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a fascinating story worth the attention of every student of modern China. The journal of Asian studies China's 1911 revolution was a momentous political transformation. Its leaders, however, were not rebellious troublemakers on the periphery of imperial order. On the contrary, they were a powerful political and economic elite deeply entrenched in local society and well respected both for their imperially sanctioned cultural credentials and for their mastery of new ideas. The revolution they spearheaded produced a new democratic political culture that enshrined national sovereignty, constitutionalism, and the rights of the people as indisputable principles based upon previously untapped Qing and republican sources. The politics of

rights and the 1911 revolution in china is a nuanced and colorful chronicle of the revolution as it occurred in local and regional areas xiaowei zheng explores the ideas that motivated the revolution the popularization of those ideas and their animating impact on the chinese people at large the focus of the book is not on the success or failure of the revolution but rather on the transformative effect that revolution has on people and what they learn from it

in view of the 100th anniversary of the 1911 revolution and sun yat sen s relations with the nanyang communities the institute of southeast asian studies and the chinese heritage centre came together to host a two day bilingual conference on the three way relations between sun yat sen nanyang and the 1911 revolution in october 2011 in singapore this volume is a collection of papers in english presented at the conference backcover

the revolution of 1911 was the revolution which overthrew the feudal system of monarchy in china wu yuzhang was a member of the central committee of the chinese communist party and personally took part in this revolution in this book he puts down his own fighting experience and analyses the revolution with keen insight and the aid of a rich fund of material his answers to the following questions are especially instructive why did the revolution break out what were the causes of its achievements and eventual failure what part did the people play in this revolution this book will help the reader to have a deeper understanding of this momentous revolution in china s history

swimming instructional which includes a chapter on how swimming instruction has failed hitherto chapters on different swimming strokes such as crawl arm stroke crawl leg dive breast stroke etc and other chapters on subjects including respiration problems racing psychology and health

explains how reforms in the late qing dynasty indirectly amplified the social forces that brought about the revolution of 1911

the story of the great chinese revolution of 1911 12 will probably never be told fully or accurately china is a continent in its vast area its population is one fourth of the whole human race the country is not opened up by roads or railways and travel generally is arduous and slow exaggeration among the people as among all orientals is second nature and so it would be at once impossible for any one man closely to follow up and widely and accurately to write of the revolution which broke out at wuchang last year tracing it up to the present moment and getting a clean political and international outlook whilst doing so although i have endeavoured by careful study to get into focus with doings all over the empire i confess that i have been unable to secure unimpeachable information on any part of china other than that in which i was living i speak of the interior of china for it was easy enough to be kept informed in the main centres and the treaty ports whilst the telegraph lines were intact had there been roads and railways and communication of a kind to render it physically possible

to move about even then this would have been impossible for soon after the revolution broke the anti foreign spirit and the outlawry shown in many parts of the country forbade any european going far from the treaty ports and of course practically all foreigners were ordered to the coast by their consuls had a man a workable knowledge of the chinese language in character it would have been foolish to form one s opinions from the rumours that were printed everywhere in the chinese press and so it comes about that only upon those things which one saw and did is a man justified to write the reader if he knows china will need no further explanation for readily will he recognise my meaning he will understand by experience what a mass of inconsistency and incongruity china and her people are but to the westerner who has never been into china nor rubbed shoulders closely with this peculiar people it will perhaps be necessary to add that life in china in all its forms and phases is fraught with such a truly remarkable atmosphere of the unexpected that to write on any chinese man woman custom habit place or thing one is able only to generalise unless he goes into the tedium of particularising to get into line it is necessary so to cut down and to prune and generally to reinterpret that when one has told his story there seems to be very little at all in it but those who have lived in china know the conditions they will have absorbed this incomprehensible spirit of the country will understand what is written and what is more important still will magnetically feel what is left out which the writer on chinese affairs would have said when in writing upon men and things chinese you think you have pruned down all apparent misinterpretation or misrepresentation you find there is still a little pruning left to be done you prune again and in the end you find you often are to the western mind misinterpreting and misrepresenting facts merely because you have left out that which to you with your chinese eyes appeared untrue you see a thing in china and you think that you understand it you fix it in your mind and tell yourself that you have absorbed it whatever it may be and that you now have the final thought and word and correct meaning but after a little time you find by a peculiar process of chinese national twisting and shifting no matter what you see hear think believe your final thought and word and correct meaning are changed completely this perhaps describes the political atmosphere during the revolution into everything there came an exasperating suspense a terrible tangle of all national affairs as there still must be for a very long time to come therefore to the man who sets out to write a detailed history of china s revolution and correctly to diagnose the effect of one event upon another in a consecutive and truthful line there at once appears a formidable task what the author has set out to do in this volume is to tell of what he saw and understood and then to put into print carefully considered opinion on the general situation and a historical survey of revolutions and main events in china that have led up to the revolution of last october this revolution although outbreaking prematurely was all wonderfully planned the movement began to take definite shape about fifteen or sixteen years ago says sun yat sen the greatest of chinese revolutionists though he had been interested in the movement for a longer time than that three years ago we were ready to take over wuchang canton and nanking but we were waiting to gain control of the peking soldiers we had been working for some time through the students following the war with japan the peking government began to organise its new army sending students abroad to be trained to take charge of the army it was at once seen that if the manchus were able to organise and control a modern army it would greatly strengthen their position and the revolutionary party set to work to counteract their efforts they worked through the

students so that when they returned to china to take positions as officers in the army they came as revolutionists the outbreak could not have been postponed for more than a few months but it did occur before it was expected we knew that we had wuchang nanking and canton but there was a preliminary outbreak at canton then another one last summer then when the outbreak at wuchang occurred it was no longer possible to postpone action for the government would have begun to disarm the soldiers who sympathised with us at canton they scattered our sympathisers over the province so that it was very difficult to concentrate them if our original plan had been carried out there would have been very little fighting canton nanking and wuchang would have quietly gone over to us and then all the troops could have marched on peking if necessary we have always had half of the peking troops with us thus declared sun yat sen and there is little doubt he was right the hitherto irremediable suppression of the individual qualities and national aspirations of the people arrested the intellectual the moral and the material development of china the aid of revolution was invoked to extirpate the primary cause and china now proclaimed the resultant overthrow of the despotic sway wielded by the manchu dynasty and the establishment of a republic the substitution of a republic for a monarchical form of government was not the fruit of a transient passion it was the natural outcome of a long cherished desire for broad based freedom making for permanent contentment and uninterrupted advancement it was the formal declaration of the will of the chinese nation in a manifesto issued to all friendly nations from the republic of china when sun yat sen was appointed provisional president it was declared that we the chinese people are peaceful and law abiding we have waged no war except in self defence we have borne our grievances during two hundred and sixty seven years of manchu misrule with patience and forbearance we have by peaceful means endeavoured to redress our wrongs secure our liberty and ensure our progress but we have failed oppressed beyond human endurance we deemed it our inalienable right as well as our sacred duty to appeal to arms to deliver ourselves and our posterity from the yoke to which we have so long been subjected and for the first time in our history inglorious bondage has been transformed to an inspiring freedom splendid with a lustrous light of opportunity the policy of the manchu dynasty has been one of unequivocal seclusion and unyielding tyranny beneath it we have bitterly suffered and we now submit to the free peoples of the world the reasons justifying the revolution and the inauguration of our present government prior to the usurpation of the throne by the manchus the land was open to foreign intercourse and religious tolerance existed as is evidenced by the writings of marco polo and the inscription on the nestorian tablet of sian fu dominated by ignorance and selfishness the manchus closed the land to the outer world and plunged the chinese people into a state of benighted mentality calculated to operate inversely to their natural talents and capabilities thus committing a crime against humanity and the civilised nations almost impossible of expiation

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