

the cause? What will be its effects? I will endeavour to answer these two questions.

First. In such a country as this, one in which absolute monarchy has existed since about the year 1644, the task of reforming would indeed be a very difficult one. Reforms could be brought about but not by orderly means. So it was thought best to change the whole system of government. Students from China who were educated in foreign countries such as England, the United States, and Japan, were awakened to a sense of nationality. They saw the oppression imposed upon their countrymen; they saw that the Manchu Rule was tyrannical; they learnt the principles of liberty and freedom from other countries; and all these formed in their mind a desire to overthrow the reigning government and set up a new one of their own. Again, in China, families of the highest classes went heart and soul in favor of the revolutionists, and these in turn could rely upon all their countrymen to help them when the revolution did break out. The government had a deadly fear of the revolutionists, because it knew that its cruel oppression of the masses of China had so driven them to despair, that they aroused their courage and began to resent the oppressor. It relied upon the ancient forces who were no more or less, than bands of cut-throats, working for their pay.

In China revolutions occurred and dynasties were changed, but the state of affairs did not become better. The people saw that a change of dynasty would be no remedy to the existing evils, so they clamored for a republic. The necessary revolution followed. Practically, the only cause for the revolution was the mis-government of the ruling party and its severe oppression and tyranny. Here we had 5,000,000 Manchus governing a population of about 400,000,000 Chinese. It would have been all right if they had treated the people fairly, given them a little liberty, but no, their aim was to preserve the power of the ruling caste at any cost. In order to do this, during the two hundred and fifty years which the Manchu Dynasty ruled, several laws were passed. The religion was called Confucianism, and in reality it taught how to avoid the evils which actually existed. One of the notes of the Chinese policy under the Manchu rule was the distrust of the people. So they were not allowed to get any education whatever or to emigrate. Apointments were made according to the amount of education which the people had, so, only the Manchus held office of any kind.