

INCIDENT IN TIENTSIN – A PIECE OF THE „DOPPELMONARCHIE“ IN CHINA 1917

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Resume

It is clear that the Austro – Hungarian Empire was not a typical colonialist power, nevertheless it held a “mini-colony” in China: after the boxer-revolt the Empire became a conceded-territory possessor at the bank of Peiho river in 1901.

Despite the fact, that some economic groups were trying to accelerate the out-building of Chinese relationships and in the 1860-70 an official expedition was sent to the Far East, the outcome of these efforts was minimal: only three bilateral contracts between the Empire and in that time sovereign states were closed. Theoretically this made possible the evolution of trade and diplomatic connections, but except the establishing of the Austro – Hungarian Consulate, no other visible gains were achieved.

The Boxer revolt in 1900 together with the united policy of the European powers in China enabled new possibilities for the Austro-Hungarian Empire too. Because the Empire represented itself with military units in the “expedition” led by von Waldersee, it was possible to acquire – according to the historical records – a quite plain domain near the Italian territory.

After the outbreak of the World War the status of the conceded territory became more and more unhandy. The open harbors, conceded territories existed as “European islands” and simultaneously also as neutral territories until 1917. Of course, this fact did not eliminated the political efforts towards destabilizing the local position of the

colonies. This was the case of the Tientsin-territory also. According to the historical records a company of British, French and Japanese escaped war prisoners, sailors and local adventurers tried to get possession over steamships Lloyd anchoring in Shanghai as well as weaken the Empires regional status in Tientsin.

So there were some processes of colonization, which remained unfinished – among others caused with the Chineses declaration of war. but one thing is sure: after the declaration of war, in 1917 the consulates personnel left and the Chinese territories of the Empire were lost for ever.

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