義和團研究的新視野

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義和團事件(1899-1901)在清末動搖了中國。起源於山東的教亂最終演變成國際事件,義和團殺害數以萬計的中國基督教徒,和約兩百名在華外國人,超過十萬的中國人死於之後的列強介入過程裡。義和團圍攻北京東交民巷達五十五日,最後在八國聯軍的進攻下解圍。聯軍佔據北京兩年,而清廷流亡西安也達一年時間。

義和團事件引起國際注目,隨後清廷在1902至1911年嘗試變法圖強。現今西方史學界對此事件的研究多參考事後出版的西文史料,且集中於探討其肇因,中文著作至今較少受到重用。

我在今天的演講中,將介紹對八國聯軍事件的新研究計畫,包括東交民巷的 防務以及佔領北京的性質。我會討論西文史料的限制,以及中文史料所能提 出的深入考察。特別是中國人對保衛東交民巷的貢獻,清廷為何是洋人眼中 的寶庫,以及媒體是怎樣將義和團事件轉為日後向中國索求特權的正當藉口。

New insights on the Boxer Rebellion

The Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901) was the major destabilizing event of the late Qing dynasty. The rebellion by Shandong religious sect was eventually transformed into an international incident, in which the Boxers (Yihetuan 義和團) would kill tens of thousands of Chinese Christians and close to 200 foreigners. More than 100,000 Chinese would be killed during the allied intervention. The Boxers laid siege to the Beijing Legation for 55 days, and the rebellion ended with the invasion of China by the 8 Nations Allied Army, the foreign occupation of Beijing for two years, and the one-year exile of the Qing court to Xian.

The rebellion attracted international attention, and led to the final round of Qing political reforms between 1902 and 1911. To the present histories of the Boxer rebellion have focused on the rebellion's causes and have primarily relied on the many sources in foreign languages produced after the rebellion. Chinese sources have to this point been underused.

In this talk, I will be introducing my new project on the invasion of China by the 8 Nations Allied Army, the defense of the legations, and the nature of the occupation of Beijing. I will be speaking on the problems of the foreign language source base and the insights to be drawn from Chinese sources. In particular I will be speaking on the contributions of Chinese to the defense of the foreign legations, foreign perceptions of the Qing court as a potential treasure trove, the nature of the 2-year foreign occupation of Beijing, and the subsequent media transformation of the Boxer Rebellion into an event used to justify continued foreign privilege in China.

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