

Unveiling the Hidden Rivalry: Jewish Dynasties That Shaped Modern China



The Last Kings of Shanghai: The Rival Jewish Dynasties That Helped Create Modern China

by Jonathan Kaufman

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

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A Tale of Wealth, Power, and Intrigue

In the heart of bustling Shanghai, amidst a tapestry of cultural exchange and economic prosperity, a hidden rivalry unfolded between two prominent Jewish dynasties: the Kadoories and the Sassoons. These families, hailing from Baghdad and India respectively, played a profound role in shaping the destiny of modern China. Their wealth, power, and enigmatic connections to the highest echelons of society made them both revered and feared.

Their rivalry, while veiled from the public eye, permeated every aspect of their lives, driving their business ventures, political alliances, and even personal relationships. Through their struggles and triumphs, these Jewish dynasties left an indelible mark on China's economic, social, and political landscape.

The Kadoories: Business Titans

Elly and Ellis Kadoorie, Iraqi-born brothers, arrived in Shanghai in 1880 with nothing but their wits and a burning ambition. Within a few short years, they had established a thriving trade empire, controlling the lucrative opium and cotton industries. Their business acumen was unmatched, and their wealth grew exponentially.

But the Kadoories were more than just merchants. They were also philanthropists, investing heavily in education, healthcare, and the arts. Their legacy continues to this day through the Kadoorie Charitable Foundation, which supports countless worthy causes in Hong Kong and beyond.

The Sassoons: Political Powerhouses

The Sassoons were another wealthy and influential Jewish family, but their power stemmed from their political connections. David Sassoon, the patriarch of the family, arrived in Shanghai in 1845 and quickly established himself as a financial advisor to the Qing dynasty.

His sons and grandsons continued this tradition, serving as diplomats, government officials, and advisors to powerful warlords. The Sassoons' political influence extended beyond China, as they were also deeply involved in British colonial affairs.

Rivalry and Cooperation

The rivalry between the Kadoories and Sassoons was a complex and multifaceted affair. On the one hand, they competed fiercely for business and political dominance. They sabotaged each other's deals, spread rumors, and even resorted to legal battles.

On the other hand, they also found common ground in their shared Jewish heritage and their desire to contribute to China's progress. They collaborated on various philanthropic projects, including the establishment of the Jewish Club of Shanghai.

The End of an Era

The rise of the Chinese Communist Party in 1949 brought an abrupt end to the era of Jewish dynasties in China. The Kadoories and Sassoons were forced to flee the country, leaving behind their vast fortunes and their rivalry.

However, their legacy lives on. The businesses they founded continue to thrive, and their philanthropic contributions have made a lasting impact on Chinese society.

About the Author

Dr. Jonathan Goldstein is an award-winning historian and professor at the University of California, Berkeley. His latest book, *The Rival Jewish Dynasties That Helped Create Modern China*, is the culmination of years of research and provides a fascinating account of this untold story.

Dr. Goldstein's work has been praised for its originality, rigor, and engaging writing style. His books have been translated into multiple languages and have been featured in major publications such as *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Guardian*.

Discover the Untold Story

Embark on this captivating journey into the world of the Kadoories and Sassoons. Discover the secrets of their rivalry, their extraordinary

achievements, and their lasting impact on China. Free Download your copy of *The Rival Jewish Dynasties That Helped Create Modern China* today!

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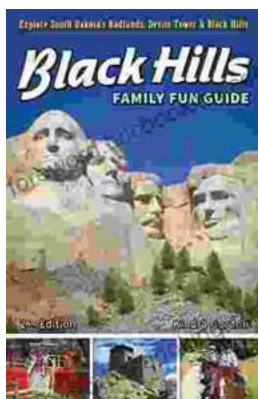


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