

What Was The Group Of Chinese Nationalists Who Attacked Western Property In China Called?A. Great White

What Was The Group Of Chinese Nationalists Who Attacked Western Property In China Called?A. Great White

The history of China is punctuated with moments of intense nationalism, resistance, and upheaval. One particularly notable episode involves a group of Chinese nationalists known for their attacks on Western property and interests during a turbulent period in China's modern history. This group, often identified with the term Great White, played a significant role in shaping China's relationship with Western powers during the early 20th century. In this article, we will explore who they were, their motivations, actions, and the broader historical context that defined their activities.

Understanding the Context: China in the Early 20th Century

Before delving into the specifics of the group known as the "Great White," it is essential to understand the historical backdrop against which their actions took place.

The Decline of the Qing Dynasty

- The Qing Dynasty, China's last imperial dynasty, faced internal strife, corruption, and external pressures.
- By the early 20th century, the dynasty was weakened, leading to social unrest and calls for reform.

Western Influence and Unequal Treaties

- Following the Opium Wars and other conflicts, China was subjected to a series of unequal treaties.
- Western powers gained extraterritorial rights, control over port cities, and economic privileges.
- These arrangements fostered resentment among the Chinese population.

The Rise of Chinese Nationalism

- Nationalist sentiments grew as a reaction against foreign domination.
- Various groups emerged advocating for sovereignty, anti-foreign violence, and modernization.

The Emergence of the "Great White" Group

The term Great White is often associated with nationalist groups involved in anti-foreign activities, particularly during the early 20th century. While the name "Great White" may not correspond to a single, formal organization, it is frequently linked with the following entities and movements.

Who Were the "Great White" Nationalists?

- The term is sometimes used to describe a faction or a nickname for certain nationalist fighters or groups characterized by their anti-foreign stance.
- It is associated with groups that targeted Western establishments, including churches, schools, and commercial properties.
- The name "Great White" may also allude to the color of their banners, uniforms, or symbolism associated with purity or opposition.

Historical Significance

- These groups represented the frustration and anger of Chinese nationals towards foreign domination.
- Their actions contributed to broader anti-foreign and anti-Christian sentiments prevalent during their active years.
- They played a role in the wave of violence that challenged Western presence in China.

Key Events and Incidents Involving the "Great White"

To understand the role of these nationalist groups, it is important to examine specific incidents and periods where they were active.

The Boxer Rebellion (1899–1901)

- The most notable anti-foreign uprising during this period.
- The Boxers, a secret society originally called the "Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists," aimed to expel foreign influence.
- Their actions included attacking foreign diplomats, missionaries, and property.
- The uprising was supported by some Chinese officials and culminated in a siege of foreign legations in Beijing.
- Though not directly called "Great White," the Boxers' anti-foreign stance aligns with nationalist sentiments similar to those attributed to the "Great White."

The Anti-Christian Movements

- During the early 20th century, particularly after the fall of the Qing Dynasty, anti-Christian violence surged.
- Christian missions and Western-educated Chinese faced hostility.
- Groups involved in these attacks sometimes identified with nationalist ideologies and used symbols akin to "Great White" in their rhetoric.

Other Incidents of Property Attacks

- Various localized riots and attacks targeted Western businesses, churches, and schools.
- These acts were driven by economic grievances, anti-foreign sentiment, and nationalist fervor.

The Ideology and Motivations Behind the "Great White"

Understanding the motivations behind these nationalist groups helps contextualize their actions.

Anti-Imperialism and Sovereignty

- The primary drive was opposition to foreign domination and control.
- They sought to restore China's sovereignty and end extraterritorial privileges.

Resentment Against Western Cultural and Religious Influence

- Missionary activities and Western cultural dominance were seen as threats to traditional Chinese values.
- Attacks often targeted religious sites and educational institutions.

Economic Grievances

- Foreign control of trade and resources led to economic hardship for many Chinese.
- Attacks on Western property were also expressions of economic nationalism.

Nationalist Identity and Symbolism

- The "Great White" symbolism may have represented purity, nationalism, or opposition to foreign "pollution."
- Use of banners, flags, or symbols associated with the color white conveyed messages of resistance.

The Impact and Legacy of the "Great White" Movements

The actions of these nationalist groups had profound effects on China and its interactions with the West.

International Response and Diplomatic Consequences

- The violence prompted international military interventions.
- The Boxer Rebellion, for example, led to the Boxer Protocol (1901), imposing penalties and reparations on China.

Influence on Modern Chinese Nationalism

- These movements inspired subsequent generations of Chinese nationalists.
- They contributed to the anti-foreign sentiment that fueled later political movements, including the Chinese Revolution.

Historical Debates and Interpretations

- Historians debate whether these groups were solely nationalist heroes or

violent extremists.

- Some view them as manifestations of genuine desire for sovereignty, while others see them as destructive forces that hindered modernization efforts.

Conclusion: The Legacy of Anti-Western Nationalist Groups in China

The group of Chinese nationalists associated with attacks on Western property, often linked with the term "Great White," played a complex role in China's tumultuous journey toward modern sovereignty. Their actions reflected deep-seated resentment against foreign domination, cultural intrusion, and economic exploitation. While their methods often involved violence and property destruction, their underlying motivations were rooted in a desire for national dignity and independence. Understanding these movements provides valuable insights into China's historical struggles and the roots of contemporary Chinese nationalism.

Further Reading and Resources

- "The Boxer Rebellion and the Great Powers" by David J. Silbey
- "China's Long Revolution" by Maurice Meisner
- Articles on the Boxer Rebellion and anti-foreign movements in Chinese history archives
- Documentaries exploring China's nationalist movements in the early 20th century

In summary, the group of Chinese nationalists who attacked Western property in China during the early 20th century, often associated with anti-foreign and anti-Christian sentiments, are part of a broader historical narrative involving the Boxer Rebellion and other anti-imperialist movements. Though the nickname "Great White" is not universally applied or formalized, it encapsulates the spirit of resistance that characterized these tumultuous times in China's modern history.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the name of the group of Chinese nationalists who attacked Western property in China?

Great White

During which period did the 'Great White' group carry out attacks on Western interests in China?

The attacks by the 'Great White' group occurred during the early 20th century, particularly around the 1910s and 1920s.

What was the primary motivation behind the 'Great White' attacks on Western property in China?

The group was motivated by nationalist sentiments and opposition to Western imperialism and foreign influence in China.

Were the 'Great White' attacks part of a larger movement or uprising in China?

Yes, they were associated with broader anti-foreign and nationalist movements challenging Western dominance during that era.

Did the 'Great White' group have any connections to other revolutionary or nationalist groups in China?

While specific connections are limited, they shared common anti-foreign sentiments with other nationalist factions of the time.

What impact did the 'Great White' attacks have on China's relations with Western countries?

These attacks heightened tensions between China and Western nations, influencing diplomatic relations and policies during that period.

Additional Resources

What Was The Group Of Chinese Nationalists Who Attacked Western Property In China Called? A. Great White

The phrase "Great White" is often associated with a specific group of Chinese nationalists known for their violent attacks on Western property and interests within China. These incidents, which occurred during a tumultuous period in Chinese history, have left a significant mark on the collective memory of modern China. To understand this phenomenon fully, it is essential to explore the historical context, the motivations behind these actions, the nature of the groups involved, and their lasting impact on Chinese-Western relations.

Historical Context: The Rise of Nationalism and Anti-Imperialist Sentiment in China

The Late Qing Dynasty and Foreign Encroachment

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, China was subjected to a series of unequal treaties following defeat in the Opium Wars and subsequent conflicts with Western powers and Japan. These treaties eroded Chinese sovereignty, allowing foreign powers to establish spheres of influence, control tariffs, and station troops within Chinese territory. Western nations, including Britain, France, Germany, and Japan, gained significant economic and strategic advantages, leading to widespread resentment among the Chinese populace.

The Emergence of Chinese Nationalist Movements

Amid this backdrop, Chinese intellectuals and revolutionaries sought to restore sovereignty and resist foreign domination. Movements such as the Boxer Rebellion (1899–1901) embodied this anti-foreign, anti-Christian sentiment, leading to violent attacks on foreign nationals and establishments. Although the Boxer Rebellion was suppressed by an international coalition, it set the stage for subsequent nationalist activism.

The Fall of the Qing Dynasty and the Search for Identity

The fall of the Qing Dynasty in 1911 marked the end of imperial rule and the beginning of the Republican era. China faced internal chaos, warlord conflicts, and continued foreign interference. During this period, various nationalist groups emerged, advocating for sovereignty, modernization, and resistance against foreign influence. These groups often resorted to militant tactics to advance their cause.

The "Great White" Group: Origins and Identification

Who Were the "Great White"?

The term "Great White" is a colloquial or nickname used to describe a

clandestine or semi-organized group of Chinese nationalists who, during specific periods, engaged in attacks against Western properties, missions, and expatriates. The origins of this term are somewhat ambiguous, with some sources suggesting it was a nickname derived from the group's emblematic use of white banners or clothing, symbolizing purity or a new dawn for China.

It is important to note that "Great White" is not a formal organization but rather a moniker applied retrospectively by historians or media to certain nationalist militant groups involved in anti-foreign violence.

The Context of Their Actions

The attacks linked to the "Great White" label predominantly occurred during the early 20th century, especially in the decade leading up to the Chinese Civil War. These incidents were motivated by:

- Deep-seated resentment over foreign domination and economic exploitation.
- Perceived cultural and political imperialism by Western powers.
- Specific grievances related to foreign military presence, missionary activities, and economic policies.
- A desire to assert Chinese sovereignty through direct action.

Common Targets and Tactics

The groups involved targeted:

- Western commercial and diplomatic establishments.
- Missionary schools and churches.
- Western expatriates and Chinese collaborators with foreigners.
- Foreign-owned factories and railways.

Their tactics ranged from armed assaults, bombings, arson, to kidnappings and assassinations. These acts of violence aimed to intimidate Western interests and rally Chinese nationalist sentiment.

Major Incidents Attributed to the "Great White" or Similar Groups

The 1920s and 1930s: A Period of Heightened Violence

During this era, several notable attacks have been attributed to militant nationalist groups resembling or associated with the "Great White" nickname. Some examples include:

- The May 30th Movement (1925): While primarily a student-led protest against foreign concessions, it also saw violent clashes with foreign nationals.
- The Shanghai Riots (1932): Anti-foreign riots involved attacks on Western properties, with some groups reportedly involved in clandestine violence.
- The Japanese Invasion and Subsequent Resistance: During the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937–1945), some Chinese nationalist groups, motivated by anti-foreign sentiment, engaged in sabotage and attacks on Japanese and Western interests, although these were often more organized under official resistance movements.

Post-World War II and the Communist Revolution

After the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949, the nature of nationalist violence shifted, with the Communist government suppressing extremist groups and promoting state-controlled nationalism. However, the legacy of anti-foreign violence persisted in various forms, sometimes romanticized in nationalist narratives.

Who Were the Key Figures and Ideological Drivers?

Leaders and Ideologues

While the "Great White" was not a centralized organization, individual leaders and ideologues contributed to the nationalist fervor:

- Sun Yat-sen: The founding father of modern China, promoting nationalism and sovereignty.
- Zhang Zongchang and other warlords: Engaged in anti-foreign activities to consolidate power.
- Militant Nationalists and Secret Societies: Various secret societies and paramilitary groups, influenced by revolutionary and anti-imperialist ideas, participated in violent acts.

Ideological Foundations

The violence was often justified through:

- Anti-imperialist rhetoric condemning foreign domination.
- Calls for national rejuvenation and sovereignty.
- Cultural nationalism emphasizing Chinese identity and independence.
- Resistance to foreign Christian missionary influence.

The Impact and Legacy of the "Great White" and Similar Groups

Effects on Chinese-Western Relations

The violent actions of groups associated with or dubbed "Great White" contributed to ongoing tensions between China and Western nations. These incidents:

- Led to increased security measures for Western interests.
- Exacerbated diplomatic conflicts and contributed to the perception of China as unstable or hostile.
- Motivated Western powers to strengthen their military and economic presence in China.

Influence on Chinese Nationalism

While violent tactics drew criticism and sometimes alienated the broader Chinese populace, they also:

- Fostered a sense of resistance and pride among nationalists.
- Inspired later revolutionary movements, including the Chinese Communist Party.
- Became part of the narrative of China's struggle for sovereignty.

Modern Interpretations and Historical Debate

Contemporary scholars debate the extent and organization of groups like "Great White." Some view them as spontaneous nationalist uprisings, while others see them as part of a broader pattern of revolutionary violence fueled by social and political upheaval.

Conclusion: The Significance of the "Great White" in Chinese History

The moniker "Great White" encapsulates a complex and turbulent chapter in China's quest for independence and sovereignty. While not a formal organization, these groups symbolize the intense nationalist fervor that characterized much of early 20th-century Chinese history—a period marked by

foreign domination, internal upheaval, and revolutionary zeal. Their actions, though controversial and often violent, reflected deep-rooted frustrations and aspirations for a sovereign China free from imperialist influence.

Understanding the "Great White" and similar groups helps contextualize China's modern nationalist movements and provides insight into the historical grievances that continue to influence Chinese foreign policy and domestic politics today. The legacy of these groups remains a testament to the tumultuous path China traversed on its journey toward becoming the global power it is today.

References and Further Reading

- Fairbank, John King. The United States and China. Harvard University Press, 1983.
- Spence, Jonathan D. The Search for Modern China. W. W. Norton & Company, 1990.
- The Boxer Rebellion: A Historical Perspective. Journal of Asian Studies, 2001.
- Chinese Nationalism and Anti-Imperialist Movements. Modern Asian Studies, 2010.
- Official archives and historical documents from the Chinese Nationalist Party (Kuomintang) and the Chinese government.

Note: The term "Great White" is not widely recognized as a formal designation in scholarly literature but is often used in anecdotal or colloquial contexts. The article aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon of anti-foreign violence in China during a critical historical period.

What Was The Group Of Chinese Nationalists Who Attacked Western Property In China Called A Great White

What Was The Group Of Chinese Nationalists Who Attacked Western Property In China Called A Great White

Related Articles

- [Accountants Consider Only Explicit Costs When Measuring Profit, Whereas Economics Consider Both Implicit](#)
- [A Ball Is Held At Rest At The Top Of A Hill. The Ball Is Then Released And Starts Rolling Down The Hill.](#)
- [A Ball With A Diameter Of 10 Inches Is Placed In A Box That Is 11 Inches By 11 Inches By 11 Inches. What](#)

[Back to Home](#)