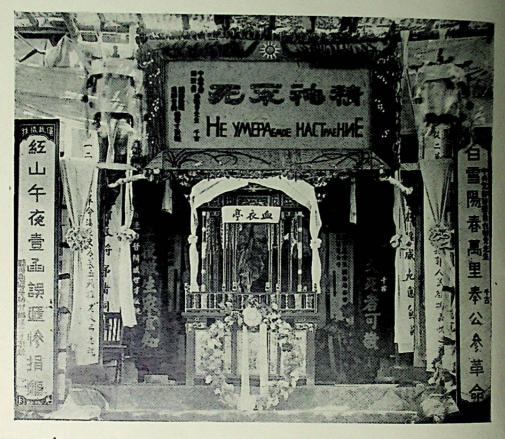
TURKISTAN TUMULT

AITCHEN K. WU

With 16 Plates and 2 Endpaper Maps



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PEI'S MEMORIAL SERVICE. IN THE CENTRE OF THE SHRINE IS PART OF HIS BLOOD-STAINED SWEATER

First published in 1940

TO

THE MEMORY OF

MY DEAR MOTHER

WHO DIED SUDDENLY

WHILE I WAS IN SOVIET RUSSIA

PREFACE

IN THE PREPARATION of this book, I have received encouragement and assistance from numerous friends, to whom I desire to express my gratitude. Colonel Thomson Glover, formerly British Consul-General at Kashgar, has carefully read over my manuscript and given me some sound hints. Dr. Lin Yutang has read the first part of the book, and has otherwise rendered assistance. Mr. W. J. Drew, an old-timer in Urumchi, whom I had the greatest pleasure in finding again in London, has also gone through my work, and even undertaken the trouble of assisting me to prepare maps. Lastly, I wish especially to express thanks to my friend Mr. Clifford Troke, who has helped me to polish my English.

I would like to add that I have no personal bias for or against any of the persons mentioned in the narrative. I have tried my utmost to give an impartial record of events in that far-

away land.

AITCHEN K. WU

London
October 10th 1939

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IN THE HEART of Asia, guarded by mountain and desert, lies the vast territory of Sinkiang (Chinese Turkistan), greater in area than the British Isles, France and Germany together; a land mysterious and inaccessible, standing where Russia, India and China meet.

Of late there has been little authentic news from this region. Travellers have brought strange rumours from "Tartary," but have done little more than guess at the truth. War and revolution have devastated the province.

One figure seemed for a while to dominate the scene—"Big Horse," the Tungan leader, a mere youth leading huge armies of fanatics. Then he vanishes as mysteriously as he came, and it is known that the Soviets hold the secret of his whereabouts. . . .

Till now this story has been told only in fragments, but here is a first-hand account from a Chinese official who lived through and played a part in the whole strange saga. Wu Ai-chen (who writes under the anglicized pen-name, Aitchen K. Wu) is scholar, diplomat and explorer, also a poet of distinction, a figure only China could produce, yet western in outlook and training, well fitted to interpret the East to the West.

In this book he tells how he set out from Tientsin to make contact with the Governor at Urumchi, capital of Sinkiang. So difficult was the direct journey that his route was by way of Kobe, Vladivostok and the newly completed Turksib Railway. What he discovered at his journey's end, and the subsequent course of events, often sanguinary and hair-raising, is recorded by him with the pen of a poet and the precise detachment of a philosopher. More thrilling than any novel, this book is in fact a valuable contribution to history—the hardly credible story of the clash of religions and empires on the very edge of the known world.

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TURKISTAN TUMULT

by

AITCHEN K. WU

Copy of Introductory Letter from

DOCTOR LIN YUTANG

I think that this book, written by an unquestioned Chinese authority, is the best volume about Sinkiang in English. Within its pages a little-known geographical unit becomes tumultuously alive, and peopled with an interesting humanity. It makes fascinating reading.

Lin Yutang

Paris, April 3rd, 1939