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## A Curtain of Ignorance

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Arab hostility to the idea of colonialism, coupled with the rise of the two world powers—the United States and the Soviet Union—whose concerns and traditions differed from those of Britain, presented the United Kingdom with new and tortuous problems. The author clearly conducts the reader through the history of British policy in the Middle East, showing, paradoxically, that in spite of a succession of Britain's misadventures in this area, her interests there are still largely unimpaired.

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Doubleday, 1964. 340 p.

'The sad but irrefutable fact is that the American people today are less informed and more misinformed about China than the people of any other Western nation.' With this as a thesis, the author quotes extensively from the United States press in an effort to make credible his assertions that Americans are 'profoundly misinformed' about China and that, as a consequence, 'we are basing national policies on a concept of China that is unreal.' Although a very considerable amount of research has gone into preparation of this 332-page book, and although Mr. Greene has given some of the evidence contrary to his views, there can be no question but that he set out deliberately to 'prove' his contentions that practically everything having to do with Communist China and its policies is good, while Chiang Kai-shek and the Nationalist Chinese regime are unmitigatedly bad. Yet, once the reader understands and allows for this bias, this book is eminently worth reading in the reviewer's opinion. It is felt that the author's following observation does have relevance to American research and writing on China: 'On matters where great national feelings are aroused, scholars and experts are just as likely as the rest of us to allow their judgments to be swayed by the prevailing climate of opinion.' Particularly informative and recommended are Chapter 3, which describes the conditions in China under Chiang Kai-shek, and Chapter 4 on the 'China Lobby' in the United States. The 47 pages included in these two chapters make for as provocative reading as one could hope to find.

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