



Category: HUMANITIES  
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# LAND OF LILIES & MANDARINS: Western Representations of China from 1927 to 1950

## Introduction

- Literature plays a big role in providing the West with material to read, absorb and construct China
- European interest in the nation-state and Chinese elements rapidly developed during the 18th century, spurred by the extravagant Rococo period
- However, the French Revolution soon brought about a reversal of attitude, where derision and hostility replaced earlier enthusiasm for the orient culture
- As the meaning of China and its presence continually evolves and fluctuates according to western representations, tracking these shifts will trace underlying connections across historical events

## Findings

**23** years  
**40** keywords  
**1394** texts  
**2047** excerpts

## Top Keywords by Gender



1. Crime



2. Servitude



3. Opium



1. Eroticised



2. Foot-binding



3. Missionary

Male

Female

## Top 5 Keywords



1. Chinoiserie



2. Outland



3. Profile



4. Wealth



5. Warfare

## Methodology

### 1 Identification of keywords

- Generate and compile lexemes according to primary search terms: CHINA, CHINESE
- From this list, keywords will be determined

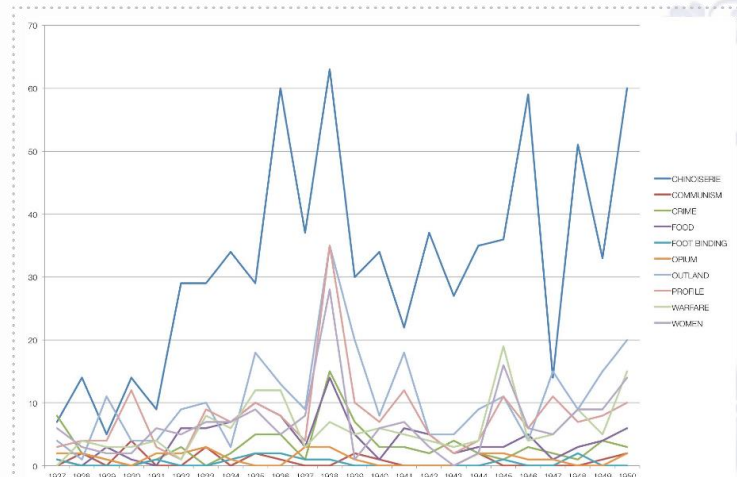
### 2 Analysis of keywords

- Keywords are identified through proximity and collocation
- Determine if keywords are relevant by examining semantic changes
- Check if keywords interact with historical trends and/or events

### 3 Dataset for each text

- Reference Excerpt
- Keywords
- Character Involved
- Chapter and Page from Book
- Title of Book
- Author
- Nationality
- Year of Original Publication
- Book's Edition

## Frequency of Secondary Keywords



## Discussion

- Working from Edward Said's Orientalism, the construction of China and Chinese images operate to serve two distinct functions: to valorise the self or vilify the Other.
- There is an attempt to dismantle and/or refrain from stereotypical representations (e.g. Mandarin) by 1947. Texts tend to focus more on warfare and the country's landscape rather than the people.

### Reference

Bodde, Derk. "CHINA, THE WEST, AND TOLSTOY." Tolstoy and China, Princeton University Press, 1950, pp. 3-10. JSTOR [JSTOR], www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt183pt9r.4.