

# Then & Now: The Yangtze – Old River, New China

Images from the Harrison S. Elliott  
photographic collection of China  
from 1905 to 1908

&

The 2006 FCCEAS/NCTA Study  
Program

Themes

Natural/Manufactured; Tradition/Modernity;  
Individualism/Communalism

# A Single Pebble



Ichang Gorge



Trackers pulling a houseboat



through the rapids



From the Disney-esque luxury cruise ship up the Shen Nung Xi tributary



Shen Nung Xi Gorge Tourism



Today's Trackers of Tourism  
"A Simulation"



Pilot signaling to bow sweep



Signaling the steersman



Pole for checking  
depth of the water



Barking orders to the crew



Communication between the trackers  
and the boat



Checking the depth and rocks



Remains of sacrificed chicken



Eating a noonday meal



Trackers sleeping on the boat



Tracker at rest



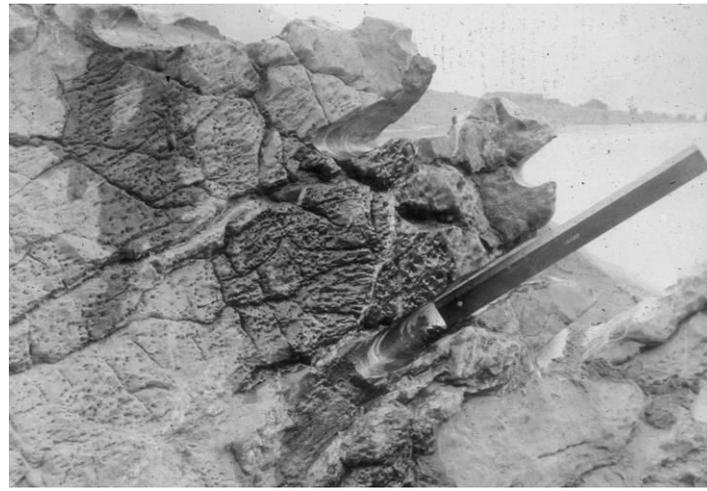
Getting ready to push off



Tracker sandals



The boat was often a long way from the trackers.



The 18-inch ruler shows depth of groves the ropes wore in the rocks.



Travel was often precarious. This houseboat overturned in the rapids, spilling out its passengers and goods.



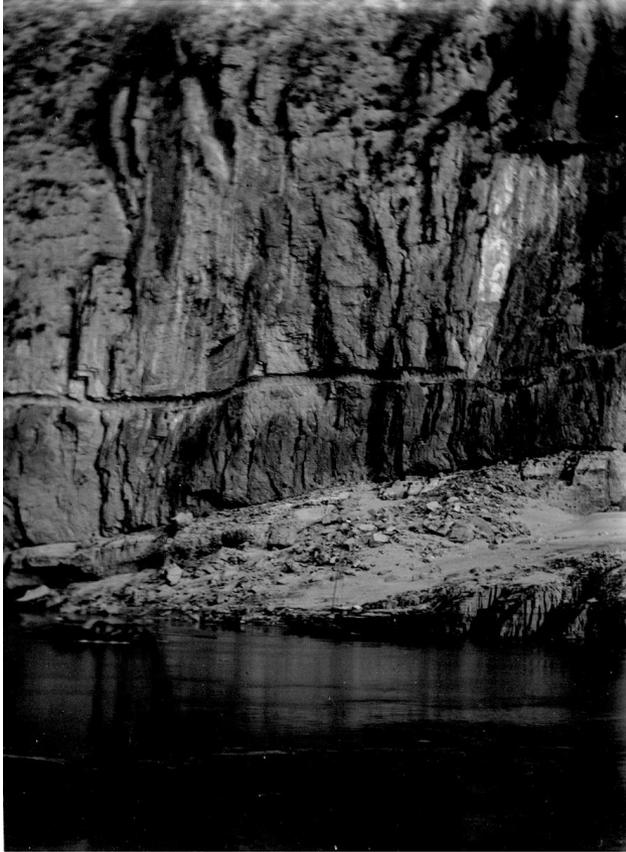
Evidence of trackers is now submerged



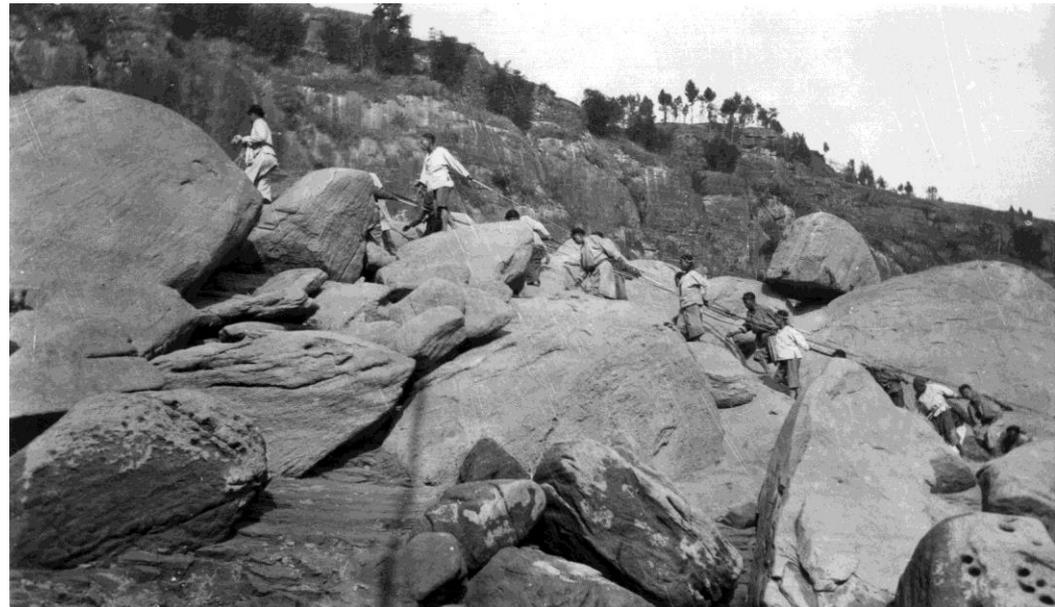
The few trackers pulling our boats remain close by



Trackers gambling



Path cut in the sheer side of the cliff



Climbing “like crickets over the boulders.”

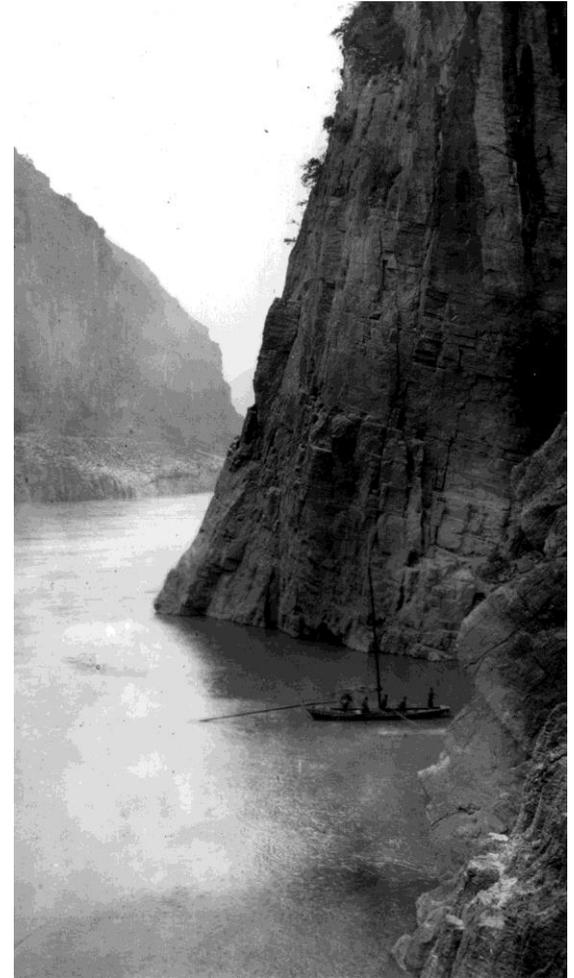


After the tour, the trackers paddle back to home with money in hand.

Our tour guide sings to us a native song



A general view of Kweifu (Fengji) showing mountains with Windbox Gorge



Wuchan Gorge by  
Black Coffin River

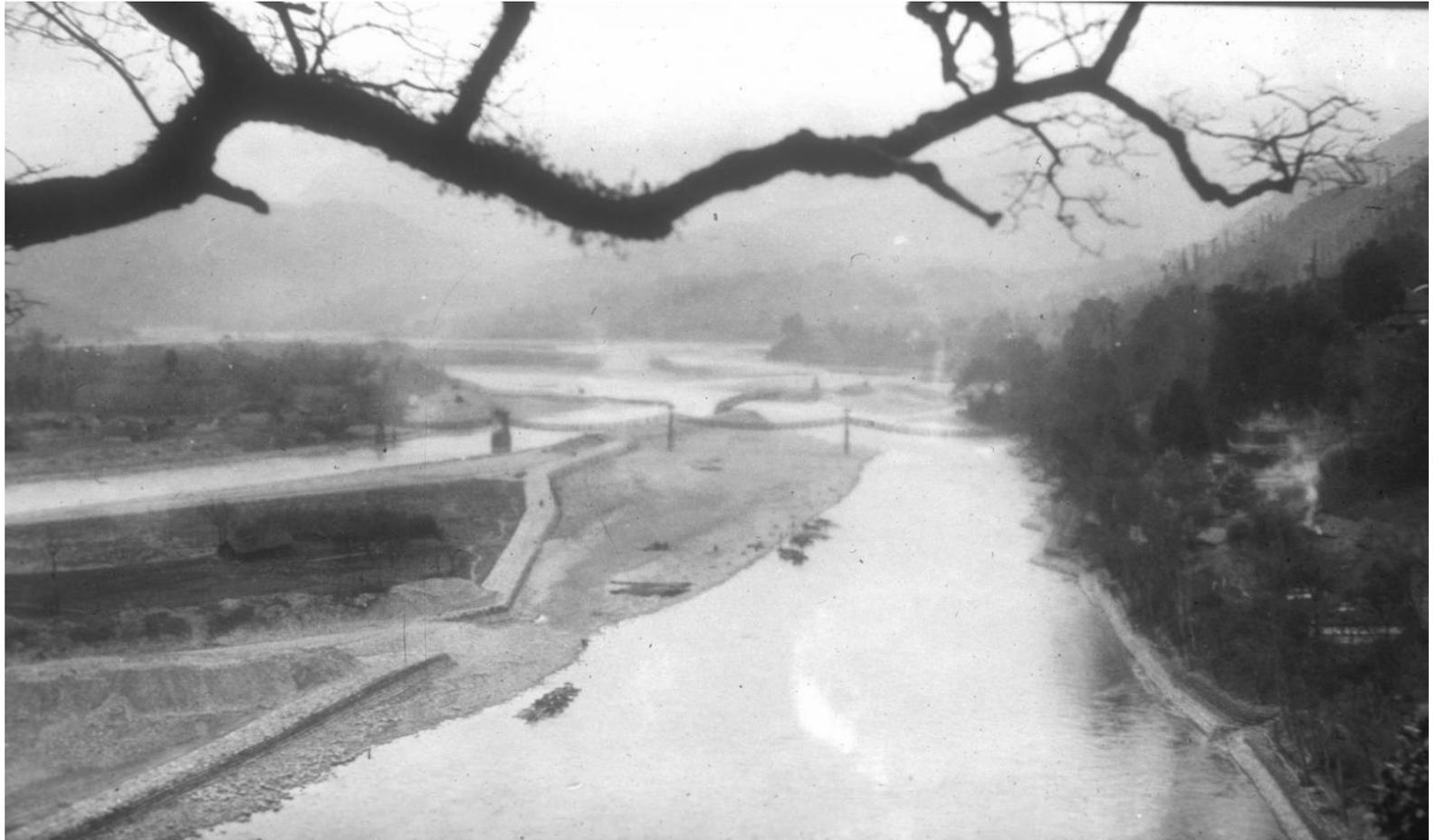
Fengdu village that has been relocated due to Three Gorges Dam. All will be submerged soon.



Ba Coffin half-buried in Shen Nung Xi Gorge cliff



## Irrigation Project on the Min River



Original canal on left; inner feeder canal on right; “fish snout” or primary division in center beyond suspension bridge; cut off dam blocking inner feeder canal; temple to Great Yu on hillside.



Looking at the suspension bridge and the fish snout behind it.

Dujiangyan Dam – Updated, but essentially the same





Poles driven into ground provide the frame for the cut-off dam.

Stone baskets used to construct the for the cutoff dams.



Baskets are placed against the poles.



Re-creation of poles and stone baskets today



Modern dam technology now

From the other side of the fish snout. Other canals remain dry, only to be filled during flood season.



Cutoff dam facing fish's snout



Cut off dam  
taken from  
fish's snout



Addition feeder canals for flood control and irrigation



Rock baskets line the dry canal above



The current side of one of the canals. You can see where cement has replaced old rock walls in places.

The tip of fish snout today

## Temple to Li Ping on the Separated Hill.



Image of Li who was responsible for the original work more than 2,000 years ago



Temple dedicated  
to Li Ping today



Statue of Li Ping  
today



A view across the canal



## The Locks of Three Gorges Dam

The **Dujiangyan Dam** would be the Yin version of a dam – subtle, diverting water for irrigation

The **Three Gorges Dam** is the Yang version – massive, confronting nature, drowning cities, artifacts of ancient cultures, and drastically changing the landscape.





Looking down on the spillway – evidence of the power being generated through its 26 generators (equal to 15 nuclear power plants).



The pulley machines that lift the large metal spillway doors



From the reservoir side – a 610 foot wall, 1.3 mile from bank to bank



The Three Gorges Dam is expected to provide a little over 3 percent of China's power.



The construction continues



Carrying produce and a brother.



Traveling by sedan chair



The wheelbarrow, a Chinese invention, was a popular means of travel.



Porter in Chongqing



Mt. Emeishan Sedan Chair Ride



Bridge in Zhouzhuang with middle ramp for wheelbarrow travel



Harvesting paddy



Pulling a harrow



Ladling out night soil for fertilizer



Rice Paddies Today



Farm House on the Yangtze



Step Farming on the Yangtze



Famine victims in North China faced starvation because heavy rains and flooding from broken dikes ruined their crops.



Rice noodles hanging out to dry,



Chongqing  
Market – Food  
abounds



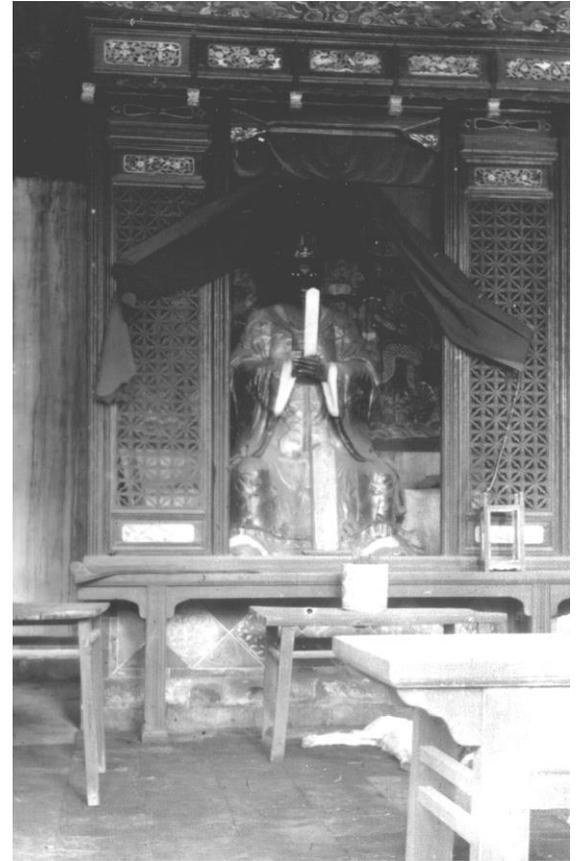
Hanging Noodles  
Being Prepared



Given past famines, the Chinese  
(especially the Cantonese) will eat just  
about anything



A Confucian temple, Chungking



Confucius



Confucius at Fengdu

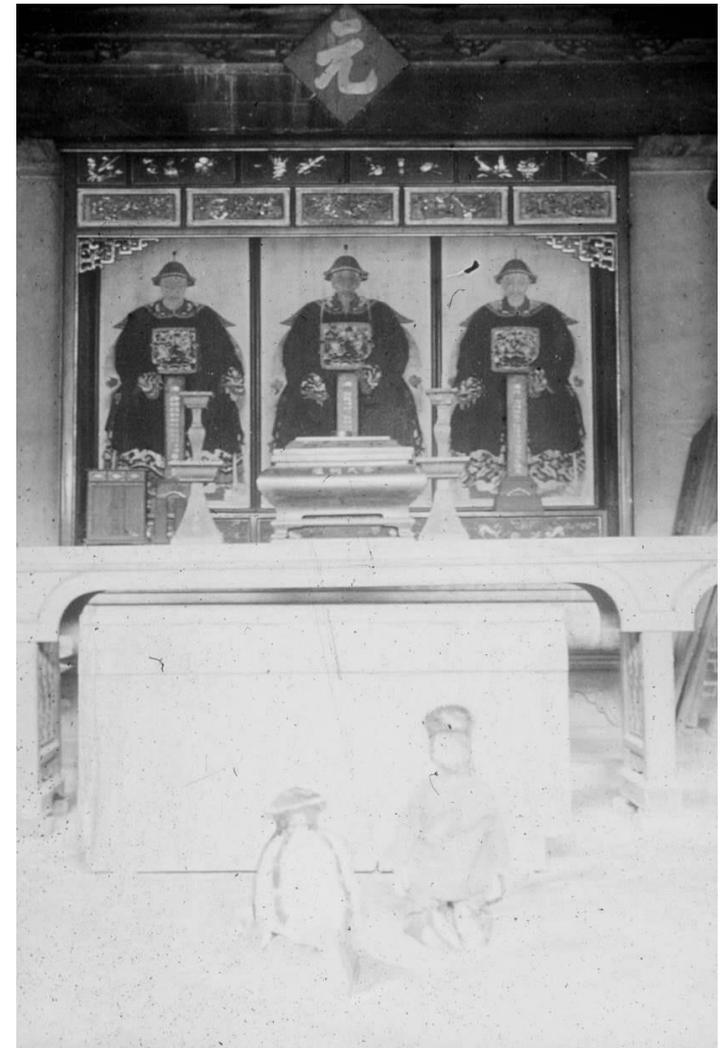
Chongqing Streets



Chongqing Consumerism – A new religion



Wealthy clan house in Hinghua



Children pay respect to their ancestors at an ancestral shrine.



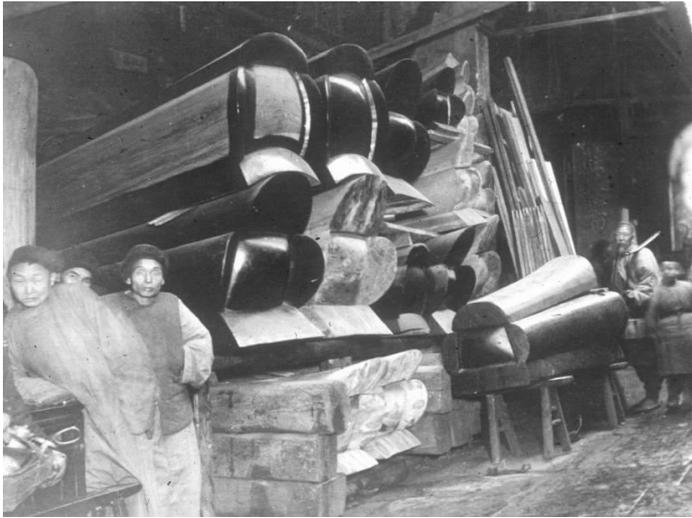
Zhenbanrenjia Hotel  
in Zhouzhuang –  
Used to be a wealthy  
family's home



Beijing Hutong –  
Also, once a wealthy  
family estate now  
converted into  
smaller apartments



Ancestor Shrine on the Banks of the  
Shen Nung Xi Gorge



A coffin shop



Coffins awaiting an auspicious time for burial.



A grand funeral in Peking. Coffin is at far right.



No coffins or death spotted, thankfully. But, there was much evidence of life...a celebration of it via Tai Chi, Fan Dancing, Qigong, and more.



## An examination hall



Bricks from this exam hall were being used to build a new university.



Confucius watches over the classroom



University Students  
Sleep While  
Professor Lectures  
– Would Confucius  
be Angry?



Southwest  
Transportation  
University in Chengdu



Some of our Host University  
Students



Writing class, Peking



School girls learning to write Chinese in a Romanized script in mission school near Hinghua



A government day school near Hinghua



The Principal – Sacrificing a Harvard Future for these Needy Children

Beijing - The Dandelion School for migrant middle school children



Lao Shi (Teacher) Jennifer



This man accused of robbery was quickly beheaded.



Someone who has committed a minor crime often had to wear a kang or wooden collar, for three months. His offenses are written on board for all to see.



Beijing - Chatting  
Police with their Tea  
Pot



Forbidden City  
Police Drills

Shanghai Military on the Street



Local bank in Chungking (Chongqing) with dozens of strings of cash.



Workers collecting salt water from surface springs at Kweifu (Fengjie). The water is boiled away in vats.



Steel works that employed one thousand workers, Hanyang



Bank Guard/Soldier



Shanghai Construction – Endless?



Factory on the Yangtze River



Making baskets to sell

China has a long entrepreneurial tradition.



A general store



Shanghai Shop

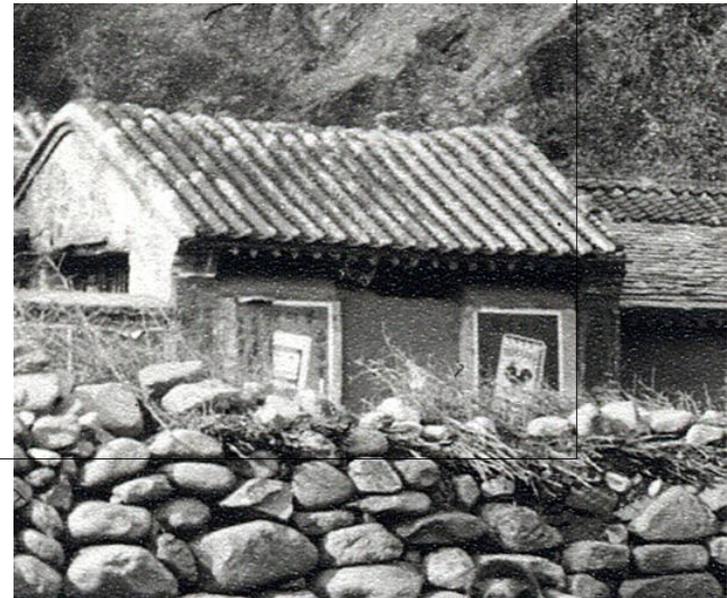
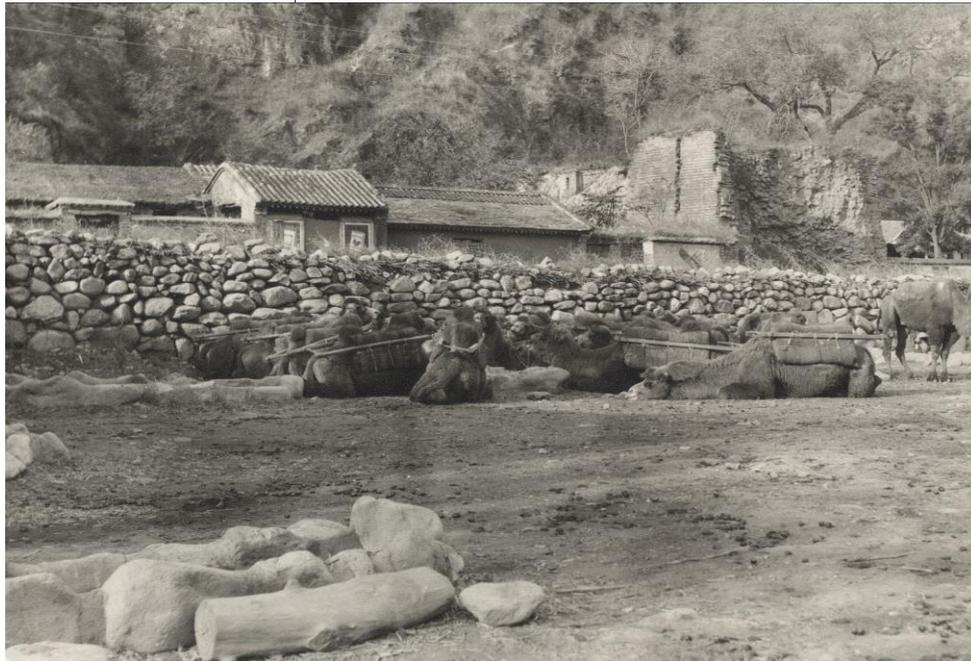


Shop in Fengdu



Entrepreneurial Chinese

The British American Tobacco Company “brings modern civilization” to China . . .



, , , even in the remote countryside.



Globalization continues...





Newsboy selling Peking daily newspapers at a railway station on the Hankow-Peking Railroad.

Cross-country mail delivery by Fast Mail of Chinese Imperial Post.



Wheelbarrow coolie, taking a pig to market, pauses to watch a train that may soon put him out of work.



Pudong  
Airport  
Shanghai



The Maglev Train

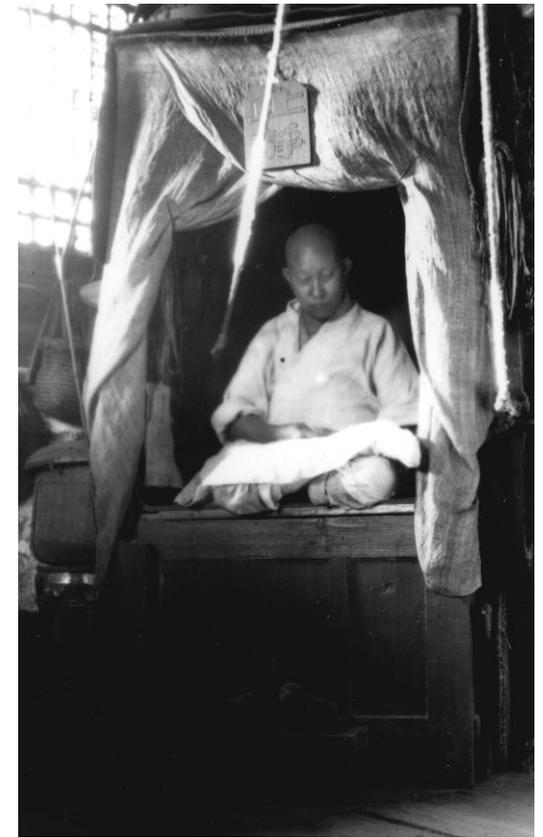
Planes, Trains, &  
Automobiles



A Taxi Ride into the Mountains Near  
Kangding



Tea shops and opium dens were popular gathering places.



This monk has taken a vow of silence and has not spoken in twenty years.  
Kushan Monastery



“Yi ping pijoe, meiguoren?”

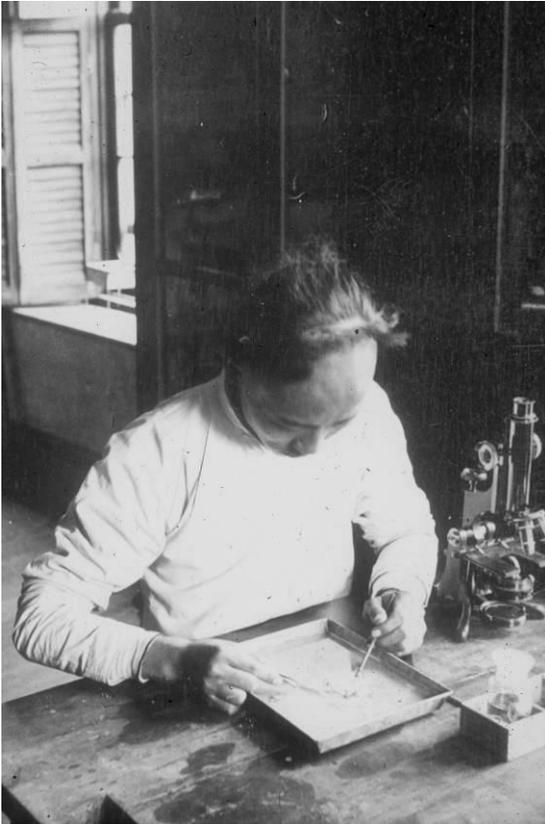


Zhouzhuang Daoist Monk on Cell Phone



Xie xie! Gumbai!

## Missionary efforts



A student in Nanking University's biology class dissects a frog.

A student in her room, Nanking University.



Eye exam in Hopkins Memorial Hospital, Peking



Southwestern  
Transportation  
University Dorm  
Room – Four  
Students, Four  
Bunks, Four Desks  
with Computers



Student Doing  
Homework on Mt.  
Emeishan



Philanthropy From Individuals & Businesses Provide  
Funding For The Dandelion School

## Chinese government efforts



A closed opium den in  
Shanghai, 1907

Military drill in  
government school,  
modeled on  
German example.



Beggars  
outside the  
government-  
run Chentu  
Beggar  
Reformatory.

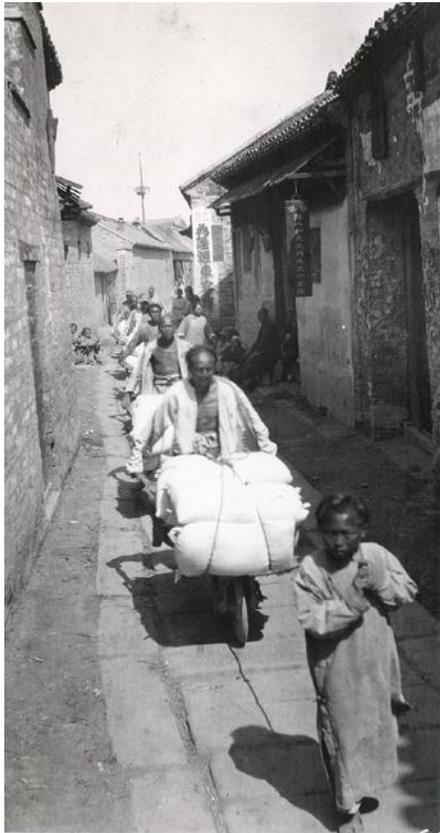




## The Chinese Communist Government Conquered Opium & Dissent

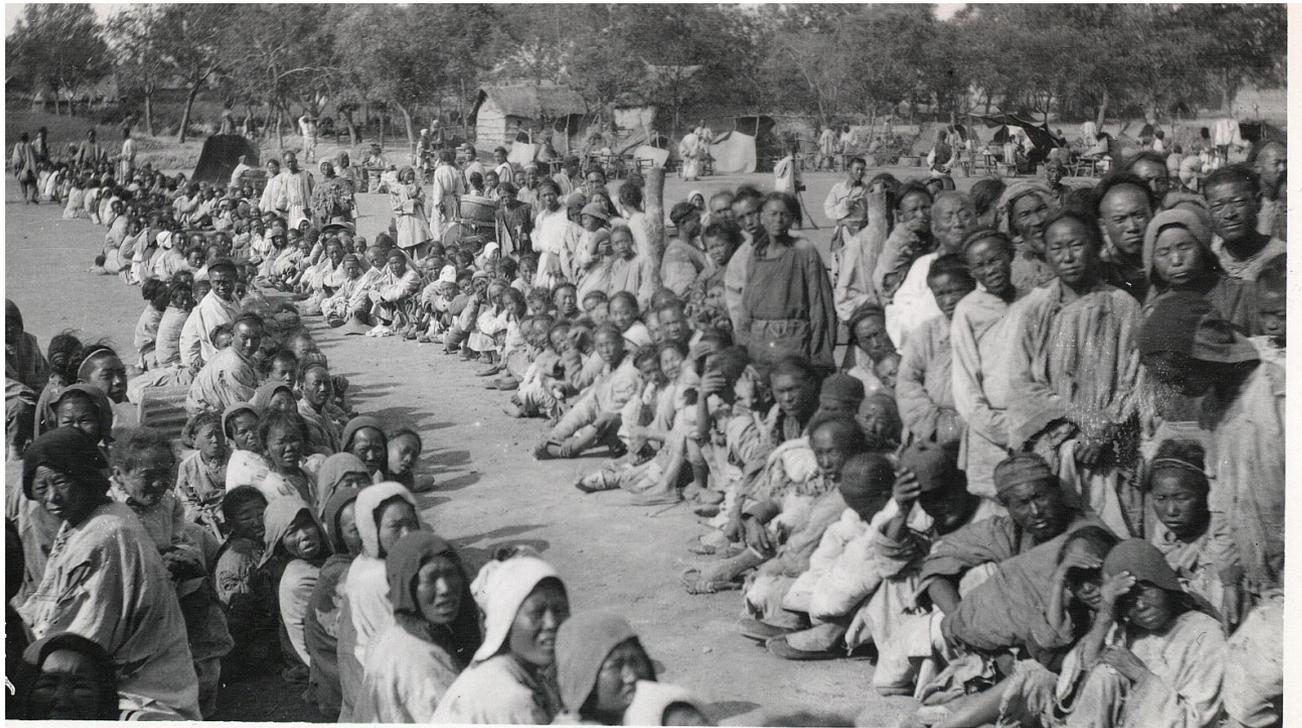


## Tiananmen Square Day & Night



Flour was brought overland in wheelbarrows

Famine relief efforts at a government relief center.





Chongqing Market

Beijing Market



Any land that is arable is planted. We have lawns,  
the Chinese have subsistence farming.



A Chinese youth at the Methodist Publishing House in Shanghai sets type for a publication in Chinese



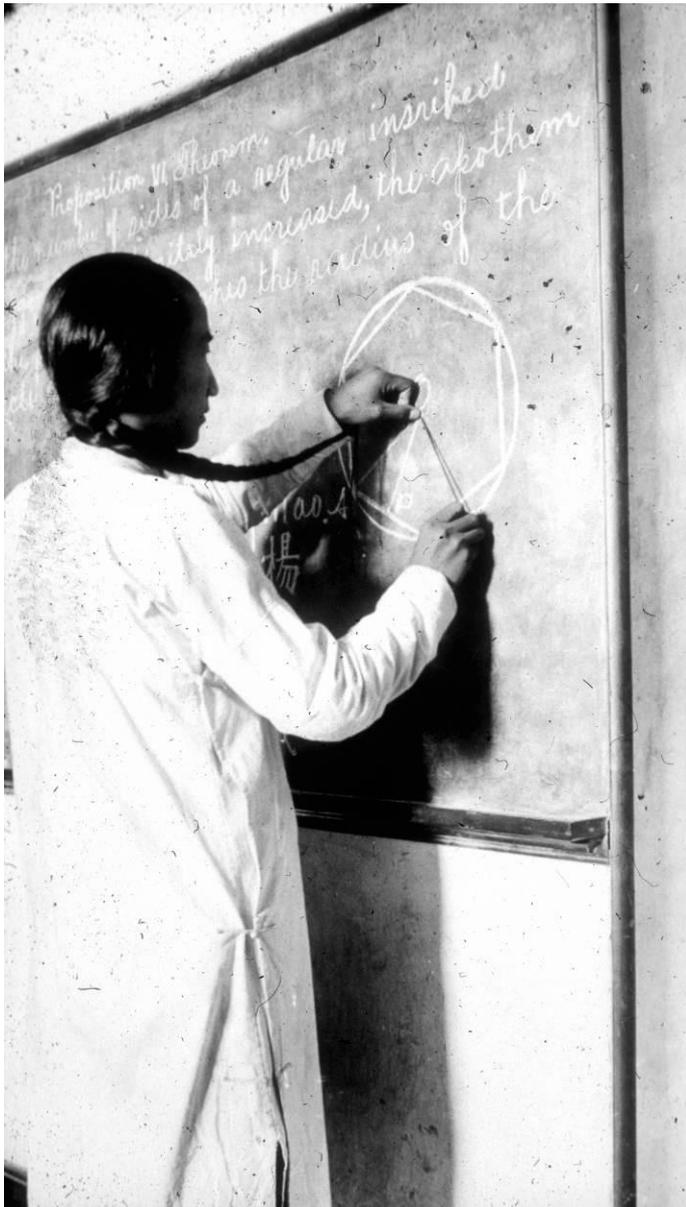
Students printing a newspaper on locally made mimeograph machine, Anglo-Chinese High School, Hinghua.



Cellphone/wireless tower on the Yangtze River

Chinese Media - Print, TV, Internet...





A geometry student at Peking University uses his queue to draw a circle around a hexagon.



Chengdu – Southwestern Transportation University  
Digital projector in the classroom