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# Bertrand Russell and China During and After His Visit in 1920



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## Abstract

Bertrand Russell visited China in late 1920 to teach philosophy at Peking University. He expected his sabbatical to relieve his stressful experience of the First World War. Instead, he entered China in the midst of what is now called the May Fourth Movement, a groundbreaking period in which a “New Culture” was being constructed in response to China’s persistent international weakness. Many Chinese looked to Russell for answers on its social reconstruction, and in view of this fact his visit is often dismissed as having had no impact. But this misreads Russell’s own intentions for his trip, while also ignoring the several years he spent advocating for China in Britain after he returned. This thesis provides a full history of Bertrand Russell’s connection to China in the years 1920–27. Using Chinese language sources, it reconstructs his time in China from October 1920 to July 1921. This story, much of it focusing on Chinese responses to Russell, provides another angle from which to view the May Fourth period—the experiences of a sympathetic Western philosopher hailed as a “Second Confucius” upon arrival. It then turns to Russell’s impact on the British side of the relationship. At his welcome banquet in Shanghai on October 14, 1920, Bertrand Russell balked at his host’s request for advice on how to “fix” China, instead responding “how could I presume to lecture China on its reconstruction? China is not alone in this need; Europe too needs reconstruction. It is through the reformation of Europe that I hope to play a role in assisting the Chinese people!” This thesis finds that when Russell’s visit is viewed in this light, his indirect impact on China was more significant and lasting.

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In 1920 Russell had paid a short visit to Russia to study the conditions of Bolshevism on the spot. In the autumn of the same year he went to China to lecture on philosophy at the Peking university. On his return in Sept. 1921, having been divorced by his first wife, he married Miss Dora Black. In 1938 he went to the United States and during the next years taught at many of the country's leading universities. In 1940 he was involved in legal proceedings when his right to teach philosophy at the College of the City of New York was questioned because of his views on morality. When his appointment to the college faculty was cancelled, he accepted a five-year contract as a lecturer for the Barnes foundation, Merion, Pa., but the cancellation of this contract was announced in Jan. During his childhood Bertrand Russell was educated at home. In 1890 he entered Trinity College, Cambridge, where he studied mathematics and philosophy, graduating with first-class honours in both (1893 and 1894, respectively) and winning a fellowship in the latter in 1895. That year he briefly attended lectures in economics at the University of Berlin. His popular writings on politics, morality, and religion included *A Free Man's Worship*, *Why I Am Not a Christian*, and *Power: A New Social Analysis*. Why is Bertrand Russell significant? As a founding figure of the analytic movement in philosophy, Bertrand Russell helped to transform the substance, character, and style of philosophy in the English-speaking world. He was also one of the greatest logicians of the 20th century. *A Short Visit with Bertrand Russell*. by Najaf Daryabandari. translated by Ali and Amy Enayat. Last July, I sent a short letter to Lord Russell from London explaining that I had translated his *History of Western Philosophy*. into Persian, and since I was visiting England at the time, it would be a pity if I didn't visit a man whose writings had been close to me for many years. In response, Lord Russell sent a note indicating he would be waiting for me at his home on. Thursday, August 20, 1964. This is a project that has occupied me since my days in graduate school (during the antiquity, i.e., the early 1980s). It dominantly employs tools from model theory. As Wittgenstein once remarked: "How small a thought it takes to fill a whole life!" Bertrand Russell - Free download as PDF File (.pdf), Text File (.txt) or read online for free. Before and after his visit, Russell contributed fifteen essays to *Kaizo* upon request, which. appeared in English-Japanese bilingual editions \*2. They discuss social or political problems except. *Power* (1889-1940) who was also travelling in China and Japan, landed not at Moji but at Kobe at noon the next day, and were greeted by Robert Young (1858-1922), the chief editor of the. English-language newspaper *The Japan Chronicle*. \*2.