

**Review: Riley K. Smith, *China: The Blood-Stained Trail, Living Sacrifice* Book Co., Bartlesville, OK, 2008**

Pages: 112

**Christ-Rejecting China**

This run through China from Nestorius Alopen to today highlights how China has always been an enemy of the gospel; overshadowed by xenophobia and insecurity in the face of Western power.

Not being able to rise above this turned them against the gospel in the first instance to their old ways of eastern religions, then (ironically) to the Western philosophy of Marxism. This has led to wholesale despair and destruction under a Socialist dictatorship so that Christianity remains a dangerous belief to this day.

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The gospel in China challenged ancestor worship, Buddhism, and Confucianism.

Foreigners in the 19<sup>th</sup>C were confined to five treaty ports per the Treaty of Nanking.

*Mandarin* is “magistrate”.

*Lao gai* is, “reeducation through labour.”

Distributing Christian literature is “disturbing the social order”.

A stone monument in Xian records the arrival of Nestorian Alopen in AD 635. Emperor Taizung welcomed him and issued an edict of “universal toleration”.

After this death, his son took concubine Wu Hou to wife, known as the “wicked witch”. Empress Wu was the real power behind the throne till his death in 683. She had a Buddhist lover so make that religion mandatory in 691.

Some missionaries arrived from Persia in 744.

The Mongols ruled China from 1279 to 1398.

Catholic missionaries threatened the Nestorians.

Kublai Khan welcomed the Marco Polo's father and uncle in 1265. The Khan died before the first promised Catholic missionaries arrived.

The Ming massacred Nestorians and Catholics as foreigners.

Jesuits arrived in 1557.

The Manchurians conquered the Ming in 1644.

The "Rites Controversy" was Rome's fornication with China to compromise.

In 1692, Emperor Kangxi issued a tolerance order.

In 1724, Yung-cheng expelled all missionaries.

In 1807, the first protestant missionary Robert Morrison arrived in China, when the sentence for evangelising was strangulation.

An 1812 edict banned teaching Chinese to foreigners.

In 1819, Morrison published a Chinese Bible.

While the Opium (or Anglo-China) War forced China to give missionaries freedom, anyone who converted was considered a traitor.

In 1866, Hudson Taylor started the China Inland Mission (CIM) with eighteen souls.

Chinese Secret Societies (e.g., the Buddhist White Lotus) murdered countless missionaries.

The Boxers (or "The Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists") killed an estimated 30,000 Christians in the 1900 rebellion. Empress Dowager

Tzu Hsi: “The foreigners have been aggressive ... They oppress our people and blaspheme our gods.

On 21/6/1900, she issued an order to kill all “foreign white devils”.

Converts were often labelled “Rice Christians” as converting solely for financial gain.

Empress Tzu Hsi died in 1908, leaving the three-year-old Last Emperor Pu Yi to reign. In this vacuum emerged the CCP.

In 1911m the Qing Dynasty fell, replaced by the Republic of China under Christian Dr Sun Yatsen. His followers were nationalist *Kuomintang*.

Mainline denomination missionaries began to bring liberal philosophies and evolution which weakened Christianity and bolstered Communism.

Sun Yatsen died in 1925 and was succeeded by Chiang Kai-shek.

Civil War broke out in 1928.

Chiang was baptised a Methodist in 1930.

In the 1930s, Shinto Baron Tanaka seized two northern Chinese provinces.

In 1934, Mao began his 6,000 mile retreat to the north west (the Long March).

In 1937, Japan attacked China and by 1939 had won most of the east. Under Japanese rule most foreign missionaries were safe, but Chinese were in peril.

On 1/10/1949, Mao established the People’s Republic of China and declared American missionaries “spiritual aggressors”.

In the late 1950s, Mao closed off China.

The Protestant Three-Self Patriotic Movement (TSPM) was established in the early 1950s based on self-government, self-reliance, and self-

evangelism. Church was restricted to Sunday, no home meetings allowed, and no one under eighteen could be baptised or evangelised.

In the 1950s, the CCP established the Religious Affairs Bureau; religious messages had to be “compatible with Socialism.

During Mao’s Cultural Revolution from 1966-76, all religious groups were banned and the TSPM eliminated. This Great Leap Forward was an economic failure.

In 1983, Deng Xiaopeng began a *Yanda* (“severe crackdown”) campaign; over 1M were arrested and 10K executed. Christians were forced to say, “Chairman Mao is greater than Christ”. The campaign lasted several months, but was resurrected in 1996.

A 2001 campaign capitalised on 9-11 by persecuting Muslims in Xinjiang, also taking Tibet.

The Tienanmen Square massacre happened on 13/4/1989.

China has learned to play the global trading game while keeping its human rights violations hidden.

Only the CCP’s Amity Press is authorised to print religious materials.

7.25% of Chinese are Christian.