

## China Crisis and the "Open Door" Policy of the United States

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**Keywords:** China crisis; "Open Door" policy of the United States; diplomacy of "unite the US"; Qing dynasty government

**Abstract.** "Open Door" policy of the United States was put forward at the time of the divided crisis in China. It contained two principles: "maintaining the territorial integrity and administrative integrity of China" and "safeguarding the fair trade of all countries in various parts of China", which is the United States putting forward a malaria strategy aimed at the powers, especially Russia and Japan. That is, the United States tries to give them the convenience of trade and business in China in exchange for China's sovereignty and territorial integrity and at the same time benefits China's economy. The "Open Door" policy successfully resolved the crisis in Northeast Asia that occurred in the late Qing Dynasty, and China was able to preserve its territorial and administrative sovereignty. Since being forced to open the door to the outside world, the Qing government felt confused for a long time in its diplomatic relations. The initial diplomatic policy was "unite Japan" and later changed to "unite Russia." Only then did the Qing Dynasty's "unite the US" policy find it the best diplomatic choice.

### Introduction

Some researchers think that the "Open Door" policy of the United States was put forward under the circumstances in which the powers divided up China. The United States wants to take advantage of the fire and rob it, compete with other powers and "get a share in the partition of China." Some researchers say: "The publication of the open door policy marks a new phase of U.S. policy towards China, that is, a long-standing traditional policy of "taking a cup of tea" behind the British gunboat and transforming itself into an independent imperialist power policy[1]." There is a similar statement: "The United States recognizes the "sphere of influence" of the powers in China. The United States, on the basis of recognizing the "sphere of influence" of all countries in China, wants the entire Chinese market open to the United States, enjoys low tax rates, all privileges and benefits. In essence, the United States squeezed into the ranks of the powers in order to share its aggressive interests and demanded that the powers and powers should cooperate with each other to bring about the co-management of China and turn China into their common colony[2]." However, if these views can be established, then one question can not explain: Why is China in the face of the vicious environment partitioned by the powers, coupled with the United States "taking advantage of fire and robbery," while the sunset in China did not actually subjugate the country, has always preserved territorial integrity and administrative sovereignty? Visible, the truth of the matter may not be as simple as we have already known.

### "Open Door" Policy is Put Forward for Those Powers Who Want to Divide China

After the Sino-Japanese War of 1894, Tsarist Russia thought it would interfere with Japan in its efforts to lighten the Qing government and seek benefits from the Qing government. In 1896, China and Tsarist Russia signed the Compact of China and Russia and the Contract of the Middle East Railway Company. Tsarist Russia took the opportunity to build the middle east railway and began to infiltrate the northeast of China. The following year, Tsar Nicholas II ordered Admiral Unoff of the Navy to command six Russian warships into Lvshunkou and Dalian Bay to carry out military occupation of the area. In 1898, Tsarist Russia forced the Qing government to sign the "Lvda lease

agreement," then rented the land to "Kanto" and set the chief executive administration. The aggression of Tsarist Russia caused a domino effect. The powers competed in leasing land and dividing the sphere of influence in China. Germany classified Shandong as a sphere of influence. Britain controlled a part of the Yangtze River valley and Yunnan, and Guangdong and Guangxi became the sphere of influence of Japan. Japan, then with Fujian as the sphere of influence, China is facing an unprecedented crisis. It is under such circumstances that the U.S. government has put forward the "Open Door" policy and its pertinence is very clear.

On August 24, 1899, the U.S. Secretary of State, Sea John, gave a secret order to the United States Minister for Foreign Affairs, draft a document on "equal opportunity" in commerce in China. After the document was drafted, Sea John modified the document and sent it to the U.S. ambassadors to Britain, France, Germany, Russia, Japan and Italy on September 6 in the form of a note from the State Council, then transferred to the government of the country.

The "Open Door" policy has two basic points: First, safeguard China's sovereignty and territorial integrity; second, it demands that all mainland in China must be open. The "Open Door" policy follows the following three principles: "First, each country can not interfere in any so-called" sphere of influence "in China, or any treaty port or any vested interest in the rented land. Second, the current agreed tariff rates shall apply to all goods shipped to all ports within the aforementioned "sphere of influence" except where they belong to the "free port" and shall be levied on the Chinese government. Third, within the scope of any of its ports of origin, ships of any other country shall not classify them in port above that of the country by a port on which goods of other nationality or subjects belonging to another country or subjects are transported on railroads constructed, controlled or operated within their 'scope', the collected freight shall not be higher than the freight of the same goods transported by its own nationals [3]. "

### **The Powers Have to Converge under the Pressure of the U.S. "Open Door" Policy**

Looking again at the response of the powerful countries after the "open door" policy put forward, it is not hard to understand the nature and significance of the "Open Door" policy. After receiving a note from the United States, Foreign Secretary Sofespeer agreed, on September 29, that the United States' proposal should be always adopted: "Our country always supports this policy and our government has never given up such a policy to ensuring equal opportunities for commercial enterprises for all our people. Our government has no intention of giving up such a policy[3]". In this way, Britain firstly acknowledged the "Open Door" policy proposed by the United States.

The policy of "Open Door" was proposed by the United States and Britain took the lead in supporting it. In view of the fact that the United States and Britain are both top-tier powers and other countries are not good to oppose the opposition, the five countries including France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Russia all responded in the affirmative. France said, on December 16, that in addition to its misconception of the term "sphere of influence", it endorsed the claims of the U.S. government and elaborated on the equal treatment of citizens of all countries in the French leased land, in particular customs duties, maritime customs taxes and railways freight and so on. Japan is also more active. In its reply of December 26, it fully agreed with the U.S. proposal. Italy, on January 7, 1900, and Germany also made it clear on February 19, 1900 that it endorsed the "Open Door" principle proposed by the United States.

The most reluctant to accept the "Open Door" policy is Russia. The Russians are well aware of the intention of the United States and know that the United States is mainly directed at Russia. Romanov, Russia's chancellor of the country, pointedly pointed out sharply: The United States "certainly detrimental to Russia ... The third implicitly proposed neutralization of the Manchurian railway was the first to be neutral because at the time, there is no railway in China, so this plan has become a plan to deal with Russia[4]." However, as the powers all indicated that they had no objection to the "Open Door", Russia had to reply to the U.S. ambassador to Russia on December 30, 1899: on the territory that China leased to Russia, the Russian government has already said that it will establish a free port in Lvshun. Prove it firmly in accordance with the open door policy. The

handling of customs tariffs belongs to China, and the Russian government does not want to give Russian citizens any prerogatives there.

What is interesting is Germany's attitude. Germany had obtained some rights in Shandong before the United States proposed the "Open Door" policy in 1898, and the concern of the U.S. government lies here. As the United States fears that Germany will not accept the "Open Door" policy, it will continue to exert pressure on Germany. On February 14, 1902, in response to U.S. government inquiry, the German government said: "The imperial government absolutely did not intend to abandon the principle of "open door" and admitted that this principle also applies to Shandong." However, the German government is unwilling to an abbreviation of the U.S. embassy in Berlin on April 9 said: "The principle of "Open Door" announced by Germany and other countries was implemented long after the Treaty of Jiaozhou was implemented. Therefore, the subsequent claim on this principle can not be traced back applies to the former rights that Germany has already acquired, and none of the other countries has renounced the rights it has acquired because it accepted the 'open door.' Germany further states: 'France, in particular, according to earlier treaty provisions - The Jiaozhou Treaty of 1898 followed these rules - demanding the same and more far-reaching rights in several provinces of southern China: First, as long as France gave up these rights on the first day, the imperial government could not consider giving up the same right[5]". Despite the fact that Germany is full of complaints, it has finally given up some of the privileges it has already obtained.

In the end, under the pressure of international public opinion and international morality, Tsarist Russia has to endorse this policy. The recognition of the "Open Door" policy by the powers means for China that the crisis of falling overseas is avoided. It is hard to imagine that China may have already perished before it can make its "Open Door" policy timely.

### **The United States Puts Forward the "Open Door" Policy at the Beginning of no Wild Ambition**

After the U.S. proposed the "Open Door" policy, the British government has shown the most positive attitude behind the reasons. This is because the original concept of the "Open Door" policy was raised by the United Kingdom rather than the United States. Although Britain has the concept of "Open Door" policy, it has not submitted directly to the powers. Instead, it proposes that the United States should raise the issue of inconvenience. There is a view that the United Kingdom, as one of the participants in the occupation of leased land and the division of power in China, can hardly make any demands or claims on other countries and thus turns to seek the support of the United States because the United States is the only innocent in its relations with China Great Powers, have never possessed "leased land" and classified "sphere of influence" in China.

February 23, 1898, the British cabinet proposed to the United States, calling for cooperation in the realization of China's "Open Door" policy. On March 1, the lower house of parliament passed a motion that "maintaining the independence of China's territory is crucial to Britain's commerce and influence." On April 27, at British parliamentary debate, Council member W. V. Harcourt made it clear that the British government is protecting equal trade opportunities and China's integrity in China. In September, British admiral Bessfisher sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State John H. "It is hoped that the proposed commercial alliance between Britain and the United States on the opening of China's door to the United States in the near future can become a accomplished fact." [6] .

However, the U.S. government believes that the British proposal rejects its traditional "isolationist" foreign policy. The final person for the U.S. government to accept the British proposal is He Bili, China's Customs and Excise Department. Heparin's positive activities have convinced Americans of the wisdom of adopting the "Open Door" policy.

He Bili is an Englishman who has served in China Customs for over 40 years and has met with and become good friends with the United States Resident Mission in China. Rockhill introduced He Bili to U.S. Secretary of State John H. so that his claims had a direct impact on John H. John. Regarding He Bili's proposition, he can get the answer from his two communications with Rockhill. On July 25, 1899, He Bili said in a letter that it is more appropriate for the United States to initiate

the opening of its portals than the United Kingdom because other countries will not doubt the intention of the United States. On August 17, He Bili sent a letter to Rockhill again: "The trade organizations in the United Kingdom and the United States have realized the importance China is now providing to its existing business establishments and are looking forward to lawful and extensive expansion under the conditions of future improvements. In this place, we sincerely hope that we will maintain the 'Open Door' to the existing "Tianjin Treaty." In other words, they want to ensure that all countries enjoy the same rights and benefits that have been enjoyed so far under these conditions in respect of commerce, navigation, development of mines and equal opportunity for railways [7]".

Why is He Bili keen on the "Open Door" policy? There is a saying by American scholar P.A. Wage that there should be a great deal of credibility. P.A. Wage believes that He Bili has been working in China since 1867, has a deep feeling for China and wants to save China [8].

The above facts prove that initially the United States was not enthusiastic about its policy of "Open Door," but only after it was convinced by the British people that the United States had no intention of "taking a piece of the cup" of the Chinese crisis from the outset.

### **The Qing Government Absolutely Agrees the "Open Door" Policy of the US**

The "Open Door" policy has essentially ruined the powers' monopoly and control over parts of China. This is of great significance to China in crisis. The proposal of "Opening Door" policy can not prove that the United States wants to "get a share in China Soup", but proves that this policy has become China's lifeline.

The Qing government reacted positively to the "Open Door" policy of the United States and favored the United States. In May 1899, the Qing Government's U.S. ambassador to the United States, Wu Tingfang, delivered a speech entitled "China-West Relations" in the United States to evaluate the relationship between the "open door" policy and China. His point of view still remains very insightful today: As the world commodity market, China occupy the first place indisputably. The needs of 350 million to 400 million people must be supplied in some way. That is to say, as a market, a province of China has more advantages than the entire continent of Africa Value. China's policy treats all countries equally and they all enjoy the most-favored nation status. "Maintaining the" Open Door "is in line with China's policy [9]."

In July 1900, based on his understanding of the European and American powers over the years, Wu made a speech entitled "Mutual Benefits between China and the United States" in the United States: "In all countries, China is the most trusted by the United States[10]." As an envoy to the United States, Wu Tingfang's speech undoubtedly represents the Qing government's attitude.

### **The Traditional View on "Open Door" Policy Understanding and Interpretation is Debatable**

According to the traditional view, the "open door" policy of the United States demands that all the mainland of China be liberalized, so that all imperialists enjoy the right to trade. That is exactly where the "conspiracy" of the United States lies. This view does not clarify the issue in at least five ways:

First, since the Opium War, China has opened up many ports of commerce to the outside world. Even if all the mainland of China is open, it has no practical significance. Second, the United States demands that China should be "open to the outside world" which is a good thing, not a bad thing for China. Even without the request of the United States, China should take the initiative to open its door to the outside world, because being locked behind can only cause ignorance and backwardness. Third, article 3 of the "Open Door" policy sets forth the requirements for the tax rates of all countries in doing business in China, so that the powers can not disorganize themselves. This in itself is to formulate a rule. There must be rules for doing things, rules for order, rules for fair competition, international trade can not be an exception, and China should abide by the rules. Fourthly, article 2 of the "Open Door" policy clearly states that "the tax should be levied by the Chinese government" and affirms that China has the right to tariffs, which is intended to safeguard

China's sovereignty. Fifthly, in the first article of the "Open Door" policy, the United States recognizes that the status quo of lending land and sphere of influence of all countries in China ostensibly maintains the balance of power among the powers in China, but the deeper significance is that the powers should not further invade China, thus avoiding China's losing destiny. This is precisely the cleverness of the United States, because under the circumstances, the United States can not use force to force the powers to accept the "Open Door" policy.

### **Acknowledgement**

This work is supported by Bohai university excellence project (15-YJYCS-009): Northeast Asia corridor and aortheast frontier•national•society.

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