Loyola College (Autonomous)

Chennai – 600 034.

Special Lecture

"CHINA: FROM OPIUM WARS TO DENG XIAOPING"

A special lecture on Modern Chinese History was arranged by the department on 16th September 2015 at Yeddanappalli Hall.

Mr. Nagappattinam K. Sendil, Distinguished Alumni and Geopolitical Consultant, France delivered the lecture. The two hour lecture was delivered to the second and third year undergraduate students.

The special lecture started with the Introduction and Welcome Address by Prof. Jayapradapan, Vice-President of Loyola History Association. Vijay Paul of II BA History was the Master of the ceremony.

Mr. Sendil began his lecture by remembering his college life in Loyola and reverently admired the stalwarts of the department who had handled his classes.

He gave a brief introduction on China and its civilization and recalled the numerous dynasties which held the Dragon Throne. He touched the advent of Europeans in China, hailed the antiquity and self-respect of Chinese civilization and criticized their ancient and superstitious beliefs which ultimately led to its decline.

Mr. Jayapradapan, Asst. Prof.

Dr. B.P. Jayachandran, Former HOD

The impact of Opium wars was elaborately discussed and the statistics of tea export from China to Britain stunted the audience. When the lecturer said one-eighth of the total revenue of British crown was paid for tea and later through smuggling opium, showed the cunningness of colonial exploitation. "The practice of kowtowing before Emperor had created much repercussions in the diplomatic history of Chinese with British crown". Through interesting anecdotes he easily carried the students to another world and it came to its elemental best when it reached the topics Taiping Rebellion and Boxer Rebellion.

After the 1911 Rebellion the transformation of age old monarchy to democracy and from there democracy to dictatorship which Sen ultimately aimed at restoring monarchy under Yuan Shi-Kai was explained to the students and the miseries of Warlord period was also explained in detail. The establishment of Kuomintang Party under Sun Yat Sen and the baton change after his death to Chiang Kai Sheikh was discussed. The USSR support to KMT and COMINTERN training to Chinese Communist Party was explained. He also gave reference to the M. N. Roy – Lenin debate on the spread of Communism.

Student Participants

The emergence of Mao Zedong and the brutal suppression faced by communists under KMT rule was narrated and he skillfully visualized the Long March. He referred the establishment of People's Republic of China in 1949 and briefly said about the policies of Mao and about the "Great Leap Forward" policies of Mao. The lecture gave way to the question time.

Discussion: Mr. Aditya, II B.A.

Mr. Vijay Paul of II BA History raised a question on the membership of China in UN Security council and its implications in the border conflicts with India. The resource person referred to the land acquisition in Tibet and India on its internal politics.

Mr. Atitya Ragul of II BA asked why United States was not in a position to reach out in China while other powers did so.

Mr. Sendil then went back to last phase of 19th century when US advocated 'Open Door Policy' and said USA was jealous on European and Japanese influences in China.

Mr. Vijay Paul, II BA History

Mr. S. Mahendranath III BA History, Secretary

Mr. S. Mahendranath, Secretary, Loyola History Association gave his Reflections on the lecture. He mentioned the Chinese growth as 'ashes of antiquity and exploitation to the golden pedestal of glory and development'. He said, as China freed herself from shackles of obstacles India could also march forward with the bliss of youth population dividend. He also quoted Toynbee, "those who forgot the lessons of history were condemned to repeat it" and asked the history students to analyze the history of other nations and frame the future of our nation. The programme end with his vote of thanks.