

Document 7.7a: Excerpts from the preface to *China the Yellow Peril: At War With the World*, by J. Martin Miller, 1900

Never before has one nation of the world stood against allied civilization as China has stood against Europe and America in the unique contest [the Boxer Uprising]—military, diplomatic and commercial—which is here related.

In order to make clearer the motives which impelled the participants and the conditions which had to be met, a somewhat full account of the history of the Chinese Empire is included as a preliminary to the more recent events [the Boxer Uprising] described. The dawn of civilization in China, the progress of the great empire, the early and recent intercourse with European powers, the wars of the past and the war of five years ago with Japan—all are told in some detail. In addition, there have been included descriptive chapters relating to the cities, the people, the manners of life, the pursuits and the country of the Chinese. To this has been added a full and authentic account of the rise of the “Boxers,” with a full description of exactly what they are; the work of the missionaries, who were the object of their first attack; the outbreak of hostilities; the sufferings of the foreign residents in Peking¹ while they were imprisoned during those weeks of terror; the mobilization of fleets and armies to rescue the besieged and punish the guilty; the thrilling campaigns and all that followed them, and finally the terms of readjustment under which the world settled down to peace again. In other words the effort has been to make a book so complete that it will serve as a final compendium and reference work on the subject, condensed into the limits of a single large volume and therefore most serviceable for the greatest number of readers.

In a prolonged journey through the Chinese Empire in 1899, the author gathered the historical and descriptive matter which comprise the chapters devoted to those phases of the subject, as well as many of the photographs which appear as illustrations [*sic*].... Careful study has been made of the works of the best authors. English, German, French, and American, with assurance that the best book is the one that seeks the best sources for its complete information. The resulting work is here presented with the hope and belief that it will prove of service to its readers.

Source: Miller, J. Martin. *China, the Yellow Peril: At War With the World*, published in the United States, 1900. 9-10.

¹ Former name for Beijing