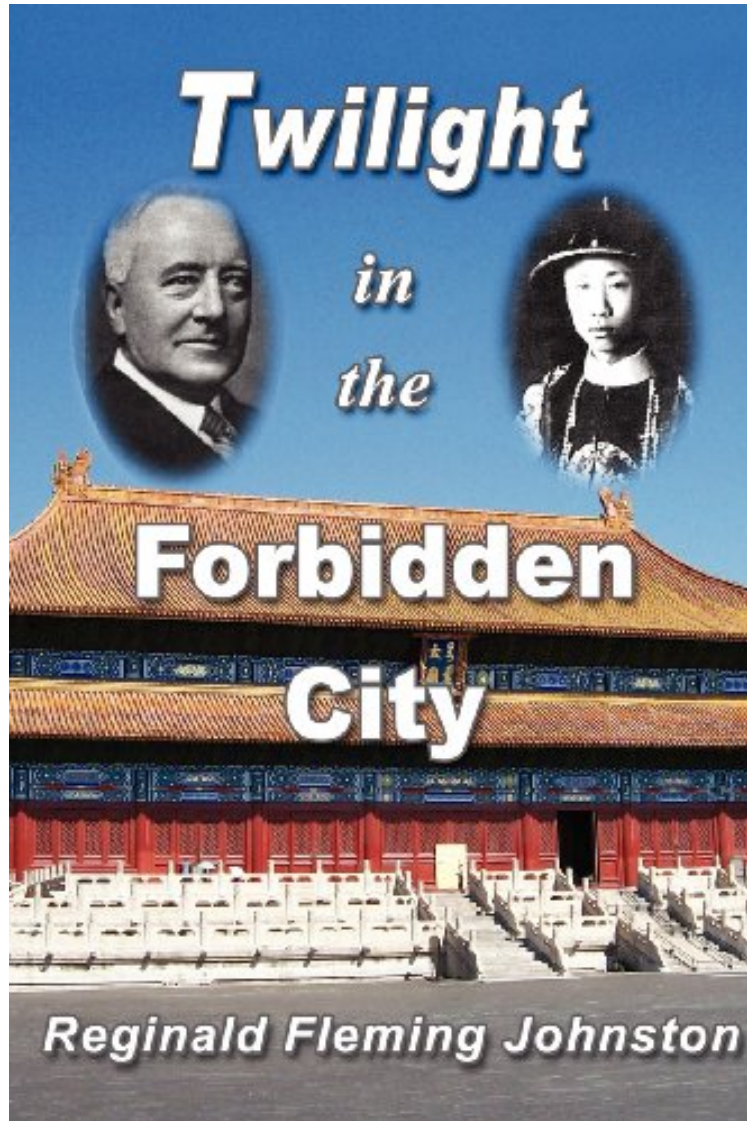


(Mobile pdf) Twilight in the Forbidden City (Illustrated and Revised 4th Edition)

## Twilight in the Forbidden City (Illustrated and Revised 4th Edition)

*Reginald Fleming Johnston*

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**Reginald Fleming Johnston : Twilight in the Forbidden City (Illustrated and Revised 4th Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Twilight in the Forbidden City (Illustrated and Revised 4th Edition):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. If you are interested in China, read this By VPIt's a bit of a laborious

read but is full of gems of insight and information from an insider. History books tend to gloss over and stay non-judgemental about most characters but it's delightful to read actual perspectives about, for instance, the dowager princess, from someone who was living at that time. Makes history come alive. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. First Person, but Narrow Perspective By Eclectic Reader An interesting first person account of the end of the Chinese monarchy, but somewhat flawed due to the narrow perspective of the author. A useful read, but rather as an alternate opinion rather a comprehensive history. 28 of 30 people found the following review helpful. History of China and of colonialism By K. Percy Johnston's book is a fascinating study of the end of imperialism in China, but also, as an object of study itself, of the agencies of colonialism. I recommend the book on that basis as much as on the value of Johnston's firsthand account of the last days of the Manchu emperors. "Enjoy with..." as the foodies say, James Morris' lively "Pax Britannica" trilogy, for example, or letters/memoirs of Gertrude Bell and TE Lawrence. To my mind all of these give a fascinating insight into the good-hearted, brilliant-minded but often disastrously wrong-headed players in colonialism. It's clear in Johnston's book that he went into his job as imperial tutor with an agenda: within days of starting he's outlined a plan to radically disrupt the status quo. All with best intentions, true integrity, and a thorough knowledge of the country and culture. There's a lot for us to learn here. FWIW, I consider myself a history "dabbler" and these books keep my limited attention, intellect and curiosity fully engaged, so don't be put off by worrying that they're too like the classes we all slept through...

As the British-born Tutor to the Dragon Emperor, Johnston was the only foreigner in history to be allowed inside the inner court of the Qing Dynasty. Johnston carried high imperial titles and lived in both the Forbidden City and the New Summer Palace. *Twilight in the Forbidden City* reflects his eyewitness accounts of the memorable events of the time. He provides an first hand account of daily life in the Forbidden City, the Summer Palace, and gives many detailed descriptions of ceremonies including Pu-yi's wedding. Johnston provides a good deal of anecdotal material for the last days of the Ch'ing Dynasty court before the 1911 Revolution. He knew many of the active players in those events, and of historical significance are his observations on the Ch'ing court's political structure, and in particular the Nei Wu Fu or Imperial Household Department. If you are planning to travel to China, or want to understand China better, then this book is a must read as it provides an eyewitness account of the events of period! A 'must read' for anyone interested in China!