

CHINA'S CHANGING MAP

*A Political and Economic Geography of
The Chinese People's Republic*

BY

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METHUEN & CO. LTD
36 Essex Street, Strand, London, W.C.2

First published 1956

CATALOGUE NO. 5895/U

Printed in the United States of America

PREFACE

The Chinese Communists established their present regime in Peking on October 1, 1949. During the more than six years since then a tremendous political, social and economic revolution has taken place in China. The Chinese People's Republic, still unrecognized by most of the nations outside the Soviet bloc, has emerged as a leading world power. The Chinese revolution has remolded society and set up one of the most centralized, regimented states that country has ever known. The aim of the Chinese Communists is to build a strong industrialized country modeled on the Soviet Union. Allied with the USSR and other nations of the Communist bloc, China has become the strongest power in Asia.

The impact of these developments on the world scene has been dramatic. There is little need to stress the importance both of the changes within China and of the new international role China has assumed. Many books published in recent years have sought to present and interpret the new facts about China. These volumes have dealt mainly with the political, social and economic transformation of the country. Most of these studies have dealt with institutions in the nation as a whole rather than with its component parts. Few have dealt systematically with the effect of the revolution on the landscape of China.

The author has attempted to fill this gap. The present volume seeks to focus attention on the areal changes that have taken place as a result of the Chinese revolution. Its approach is geographic to the extent that it marshals and arranges the known facts about China from the specific point of view of political and economic-geographic change. In the process of their revolution, the Chinese Communists have made over the political map of the country. Their concerted drive for all-out industrialization has left its imprint on the economic geography of the nation.

This volume does not purport to present a comprehensive treatment of the geography of China. The author has set himself a more limited and more specific objective. Political and economic changes since 1949 have been emphasized throughout the book. Historical background has been retained only where it was regarded essential. The author is aware that this orientation neglects to some extent the great weight of past

In the matter of place-name spellings, the author was confronted with a choice between the more common, though inconsistent Chinese post office names and the less popular, though more scientific Wade-Giles transliteration system. Because the reader is presumed to be more familiar with postal spellings, these have been used in the text and on the maps. However, both the postal names and the corresponding Wade-Giles transliteration forms are included in the index. Chinese words and names other than place names are given in the Wade-Giles form. With regard to non-Chinese place names, which occur mainly in Inner Mongolia, Sinkiang and Tibet, the Chinese name or the Chinese transcription of the indigenous name has been correlated whenever possible with the local designation. In a few cases, where the native name could not be identified from the Chinese characters, the Chinese transcription alone is given for identification of the place name.

The Chinese use generic territorial terms that can be variously translated in English as area, region, district, territory and so forth. In writing about the Soviet Union, whose terminology presents a similar problem, the author has consistently used the Russian generic terms to avoid confusion by ambiguous translation. Although this approach is novel in the Chinese field, the author has followed the same practice. Designations such as *ch'ü*, *chou*, *hsien*, *hsiang* have been retained in preference to ambiguous English equivalents. The meaning of these terms is explained in the discussion on the present administrative system. "Ch'ü" is a particularly imprecise generic term. It designates both an area of the size of Inner Mongolia (Inner Mongolian Autonomous Ch'ü) and an area such as the Yümen oilfield (Yümen Oil-Producing Ch'ü). Of the Chinese administrative terms, only the familiar "province" (Chinese *sheng*) and "city" (Chinese *shih*) have been retained in English.

With regard to the rendering of Chinese generic physical terms, such as "kiang," "ho," "shui" (all meaning "river") and "shan" (mountain), the following practice has been adopted. When the specific part of the place name is a single character, the Chinese generic has been used; for example: Han Kiang and Han Shui (two separate streams), instead of the ambiguous Han River. When the specific part of the name is made up of two or more characters, the English generic has been adopted; for example: Yungting River instead of Yungting Ho, the reasoning being that the specific name (Yungting) sufficiently identifies the stream in question. The Yangtze River, which the Chinese call Chang Kiang, the Yellow River (Hwang Ho) and the Sungari River (Sunghwa Kiang) have been used in their conventional English forms.

Communist China's isolation from the non-Soviet world has limited information available to outside observers. The material in the present volume has been assembled from a vast amount of scattered sources in the Chinese, Russian and Western languages. The most relevant information was gathered from the Chinese and Soviet press, recent Chinese maps and atlases, and a number of Soviet studies.

The territory covered in the following discussion is mainland China under Communist control. Neither Outer Mongolia nor Formosa, each a separate de facto national unit, has been included.

In the effort to collect data for this book, the author had to overcome two major obstacles. One was Communist China's reluctance to export newspapers, periodicals, maps and other source materials. The other was the restrictions imposed by the United States on the importation of these materials. The author is hopeful that a progressive lessening of world tension will bring down the barriers interfering with the flow of ideas and information.

T. S.

New York
January, 1956

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