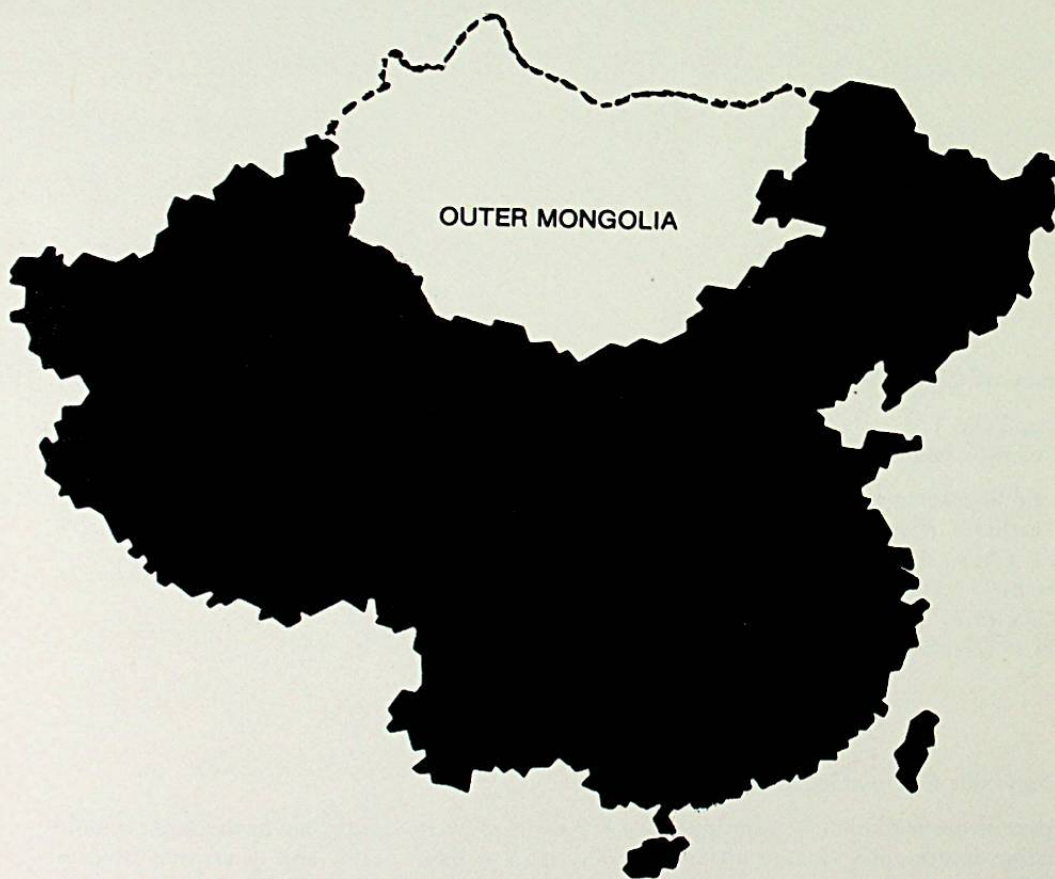


# CHINA'S BOUNDARY TREATIES AND FRONTIER DISPUTES

By LUKE T. CHANG, Ph.D.



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## FOREWORD

The People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union share the longest land boundary in the world. Across this boundary line of 5,500 miles, the two powers since the 1950s have watched each other with hostile eyes. The hostility of their relations derives not only from ideological disputes and mutual accusations of deviationism, but - even more importantly, it would seem - from conflicting territorial claims. The Soviet - Chinese border thus is not only the longest, but also one of the most hotly disputed boundary lines in today's world.

The most serious ones of the boundary disputes that China has had, and in large part still has, with the Soviet Union and its other neighbors (such as India), are rooted in the determination of the Chinese to undo the consequences of the humiliating "unequal treaties" forced upon them by more powerful nations, including Czarist Russia, during the 19th century. This determination is supported by all Chinese - on the mainland, in Taiwan, and elsewhere - and indeed forms a strong bond of consensus among them.

Dr. Luke T. Chang, as a native of China and a former Chinese Diplomat, probably shares the emotions which the memory of the "unequal treaties" engenders in every person of Chinese origin. Nevertheless, he has managed in this book to examine the history and the legal aspects of China's boundary disputes with scholarly detachment as well as admirable thoroughness. In addition to furnishing a clear exposition and analysis of the subject, he acquaints us with the crucial source materials, many of which until now have not been easily accessible for the English-speaking reader.

Will China and the Soviet Union settle their differences in the foreseeable future? This, no doubt, is one of the truly fateful questions facing policy-makers in the western world today.

Before an answer, or even an informed guess, can be ventured, one has to acquaint oneself with the issues involved in the Soviet-Chinese differences. As the boundary disputes constitute the most important of those issues, the data collected and presented by Dr. Chang form the necessary starting point for any prediction as to the future relations between China and the Soviet Union. Dr. Chang thus has a claim to the gratitude not only of historians and students of international law, but also of those whose academic or political endeavors are devoted to the formulation of foreign policy.

Rudolf B. Schlesinger  
Professor of Law,  
University of California,  
Hastings College of the  
Law (William Nelson  
Cromwell Professor of  
International and  
Comparative Law Emeritus,  
Cornell University School  
of Law)