

in other respects there is little to indicate that China has learned much from the short, sharp lesson of war, and even the threat to dismember it and divide it up among the powers of Europe seems hardly to have made a stir in the heart of the torpid leviathan of the East.

Meanwhile the powers of Europe are settling like stinging hornets on its coast, Great Britain, Russia, Germany, and France each claiming a foothold on its shores, while Japan still holds the port of Wol-hai-wel, awaiting the payment of the war indemnity. What will be the result it is impossible to foresee. China is not a consolidated empire. The emperor rather reigns than rules. It is made up of separate parts, each largely under provincial rule, and scarcely more united than when each was governed by its own feudal prince. Different languages are spoken in different sections, there are various strands of population in the separate provinces, and hostile rather than friendly relations exist between north and south, east and west. The empire is one that might fall asunder at a blow, if struck strongly and deeply, and the powers which are now steadily deepening and widening their influence within the Celestial Empire may yet decide to strike that blow, and divide up China between them as they have already divided Indo-China and the continent of Africa. These are days of rapid political evolution, and the development of colonial empire is one of the most prominent phases of recent history.