

Humiliation or *Xiuru* in the Relationship between Missionaries and Chinese Christians: A Case Study of South China Mission of the Southern Baptist Convention at the beginning of the Twentieth Century

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China prides itself on being a historically powerful country with a distinguished civilization. Its decline in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in the face of Western and Japanese incursions indelibly shamed the Chinese people and triggered their anti-Western sentiment. This feeling of humiliation created extra vulnerability for the relationship between missionaries and Chinese Christians in addition to the barriers of language, culture, and economic inequality between them.

This research intends to take missionaries of the Southern Baptist Convention and their Chinese Christians as an example to explore how this element of humiliation played a role in the delicate and fragile relationship between them and how they handled it with or without the power of their faith.

Data sources will include letters and articles written by both missionaries and their Chinese co-workers. By text analysis of these writings, this study will examine how the nondiscriminating feeling of humiliation and anger against Western imperialists strained the relationship between Western missionaries and their co-workers, especially when the bitter emotion was aroused in Chinese co-workers themselves. Then it will move to investigate how missionaries and their Chinese co-workers faced the threat over their brotherhood.

This research might serve as a reference for China today or in the future, because Chinese nationalism is still state-led, anti-Western, and steeped in an acute sense of national humiliation.