

THE COMING  
DECLINE OF  
THE CHINESE  
EMPIRE

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VICTOR LOUIS

*with a Dissenting Introduction by*

HARRISON E. SALISBURY

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# CONTENTS

FOREWORD   xxi

## PART I

- 1 MANCHURIA: A COUNTRY THAT IS NOT   3  
    *The Manchu Dispute*   3  
    *The Yellow Wave From the South*   9  
    *Manchukuo—Ghost or Reality?*   13
- 2 THE MONGOLS: A STUDY IN DICHOTOMY   22  
    *Beyond the Chinese Border*   22  
    *A Nation Divided*   25  
    *The Thorny Road to Unity*   28  
    *The Long Road to Unity*   32  
    *The Struggle Continues*   38  
    *Losing Your Language Is Like Losing Your Nationality*   41  
    *One Nation, One Faith*   45
- 3 THE BUDDHA'S DISCIPLES LEARN TO FIGHT   51  
    *Tibet—The Country That Walked by Itself*   51  
    *The "Liberators" and Their Victims*   55  
    *Buddhists Up in Arms*   59

4	THE GREAT HOSTAGE	63
	<i>Yellow Colonialism</i>	63
	<i>Rebels With a Cause</i>	65
	<i>Two Generals: Between Moscow and Peking</i>	68
	<i>Toward an Independent State of Turkestan</i>	77
	<i>Blood Brothers and Faith Brothers</i>	88
	<i>On the Threshold of Extinction</i>	96

## PART II

5	THEY WANT TO SECEDE	103
	<i>The Uncertain Future</i>	111
6	CHAINED	118
7	AGGRESSION TO THE NORTH	130
	<i>Out for Soviet Territory</i>	130
	<i>China Suits Her Actions to Her Words</i>	133
	<i>The Aggressor Rebuffed</i>	136
	<i>The Mongolian People's Republic: Target of</i>	
	<i>Chinese Aggression</i>	145
8	AGGRESSION TO THE SOUTH	148

## PART III

9	NORTH OF THE AMUR	161
	<i>Over the Demographical Barrier</i>	161
	<i>The Economic Aspect</i>	166
	<i>The Possible Consequences</i>	169
10	AT CHINA'S WESTERN FRONTIERS	178
	<i>Toward Cultural Unity</i>	179
	<i>The Root of It All</i>	183
	EPILOGUE: THE LIKELY PROSPECTS	186
	INDEX	189

# VICTOR LOUIS

With a Dissenting Introduction by  
**HARRISON E.  
SALISBURY**

## THE COMING DECLINE OF THE CHINESE EMPIRE

The most potentially catastrophic geopolitical fault line today is the Sino-Soviet frontier. Huge armies jostle as they guard this longest boundary in the world, while both Moscow and Peking court the support of other powers, even ideological opponents such as the United States.

Victor Louis, a prominent Soviet journalist, long noted for his unusual freedom to write and travel within both the USSR and the West, here presents a sensational theory of China's future collapse that is calculated to infuriate Peking and sow doubt in the prevailing Western appraisal of China as a vast, unified, and ageless nation-state. Supporting his historical interpretation with personal observations of the exotic and little-known peoples and territories on the Soviet side of the frontier, he forecasts that China will soon disintegrate into its constituent nationalities. There are clear signs, he says, that the Manchus, Mongols, Tibetans, and other non-Chinese peoples who occupy 60 percent of China's territory will inevitably break the bonds of Chinese imperialism as

*(continued on back flap)*

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**"The fact is that modern China has inherited from the Manchu Empire not only its territory, equal to the size of Europe, but also a hereditary disease which may well prove fatal for the body politic. Powerful centrifugal forces are at work tending to wrest vast national territories away from China. These lands, whose continued presence within the modern boundaries of China is much less than certain, make up over half its total area. When and if these lands finally fall away will be the culmination of a long process."**

**—VICTOR LOUIS**

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**"Louis' arguments about the supposed Chinese minorities and his concern over their 'rights' is a kind of crooked reverse image of reality. He paints a picture of an aggressive China and uses it to camouflage the historical pattern of Russian aggression. . . . It is worthy of careful study because the Sino-Soviet quarrel is basic; one of the most dangerous in the world and what Louis accomplishes is to give it a pseudohistorical, pseudopolitical framework to justify whatever aggression the Kremlin decides upon.**

**If this scenario seems to emanate a more than paranoid aroma that is only because the quarrel between the two countries is no longer being fought with words."**

**—HARRISON E. SALISBURY**

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