



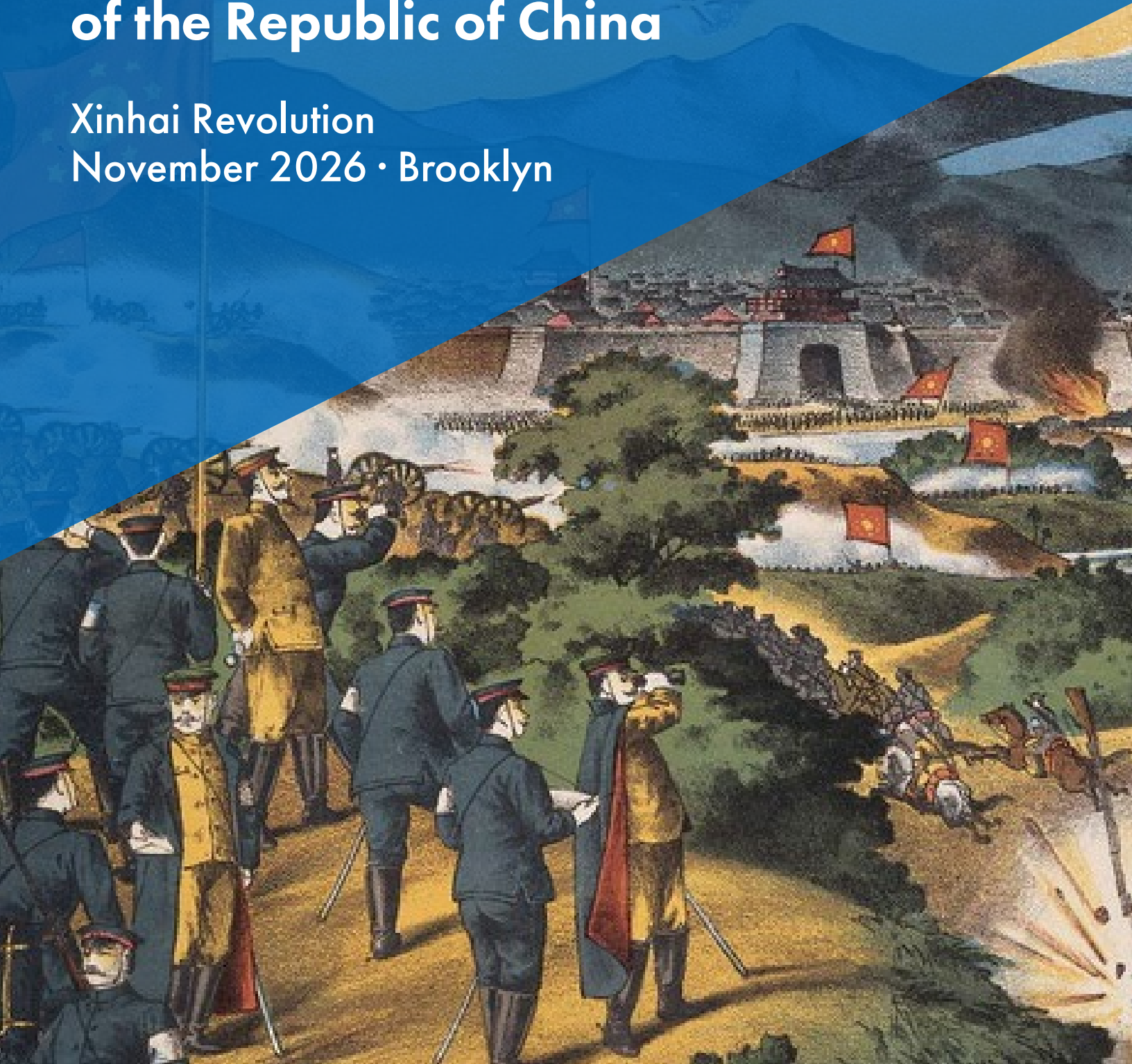
TechMUNIX

Crisis

The Provisional Government of the Republic of China

Xinhai Revolution

November 2026 • Brooklyn





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1

Letters From Dais

Lori Jiang
Chair

ljiang2782@bths.edu

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to TechMUNC IX. My name is Lori Jiang, and it’s my honor to serve as your Chair for the Xinhai Revolution Crisis Committee. I’m currently a sophomore, and this is my second year in Model UN. Model UN has been a wonderful opportunity for me to grow as a speaker, while also allowing me to connect with a community of passionately driven individuals.

This committee shows the Qing dynasty — once a form of territorial expansion and cultural achievement — now tottering under foreign domination and internal decay. As the revolutionary movements redefine the nation’s history,

you’ll step into the roles of generals, revolutionaries, and diplomats who must decide the fate of China. Throughout this committee, you’ll navigate through the chaotic imperial decline, forming alliances, and make critical decisions that may lead to the preservation of the dynasty or the birth of a new republic. I can’t wait to see your strategic thinking and creative approach towards this topic.

If you have any questions or concerns before the conference, feel free to reach out to any one of us. We can’t wait to see what you bring to this committee, best of luck and remember the fate of the Qing dynasty is now in your hands.



TechMUN/Jiaxu Zhao

Hope Yuan
Rapporteur

zyuan1592@bths.edu

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the TechMUNC 2026 Xinhai Revolution Crisis Committee! My name is Hope Yuan, and I will be your rapporteur.

I am currently in my junior year, and this is my third year of ModelUN. This club has helped me grow tremendously in my speaking and research skills, while also allowing me to meet so many new friends.

We have loved the process of planning this conference, and we hope you enjoy it as much as we have. In this conference, you will be stepping into one of the most prominent moments in Chinese history. With the Qing Dynasty facing growing opposition and the beginning of a revolution, the future of China becomes very uncertain. As members of this committee, you must all think quickly, form alliances, and make fast decisions that could lead to downfalls, or new beginnings. We encourage you all to research, plan, speak up, and most importantly, have fun during this committee.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to any one of us. We cannot wait to meet all of you and we wish you the best of luck, as history is now in your hands.

Ellise Zao
Head of Backrooms
ezao0206@bths.edu

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to TECHMUNC 2026! I will be your Head of Backrooms for the Xinhai Revolution Crisis Committee. I got to know about MUN in my freshman year and it was incredibly intimidating having my first impression being GA at CWMUN. Nevertheless, I continued in sophomore year and though I wasn't so good at speaking, the procedures and language of Model UN helped me communicate better overall. Knowing how to develop crisis notes for the Backrooms and how to express myself to precede my actions taught me about the kind of clarity that delivers rather than sabotages.

The Xinhai Revolution happened during some of the most turbulent times in history that defined maritime law, European borders, and a secession of governance. Whether you deliberate how to reinvent the new or how to sustain the old in a new world, I look forward to your crisis notes and directives from the Backrooms. We can't change history but daring to reimagine it can help us build towards our individual futures.

Commit to your due diligence and I'll see you all at TECHMUNC 2026! Contact me if you have any questions!



2

Intro- duction

Section I Brief

This committee gathers on October 12th, 1911, shortly after a military mutiny in Hubei province. The empire is unsurprisingly shaken, and a revolutionary movement stirs across several provinces. Prince Chun [Zaifeng] attends with an imperial cabinet aged hardly a year, where revolutionaries are summoned to deliberate—under protection—to collaborate on a reform for the empire. For the revolutionaries, it is an opportunity to be represented at court—sustaining or forfeiting an ultimately millennia’s worth of imperial rule. But is it that a golden opportunity for the revolutionaries, or simply a quelling attempt to extinguish the fire before it spreads?

China stands at a crossroad, as the Qing dynasty faces immense pressure due to the weight of foreign encroachment, internal corruption, and decades of failed reforms. The Wuchang Uprising, yet to be named, would have ignited a chain reaction

throughout the entirety of the empire. The court of Beijing struggles to maintain its legitimacy while revolutionary leaders, led by Sun Yat-sen and Huang Xing, call for a new republic built on modernization.

Delegates in this committee each represent powers that will shape China's destiny — imperial officials, provincial governors, military commanders, foreign powers, and reformists. Whether to preserve the monarchy, negotiate reforms, or to embrace the revolution, delegates will confront the collapsing imperial authority and race to define China's future.

This is a historical crisis committee that follows standard parliamentary procedure in which all motions, directives, and overarching committee actions will proceed upon the majority vote of the committee members. Directives are overarching, action-based instruction documents reasonably developed by a bloc. Crisis notes are clear and logical missives a delegate may send to the backroom with respect to the context of the character they are representing and either progress public actions or develop discrete plans. Crisis updates from the backroom serve to develop and report critical events that occur as a result of both the premise of the committee and crisis notes that delegates send. Opportunities for delegates to define their presence in the committee lie in such identifying events of a crisis committee.

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3

Topic History

The Qing dynasty was often not ruled by circumstance nor events, but rather by the monarch's capacity to address the times.

1616 - 1644 Manchu Origins

The Banner system was the administrative, militaristic, and social structure that defined Manchu identity for generations that prevented the otherwise fragmented Chinese forces from establishing a significant advantage. Nurhaci grew up amongst the fierce internal conflicts of Manchuria and lost family members to the Chinese allied forces, shaping his later actions in sculpting Jurchen unity. He united most of the Jurchen tribes under his command by 1616 and continued to lead multiple military campaigns with indubitable success before his demise in 1626.

The Qing (originally Jin) dynasty itself was started by Nurhaci's eighth son, Hong Taiji—a widely meritable choice. Hong Taiji renamed his people as the “Manchu” in 1935 and proclaimed the establishment of the Qing dynasty in 1936—a homage paid for the pursuit of the mandate to rule all peoples under “heaven”. The Six Boards

and several other reforms and adaptations from the Ming dynasty were established to meet the administrative competence (footnote) necessary to maintain his diverse demographic.

The Qing dynasty was decisively established in 1644 by regent Dorgon of the young Shunzhi emperor.



studycli

1616 - 1644 Golden Age & Expansion

1661 started with the Kangxi emperor coming into power at the age of seven. The Kangxi emperor, the Yongzheng emperor, and the Qianlong emperor were an upward trend of individual capability and administrative greatness, with their ruling years respectively being 61, 13, and 60.

The Kangxi emperor most definitively solidified his rule in the Revolt of the Three Feudatories, where one of the Han Chinese generals previously rewarded for their service to the Qing dynasty, Wu Sangui, rose in revolt of the emperor moving to dissolve their inherited feudatories. By 1681, the last rebel strongholds fell, enhancing the Kangxi emperor's authority, and giving way to a series of cultural and academic successes. Kangxi employed Jesuits as astronomers, cartographers, and diplomatic interpreters, and such a collaboration produced one of the most accurate maps of China ever made up to that point. The Kangxi emperor also

commissioned vast encyclopaedic projects and attracted scholars from across the empire, impressing the idea that, despite being of Manchu origin, the Qing dynasty would be a genuine steward of Chinese civilization.

The Yongzheng emperor ruled from 1722 to 1735 with an indiscriminate anti-corruption regime at all levels of bureaucracy. He reformed the tax system, military finances, and the salt monopoly, some of the most corruption-prone areas of the Qing administration. Most thematically significant of his rule was a new system of imperial succession where the emperor wrote his chosen successor's name on a document that was sealed and placed behind a tablet in the Hall of Mental Cultivation, to be opened only upon the emperor's death. This prevented faction-building among princes' supporters that could propagate internal strife.

The Qianlong emperor ruled from 1735 to 1796 with a determination backed by humanitarian talents. Historians estimate that China's GDP accounted for approximately 33 percent of the world's total throughout his reign. The empire's population also grew dramatically by nearly 150 million. He was able to choose to abdicate in 1796 to avoid reigning longer than his revered grandfather Kangxi's sixty-one years. He continued to exercise de facto power until his death in 1799.

1839-1901 Decline and Crises

By the 19th century, the Qing dynasty began facing growing internal and external challenges. Subsequent rulers following the Qianlong emperor were unable to meet the problems caused by increased population pressure and concentration of land ownership. The First Opium War from 1839 to 1842 was a major turning point, as Qing forces were defeated by Great Britain. The resulting Treaty of Nanking forced China to make major concessions, including giving Hong Kong to Britain, and opening several ports to foreign trade. Internal rebellions further weakened the dynasty, most notably the Taiping Rebellion from 1850 to 1864. Led by Hong Xiuquan, the movement challenged Qing rule and caused millions of deaths before eventually being defeated. These conflicts left much of China devastated and weakened the Qing government's ability to maintain control.

The Qing government also attempted

to respond to these challenges through the Self-Strengthening Movement, which began in the 1860s and focused on modernizing China's military, industry, and technology. However, these reforms were limited and did not prevent further setbacks. China's defeat by Japan in the First Sino-Japanese War from 1894 to 1895 demonstrated the growing gap between China and other modernizing powers, and resulted in China losing control of Taiwan. In 1900, the Boxer Uprising created another major crisis when an anti-foreign movement attacked foreigners and Chinese Christians. Foreign powers responded with an international military intervention in Beijing, further weakening the Qing government's authority. By the beginning of the 20th century, military defeats, foreign interference, rebellions, and limited reforms had severely weakened the dynasty, and created the conditions that would eventually lead to its collapse in 1911.

1911 - 1912 Fall of the Empire

The Xinhai Revolution began on October 10, 1911, with the Wuchang Uprising. Revolutionary soldiers in Wuchang rebelled against the Qing government, marking the beginning of a larger movement to overthrow the dynasty and establish a republic. The uprising quickly spread throughout China, with multiple provinces declaring their independence from Qing rule. The Qing government struggled to contain the growing rebellion, demonstrating how weakened imperial authority had become after decades of internal conflict and foreign pressure.

As the revolution continued to spread, Yuan Shikai, a powerful military and political leader, was brought back into the Qing government to deal with the rebellion. Rather than completely defeating the revolutionaries, Yuan began to negotiate with them. Sun Yat-sen, one of the most prominent revolutionary leaders, was chosen as the provisional president of the

new Republic of China in January of 1912. However, Sun recognized Yuan's greater military influence and agreed to step down from the presidency if Yuan supported the establishment of the republic. This agreement helped bring the revolution to a political conclusion while also giving Yuan significant influence over the new government.

The Qing dynasty was officially brought to an end on February 12, 1912, when six-year-old Puyi abdicated the throne. This marked the end of more than two thousand years of imperial rule in China, and established the Republic of China as the country's new political system. Although the revolution succeeded in removing the Qing, it did not immediately create a stable government. Political divisions and competing military interests remained, leaving the new republic vulnerable to future instability. Even so, the Xinhai Revolution represented a major turning point in Chinese history by replacing the imperial system with a republic.



The Asia Society



4

Current Situation

Section I

举目四望

On October 10th, 1911, a mutiny erupted in Wuchang, Hubei Province, where members of the New Army, influenced by revolutionary ideas from the Tongmenghui, turned their rifles against the Qing Empire. The uprising spread by telegraph, carrying whispers of rebellion across central China. The imperial court in Beijing, overseen by Prince Chun (Zaifeng) and the young emperor Puyi—upon hearing the devastating news—sat uneasily. The emperor’s government has introduced limited constitutional reforms, established a cabinet, and promised provincial assemblies — yet these measures seem to remain superficial, failing to address deeper frustrations stirring amongst reformists and revolutionaries alike.

The current imperial government, less than a year old, is fractured between reformists and conservatives. The opposing constituents urge negotiations with the revolutionaries, promising constitutional

reforms and limited representation, while others demand military suppression to preserve imperial rule. The Qing's authority weakens as time passes. Hubei revolutionaries, inspired by Sun Yat-sen's Tongmenghui, seized arsenals and declared their independence from the empire. This success emboldened officers from neighboring provinces, which may lead to a nationwide revolution. Due to decades of corruption, foreign domination, and failed modernization, the citizens are disillusioned. The dynasty's half-hearted reforms — often imposed ill-suitedly from a pedestal — deepened resentment and distrust among citizens.

In an attempt to compromise for the greater good of the empire and preserve their authoritarian rule, the Imperial Court has summoned revolutionary representatives to deliberate under protection. Offering considerations of a constitutional monarchy, modernization, and limited participation. For the revolutionaries, this meeting may seem like a chance to be heard at court, but may also be an attempt to silence their movement before it spreads further amongst the people.

The Qing Dynasty is now facing its gravest predicament since the Taiping Rebellion. The humiliation from the Boxer Protocol, the loss of territory to foreign powers, and the collapse of the Hundred Days' Reform have left the dynasty's legitimacy in tatters. The New Army — once

a symbol of modernization — fractures under competing loyalties, with some units remaining loyal to the throne while others join the revolutionary cause. Throughout the turmoil, Zhang Zhidong, one of the empire's most respected reformist officials, stands as a cautious voice for progress amongst the nation. He has long advocated modernization through education and industry while maintaining allegiance to the emperor, embodying the tension between the preservation of imperial stability and the embracement of revolutionary change — a balance that now may seem impossible to maintain.

Meanwhile, revolutionary leaders such as Sun Yat-sen and Huang Xing call for a new republic built on modernization and national unity. Though Sun Yat-sen himself remains abroad, his Tongmenghui network has already thoroughly prepared for this moment, spreading revolutionary ideals among the students, soldiers, and open-minded officials. They were determined to end Manchu rule, restore Chinese sovereignty, and build a government that represents the people rather than the throne.

Foreign powers watch closely. Japan, Britain, and the United States maintain neutrality but prepare themselves to protect their citizens. According to the U.S. Office of the Historian, American diplomats viewed the revolution as a potential threat to the region's stability and Western commercial interests.

Despite delegates gathering under imperial protection, the atmosphere is tense. The court's offer of reform may be genuine, or it may be a calculated attempt to buy more time to suppress dissent. Revolutionaries, reformists, and loyalists now sit across from one another, each aware that their decisions could determine the future fate of the empire.



Unknown, Public Domain



5 Questions to Consider

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- Will the Revolutionaries be culled by the amount of power that the Qing dynasty offers or are their core values fueled by a position more concrete?
- Considering what would've been, and in the circumstances of which not all solutions are equal, how can you endeavor to address the issue in accordance to your position?
- How are resources concentrated across regions and what are their respective circumstances during the context of this dialogue?
- What might be the turning point for each individual that led them to ultimately attend this committee?

- What mindset will the Revolutionaries and the Qing dynasty respectively be carrying into the room with them?
- What are the forces at hand amongst the people?
- What is the main picture that each individual wants to paint of this dialogue?
- What kind of turbulence will this committee need for your individual to achieve their purpose?



6

Bloc Positions

Imperial Representatives

Xuantong Emperor

溥儀

Puyi became the Xuantong Emperor in December 1908 following the deaths of the Guangxu Emperor and Empress Dowager Cixi. Born in 1906, he was three years old when he ascended the throne and therefore exercised no independent control over the government. The regency was conducted in his name, with his father Zaifeng serving as Prince Regent. By 1911, Puyi represented the continuity of the Qing imperial institution rather than an independently developed political career.

Prince Chun and Prince Regent

載灃

Zaifeng was the biological father of Puyi and became Prince Regent after his son’s accession. He was one of the central figures in the Qing government during the final years of the dynasty, when the court was attempting to reorganize the military, establish a constitutional framework, and respond to increasing political pressure from provincial elites and revolutionary organizations. His regency saw an increasing concentration of important positions among members of the imperial family.

Empress Dowager

隆裕

Longyu was the widow of the Guangxu Emperor and became the senior imperial woman following the death of Empress Dowager Cixi. She was Puyi’s aunt and occupied a position of particular importance within the imperial household during the final years of the Qing. Her experience belonged to the generation of the court that had witnessed the Hundred Days’ Reform, the Boxer crisis, the Guangxu Emperor’s death, and the increasingly explicit constitutional reforms of the Qing.

Prince Qing and Grand Councillor

奕劻

Yikuang was a senior member of the Aisin Gioro imperial family and one of the most experienced political figures in the late Qing government. He served on the Grand Council and held major responsibilities involving foreign affairs, military administration, and finance before becoming head of the cabinet established in 1911. In 1911, he was one of the principal figures representing the established central government and its senior political leadership.

Imperial Prince and Grand Councillor 毓朗

Yulang was an imperial prince who served as a Grand Councillor during the final years of the Qing. He was also associated with the newly established military advisory institutions created as part of the court’s reorganization of military administration. Unlike a purely ceremonial member of the imperial family, Yulang has direct experience in the highest levels of government.

Imperial Prince and Revenue Minister 載澤

Zaize was an imperial prince who held major financial responsibilities in the final Qing government. He served as Minister of Revenue and was also involved in the Salt Administration, while participating in the court’s investigations of foreign constitutional systems. His financial responsibilities included dealing with the increasingly difficult fiscal requirements of the late Qing state, including the financing of military modernization and government borrowing. His background connects the imperial family directly with the financial and constitutional reforms undertaken in the years anticipating this committee.

Prince Rui and Naval Official 載洵

Zaixun was one of Zaifeng’s younger brothers and became closely associated with the modernization of the Qing navy. In 1910, he and Admiral Sa Zhenbing were assigned responsibility for naval affairs and undertook an inspection tour of naval establishments in China before traveling through Europe to study foreign naval systems. His background is consequently tied to the late Qing effort to create modern armed forces capable of defending the dynasty and the state.

Central Administration

Minister of Personnel 于式枚

Yu Shimei was a senior Qing bureaucrat whose career developed through the traditional civil service system and the central ministries. He held positions in several branches of the Qing administration and eventually became associated with the Board of Personnel, the institution responsible for appointments and the management of civil officials. His career represents the established bureaucratic machinery through which the Qing governed its civilian administration. In the context of 1911, his institutional background is especially relevant to questions concerning continuity of the civil service and the functioning of the central state during political upheaval.

Minister of Justice 廷杰

Tingjie became Minister of Justice in 1910 after the traditional Board of Punishments had been reorganized as part of the Qing government’s broader legal reforms. This transformation was part of the late Qing effort to create modern ministries and reform the traditional judicial system. Tingjie’s position therefore belongs to a period in which the Qing was attempting to replace older administrative structures with institutions resembling modern ministries while retaining the imperial state. His background connects him directly with the legal and administrative modernization of the final Qing government.

Minister of Rites 榮慶

Rongqing was a Manchu official who held senior positions in the Qing central administration, including the Ministry of Rites. The Ministry of Rites dealt with imperial ceremonies, state ritual, education, and aspects of diplomatic protocol, making it an institution closely connected to the cultural and ceremonial foundations of imperial government. Rongqing’s career therefore placed him within both the traditional institutional structure of the Qing and its late, Qing modernization efforts. His background is especially relevant to the relationship between traditional imperial institutions and the reforms being introduced during the final years of the dynasty.

Beiyang Military

F. Commander of the Beiyang Army 袁世凱

Yuan Shikai was the principal architect of the Beiyang military system and one of the most powerful political figures produced by the late Qing. His military career began in the reform of China’s armed forces and culminated in the development of the Beiyang Army into the most powerful modern military organization in northern China. Although Yuan had been removed from office in 1909, the officers who had risen through his military network remained important. By the crisis of 1911, his significance therefore rested not simply on his formal office, but on the institutional and personal relationships he had developed through the Beiyang Army.

Beiyang Commander 段祺瑞

Duan Qirui was one of the most prominent officers produced by Yuan Shikai’s military reforms. He received modern military training and rose through the Beiyang system, eventually becoming one of its senior commanders. His career illustrates the emergence of a new class of Chinese military officers whose influence was based on modern military organization, professional command, and personal connections among officers rather than the older Banner and Green Standard structures. By 1911, Duan was one of the leading figures within the Beiyang military establishment.

Minister of War 蔭昌

Yinchang was a senior Manchu military official who became associated with the Qing government’s modern military administration. He held senior positions during the reorganization of the army and later served as Minister of War. The Ministry of War represented the Qing’s effort to replace older military institutions with a modern centralized military administration. Yinchang’s background therefore differs from Yuan Shikai’s—his authority came from the formal military institutions of the Qing government while Yuan’s influence was rooted in the Beiyang military network.

Hubei Provincial Authorities and New Army

Commander of the Hubei New Army 張彪

Zhang Biao commanded the Eighth Division of the Hubei New Army, one of the principal modern military formations created during the Qing’s military reforms. The Hubei New Army was among the earliest and most developed of China’s new, style armies, and Zhang’s division was the only one of the originally planned Hubei divisions to reach full establishment. During the Wuchang uprising, Zhang’s forces fought in the city before withdrawing as Qing control collapsed.

Hubei New Army Officer 黎元洪

Li Yuanhong was a professional military officer who served in the Hubei New Army and commanded the formation that had originally been designated the Eleventh Division before becoming the Twenty, First Mixed Brigade. Unlike the revolutionary organizers within the New Army, Li built his career within the Qing military establishment. Following the capture of Wuchang, however, revolutionary forces selected him to head the new Hubei military government.

Viceroy of Huguang 瑞澂

Rui Cheng was the Qing Viceroy of Huguang, the senior imperial official responsible for the Hubei, Hunan region. His office combined extensive civilian and military responsibilities and made him the highest, ranking Qing representative in the area when the Wuchang uprising began. In the weeks immediately preceding the uprising, revolutionary activity within the Hubei New Army came to the attention of the authorities, and Rui Cheng ordered arrests after revolutionary materials were discovered in Hankou. The resulting executions contributed directly to the immediate crisis that culminated in the Wuchang uprising, after which Rui Cheng left Wuchang.

Revolutionary Movement

Tongmenghui Leader

孫中山

Sun Yat-sen was the leading political figure of the Chinese revolutionary movement and had been advocating the overthrow of the Qing for many years before 1911. He founded the Revive China Society in 1894 and later helped establish the Tongmenghui in 1905, bringing together several revolutionary organizations. His political program was explicitly republican rather than simply reformist, distinguishing his movement from constitutionalists who sought to transform the Qing system without necessarily abolishing the monarchy. Returning from overseas efforts, he arrives to sit at this committee.

Literary Society Leader

蔣翊武

Jiang Yiwu was a leader of the Literary Society, one of the principal revolutionary organizations operating among soldiers of the Hubei New Army. In September 1911, the Literary Society joined with the Progressive Association in establishing a unified revolutionary organization in Wuchang. Jiang was selected as commander within this revolutionary structure. His background is particularly connected to the political organization of soldiers and to the preparation of the local uprising that began on October 10.

Revolutionary Military Organizer

黃興

Huang Xing was one of the leading military organizers of the revolutionary movement and a close associate of Sun Yat-sen within the Tongmenghui. His career involved repeated attempts to organize armed resistance against the Qing, giving him considerably more direct experience with revolutionary military activity than Sun. Huang therefore represents the organizational and military dimension of the national revolutionary movement, connecting the broader republican cause with the armed uprisings that had occurred throughout the final years of the Qing.

Wuchang Revolutionary Officer

吳兆麟

Wu Zhaolin was an officer in the Hubei New Army who became involved in the military side of the Wuchang uprising. The Hubei New Army had originally been created as part of the Qing's military modernization program, but revolutionary organizations had spent years developing networks among its officers and soldiers. Wu's background therefore illustrates the transformation of the New Army into an important source of revolutionary military manpower during 1911.

Foreign Delegates

U.S. Minister to China

William James Calhoun

William James Calhoun was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to China in 1909, and had formally presented his credentials in Beijing in April of 1910. As the senior American diplomatic representative in China during the years preceding the Xinhai Revolution, Calhoun was responsible for protecting the American diplomatic, commercial, and missionary interests, while maintaining relations with the Qing government. His position placed him in between the foreign diplomatic community as political instability increased throughout China. During the 1911 Revolution, his background made him particularly relevant to questions regarding foreign recognition, the protection of American citizens, and the response of the foreign powers to the collapse of the Qing Dynasty.

Japan Ambassador to China

伊藤 博文

Ijūin Hikokichi was a Japanese diplomat who served as ambassador to the Qing government from 1908 until 1913. He had extensive experience in China, having previously served as consul at Yantai, as well as consul general at Tianjin. His position placed him at the center of Japanese diplomacy during the outbreak of the Xinhai Revolution, when Japan had major political and economical interests in China. Ijūin, along with the Japanese government, therefore had to determine how Japan should respond to the revolutionary movement, while protecting Japanese interests and avoiding an uncontrolled expansion of the conflict at the same time.

British Minister to China Sir John Newell Jordan

Sir John Newell Jordan served as the British Minister at Peking from 1906 through the revolutionary period, and was one of the senior foreign diplomats in China when the Qing government began to collapse. He had spent decades in the British diplomatic service in China and Korea, and had extensive experience dealing with foreign affairs. During the Xinhai Revolution, Jordan represented British interests at a time when Britain was protecting its commercial position, treaty rights, and citizens in China. Additionally, his position also placed him among the foreign diplomats observing negotiations between the Qing government, and the revolutionary forces.

British Diplomatic Secretary Sir Sidney Barton

Sir Sidney Barton was appointed as Chinese Secretary to the British Minister, Sir John Jordan, in May of 1911. His position placed him directly within the British diplomatic mission in Beijing during the outbreak of the revolution later that year. Barton had previously served in the British consular service in China, and therefore had considerable experience with Chinese political and diplomatic affairs. As Chinese Secretary, he assisted the British mission in understanding developments within the Qing government, and communicating with Chinese officials during the political crisis.

Central Government and Reformers

Qing Diplomatic Representative 唐紹儀

Tang Shaoyi was an experienced diplomat and political official, who had developed a close relationship with Yuan Shikai. He had served in several important diplomatic and governmental positions, and had experience dealing with both Chinese officials and foreign governments. After the Wuchang uprising, Yuan Shikai selected Tang as his representative to negotiate with the revolutionary forces located in the South. Tang's background therefore helps connects the the Qing government, Yuan's Beiyang political network, and the negotiations that eventually helped determine how the Qing dynasty would come to an end.

Jiangsu Constitutional Leader 張謇

Zhang Jian was a prominent scholar, businessman, and political figure who represented the growing influence of provincial elites during the final years of the Qing Dynasty. After achieving the highest degree in the imperial examination system, he became involved in modern industry, education, agriculture, and local development. He was elected chairman of the Jiangsu Provincial Assembly in 1909, and became increasingly involved in constitutional politics. Zhang's background therefore represents Chinese elites who initially sought political reform and constitutional government within the Qing system, but whose position became increasingly important as provincial assemblies, and local political organizations challenged the authority of the central government.

Minister of Posts and Communications 盛宣懷

Sheng Xuanhuai was one of the most prominent officials and businessman associated with the Self-Strengthening Movement and late Qing modernization. He helped establish major enterprises and institutions involving railways, banking, shipping, and education, before becoming Minister of Posts and Communications. In 1911, Sheng was closely associated with the Qing government's decision to nationalize privately funded railway projects, and to use foreign loans to finance them. The decision contributed to the Railway Protection Movement, especially in Sichuan, making Sheng's position directly connected to one of the major political crises immediately preceding the Wuchang uprising.

Former Viceroy and Reform Advocate 岑春煊

Cen Chunxuan was a senior Qing official who had previously served as Viceroy of Guangdong and Guangxi, and was involved in some of the major political struggles within the late Qing government. After being removed from office, he remained politically influential, and was recalled by the imperial court in September 1911 as the government attempted to respond to growing unrest. Rather than simply advocating military suppression, Cen argued that the Qing government needed to accept responsibility for its failures, as well as move toward a constitutional monarchy in order to preserve the dynasty. His position therefore represents officials who opposed the revolution, but believed substantial political reform was necessary.

Revolutionary Representative

伍廷芳

Wu Tingfang was a Chinese lawyer, diplomat, and former Qing official who had served as China’s minister to the United States. His experience with foreign governments, and modern legal systems made him particularly valuable to the revolutionary movement when international diplomacy became increasingly important. After the Wuchang uprising, Wu supported the revolutionary government in Shanghai, and became one of its principal representatives in negotiations with the Qing government. His role connected the revolutionary movement with foreign diplomats, as well as with the negotiations over the future political structure of China.

Tongmenghui Revolutionary Rep.

汪精衛

Wang Jingwei was a prominent member of the Tongmenghui who had spent years advocating the overthrow of the Qing dynasty. In 1910, he became famous within the revolutionary movement, after attempting to organize an assassination of Prince Regent Zaifeng, resulting in his imprisonment. He was released following the outbreak of the Xinhai Revolution, and returned to revolutionary political activity. Wang represented a younger generation of revolutionaries who supported republican government, but were also interested in political negotiations and a peaceful transition away from the Qing Dynasty.



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Back matter

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