

*The Spoilation of the Far East and Southern Asia  
missions in Vienna, Brussels, Madrid, Tokyo, The Hague, and  
Lisbon.*

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Washington, July 3, 1900.*

In this critical posture of affairs in China it is deemed appropriate to define the attitude of the United States as far as present circumstances permit this to be done. We adhere to the policy initiated by us in 1857, of peace with the Chinese nation, of furtherance of lawful commerce, and of protection of lives and property of our citizens by all means guaranteed under extraterritorial treaty rights and by the law of nations. If wrong be done our citizens we propose to hold the responsible authors to the utmost accountability. We regard the condition at Peking as one of virtual anarchy, whereby power and responsibility are practically devolved upon the local provincial authorities. So long as they are not in overt collusion with rebellion and use their power to protect foreign life and property we regard them as representing the Chinese people, with whom we seek to remain in peace and friendship. The purpose of the President is, as it has been heretofore, to act concurrently with the other powers, first, in opening up communication with Peking and rescuing the American officials, missionaries, and other Americans who are in danger; secondly, in affording all possible protection everywhere in China to American life and property; thirdly, in guarding and protecting all legitimate American interests; and fourthly, in aiding to prevent a spread of the disorders to the other provinces of the Empire and a recurrence of such disasters. It is, of course, too early to forecast the means of attaining this last result; but the policy of the government of the United States is to seek a solution which may bring about permanent safety and peace to China, preserve Chinese territorial and administrative entity, protect all rights guaranteed to friendly powers by treaty and international law, and safeguard for the world the principle of equal and impartial trade with all parts of the Chinese Empire.

You will communicate the purport of this instruction to the minister for foreign affairs.

JOHN HAY.

## **The Boxers Demand Death for All "Foreign Devils," 1900<sup>1</sup>**

*The I-ho-ch'uan (righteous harmony fists), known as Boxers, was a secret society which made its appearance in North China in 1898. Originally*

<sup>1</sup> The translations of 1, 2, and 3, made by Chinese scholars, appeared in the May 5, 1900 issue of the *Peking and Tientsin Times*; placard 4 is from the *Shanghai Mercury*, as quoted in *The Boxer Rising* (2nd ed., Shanghai, 1901), p. 24.

aimed at Roman Catholic missionaries and converted Chinese, the movement gradually grew into opposition to everything foreign. Many Chinese, both old and young, flocked to the society and formed themselves into small bands of gymnasts. Every Boxer was assured that he automatically was immune from death or injury since his body was protected by magic from sword cuts and bullets. "Protect the country; destroy the foreigner" was the favorite Boxer slogan. Unchecked, the Boxers began looting, burning, robbing, and killing until they were beyond control. Below are four placards that expressed the sentiments of Boxers in their war against the "foreign devils" of the imperialist powers.

1

The Gods assist the Boxers,  
The Patriotic Harmonious corps,  
It is because the "Foreign Devils" disturb the "Middle Kingdom."  
Urging the people to join their religion,  
To turn their backs on Heaven,  
Venerate not the Gods and forget the ancestors.

Men violate the human obligations,  
Women commit adultery,  
"Foreign Devils" are not produced by mankind,  
If you do not believe,  
Look at them carefully.

The eyes of all the "Foreign Devils" are bluish,  
No rain falls,  
The earth is getting dry,  
This is because the churches stop Heaven,  
The Gods are angry;  
The Genii are vexed;  
Both come down from the mountain to deliver the doctrine.

This is no hearsay,  
The practices of boxing will not be in vain;  
Reciting incantations and pronouncing magic words,  
Burn up yellow written prayers,  
Light incense sticks  
To invite the Gods and Genii of all the grottoes.

The Gods come out from grottoes,  
The Genii come down from mountains,  
Support the human bodies to practice the boxing.

When all the military accomplishments or tactics  
Are fully learned,  
It will not be difficult to exterminate the "Foreign Devils" then.

Push aside the railway tracks,  
Pull out the telegraph poles,  
Immediately after this destroy the steamers.

The great France  
Will grow cold and downhearted.  
The English and Russians will certainly disperse.  
Let the various "Foreign Devils" all be killed.  
May the whole Elegant Empire of the Great Ching Dynasty be  
ever prosperous!

2

The relatives and friends of all round notice recently that the members of the Protestant and Roman Catholic religions poison the wells with poisonous powder, that whoever drinks the water will have their lungs and intestines rotten in eighteen days. Two men have been arrested by us at Ling Chi-chuang and we found out that they have poison all over their bodies. They are silent when they are questioned and bold when tortured. Who ever smells the poison will die immediately; you must be very cautious in drinking the water. Those who have seen this notice must make it known; it will avoid the calamity of the people. It must by all means be done.

3

### THE TEN PLAGUES

In the presence of the revered mother the goddess of mercy.

This year being one of rapine and swordsmen being peculiarly evil, the myriad-fold holy one has descended to earth and the good and the evil are to receive speedy retribution. Since the multitude have ceased to believe in Buddha and are unfilial toward their parents, high heaven is dispatching in its anger a million spiritual soldiers to reward the good and punish the evil. By burning incense night and day and practicing filial piety an entire family may escape the bitterness of the sword. But whatever family may set their hearts to revile the gods and to neglect filial behavior towards father and mother that family will be cut off and will fall into perdition. Should the people continue in unbelief, there will follow hereafter ten unescapable sorrows.

First Sorrow.

Incense burning will cease throughout the Empire.

Second Sorrow.  
 Blood will flow and fill the streams of all the hills.  
 Third Sorrow.  
 Grain and meal will become refuse.  
 Fourth Sorrow.  
 All the living will be involved in iniquity.  
 Fifth Sorrow.  
 The roads will be without passengers.  
 Sixth Sorrow.  
 Orphans and widows will speak of their native place.  
 Seventh Sorrow.  
 There will be none to protect from rapine.  
 Eighth Sorrow.  
 All the living will enter the Yellow Springs.  
 Ninth Sorrow.  
 Disease and distress will afflict the people.  
 Tenth Sorrow.  
 There will be no peaceful years.

Issued under the "Light of the Red Lamp" at Su Chiào. If those who see this paper circulate it immediately they will escape the suffering of the swords.

## 4

## SACRED EDICT

[Two hundred thousand copies of the following placard were distributed in Tientsin on June 4, 1900.]

Issued by the Lord of Wealth and Happiness

The Catholic and Protestant religions being insolent to the gods and extinguishing sanctity, rendering no obedience to Buddhism and enraging both Heaven and Earth, the rain-clouds now no longer visit us; but 8,000,000 Spirit Soldiers will descend from Heaven and sweep the Empire clear of all foreigners. Then will the gentle showers once more water our lands: and, when the tread of soldiers and the clash of steel are heard, heralding woes to all our people, then the Buddhist's Patriotic League of Boxers will be able to protect the Empire and bring peace to all its people.

Hasten, then, to spread this doctrine far and wide; for, if you gain one adherent to the faith, your own person will be absolved from all future misfortunes. If you gain five adherents to the faith, your whole family will be absolved from all evils; and, if you gain ten adherents to the faith, your whole village will be absolved from all calamities. Those who gain no adherents to the cause shall be decapitated; for, until all foreigners have been exterminated, the rain can never visit us. Those who have been so

unfortunate as to have drunk water from wells poisoned by foreigners should at once make use of the following Divine Prescription, the ingredients of which are to be swallowed, when the poisoned patient will recover:

Dried black plums.....	half an ounce.
Solanum dulcamara.....	half an ounce.
Encommia ulmoides (?).....	half an ounce.

## The Chinese Eastern Railway, 1901<sup>1</sup>

*The following description of the Chinese Eastern Railway evaluates its significance in the story of imperialism in Asia.*

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The Chinese Eastern Railway was, in its first conception, one of those useful but sinister enterprises that produce industrial development and military struggles. It was planned as an instrument of Imperial expansion. A glance at the map will show how it shortened the distance between two points, both on Russian territory. The railway along the Amur valley to Vladivostok was built later. Here was a Russian railway on Chinese territory, guarded along its whole length by Russian troops, with a branch line extending to the south of the Liaotung Peninsula, of which Russia secured a twenty-five years' lease. It is not surprising that its building is generally considered as one of the most important origins of the Russo-Japanese War.

The prime mover in the building of the railway was Count Witte. A secret treaty was signed in 1896 in Moscow between Russia and China whereby China gave Russia the right to build the railway and assigned an extra-territorial strip of land on either side of the railway. The next step was the giving of a concession by the Chinese Government to the Russo-Chinese (afterwards the Russo-Asiatic) Bank for the building of the railway. Count Witte's memoirs clearly define the rôle of the bank in the matter. The bank was to hide the fact that the railway was actually a Government enterprise. Simultaneously with the signing of the contract with China the bank put the business into the hands of the "Chinese Eastern Railway Company," which was formed by the Russian Government, this arrangement preventing the bank from having any further influence on the scheme while preserving for it in form the appearance of a private enterprise. The actual money was provided by the Russian Ministry

<sup>1</sup> Arthur Ransome, in *Manchester Guardian Weekly*, April 30, 1926.