

DXYK Final Translation

This article was written by the western Missionary Walter Medhurst. It was partly based on his “Geographical Catechism” published in Malacca in 1819. The original “Catechism” had a number of questions and answers which had, for the greater part, a religious basis. Walter Medhurst (possibly following the acquisition and settlement of Western Australia by Britain in 1829) produced an updated geography on the same geographical topics as the “Catechism” in two articles of which this is the second. They were then used by Karl Friedrich Augustus Gützlaff in his Chinese magazine called the East-West Monthly Magazine (Dongxi yang kao meiyue tongjizhuan, 东西洋考每月统记传) in its initial period when it was printed in Canton. This article appeared between 1834 and 1835 as a list of the most important countries in the five continents of the globe. The East-West Monthly Magazine also published other articles by Medhurst such as his “Comparative Chronology” and some extracts from his “History of Java” in the same period.

The characters below have been copied from a facsimile of the original wood block printing and are not scanned. There were some apparent errors in the original, most of which were corrected by Liang Tingnan (梁廷柎) in his discussion of the article in “Haiguo Sishuo” (海国四说) or “Four essays on the Maritime Countries”. Those errors have generally been corrected here. Some of the “errors” (eg 亞西亞 for 亞細亞) were transliterations carried over from the original “Catechism” and were “signatures” that allowed us to eventually identify Walter Medhurst as the author. Some of the names of the countries seem to be new transliterations devised by Medhurst but most seem close to Chinese usage of the time. Perhaps this reflects the continuing Jesuit influence. In some places it is also not clear to the translator what country or state is meant since the political geography of many areas (in particular central Asia) has changed a lot since 1835.

列國地方總論

A general introduction to the locations of various countries

亞細亞洲長二萬有餘里，寬二萬四千有餘里，為五分之更大，是亞細亞西方神天至上帝造化萬代之如祖，由亞細亞普天下之宗支起而布散在各處也。

Asia is more than 20,000 Li in length and more than 24,000 Li wide, it is the largest of the five continents. In the west of Asia is the western heaven where God put the ancestor of all ages, from Asia the descendants spread out to every other place.

亞細亞東邊為日本諸嶼洲，高麗國與琉球嶼，兼臺灣及瓊洲，亞細亞東山有中國，南有安南、暹羅、老撾、緬甸、務來由列國等，兼南洋諸州。西南有一西藏、標標界尼波利國、天竺國、錫蘭洲、比耳西亞國、亞拉比亞國、土耳其屬國兼大布加利亞國等，東北有滿州，西北有蒙古、沙漠荒、塔爾巴哈待、科布多，皆中國之屬國等，兼鄂羅斯屬國。西有新疆地方、伊犁、喀什噶爾等、青海及西番達子、庫庫淖爾、厄魯特、西域回部、大沙海。

To the east of Asia are the states of Japan and its various island states, as well as Korea, Ryukyu (Liuqiu) Islands, Taiwan and Hainan. On the mainland of eastern Asia

is China, to the south are Annam, Siam, Laos and Mianma as well as various Malay Kingdoms and Nanyang states. To the south-west is Tibet, bordering Nepal, India, Ceylon, Persia, Arabia, Turkish possessions, and Dabujaliya (Abu Dhabi?) etc. To the northeast is Manzhou (Manchuria). To the north-west are Mongolia, Gobi Desert, Tacheng and Altai, joint dependencies of China and Russia (on the borders). To the west is Xinjiang, Yili, Kashgar, Qinghai and Minority areas (unknown), Koko Nur Lake (Qinghai Lake), Ulet Mongolia (Kalkas), western Muslim areas and the Taklimakan Desert.

歐邏巴洲南有土耳其國、以大里亞國、西班牙兼葡萄牙國等，中方有佛蘭西國、荷蘭國、帕理治國及者耳馬尼亞、波路西亞兼阿士氏拉國等，北有蓮國及蘇以天國，西有大英國、東有鄂羅斯國。

To the south of Europe is (European) Turkey, Italy, Spain and Portugal, in the central area are France, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Prussia and Austria. In the north are Lapland and Sweden, in the west is Great Britain and in the East is Russia.

亞非利加洲南有大浪山，大英國之屬國兼荒地，北有馬羅可國、三巴巴厘亞國兼佛蘭西屬國，及以至比多國，西有葡萄牙、大英國及佛蘭西各屬地方，中有大沙漠、回回列國兼無數之尼厄勒烏面人的邦，西有葡萄牙的屬國、嗎里呀大州、回回列國及亞味西尼亞國。

In the south of Africa is Dalang Moutain (Table Mountain), an English colony as well as waste (desolate) land, in the north is Morocco, the Barbary Coast (3 countries) and several French dependencies, to the west are Portuguese, English and French colonies, in the centre is a great desert, several Muslim countries and large nubian city states. In the west (east?) are Portuguese colonies, Mali, several Muslim states and Abyssinia.

亞墨利加洲有至長分，南有巴大我農地、知利國、百路國、武那愛來國、哇西利國兼古倫味亞及土番之邦，並大英國、荷蘭兼佛蘭西各國之屬地，徵地叫做巴那嗎，與南亞墨利加、北亞墨利加上下相連。北方有默是科國兼亞墨利加列省合國、大英國屬地加納大兼土番之邦，至北方因冰雪之多，無人可居，西有數州稱之西印度，東北有俄羅斯兼大英國之藩屬國。

America is divided in length. In the south are Patagonia, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, Brazil, Columbia and various Indian city-states as well as English, Portuguese and French colonies. The isthmus is called Panama and South America and North America are joined together. To the North are Mexico, the USA, English territorial possessions and Indian states. Because the north has a great amount of ice and snow, no people can live there, the western (eastern?) area is known as the West Indies and the north east (north west?) has Russian and English dependencies.

澳大利亞洲為曠荒，土番無帝君，但大英國挪移新民在東南方及西方矣。

Australia is a vast uncultivated land, whose people have no monarch; however, Britain has sent many immigrants to the southeast and western areas.