

# Imperial Rivals: China, Russia and Their Disputed Frontier

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*Imperial Rivals: China, Russia, and their Disputed Frontier.* By S. C. M. PAINE. [Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, 1996. xxi + 417 pp. \$75.00. ISBN 1-56324-723-2.]

This book offers convincing testimony to the importance of multilingual diplomatic history. S. C. M. Paine argues that reliance on one-sided sources has distorted our understanding of Russo-Chinese relations. Inadequate scholarship helps to explain the endurance of five myths: each side's claim of original sovereignty in disputed areas; China's insistence that it has always been the innocent victim; Russian delusions of Chinese gratitude for longstanding friendly relations; Soviet fabrications of discontinuity between tsarist and Soviet policy; and Chinese scapegoating of individual negotiators as proof of diplomatic incompetence. Paine concludes that the actual history of the frontier from 1858 to 1924 belies these generalizations.

The four parts of the book review sources of confrontation and negotiations culminating in: the treaties of Aigun and Peking in 1858 and 1860; the treaties of Livadia and St Petersburg in 1879 and 1881; the construction of the Chinese Eastern Railway, intervention in the Boxer Uprising and ramifications of the Russo-Japanese War during the decade 1896-1905; and the shifting spheres of influence in Outer Mongolia, 1911-24. Part 2 covers much the same history as the book in Russian by A. D. Voskressenski, *Diplomatic History of the Russo-Chinese Sino-Petersburg Treaty of 1858* (1995), where a similar conclusion is drawn about improving objectivity through in-depth archival research in Chinese and Russian. Paine's strong criticisms of both Russian and Chinese justifications, however, will probably anger the mainstream in each country. The image of Russia and the Soviet Union is particularly negative, highlighting repeated violations of treaties only recently signed.

The book is strengthened by a series of maps, introductory quotations in each chapter and short sections with a clear and consistent message. Extensive notes and a bibliographic essay indicate the depth of research. Primary sources convey the actual concerns of the principal actors in periods when relations were being reshaped.

Paine concludes that further border tensions seem likely. As China's power grows, tensions will centre on "the only remaining territorial legacy of the age of imperialism in China" (p. 16). She emphasizes the role of national dignity and "face" in the history of bilateral relations, suggesting that identities as great powers have blinded these nations to the costs of empire. Indeed, she even proposes that if not for Russia's great power which saddled it with the burdens of a vast empire, China would have over-extended itself with similar results. While she is convincing that strategic concerns have dominated in Russo-Chinese relations, Paine may misjudge the current era by excluding global great power relations that now draw the two countries together. Concentration on border disputes is not representative of the entire history of relations nor are conclusions about the consequences of empire-building adequate without actual comparisons.

Imperial Rivals is a diplomatic history of the contentious relationship between China and Russia that began in the mids over their long, shared border. Based on archival research, this is a history of the Russo-Chinese border which examines Russia's expansion into the Asian heartland during the decades of. S. C. M. Paine is Associate Professor of Strategy and Policy at the US Naval War College and author of *Imperial Rivals: China, Russia, and Their Disputed Frontier*. Armonk and London: M. E. Sharpe. xxi, pp. Hardcover \$, isbn Imperial Rivals has 2 ratings and 0 reviews. Based on archival research, this is a history of the Russo-Chinese border which examines Russia's expansion. malmesburyneighbourhood.com: *Imperial Rivals: China, Russia and Their Disputed Frontier* () by Sarah C.M. Paine and a great selection of similar New, Used., English, Chinese, Russian, Book, Illustrated edition: *Imperial rivals: China, Russia, and their disputed frontier* / S.C.M. Paine. Paine, S. C. M., Read the full-text online edition of *Imperial Rivals: China, Russia, and Their Disputed Frontier* (). Download citation *Imperial Rivals: Chi* This volume explores Russia's policy dilemmas in three realms: international security, socio-political, and. *Imperial Rivals: China, Russia, and their Disputed Frontier*. By Paine S. C. M.. [ Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, xxi + pp. \$ ISBN ]. Clifford M. Foust; S. C. M. Paine. *Imperial Rivals: China, Russia, and Their Disputed Frontier*. Armonk, N.Y.: M. E. Sharpe. Pp. xxi, Available in the National Library of Australia collection. Author: Paine, S. C. M., ; Format: Book; xxi, p.: ill., maps ; 24 cm. *Russia's Perceptions of China and the Evolution of Russian-Chinese* S.C.M. Paine, *Imperial Rivals: China, Russia, and Their Disputed Frontier* (Armonk, NY: . *Imperial Rivals: China, Russia, and Their Disputed Frontiers*. Paine, S. C. M.: Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, pp., Publication Date: May *China, Russia, and Their Disputed Frontier* S. C. M. Paine The arrival of Russia on China's periphery, however, created a new and formidable rival, more. Review of S. C. M. Paine, "Imperial Rivals: China, Russia, and Their Disputed Frontier," M.E. Sharpe, New York/London, *Imperial Rivals: China, Russia, and their Disputed Frontier*. By Paine S. C. M.. [ Armonk, NY: M.E. Sharpe, xxi + pp. \$ Booktopia has *Imperial Rivals, China, Russia and Their Disputed Frontier* by S. C. M. Paine. Buy a discounted Hardcover of *Imperial Rivals* online from. S. C. M. Paine, *Imperial Rivals: China, Russia and Their Disputed Frontier*. New York: M. E. Sharpe, , xxi + pp., \$ IN THIS EXPANSIVE STUDY. *Imperial rivals: China, Russia, and their disputed* by S C M Paine. *Imperial rivals: China, Russia, and their disputed frontier*, by S C M Paine. Available in National Library (Singapore). Author: Paine, S. C. M., Length: xxi, p.: Identifier: *Imperial Rivals: China, Russia, and Their Disputed Frontier*. By S. C. M. Paine. Armonk, N.Y.: M. E. Sharpe, xxi, pp. Notes. *Imperial rivals: China, Russia, and their disputed frontier* / . S.C.M. Paine. imprint. Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe, c description. xxi, p.: ill., maps ; 24 cm. Lowell Dittmer, *Political and Cultural Roots of Sino-Russian Partnership*, in S. C. M. Paine, *Imperial Rivals: China, Russia, and their Disputed Frontier*.

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