

Li Hung Chang And The Huai Army A Study In Nineteenth Century Chinese Regionalism

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the china we know today emerged at the end of a long period of internal rebellions civil wars foreign invasions and revolutionary insurrections that stretched across the nineteenth century to the mid point of the twentieth this book explores one important consequence of this situation the increased role of military force in the determination of elite social political and economic power and presents fascinating case studies of the warlords militia leaders and military officers who benefited from this examining the intersection of military force and elite power in the formative years of modern chinese history this book highlights just how important military force was to elite power in nineteenth and early twentieth century china in a context of frequent warfare and political turmoil it shows that the way in which military empowerment unfolded and who exactly was empowered depended heavily on shifting military and political conditions and each case confirms the extent to which military force emerged as a consistently significant determinant of elite power across this period indeed the transformative effect of military force on social and political structures of power revealed by these studies sheds distinctive light on the prevalence and wide ranging impact of military conflicts in this period in turn these studies also provide a particular perspective on the fluid boundaries of as well as the constraints on elite power in chinese society in a time of intense social and political change this book makes an important contribution to our understanding of the rise of modern china and provides a keen insight into impact of war on the country as such it will be welcomed by students and scholars interested in chinese history asian history and military history more broadly

li hung chang 1823 1901 was a chinese statesman particularly notable for his promotion of industrialization and advocacy of bureaucratic reform most of the papers in this volume were first presented in two panels devoted to li at the 1987 annual meeting of the pacific coast branch of the american historical association the volume is divided into six parts introduction the beginnings of china s modernization the rise of li hung chang li in the role of a national official li as diplomat li as modernizer and conclusion including a bibliographical essay paper edition unseen 22 50 annotation copyright by book news inc portland or

the book is the volume of military history of the qing dynasty among a series of books of deep into china histories the earliest known written records of the history of china date from as early as 1250 bc from the shang dynasty c 1600 1046 bc and the bamboo annals 296 bc describe a xia dynasty c 2070 1600 bc before the shang but no writing is known from the period the shang ruled in the yellow river valley which is commonly held to be the cradle of chinese civilization however neolithic civilizations originated at various cultural centers along both the yellow river and yangtze river these yellow river and yangtze civilizations arose millennia before the shang with thousands of years of continuous history china is one of the world s oldest civilizations and is regarded as one of the cradles of civilization the zhou dynasty 1046 256 bc supplanted the shang and introduced the concept of the mandate of heaven to justify their rule the central zhou government began to weaken due to external and internal pressures in the 8th century bc and the country eventually splintered into smaller states during the spring and autumn period these states became independent and warred with one another in the following warring states period much of traditional chinese culture literature and philosophy first developed during those troubled times in 221 bc qin shi huang conquered the various warring states and created for himself the title of huangdi or emperor of the qin marking the beginning of imperial china however the oppressive government fell soon after his death and was supplanted by the longer lived han dynasty 206 bc 220 ad successive dynasties developed

bureaucratic systems that enabled the emperor to control vast territories directly in the 21 centuries from 206 bc until ad 1912 routine administrative tasks were handled by a special elite of scholar officials young men well versed in calligraphy history literature and philosophy were carefully selected through difficult government examinations china s last dynasty was the qing 1644 1912 which was replaced by the republic of china in 1912 and in the mainland by the people s republic of china in 1949 chinese history has alternated between periods of political unity and peace and periods of war and failed statehood the most recent being the chinese civil war 1927 1949 china was occasionally dominated by steppe peoples most of whom were eventually assimilated into the han chinese culture and population between eras of multiple kingdoms and warlordism chinese dynasties have ruled parts or all of china in some eras control stretched as far as xinjiang and tibet as at present traditional culture and influences from other parts of asia and the western world carried by waves of immigration cultural assimilation expansion and foreign contact form the basis of the modern culture of china

china has become accessible to the west in the last twenty years in a way that was not possible in the previous thirty the number of westerners travelling to china to study for business or for tourism has increased dramatically and there has been a corresponding increase in interest in chinese culture society and economy and increasing coverage of contemporary china in the media our understanding of china s history has also been evolving the study of history in the people s republic of china during the mao zedong period was strictly regulated and primary sources were rarely available to westerners or even to most chinese historians now that the chinese archives are open to researchers there is a growing body of academic expertise on history in china that is open to western analysis and historical methods this has in many ways changed the way that chinese history particularly the modern period is viewed the encyclopedia of chinese history covers the entire span of chinese history from the period known

primarily through archaeology to the present day treating chinese history in the broadest sense the encyclopedia includes coverage of the frontier regions of manchuria mongolia xinjiang and tibet that have played such an important role in the history of china proper and will also include material on taiwan and on the chinese diaspora in a z format with entries written by experts in the field of chinese studies the encyclopedia will be an invaluable resource for students of chinese history politics and culture

this new reference work contains approximately 1500 entries covering chinese civilisation from peking man to the present day subjects include history politics art archaeology and literature to name but a few

now in a fully updated edition this accessible text provides a balanced history of modern china in a global context through years of living and research in china taiwan japan and russia the authors are deeply qualified to understand china s internal dynamics as well as its foreign relations over centuries arguing that modern chinese history cannot be understood without a deep appreciation of the outside factors that have influenced the country the authors focus on china s near neighbors especially japan and russia they also emphasize the tragic role of almost endless warfare throughout chinese history providing a unique comparative approach the authors bridge the cultural divide separating chinese history from western readers trying to understand it specifically geared to the teaching requirements of the semester system the book is divided into four parts and a total of twenty eight chapters corresponding either to two chapters per week in a fourteen week semester or one chapter per week in a two semester course

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