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By

EDWIN LEE

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Nor was this all. China, at this time, was in decline; yet she generated men of vision who would reform, revolutionise and save her, as did her contemporary, the Ottoman Empire, with particular reference to Egypt, in a similar kind of predicament. These signs exemplify how the empire fights back. The Chinese and the Malays in Singapore responded to the distant frays, which caused the British to worry, but more about the former, typically, than the latter.

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Edwin Lee is an Associate Professor in History at the National University of Singapore.

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