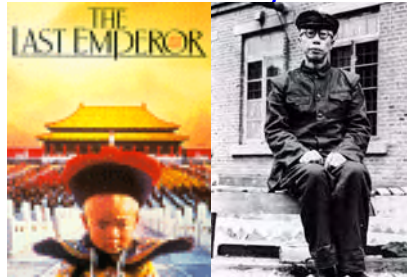


THE LAST EMPEROR, HENRY PU-YI



1406

Inside Peking, the white-marble terraces, gardens, and shrines of the Forbidden City began to be created. This complex of 250 acres would grow to over 9,000 rooms and would contain the palaces of 24 Ming and Ch'ing emperors. The walls are still red and the roofs still golden, but although it's a nice place to visit nobody dares to live there anymore. (Now, the rulers of **CHINA** reside in another Forbidden City in Beijing, known as Zhongnanhai, that is very well protected but that is not ever referred to as a forbidden city, being referred to instead as a government residential compound. It belongs, of course, to the People. On April 25, 1999 some of the People, adherents of a form of meditation exercise for purposes of general health known as Falun Gong, attempted to hold one of their exercise sessions outside this Zhongnanhai government residential compound as a demonstration of their faith for the benefit of the families of the apparatchiks of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party. That was a bad mistake.)

1420

During this year and the following one, the **CHINESE** Ming capital was being moved from Nanjing to Beijing, where construction of the Forbidden City had been completed.

1906

February 7: **PU-YI**, child of privilege, was born. (He didn't yet sport the first name "Henry." In fact, due to the court standing of his parents, he had such a long name that you're not even interested.)

CHINA

1908

November 14: The Kuang-hsü emperor of **CHINA** died.

THE LAST EMPEROR, *PU-YI*

HENRY *PU-YI*

November 15: The Empress of **CHINA** known to us as **TZ'U-HSI** 慈禧 died and at age 2, **PU-YI** became the emperor of China (see the Bertolucci movie).



Over the millennia there have been but three women to reign over the Celestial Kingdom. One of these was in control of the most populous nation on earth during the later part of Thoreau's *florut*:

Dynasty	Period	Person	Florut
<i>Han</i>	206BCE-220	The Empress <i>Lü</i>	195BCE-180BCE
<i>T'ang</i>	618-907	The Empress <i>Wu Hou</i>	660-705
<i>Ch'ing</i> 清	1644-1911	The Empress Dowager <i>Tz'u-hsi</i> 慈禧	1861-1908

Two women reigned during Thoreau's *florut*. There were many similarities:

Dynasty	Period	Person	Florut
Windsor	1837-present	Queen Victoria	1837-1901
<i>Ch'ing</i> 清	1644-1911	The Empress Dowager <i>Tz'u-hsi</i> 慈禧	1861-1908



1912

February 12: Pu-yi had been three years old when he had become emperor, with his father serving as regent. There was great resentment in [CHINA](#) against foreigners in general and in particular against the Manchu government, and in 1911 rebellion had swept through the country. At this point the father, as regent, had the five-year old emperor renounce his throne, ending 267 years of Manchu rule and an imperial system that had endured for a good two millennia. [PU-YI](#) would continue to live in the Forbidden City on Tiananmen Square in Beijing (then called Peking), contained and/or protected by its 35-foot walls and moat, and receive kid-glove treatment.



1917

July 1: [PU-YI](#) reached the age of 9 and was restored by the warlord Chang Hsun, whose army surrounded Peking, to the throne of [CHINA](#). That is, the child signed and sealed a decree that he was once again Emperor. Six days later, when a plane would drop three bombs on the Forbidden City, the child's supporters would be making themselves real scarce real quick.

THE LAST EMPEROR, *PU-YI*

HENRY *PU-YI*

1923

The Manchus had obtained a Westerner named Reginald Johnston to tutor [PU-YI](#), their neophyte almost-emperor of [CHINA](#). When he reached the age of 16, from the photos of four young and eligible Manchus submitted to him by his advisers (girls with all their clothes on, and without bound feet), he was allowed to pick out Wan Jung, later to be known as Elizabeth.



1924

When the army of warlord Feng Yu-hsiang surrounded the Forbidden City, **HENRY PU-YI** needed to secretly flee to a life inside the Japanese concession at Tientsin, **CHINA**.

1931

The Japanese army invaded Manchuria, and set up a new country they called Manchukuo. They would make their ward **HENRY PU-YI**, formerly the child emperor of **CHINA**, its Chief Executive.¹

There was financial crisis in Europe.

1932

March 9: **HENRY PU-YI** took office as the “Chief Executive of Manchukuo.”

CHINA

1945

August 8, 1945: The USSR, seeing that Japan was prostrate, declared war and invaded Manchuria. After the northern Kwantung Army had laid down its arms, 640,000 Japanese POWs, including 148 generals, would be sent to Siberia as forced labor. Some 62,000 would die while in this Siberian captivity. The Chief Executive **HENRY PU-YI** of Manchuquo and his attendants were flown to the USSR for a rather comfortable house arrest, or rustication. (Rank has its privileges as well as its obligations.)



1. If one were to consider World War II to have begun at this point (as, realistically, it did), rather than at the point at which the United States of America came to become involved in this world warfare belatedly, after Pearl Harbor, then one would have to say that World War II actually lasted longer than either the US's subsequent war in Vietnam, or its subsequent war upon Iraq!

1959

December: Thoroughly re-educated, the model citizen worker [HENRY PU-YI](#) was released from the [CHINESE](#) prison camp, to a mechanical repair shop at a Peking botanical garden.



1962

As the first time in history that a Manchu emperor had married a [CHINESE](#) (Han) woman, [HENRY PU-YI](#) remarried with a Communist Party member, Li Shu-Hsien.

1964

[HENRY PU-YI](#)'s autobiography FROM EMPEROR TO CITIZEN was offered in English translation.

[CHINA](#)

1967

October 17: In [CHINA](#), [HENRY PU-YI](#) died of cancer of the kidney, uremia, and anemic heart disease.

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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"
in William Faulkner's *INTRUDER IN THE DUST*



Prepared: May 6, 2008

*ARRGH: THE ATOMATED RESEARCH**REPORT GENERATION HOTLINE*

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Commonly, the first output of the program has obvious deficiencies and so we need to go back into the data modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and do a recompile of the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process which you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

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