



# China Illustrated: Western Views of the Middle Kingdom

*Arthur Hacker*

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This beautifully illustrated social history of China highlights various aspects of traditional China as seen through the eyes of foreign visitors and residents from the time of the first trading contacts with China in the mid-sixteenth century to the beginning of World War II.

The lives and lifestyles of the fascinating mix of people who came to China, as well as the places they visited and the sights and customs that attracted their attention, are set against the backdrop of China's great cities and its ancient culture.

A short history of the period sets the scene in each chapter, allowing the reader to follow the dramatic changes that took place through the turbulent years when China moved from feudal empire to republic. The illustrated sections which follow focus on notable themes and topics.

The hundreds of unique images in *China Illustrated*, including early engravings and maps, hand-colored prints, studio portraits and amateur photographs, postcards, drawings and cartoons come from the private collection of Arthur Hacker. Collected with the eye of an artist and the knowledge of a historian they eloquently bring China's social history to life.

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