

lapse of the Hang Seng which triggered the 1987 global market crash.

As early as Nov. 5, Britain called off scheduled military exercises in Hong Kong, when local newspapers revealed they were to be based on a scenario involving a breakdown in Sino-British ties, and an invasion of the colony by Chinese troops. Beijing has for its part sent patrol boats into Hong Kong waters recently, resulting in at least one armed face-off with British ships.

Beijing has kept up a consistent propaganda campaign, comparing British policy against China to its colonial policies in India and Singapore. The pro-Beijing newspaper *Wen Wei Bao* wrote Nov. 16 that there is a "British conspiracy" to create a pro-British elite in Hong Kong as was done in India and Singapore.

The Chinese, however, are approaching British business and finance in Hong Kong for support against Patten, a method they used successfully 160 years ago. London's Lord Napier was sent as a representative of the Crown to Canton, against the wishes of local British opium merchants. The Chinese, who had no wish to open relations with Britain, played up the merchants' demand to keep trade relations smooth. They isolated Napier, translating his name into the Chinese characters for "laboriously vile." Napier soon succumbed to malaria.

## 'Nightmare' is not meant as fiction

by Kathy Wolfe

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### **Pacific Nightmare: How Japan Starts World War III, A Future History**

by Simon Winchester

Birch Lane Press, New York, 1992

302 pages, hardbound, \$29.95.

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*Pacific Nightmare* is poorly written, but it serves, for it was not meant as fiction. Mr. Winchester is Hong Kong correspondent of Britain's *Manchester Guardian*, and this is no novel, but a policy statement, if crass, from one faction of British Intelligence.

"We British are leaving Hong Kong quite deliberately," is the message, "to provoke Beijing into actions which we intend shall cause the disintegration of China, to British advantage. This is but another move in the Great Game; we warn you, don't get in our way."

*Pacific Nightmare* is ostensibly about China, and the reversion to Beijing rule of the British Colony of Hong Kong

in 1997. The plot has it that Beijing, retaking the colony in June 1997, breaks all promises to allow Hong Kong its freedom, tyrannizing the place.

In retaliation, Hong Kong Triad gangs, armed by freedom-loving British Intelligence, rebel against Beijing in Canton on the mainland, soon joined by army units across south China. The Chinese patriots of Canton's military leadership liberate Hong Kong, and declare a "Republic" of southern China, and civil war on Beijing.

The only fly in the ointment is Japan, which, taking advantage, invades Manchuria in north China. Beijing, which never dreamt of using nuclear weapons against fellow Chinese, aims its arsenal at Tokyo. Desperate to stop World War III, the U.S. President, advised by an Assistant Secretary of State for Asia whose brother-in-law just happens to be the British ambassador, drops a single A-bomb offshore of Tokyo. The harbor is flattened, but "only" 800 are killed. Japan withdraws her troops.

### **No laughing matter**

That's the point, for as the subtitle states, the book is really about Japan, and Britain's threat to Japan, that if Tokyo insists on economically developing China and Asia, London will get nasty. The writing is humorous, in the sense that this "sophisticated look" at the East is so superficial. The incessant typographical errors seem to flow from the author's infantile frame of mind.

For example: "Those who take the long view will say it has always been so, that what is happening is no more than the latest in an endless process of irruptions of violence that tell us much about the nature of the Oriental mind. . . . There seems invariably to have been some all-consuming fight going on somewhere around China."

Orientalists are naturally violent? To call this "standard racist British pulp" is mild. The writing about Japan makes the barroom talk of those U.S. autoworkers who like to sledgehammer little Toyotas look charitable. In a China saga, Japan is suddenly introduced on page 248, as *Monster Ex Machina*, with an inexplicable drive for "Nipponese expansion and tyranny."

The plot outline is more laughable. The Brits, the world's most rapacious monarchists, have spent the last 200 years trying to crush republicanism from the Earth.

What is *not* a laughing matter, is that all this bears an uncanny resemblance to the actual news we have from Hong Kong this November 1992. As Mary Burdman writes above, British Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten is currently provoking the maniacs in Beijing with actions which are pretty inexplicable under ordinary logic.

Page 164 also describes a 1996 conference at London's Royal Institute for International Affairs (RIIA) at which it is that proposed Britain "favour" a civil war in China between south and north. In a recent interview with the China desk at the actual London RIIA, *EIR* was told precisely that.