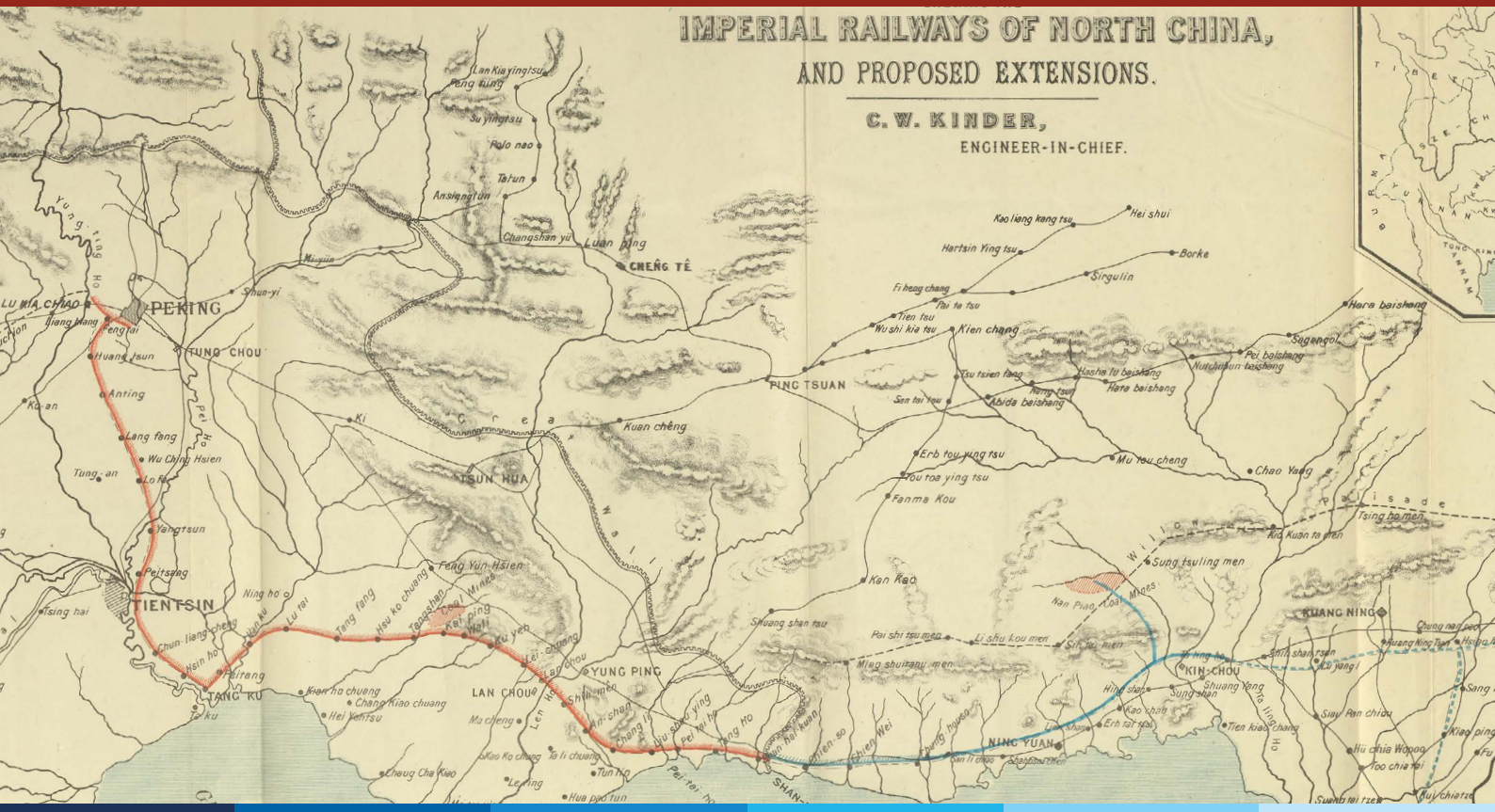


GALE PRIMARY SOURCES

China and the Modern World: Imperial China and the West Part II, 1865-1905

Digitised primarily from the British Foreign Office Files FO 17 Series together with several volumes of Law Officers' reports from the FO 83 series, this archive is a continuation of *Imperial China and the West Part I, 1815-1881*, providing scholars with valuable insight and detail into every aspect of Chinese-Western relations during 1865-1905, ranging from diplomacy to trade/economy, politics, military, Chinese emigration, law, and translation and language studies.

Image citation: FO17/1440/255 | Map of the Imperial Railways of North China and Proposed Extensions. The first major Chinese government-funded railway built in the 1880s and 1890s, with the assistance of a British civil engineer, C.W. Kinder



ABOUT THE ARCHIVE

Imperial China and the West Part II, 1865-1905 contains over 600 000 manuscript pages and documents many significant historical events that are key to any student of Chinese history, such as the first Sino-Japanese War (1894–1895) and the Boxer Rebellion (1900). The archive also includes despatches from the British consul general at Seoul in Korea for the period 1890 to 1905.

It presents an excellent primary source in English for scholars and students around the world researching China's political, diplomatic and economic history across the 19th century.

ARCHIVE SNAPSHOT

Approximate Size

611,000 pages

Source Library

The National Archives, Kew

Language

Majority in English,
with some documents in Chinese and French

MAJOR HISTORICAL EVENTS AND TOPICS

- The Boxer Rebellion and the signing of the Peking Protocol
- Piracy in the China Seas
- Railway Development and international competition
- The Sino-Soviet Ili crisis and the Treaty of St Petersburg (1881)
- The training of Chinese naval officers in the UK
- The First Sino-Japanese War (1894–1895)
- Navigation of the Upper Yangtze
- The kidnapping of Dr. Sun Yat-sen in London

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Handwritten text recognition (HTR) technology has been incorporated into the digitisation of FO 17 and FO 83 for the benefit of improved searchability, enabling unexpected discoveries not possible from traditional finding aids, supporting inclusion in digital humanities projects.

Itemised indexes. Item-level information has been sourced from the Foreign Office Indexes (FO 605) for volumes covering the years up to 1890, increasing researchers' ability to search and browse through the wealth of subjects and material presented in this collection. In addition, further item-level information has been newly created for hundreds of the volumes, including those containing Chinese documents, found in Part II

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