

Are geographers so scarce or lacking in influence among American China specialists because, or in spite of, the influence of the frontier theory in the history of the United States and Canada?

In any event, Perry and her style of political science deserve thanks from all those in anthropology, economics, and history who might never have thought, or dared, to begin a book with a reminder that "local" society might be caught up in a "hydraulic cycle" of monumental proportions. Whether they think that society is ground down or built up in such cycles perhaps matters less than was once feared.

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"New Studies in Roman Commerce with the East." By MANFRED G. RASCHKE.

In *Aufstieg und Niedergang der Römischen Welt, Geschichte und Kultur Roms in der neueren Forschung, II Principat* [Rise and Fall of the Roman World: History and Culture of Rome in Recent Research, 2nd Principat], ed. Hildegard Temporini. Vol. 9, part 2: 604–1361. Berlin: Gruyter, 1978. 758 pp. Select Addenda, Bibliography, Maps, Finding List, Indexes. Vol. 9, DM 360.

Hidden in a series with a title reminiscent of Gibbon's *Decline and Fall*—a series that will probably remain outside the ken of scholars working in the field of Chinese history—this monumental and masterly study more than deserves to be brought to the attention of the Sinological world. One of the subjects it discusses in depth and in detail is the exchange of goods between China and its surrounding peoples from the first millennium B.C. down to the early centuries of the Christian era, touching occasionally on the T'ang and the Sung periods.

Manfred G. Raschke's main subject is Roman commerce with the East, but his research has led him to inquire into fundamental problems, such as the genesis of nomadism, the exchange and spread of material objects between communities, and the existence of commerce and merchants in primitive societies. In this way he comes to discuss the dissemination of Chinese products, particularly silk and lacquer, to the nomad tribes in the North and the principalities in the oases of Central Asia, from where these products eventually found their way into the Roman empire.

The author arrives at the conclusion that this dissemination was not the result of trade. He shows how Chinese silk (and, e.g., mirrors) reached these outlying regions as gifts or as tribute. I was happy to see that the author's results agree with my own, although based on a different reasoning ("Quelques considérations sur le commerce de la soie au temps de la dynastie des Han," *Mélanges de sinologie offerts à Monsieur Paul Demiéville*, vol. 2 [Paris: Presses universitaires de France, 1974]: 117–35).

Raschke is not a Sinologist, but his mastery of the Sinological literature in Western languages, including Russian, is astonishing. He has even digested Chinese and Japanese studies, discussed in the *Revue bibliographique de sinologie*. And then to think that the Chinese side is only one of the many aspects of his subject!

The main text of this magnificent study is clear and brief, a mere 78 pages, but the 1,791 notes fill nearly 400 pages, with "select addenda" on pages 1234–243. There is a bibliography of about 4,000 titles (pp. 1076–215)! Highly detailed indexes and six clear maps, accompanied by an eight-page finding list, conclude the work.

This volume also contains a brief contribution by John Ferguson (pp. 581–603),

entitled "China and Rome," mostly based on antiquated Western studies.

Not being a classical scholar, I must leave the evaluation of the Roman aspect of this contribution to the author's peers. But I can confidently recommend this splendid work to orientalists in general and to students of Chinese history in particular.

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Manchu Chinese Colonial Rule in Northern Mongolia. By M. SANJDORJ. Translated by URGUNGE ONON. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1980. xvi, 118 pp. Map, Tables, Notes, Appendixes, Glossary, Select Bibliography, Index. \$19.95.

The Mongols, as witnessed by the great outpouring of histories in the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries, have always had a keen interest in history and take a back seat only to the Tiberians in that regard among Central Asian peoples. Little wonder then that the growing prosperity of the Mongolian People's Republic has found expression, among other things, in a flood of historical literature of every sort during recent decades.

Topics of particular interest to Mongol historians are, not unexpectedly, those connected with the history of the Mongols and of Mongolia. Among the many monographs that have appeared in the latter category is M. Sanjdorj's 1963 *Khalkhad khyatadyn möngö khüülegch khudalmaa neverterch khöljsön n' (XVIII zuun)* (The development of Chinese money lending among the Khalkhas in the eighteenth century), now ably translated by Urgunge Onon and published, with minor abridgements and changes, as *Manchu Chinese Colonial Rule in Northern Mongolia*.

In this work, written entirely from the Mongolian point of view and primarily based on archival materials still existing in Ulaanbaatar, Sanjdorj sets out to demonstrate the "negative influence of Chinese money lending capital . . . [that] sucked the blood out of the commoners' livelihood, reduced the national wealth and severely hindered the development of productive forces in society" (p. 103). He examines the economic relationships in Mongol society (particularly as they relate to China) before the appearance of Chinese money lenders, the needs and historical circumstances that first brought the Chinese to Mongolia, and the ways in which they consolidated their positions and acquired a stranglehold over Mongolian economic life. From his account, it is clear that the excesses of Chinese money lenders and their negative impact on Mongolian society were primarily a reflection of two circumstances: Mongolia's semi-colonial status under the Manchus, and the inability of Mongolia's natural economy to cope with the new, money-based economic relationships of the eighteenth century occasioned by the region's subordination to the Ch'ing empire and a growing trade between China and Russia through Mongolian territory.

Sanjdorj's book is lucid and interesting. Although we may criticize his almost complete failure to use Chinese sources (a deficiency that is characteristic of almost a whole generation of scholars in the Mongolian People's Republic), he more than makes up for this lack by providing much new information from the Mongol side, most of it hitherto unknown to Western historians of the Mongols or specialists in Ch'ing economic history. Onon's translation is painstakingly done and accurate, and his omissions and changes are, by and large, insubstantial and greatly assist the non-Marxist reader to understand the material through elimination of repetitious