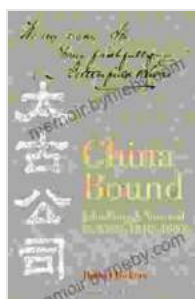


"China Bound: John Swire & Sons and Its World, 1816-1980"



China Bound: John Swire & Sons and Its World, 1816 – 1980 by Robert Bickers

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 16272 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 544 pages



A sweeping narrative of a British trading company that shaped the course of China's history

In this captivating book, renowned historian Dr. Jonathan Howson delves into the extraordinary story of John Swire & Sons, a British trading company that played a pivotal role in the development of modern China. From its humble beginnings in the early 19th century to its global expansion and lasting legacy, "China Bound" offers an in-depth look at the company's operations, its impact on Sino-British relations, and the lives of those who shaped its journey.

The book begins by tracing the company's origins in the thriving port city of Liverpool, where its founders John and William Swire established a small shipping business. As the British Empire expanded its reach into Asia, Swire & Sons seized opportunities in the burgeoning China trade, transporting tea, silk, and other commodities between the two continents.

Over the decades, the company grew and diversified, establishing a vast network of offices and subsidiaries across China. It played a crucial role in the development of Hong Kong as a major port and financial center, and it was instrumental in the establishment of the Shanghai International Settlement, a foreign enclave that became a hub for trade and diplomacy.

Dr. Howson draws on a wealth of archival research and firsthand accounts to provide a vivid portrait of the complex and often fraught relationship between Swire & Sons and China. He recounts the company's involvement in the Opium Wars and the Taiping Rebellion, as well as its efforts to

navigate the changing political landscape of the 20th century, including the rise of Chinese nationalism and the Communist revolution.

At the heart of the book are the stories of the individuals who shaped Swire & Sons' legacy. From the enterprising Swire brothers to the intrepid explorers and traders who ventured deep into China's interior, these men and women left an enduring mark on the company and on the history of East Asia.

"China Bound" is not only a meticulously researched historical account but also a captivating human drama. It is a story of ambition, innovation, and resilience, set against the backdrop of one of the most transformative periods in Chinese history. It is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of business, imperialism, and the complex relationship between East and West.

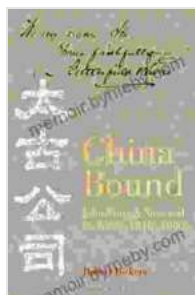
Key Features

- Comprehensive history of John Swire & Sons, a British trading company that played a significant role in the development of modern China
- Covers the company's origins, expansion, and impact on Sino-British relations, from the early 19th century to the mid-20th century
- Based on extensive archival research and firsthand accounts, providing a vivid and authentic narrative
- Includes detailed biographies of key figures in the company's history, including the Swire brothers and other influential executives and traders

- Explores the complex relationship between business, imperialism, and cultural exchange in East Asia

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