



INTRODUCTION

Background

Realizing the need for reform, Qing China dispatched diplomats to gather data, acquire knowledge, and address China's lack of understanding in foreign affairs. This endeavor brought about a transformation in the country's engagement and comprehension of the international community.

Research gap

- Previous research on the decline of the Qing Dynasty has focused on factors such as firepower disparity, power shifts from East to West, Sinocentric ideas, and behavioral adjustments.
- Diplomatic missions during the Late Qing Dynasty have been overlooked in understanding the decline and failed to convey the loss of Qing hegemony and the significance of the Meiji Restoration.
- Studying diaries from the late Qing period received little attention in the academic field.

Motivation

- It is important to expand the study of international relations beyond Western contexts and consider non-Western social orders.
- Considering the historical context is crucial for a comprehensive understanding of international relations.

DISCUSSION

Inference

- What Fu wrote in his diary lack personal interpretation and recommendation, providing only plain descriptions. It was because:
 - To save his career path, he strictly followed “Rules for Personnel Going Abroad by Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Qing Dynasty”.
 - Being a loyal individual, he refrained from advocating recommendations to change the regime. This could be attributed to factors such as his status and career within the Qing government, potential constraints imposed by the Guideline, or his inclination to rely on factual data rather than personal opinions when engaging in discourse.
- Qing China turned a blind eye to what their diplomats found and neglected to obtain influences from others.

CONCLUSION

- The diplomatic mission was unproductive due to the prevailing ideology of Late Qing China.
- Addressing the research gap regarding the overlooked role of diplomatic missions in history within the academic field.

METHODOLOGY

Methods

- Process tracing
- Qualitative methods, including archival research, analysis of historical documents, and examination of primary sources such as diaries and official records
- Case study of Fu YunLong's trip

Variables

- IV: Ideology of Late Qing China (Self-centerness & Huayiguan)
- DV: Productivity of Qing diplomatic missions

Prevailing beliefs and ideologies are significant as they provide ways of obtaining influence over other nations and denying their influence over Qing China (Sharp, 1998), which is highly related to the failure of the Late Qing Dynasty (which leads to the overthrow in the Xinhai Revolution).

Hypothesis

The ideology of Qing China significantly affected the productiveness of diplomatic missions during that time.

INTERVENING FACTORS

Language barrier

Although not explicitly mentioned in Fu's diary, based on the results and records of communication, it can be inferred that they had good communication with the presence of translators, and the foreign countries were satisfied with his visit.

Image

- Fu YunLong was widely welcomed by head of states in Latin America:
 - The Chilean government attached great importance to Fu Yunlong's visit. Although Chile did not officially declare friendship with Qing China, it still gave it a grand reception from President José Manuel Balmaceda.
 - Due to the distinct nature of Latin America compared to Western countries, the people there were aware of the mistreatment Qing China had endured at the hands of the Western powers.



Fu YunLong's Trip to America

Productive Diplomatic Mission in Qing China?