

not used

Excerpts from "The Case For Manchoukuo"
by George Bronson Rea

Manchoukuo Is Not Chinese

Pages 114-116

The legal relationship of Manchuria to China was never in question before 1911. No rational being would dispute the absolute right of the Manchus to sovereignty over their homeland up to that year; no arguments can set aside the legality and binding force of the Abdication Agreements between the Manchus and the Republic, sacred and solemn contracts incorporated into the fundamental law of the Republic, and then callously violated as to every clause; no proof can be adduced to support the contention that the Manchus have died out; so the claim of China to sovereignty over the territory of the Manchus reduces itself to the contention that since the Russo-Japanese War (1905) the influx of immigrants settling on the land has determined the ownership of the soil and that the right of sovereignty is coexistent with this occupancy.

The claim is so far-reaching, involving rights and interests and impeaching titles which have never been questioned in centuries, that they cannot possibly be disposed of by a commission which, instead of acting as mediators, constituted itself into a court from whose decision there was no appeal. To go back only to the Manchu conquest of China in 1644, we find that these strong men of the North, throughout their long rule over China, with their Mongol and Manchurian-Chinese allies, have occupied and held by right of possession all the territory north of the Great Wall as part of their homeland. It has been a reservoir from which to draw troops for replacements to hold their conquest and a safe retreat in the event of defeat. Sitting enthroned in Peking, they proclaimed their homeland a Crown Area, a closed preserve, and enacted stringent immigration laws to keep the Chinese out. They then prohibited intermarriage between the Bannermen (the Manchu Military Establishment) and the Chinese and enforced these laws up to within a few years of the abdication of their emperor as sovereign of China. Then they had their rights stipulated and recognized in solemn treaties which became the fundamental law of the new Republic.

The Chinese claims to sovereignty, based on the records of ancient history, have no force in law. Whatever rights they may have enjoyed in the dim and distant past to certain fringes in Southern Manchuria are lost, forgotten and invalidated by three centuries of Manchu occupation and sovereignty. Any Chinese claim to sovereignty over Manchuria must therefore be based on its nominal incorporation into the so-called Republic at the time of the abdication as defined by the terms of the Abdication Agreements. This basic charter has been ignored by the foreign Powers who, in subsequent treaties with the Republic, have agreed to recognize and respect the territorial and administrative independence of a state that has never been properly delimited, defined or constituted, a perpetuation on paper of an empire which collapsed and disintegrated into its component entities with the dissolution in 1911 of the Manchu authority....

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Manchuria Always Independent

Pages 201-209

It is necessary to stress certain absolute truths which require no exposition and which no outside nation acting as judge is called upon to challenge. Up to 1911, Manchuria was indisputably Manchu territory. That it was permitted to come even nominally under the rule of the Republic is traceable solely to the Abdication of the Manchu emperor and the fact that the Manchu Imperial Clan, the princes and the Bannermen resident in Peking, confiding in the binding quality of the agreements written into the Fundamental Law of the Republic, did not perceive the necessity of retiring at once to their homeland. The people of Manchuria saved their country from the fate of the rest of China by empowering General Chang Tso-lin to defend their frontiers against an invasion of the Republican armies. No Chinese war-lord from districts south of the Wall has exercised authority over Manchuria since the advent of the Republic. Its ruler has always been a Manchurian who not only kept the others out but, true to tradition, invaded China Proper and brought the northern half of the country under his rule. That Chang Hsueh-liang conquered north China in 1930, making Peking his capital, and then entered into a pact with the war-lord of Nanking to divide the country between them while to fool the foreign Powers, Nanking was permitted to pose as the recognized government, in no way brought Manchuria even nominally under the rule of Nanking. Chang Hsueh-liang was never the subordinate. He was the "Co-Ruler of China", equal in rank and prestige to Chiang Kai-shek, a fact he impressed upon all foreigners who met and talked with him. When Chang Hsueh-liang's military power was broken, and he could no longer terrorize the people of Manchuria into submission, the right to rule did not pass to his partner despot in Nanking, but to the people of Manchuria from whom his father originally derived his powers. When the people of Manchuria declared their independence they committed no injury or injustice to China or the Nanking war-lord, who has never even visited Manchuria, cannot speak the language, and would probably be mobbed if he stepped foot in the territory without an army at his back....