



# **"A Truthful Impression of the Country": British and American Travel Writing in China, 1880-1949**

*Nicholas R. Clifford*

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"*A Truthful Impression of the Country*" spans a period of roughly seven decades in China, from the late nineteenth century through the first half of the twentieth.

Nicholas R. Clifford argues that, for a variety of reasons, travel accounts during this time claimed a particular kind of veracity that distinguished them from the work of other writers--scholars, journalists, diplomats, policymakers, or memoir-writing expatriates--who also sought to represent an unfamiliar China to the West. Yet even as the genre claims to be a "truthful impression," it contains an implicit warning that the traveler's own sensibility enters into the account and into the representation of the unfamiliar and the exotic. "*A Truthful Impression of the Country*" will appeal not only to those interested in the broad phenomenon of imperialism but also to those interested in cultural studies and post-colonialism. It will likewise prove accessible to the general reader exploring Sino-Western interactions or in travel writing as a particular genre. Nicholas R. Clifford is College Professor Emeritus, Middlebury College. He is also the author of the novel *The House of Memory* and of the monographs *Shanghai, 1925: Urban Nationalism and the Defense of Foreign Privilege* and *Spoilt Children of Empire: Westerners in Shanghai and the Chinese Revolution of 1925-1927*.



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