The Burden of National Humiliation
Paul A. Cohen

in Speaking to History: The Story of King Goujian in Twentieth-Century China

The Qing dynasty was overturned and a new order brought into being in 1911–1912. In the years after 1912, however, China lurched from one crisis to another. During these years of anguish and almost continually frustrated hope, one persistent theme was nationalism. Patriotic Chinese in the late Qing and republican periods referred endlessly to the humiliations (guochi) their country experienced at the hands of foreign imperialism beginning with the Opium War. Indeed, in the republican period they even established days of national humiliation or shame (guochi ri) to mark the anniversaries of these painful episodes. Given the persistence of this open wound — a sense of grievance that not only failed to abate but kept being revisited — it is scarcely surprising that the Goujian story should bulk large in the minds of Chinese throughout these years. The distinguished historian Lei Haizong's observation on the late Zhou conflict between Wu and Yue is worth noting in this regard. Lei saw Fuchai and Goujian as symbolizing an important shift taking place in China at the end of the Spring and Autumn period.

Primitive Accumulation
Ho-fung Hung

in The China Boom: Why China Will Not Rule the World

Mao era development actualized the aspirations of generations of Chinese state builders who sought state-directed industrialization since
the late nineteenth century. The chapter also explores how legacies of the Mao era laid the foundation for the China boom.

“Preserving the Bonds of Kin” Genealogy Masters and Genealogy Production in the Jiangsu-Zhejiang Area in the Qing and Republican Periods

Xu Xiaoman

in Printing and Book Culture in Late Imperial China

This chapter explores the actual process of genealogy compilation in the Jiangsu-Zhejiang area in China during the Qing and Republican periods. It investigates how and how often genealogies were compiled, who collected the necessary information and edited the texts, how genealogies were funded, and how they were printed and distributed. The chapter discusses the professionalization of genealogy production and suggests that the genealogy masters might also supervise the technical aspects of publication, including the carving of the block or wooden type, proofreading, and the printing of the texts.

The Historical Context

Erik J. Hammerstrom

in The Science of Chinese Buddhism: Early Twentieth-Century Engagements

The book argues that the most important period for Chinese Buddhists engagement with modern science occurred in the ten years between 1923 and 1932. This chapter lays out the historical context for that period. It begins with a general outline of Chinese history from the mid nineteenth century to 1920, culminating in an explanation of the historical significance of the year 1923. The central third of the chapter describe the spread of modern science in China, particularly the professionalization institutionalization of the various sciences, which were generally complete by the mid 1930s. The chapter closes with a review of the history Chinese Buddhist during the entire period, underscoring the manner in which social changes served to compel Buddhists to engage with science.
The Captivi and the Paradoxes of Postliminium
MATTHEW LEIGH

in Comedy and the Rise of Rome

Published in print: 2004 Published Online: January 2010
Publisher: Oxford University Press
DOI: 10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199266760.003.03

This chapter combines a close reading of the text entitled Captivi, with consideration of the attitude of the Roman ruling class to those members of its armed forces who exposed themselves to enslavement by becoming prisoners of war to an enemy power. In particular, it investigates the response to Roman prisoners who tried to extricate themselves from this situation by means not unlike those adopted by the heroes of the Captivi. It examines the means by which society might validate the recovery of status lost in time of war. Its provisions not just for a returning prisoner to re-establish himself as a free citizen but also for a recovered slave to revert to the power of his master make the law of postliminium a promising area of investigation.

A Revolution of Ink
Gregory Adam Scott

in Recovering Buddhism in Modern China

Published in print: 2016 Published Online: September 2016
Publisher: Columbia University Press
DOI: 10.7312/columbia/9780231172769.003.0004

Gregory Scott’s chapter on the first modern Chinese Buddhist periodicals illuminates a founding process for a new genre in the 1910s that was critical to a range of “Buddhist circles” for decades.

Slow medicine
Eric I. Karchmer

in Historical epistemology and the making of modern Chinese medicine

Published in print: 2015 Published Online: January 2016
Publisher: Manchester University Press
DOI: 10.7228/manchester/9780719096006.003.0007

In China, one of the most common assumptions about Chinese medicine, shared by doctors and patients alike, is that it is slow-acting and best suited to the treatment of chronic ailments. This claim is almost always
made in comparison to biomedicine, which is considered fast-acting and essential for the treatment of acute conditions. To most observers, these differences are inherent in the nature of these two medical systems. In this paper, I will show that Chinese medicine only became “slow” in 1950s, as the newly empowered Communist party enacted health care policies to incorporate Chinese medicine into the national health care system. Prior to this important transition period, Chinese medicine doctors operated outside the control of the state but enjoyed a reputation for administering fast-acting therapies. What caused this remarkable shift in perception and sudden re-evaluation of the clinical efficacy of Chinese medicine? Based on oral histories collected from surviving doctors of the Republican era, I will attempt to sketch the reasons for this “slowing down” of Chinese medicine, focusing on the establishment of new medical institutions in the Communist era, tracing the relationship between Chinese medicine and biomedicine that developed through these institutions, and exploring how this new social terrain affected the theory and practice of Chinese medicine.

Black Political Activism and the Cuban Republic
Melina Pappademos

While it was not until 1871 that slavery in Cuba was finally abolished, African-descended people had high hopes for legal, social, and economic advancement as the republican period started. This book analyzes the racial politics and culture of black civic and political activists during the Cuban Republic. The path to equality, the author reveals, was often stymied by successive political and economic crises, patronage politics, and profound racial tensions. In the face of these issues, black political leaders and members of black social clubs developed strategies for expanding their political authority, and for winning respectability and socioeconomic resources. Rather than appeal to a monolithic black Cuban identity based on the assumption of shared experience, these black activists, politicians, and public intellectuals consistently recognized the class, cultural, and ideological differences that existed within the black community, thus challenging conventional wisdom about black community formation and anachronistic ideas of racial solidarity. The author illuminates the central, yet often silenced, intellectual and cultural role of black Cubans in the formation of the nation's political structures; in doing so, she shows that black activism was only partially motivated by race.
No One is Home
Gail Hershatter

in The Gender of Memory: Rural Women and China's Collective Past
Published in print: 2011 Published Online: March 2012

This chapter focuses on Chinese women's childhood memories of the chaotic Republican period and the arrival of the Communists in 1949. It relates the women's experiences of their unprotected mobility as the children of the poor, as refugees, child brides, and farmers in a society that regarded women's appearance outside of the domestic space as scandalous. It describes the picaresque adventures and terrible vulnerability of the refugee and future labor model Shan Xiuzhen and investigates why women's prerevolutionary confinement to the home has remained so enduring in spite of its obvious inaccuracy.

Conclusion
Eugenia Lean

in Public Passions: The Trial of Shi Jianqiao and the Rise of Popular Sympathy in Republican China
Published in print: 2007 Published Online: March 2012

This book has taken Shi Jianqiao's case as a particularly effective vantage point from which to ask how the most intimate structures of the modern self, including morality and feelings, were linked to larger ways of structuring collective identity in the Republican period. Featuring an extraordinarily media-savvy female assassin, the case of Shi Jianqiao was among the most sensational. The media audience, bound by sympathy to the assassin, came to constitute a critical, communicative entity of “public sympathy,” an alternative public of citizens as affective consumers. The study reveals how political participation could occur and expand in the arena of media sensation. As a media event, the Shi Jianqiao case became a forum for public debate on the role of women, on ways to imagine the nation, define the parameters of modern justice, determine the place of violence in society, legitimate political rule, and gender modernity.
The chapter discusses the complicated historical background of Zouping County, Shandong Province, China. It shows how historical factors influenced subsequent social, economic and political events and trends. Among them the rural reform efforts lead by Liang Shuming are highlighted, as well as rural prototypes.

Financial Institutions and Structures in the Last Century of the Roman Republic
Philip Kay

This chapter examines Rome’s changing financial structure between the second and first centuries BC, arguing that early Roman financial intermediaries provided a mechanism for the creation of money beyond the available supply of precious metals, serving to expand Rome’s total money supply. Rome’s argentarii functioned like modern deposit bankers in a number of ways, and the money-multiplier effect of deposit banking would have enabled significant commercial expansion. But, by the mid-first century BC and as a result of Mithradates VI’s invasion of the province of Asia, and the ensuing credit crisis at Rome in 88 BC, things had changed. There were probably fewer banks in existence, with smaller balance sheets, and the main providers of credit had become ‘aristocratic financiers’ providing credit to fellow members of the elite, rather than argentarii. This development could have had a negative impact on the wider Roman economy, or, at least, could have prevented it from reaching its full potential.