, and Social Changes in China and Their Impact on the Far East. There are altogether 47 papers, 11 of which are published only in summaries of less than one page; each subject is followed by a brief summary of the discussion. The number of participants was perhaps too large and included persons whose field of studies is not Asia or who had a limited scholarly background. But there are also papers by well-known experts on China, among them Conrad Brandt, Li Choh-ming, T. C. Lee, S. Ishikawa, T. Ishikawa, H. A. Steiner, and R. L. Walker.

Perhaps the contents do not justify the title of the book and of the symposium since the dominant subject is communist China—understandable in discussions held in Hong Kong.

On communist China the subjects treated are agriculture, industry, transport, trade, finances, ideology, foreign policy, law, family, overseas Chinese, social changes, and, because the discussion took place in 1961 when the failure of the commune was evident, this failure was reflected in many reports and discussions. It is the more astonishing that one paper spoke highly of the iron smelting in small village furnaces (pp. 38-45) which, recognized as an aberration, was quickly scrapped in communist China. Papers on transport (Bernhard Grossmann, Hamburg), on internal trade (Audry G. Donnithorne, London), monetary system (John Young-wah Liu, Hong Kong) are worth reading, while the paper on law asserts that "This fusion of filial piety towards Chairman Mao in the best of the Confucianist tradition, with loyalty and devotion to the state and Communism, bespeaks the trend of the Chinese legal system in integrating the old with the new and blending the East with the West" (p. 348, Luke T. C. Lee, Harvard University) — perfect nonsense.

About the relation of communist China to other Asian countries, there are six papers on foreign policy and seven on economic and trade relations. According to Robert A. Scalapino, "Like the Soviet Union, China has indicated that she will take major risks to prevent the establishment of Western (notably American) power near her territory, and that where such power exists, constant pressure will be exercised to reduce or negate it. This, and the 'return' of Taiwan, constitute two main objectives of Chinese foreign policy in Asia today (p. 267). The author writing in 1961 of the East Wind which can crush the West Wind identified the East Wind with the communist camp (p. 273). It only became clear recently that the East is Peking and Moscow is in the West.

A useful paper is that of W.A.C. Adie on the history of parallels and conflicts in foreign policy between Moscow and Peking. A short paper of Tadao Ishikawa described the alternative tough and soft policy of Peking towards Japan, and a longer paper by Anthony C. Palfreeman Chinese relations with Australia. On economic relations between China and Asian countries one reads with interest the paper on China's Aid Programme to Asian Neutrals by Richard G. Wilson, the editor of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, and there is a long paper on Sino-Japanese trade by Saburo Okita from the Japanese government.

A paper by Werner Klatt, Berlin, entitled "Chinese Agriculture As a Model for Asia" brings out the necessity of land reform but in the orderly and efficient way of Japan and not as it was introduced in communist China (p. 206).

There are three papers only dealing with countries other than China, one on the economy of Hong Kong, another on the "Stages of Growth and the Philippine Experience" and the third "Some Aspects of Social Changes in Japan". We read in the paper on the Philippines, by Benito Legarda from the Central Bank of the Philippines: "It appears to me... crucial for the future of industrialization and economic development that income flows continue to go to the new class of entrepreneurs and capitalists which has grown up in the Philippines in the past few years." With the 'decontrol' of exchange rates that the author calls a de facto devaluation of the currency "the new entrepreneurial class was relegated to second place and the main recipients of income of pre-war days, namely, the traditional exporters and the rural gentry, once again regained their primacy. ... The pre-war behaviour of this class suggests strongly that the new income flows will go to conspicuous consumption (jewellery, automobiles, mansions, foreign travel) and real estate." The author believes however "that the country has enough good sense to recognize trends for what they are and to moderate some of the forces which make for a slow-down in growth" (p. 191).

The book, provided with a 40-page index, is a very useful symposium on communist China, though not on the Far East.

L. LADANY

## AMERICA AND THE LOSS OF CHINA

AMERICA'S FAILURE IN CHINA, 1941-1950. By Tang Tsou. Chicago, Ill.: University of Chicago Press, 1963. xvi, 614 pp.

The political and military alignment in East Asia and the West Pacific today is uneasy and ominous. It exists such as it is, largely because of the Communist Party's rise to complete power in mainland China. This happened contrary to the interests of the United States and to such hopes and plans as she had for peace in the post-war world. Blameworthy or not, America failed in the objectives that were hers through the 1940's.

Historians and political scientists will find in this book of Tang Tsou a careful and copious chronicle of Sino-American relations from Pearl Harbor to the start of the stalemate in Korea. The author likewise offers them fair interpretation and keen, tenacious analysis of factors contributing to the losses America sustained regarding China.

The average reader too, if he lived on another planet, would judge this work highly entertaining. It has the dramatic structure and weighty content of tragedy. Men of stature and strong character, like Chiang and Mao, Stillwell, Hurley and Marshall, FDR and Truman are on the stage.

But all of us were engaged in these events of enormous consequence.

The U.S. principle of preserving Chinese territorial and administrative integrity has terminated in the reality of two Chinas. Non-intervention has passed into an American-enforced *de facto* cease-fire in the civil war. Traditional sympathy for the underdog of the Far East has been superseded by fear of the awakened giant of Asia. Pride in America's moral leadership in China has been replaced by apprehension about Chinese ideological influences in Asia. Missionary and philanthropic activities have given place to political and propaganda warfare. Neighborly dialogue has been supplanted by mutual denunciation. Historic friendship has been consummated in reciprocal hostility. On the horizon looms an ever-present chance of war (p. 591).

"Within the four seas, all men are brothers," a Chinese adage runs. Christ came in our midst to tell us, and show us how, to love one another. There is the pity of it. The loss in human values, in friendship and possible cooperation is saddening, and challenging!

Tang's six hundred pages are written compactly; they are meaty. It is not possible to summarize his story in a brief review. He demonstrates unto evidence that any simplist explanation of America's China debacle is erroneous.