

# To See International Relations from Historical Point of Views

by George K. Yeh

I am deeply interested in the article, The Imperialists, written by Dr. Arnold J. Toynbee, one of the most famous British historians of the present age. This report refers to the five articles of his series of installments published on The Asia Magazine, from January 7 to February 4, 1968. These series of articles are written by a method of historical approach in reviewing the Western imperialistic enterprises in Asia. It also may be said that his article is a paper of describing a period of time of historical international relations. (A period of about four centuries and a half, reckoning back from the second World War to the last decade of the fifteenth century.) At that time, a minority of a minority of the human race has dominated all the rest. The minority are the people of Western Christendom; the minority of this minority are the six Western nations, the Portuguese, the Spaniards, the Dutch, the French, the British and the Americans. I choose this as my subject of the report, because Dr. Toynbee's stand-point and commentaries seems very helpful for researching into the present international relations.

## 1. Summary of the Five Installments of the Article of the Imperialists Two Successive Waves of the Western Imperialists

According to the writer, all the world had been under European Imperialists' domination from 1490 to 1943, which could be divided by two periods. He wrote: "So far, Western domination has washed round the world in two successive waves both of which have issued from Europe. The first was the Portuguese and Spanish wave, which got under way in the fifteenth century and subsided after the defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 — a catastrophe that involved Portugal as well as Spain, since Portugal had the misfortune, at the time, to be linked politically with Spain by a personal union of the two crowns. The second wave was the Dutch and British and French wave, which got under way at the turn of sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and