

CIS 160: Introduction to East Asian Studies  
Fall 2003 M,W,F 9:30—10:20, Chambers 305

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Lecture Notes, 22 September 2003

East Asian Nationalism

Japan and Korea

- Defeat of the Russians served to catalyze growth in Japanese nationalism and expansion in China and Korea;
- Appeasement of Japan by Western powers resulted in non-interference with Japanese colonization of Korea
- Korean resistance to Japanese control grew rapidly among diverse parts of Korean society, Confucianists and Christians, intellectuals and business people, and was harshly suppressed by the Japanese;
- Japanese expansion in Korea helped to improve Japanese economic growth; Korea vital in linking Japan to Manchurian interests;
- Japanese nationalism develops out of right-wing elements of Japanese society: “What emerged in Japan were competing visions of empire. The foreign ministry and financial sector approach focused on the wealth Japan might accumulate in China through cooperation with the West and a benign paternalism towards the Chinese ... The army, however, was less interested in commercial and financial affairs or in propitiating the Chinese or any of the Western powers.” (pg. 307)

The last dynasty

- Remember, the homeland of the Manchu Qing is what was gradually becoming a Japanese colony; last attempt to use Chinese traditional strategy of “using barbarians to manage barbarians” failed with American failures to contain Japan in Manchuria
- With the decline of the Qing and the expansion of Western influence in China, Chinese nationalist sentiments develop based on an anti-Manchu platform; Yuan Shikai, one of the strongest military leaders in the Qing, does not suppress a popular revolt, and seizes the opportunity to force the abdication of the last emperor in 1911
- Sun Yatsen (Sun Zhongshan), a historical figure recognized by both the ROC in Taiwan and the PRC, returns to China to become elected as president of the new republic, but realizing the lack of military power, yields to Yuan
- Although China sided with the allies against Germany in WW I, at the Treaty of Versailles, German concessions in China were not returned to China due to appeasement of Japan; popular support of a student demonstration on May 4<sup>th</sup>, 1919 spread to other cities; more on May 4<sup>th</sup> movement later

- Yuan's efforts to install himself as emperor fail; but without Yuan, there is no major power that can unify China by force, and China falls into control of regional warlords (although there is still a nominal ROC government in place in Guangzhou)
- With the advice/support of Communist Russia in the 1920s, Jiang Jieshi (Chiang Kai-shek) gradually builds up a military component to the Guomindang (KMT), and in 1926 starts the "Northern Expedition" that by 1928 reunifies China; during the campaign, Jiang purges the Communists from the Republic of China government
- This period (known in Chinese history as the "Republican period") causes a major shift in Chinese society and culture; modernization grows rapidly in the Republican period, with the proliferation of markers of "Western" culture spreading through coastal cities

#### May 4<sup>th</sup> Movement (see page 318)

- In response to the failures of traditional Chinese empire and cultural practices, a new iconoclasm spread through Chinese society with the collapse of the Qing dynasty; this reaches a high point in the May 4<sup>th</sup> movement
- The May 4<sup>th</sup> movement is not just a political movement, but a wider cultural movement that continues to inform contemporary Chinese culture (both ROC and PRC)
- Confucianism is heavily criticized in the May 4<sup>th</sup> movement as creating the "backwardness" in China; a wide range of ideologies (including religious ones such as Christianity) become popular in Republican China
- One of the major components of the May 4<sup>th</sup> movement was an emphasis on the literary use of vernacular language; "Classical Chinese" (like Latin) was used by intellectuals, but did not mirror popular spoken languages; the use of vernacular language in writing was seen as expanding the literacy of the wider Chinese population
- "Mr. Science and Mr. Democracy" become a rallying symbol for the protesting students; science is seen as the way for Chinese enlightenment and modernization;
- see the writings of Lu Xun, which we will be discussing next week