

tant of these, the empire of Morocco, inhabited by Mohammedan Moors, France has long cast a covetous eye, and in 1905 was about to drive an entering wedge into its independence, when Germany interfered, and a sharp discussion ensued, which, however, according to the excellent precedent established at the Congo Conference, was settled amicably at a general meeting of European representatives at Algeiras in Spain (1906). This conference, although conceding to France, as well as to Spain, by virtue of their geographical position, certain limited privileges in Morocco, solemnly affirmed the sultan of Morocco's sovereignty. It is quite probable, however, that France will continue to press forward and that the sultan's reduction to the rôle of the Egyptian khedive has merely been delayed. The time must also come when Liberia and Abyssinia will bow to some European overlordship. It should be noted, however, that Abyssinia has thus far vigorously and successfully resisted various efforts on the part of Italy to undermine her independence.

A glance at the map of Africa will show that the largest territorial holdings belong to Great Britain and France. Germany occupies the third place, and Italy, Spain, and Belgium—into whose hands the Congo Free State will pass on the death of King Leopold—have comfortable footholds. But unquestionably Great Britain, through her command of the Nile and the Cape, occupies the most favorable position, subject, however, to proportionate responsibilities. Both the Egyptian and South African dependencies have already proved a prolific source of conflicts, leading in their turn to further conquests. The upper Nile region, called the Sudan, became independent of Egypt in the early eighties through a revolt led by a Mohammedan fanatic styled "madhi" or prophet, and only after long years of preparation did General Kitchener, leading an Anglo-Egyptian force, break the

British
predominance
in Africa.

Conquest of
the Egyptian
Sudan, 1898.

Conquest of
the Trans-
vaal and the
Orange Free
State, 1902.

Great Britain,
Russia, and
France in Asia.

power of the Madhists and reconquer the province (1898). No sooner was this done than trouble began to brew in the region of the Cape. The Transvaal and the Orange Free State, two republics of Dutch colonists, called Boers, were threatened in several ways by British predominance. In the first place Great Britain claimed a suzerainty over them, which admitted of different interpretations, and second, the discovery of gold in the Transvaal brought into the country a large number of British adventurers who claimed citizen rights. A period of friction ended in 1899 in war, which after three years of a resistance challenging the admiration of the world, brought the two free republics under the British flag. The "Cape to Cairo" railroad, the dream of Cecil Rhodes, a famous Anglo-African capitalist and empire-builder of the modern commercial type, may be realized before long, and will firmly rivet the British possessions of the south to those of the north.

The occupation of Asia has proceeded more deliberately than that of Africa, chiefly because the native states possess a greater power of resistance and their reduction involves danger and expense. England since the eighteenth century has been the undisputed mistress of India. Even before that time Russia had begun to absorb Siberia in the north, and in the nineteenth century began to push toward the central provinces. A generation ago France got a foothold on the peninsula of Farther India (Cochin China, 1862). These three powers, but chiefly England and Russia, are mainly concerned in the attempted extension of European control over Asia. That their success has been considerable is proved by the fact that at the beginning of the twentieth century the only states of the Asiatic continent not subject to their control were Asia Minor, Syria, and Arabia (all belonging to Turkey), Persia, Afghanistan, Siam, and China. Of these Siam, Afghanistan, and Persia are so wedged in

between either Great Britain and Russia or Great Britain and France that they must fall the moment that their neighbors have agreed about their division. Asia Minor, Syria, and Arabia are bound to be seized by Europe when the expected break-up of the Turkish Empire takes place. That leaves for consideration China, the great bone of contention among the colonizing powers.

The ancient empire of China, containing about 400,000,000 inhabitants, is a highly civilized state, although the aims of its civilization have little in common with the culture of the Occident. Our unreasoning prejudice against the colored races may find a corrective in the reflection that we probably owe such prized inventions as the compass, paper, and gunpowder to the Chinese, and that this people found a noble religious teacher in Confucius five hundred years before Christ. Toward the close of our Middle Ages China took the curious step of shutting itself off from the world, and for almost five hundred years was a hermit kingdom. With the expansion of Europe this condition could not last; the merchant looking for customers was not going to let himself be foiled by the wall which China had built around herself. The succeeding events are in the nature of a tragi-comedy, a mixture of greed, terror, courage, and pathos.

The axe which burst open the closed gates of China was swung by Great Britain, which in 1840-42 waged a disgraceful war for the purpose of compelling China to buy opium from her Indian colony. Having forced opium upon the reluctant Chinaman, she paid herself for her trouble by taking the island of Hongkong, and obliging the emperor to open Canton, Shanghai, and some other ports to British trade. Commercial treaties with other countries quickly followed, until the trade with China has assumed considerable proportions. But trade brought

China.

The first
period of
spoliation.

the trader, and behind the trader loomed the politician. In 1862 France seized Cochin China, over which China claimed suzerainty, and in 1884, after a short war, added Tonkin to her Chinese possessions. Russia toward the middle of the century began to encroach upon northern China (Manchuria) and by 1860 had reached the Sea of Japan at the point where is now the port of Vladivostock.

Japan.

It seemed likely that China would be eaten like an artichoke, leaf by leaf, by England, France, and Russia, when a number of other claimants presented themselves, chief of whom was Japan. Japan, occupying the islands off the east coast, was inhabited by a people related to the Chinese and boasting a similar civilization. It, too, had shut itself off from the rest of the world, and had opened its doors again to outsiders only under compulsion. The breach in Japanese custom was made by Commodore Perry of the United States navy, who by a threat of bombardment induced the government to remove the commercial embargo from Yokohama and two other ports (1854). An almost magical change followed. With trade came new ideas, which exercised such charm over the quick-witted Japanese that they appropriated the benefits of Western civilization with a rush. Their youth came to Europe and America for purposes of study; the administration, the army, the navy, the school system were revolutionized; and before the century had closed Japan had taken a place by the side of the European nations. Of the various reforms it is impossible to speak in detail further than to point out what happened at the seat of government. During the political eclipse of Japan, the emperor, called *mikado*, had been reduced to a figure-head by the *shogun*, the hereditary commander of the army. As a consequence of the national revival the shogun with his officers, constituting a kind of feudal baronage, was overthrown, the mikado resumed sway, and by the grant of a

Moderniza-
tion of Japan.

constitution (1889) put the administration into the hands of a cabinet of ministers and vested the legislative power in a parliament of two houses.

The advantage of a thorough national renovation was seen when Japan in 1894 engaged in war with China, which country, in spite of opening some of its ports to Western commerce, had obstinately held aloof from foreign influences. The bulky antagonist swiftly went down before the agile islanders, who exhibited an efficiency on land and water exciting universal admiration. They had just forced China to a humiliating peace, when Russia, backed by France and Germany, stepped in and obliged her to moderate her conditions. At the Peace of Shimonoseki (1895) she received the island of Formosa and a money indemnity.

War
between
Japan and
China,
1894-95.

The war, which once more showed the helplessness of China, precipitated a new period of spoliation. In 1897 Germany, on the pretext of obtaining satisfaction for the murder of some missionaries, seized the port of Kiauchau, and when Russia in 1898 took Port Arthur, which threatened Peking itself, Great Britain immediately responded by occupying the point opposite Port Arthur, called Weihaiwei. China suddenly became the focus of European diplomacy. Russia, Great Britain, France, Germany, and Japan eyed one another suspiciously, to which number was presently added the United States, carried to the very portals of China by the acquisition of the Philippines in the war of 1898 with Spain. It was becoming plain that unless China should awaken and follow in the footsteps of Japan, her fate would be sealed. Some signs of the hoped-for change began to appear, mainly in the construction of railroads, when the greed of Russia precipitated a war, which a more conciliatory temper might have avoided.

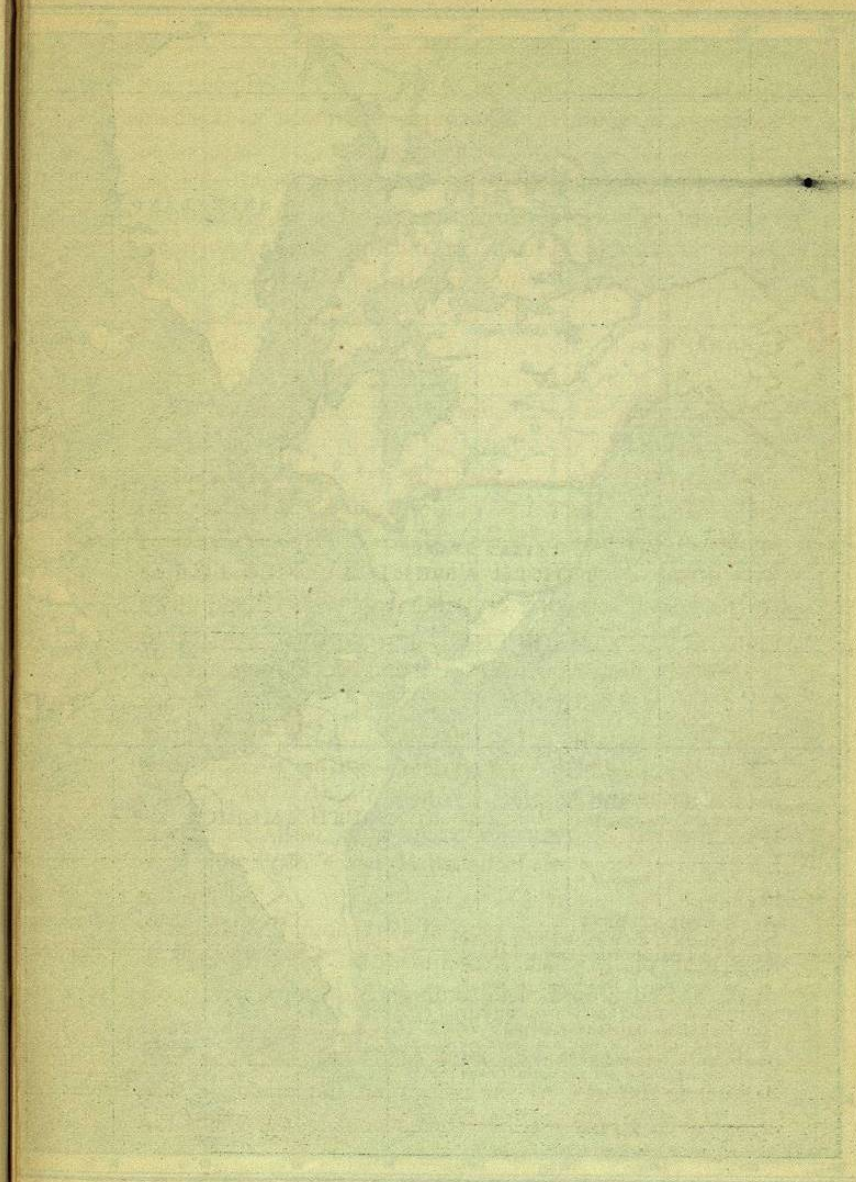
The second
period of
spoliation.

We have mentioned Russia's seizure of northern Man-

War
between
Russia and
Japan,
1904-5.

churia (1858-60) and Port Arthur (1898). Having got lodgment in southern Manchuria by means of railroad privileges, she was about to incorporate this province, when she was challenged by Japan. This power could not let a rich territory like Manchuria, sure to carry with it predominance in Korea and at Peking, fall into the Russian maw without a protest. Fruitless negotiations led to war, which the Japanese began on February 8, 1904, by swooping down upon the Russian fleet at Port Arthur and torpedoing two battle-ships and two cruisers. The advantage in the struggle which followed rested steadily with the Japanese. Having secured a foothold on the continent by occupying Korea, they marched to meet the Russians in the great Manchurian plain. In two momentous battles around Liao-yang (September, 1904) and Mukden (March, 1905) the Russians were defeated and driven northward. At the same time the Russian naval station, Port Arthur, was besieged and taken (January 1, 1905). Meanwhile the Japanese fared even better at sea, destroying the Port Arthur fleet in August, 1904, and a second Russian fleet, which had made the long journey from the Baltic, in a two days' battle in the Sea of Japan (May, 1905). These repeated defeats of the Russians were made definite and hopeless by the mutterings of a revolutionary storm at home. Therefore the efforts, now made by President Roosevelt in behalf of peace, could only have been welcome to the Czar. A conference, called by the United States in August, 1905, at Portsmouth, N. H., led to an agreement, by which Russia made the following concessions: 1. She retired from southern Manchuria and gave the control of the railway back to China. 2. She made over her lease to the Liaotung peninsula (including Port Arthur) to Japan. 3. She recognized the preponderance of Japan in Korea. 4. She surrendered to the victor the southern half of the island of Sakhalin.

The Peace of
Portsmouth.





The question of China has therewith entered a new phase. Japan has acquired an unquestionable preponderance at Peking, and the influence of Japan will doubtless be exercised to bring about the Europeanization of China in order to arrest further spoliation. The interest of Japan is to invigorate the Chinese, that they may throw off the tutelage of the West and gradually crowd European politics out of Asia. And that this invigorating process had begun even independently of the Japanese was shown by clear signs at the rounding of the century. Let us turn for a moment to the Chinese domestic situation. In 1900 a widespread secret society, called the Boxers, attacked and frequently murdered Christians, especially missionaries, and was not put down until all the powers had sent a united expedition to Peking. The Boxer rising was a protest against foreign influences and the sympathy which the progressive party at the Chinese court was showing with Western institutions. As soon as the Boxers were overthrown, the policy of reform was, under pressure from the powers, resumed at Peking. To all appearances the reform party has now carried the day, and the transformation of the Chinese army, accomplished since the Boxer rising, foreshadows a similar progress in education, administration, and industry. China for the Chinese is probably the happiest solution of the Asiatic problem, not only for the Mongolians themselves, but also for civilization. In any case another war over China is not very likely, in view of the preponderance of Japan and of the inability of any European power, in the light of the Russian experience, to make headway against her.

All the wars and rumors of wars which have agitated European public opinion since the Franco-German struggle of 1870 should not hinder us from seeing the very substantial progress made by ideals of peace, justice, and humanity. Their triumph is as distinctly a feature of our

Prospects of
the awakening
of China.

The spirit of
peace and the
court of arbi-
tration at The
Hague.

time as the march of commercialism on its often rude and noisy journey round the globe. We have noted this curious parallelism before and pointed, as evidence of a growing sense of brotherhood, to the many conferences held during the past generation to settle political conflicts. The greatest victory, however, won by the party of humanity was the establishment of a permanent court of arbitration at The Hague. In 1899 Czar Nicholas called the conference, which was attended not only by the great and small states of Europe, but also by delegates from the United States, Mexico, China, Japan, Persia, and Siam, and which, after voicing the new ideals of mankind, voted to establish an impartial court where all troubles between states might be adjudicated. Of course war has not by this act been abolished nor have even the heavy armaments of Europe been reduced, but it is an immeasurable benefit that there now exists a court to which every nation can appeal without injury to pride and without loss of honor. The court has already met the test of practice by disposing of several troublesome issues. A second conference, which may attack the question of militarism, is promised for 1907. In any case The Hague court opens a vista into the future which must rejoice the heart of every lover of justice and his fellow-man.

APPENDIX