

World and China, 1922-1972. --

- - A Sivanandan

In early 1945, as the war with Japan neared its end -- and as efforts began to avoid an ensuing civil war within China -- Mao Zedong asked to fly to Washington for secret talks with President Roosevelt, and spoke in glowing terms of future relations with the U.S. It was a quite remarkable request from the leader of Asia's largest communist party which owed allegiance, formally at any rate, to the Soviet Union. Stalin would surely have been furious if such a visit had occurred. In the event nothing came of the proposal and for a quarter of a century even the fact it had been made was ignored. No one was interested in asking whether relations between a communist China and the US could have taken a better course than the mutual hostility of the 1950s and 1960s -- until they did actually improve in the 1970s. More recently, a new academic consensus has concluded that these early overtures (and others made by the Chinese communists which followed later) could even have changed the course of events. I believe this is too early a conclusion and that the course of US-China relations might quite possibly have had less tragic consequences 'if Mao had not Roosevelt'. We can also draw an interesting -- and perhaps disturbing -- lesson from the ability to scholarly opinion towards this affair.

Mao's proposal was transmitted from Yan'an (Yenan), the communist capital in north-west China, by the head of the US wartime mission stationed there (the so-called 'China Mission') on January 3, 1945.

[The] Yuan Government wants to dispatch to America an unofficial yet unofficial group to interpret and explain to American civilians and officials interested the present situation and problems of China. Next is (a) strictly off the record suggestion by the same [government]. Mao [Zedong] and Chou [Chou En-lai] will be immediately available either singly or together for [an] exploratory conference at Washington should

Description: -

- China -- Foreign relations -- 1949-World and China, 1922-1972. --

-World and China, 1922-1972. --

Notes: 6

This edition was published in -



Filesize: 69.109 MB

Tags: #The #World #and #China, #1922

Review: The Study of Chinese Foreign Policy: Problems and Prospect on JSTOR

It may be that Mao himself was not sure or was formulating theory from the advantage of retrospect several years later. China: A Political History, 1917-1980.

References for History of China

Imperial China: The Historical Background to the Modern Age. Maurice Meisner's Mao's China and After: A History of the People's Republic presents a comprehensive historical analysis of post-1949 China and provides a selected bibliography. Popular Culture in Late Imperial China.

The World and China, 1922

Prelude to Revolution: Mao, the Party, and the Peasant Question.

References for History of China

New Haven: Yale University Press, 1985. The 1911 Revolution: A Retrospective after 70 Years.

China and the US Trade Embargo, 1950

This report is part of the RAND Corporation paper series.

China and the US Trade Embargo, 1950

Ideology and Politics in Contemporary China.

Related Books

- [Parietal games - critical writings by and on M. John Harrison](#)
- [Relational database design - a practitioners guide](#)
- [Molecular basis of neurological disorders and their treatment](#)
- [Subsidence claims - Thursday 31st May, 2001, Forte Posthouse Bloomsbury, London](#)
- [Drömmar och kultur - drömböcker och drömtolkning](#)