CONVERSION TABLES

Measures

1 li = 0.36 mile.
1 ri = 2.44 miles.
1 chō = 2.45 acres.
1 koku = 4.96 bushels.
The metric system was adopted in 1921.

Weights

1 picul (100 catties) = 133 1/3 pounds.
A chest of opium weighs 70 pounds.
1 kin = 1.32 pounds.
1 kwan = 8.26 pounds.
The metric system was adopted in 1921.

Money

1 tael = 1 ounce of silver; the value in foreign trade varies according to the price of silver, which was $0.54 in 1910, $1.34 in 1920, $0.38 in 1930, and $0.64 in 1935. A tael is not a minted coin. The currency adopted in 1932 is the yuan (100 fen), which contains 1/4 of an ounce of silver. A "managed" currency was established at the end of 1935.

1 yen (100 sen) = $0.84 at par; the value on June 21, 1938, was 28.86 cents. Value established April, 1949 at 360 yen to the dollar for foreign trade purposes.

Railroad Gauges

Chinese railroads have the gauges of the countries building them: Great Britain, Japan, and United States: 56 inches.
France: 1 meter. Russia: 60 inches.

Chinese Place Names

Many Chinese place names are compounded of geographical features, cardinal points, colors, and numbers. The following table will be helpful in locating Chinese place names.

| Shan .......... | Mountain                  | Ti .......... | Earth                  |
| Shen .......... | Pass                      | Shang ........ | Up                     |
| Ling .......... | Range of mountains        | Shia (hsia) | Down                   |
| Hai .......... | Sea                       | Su ........... | From                   |
| Wan .......... | Bay or bend                | Chung ........ | Central                |
| Hu .......... | Lake                      | Peh (pei) .... | North                  |
| Ho .......... | Shallow river              | Tung .......... | East                   |
| Kang .......... | Deep river                 | Nan .......... | South                  |
| Chwan (chuan) | Small river               | Si (hsi) ...... | West                   |
| Tao .......... | Island                    | Huang ........ | Yellow                 |
| King .......... | Capital                    | Hung .......... | Red                    |
| Fu .......... | Suffix denoting provincial city | Hei .......... | Black                  |
| Chou .......... | Suffix denoting department city | Pai .......... | White                  |
| Hsien .......... | District                  | Erh .......... | Two                    |
| Kuo .......... | Country                   | San .......... | Three                  |
| Tien .......... | Heaven                  | Sze .......... | Four                    |
| Wu .......... |                         |                      | Five                    |

Examples

Shantung East Mountain                   Hwang-ho ....... Yellow River
Shensi West of the Pass                  Szechuan ....... Four Rivers
Hunan South of the Lake                  Nanking ....... Southern Capital
Pei-ho North River (a shallow river)
PRONUNCIATION OF JAPANESE WORDS 

While dialects in Japan are much less important than in China, they do exist, so the Government has selected the Tōkyō dialect as standard Japanese.

In general Japanese words are much less accented than in English. That is to say, most Japanese words have an almost level pitch throughout. If a syllable is accented, it is usually indicated by a slightly higher pitch.

CONSONANTS

The Japanese words, as romanized in this text, contain no L, Q, V, or X and the letter C occurs only in combination with H, which resembles the ch in “church.” The consonants are pronounced as in English, with the exception that F is a true labial as in German. G in the Tōkyō dialect has a nasalized sound as in “sing.” R is the hardest sound in Japanese to imitate as it resembles a sound between the English R and L. Y is pronounced as in English, except when followed by the vowel e, when it is practically silent as in the name “Ieyasu.”

VOEWS

Vowels are sounded as in Spanish and Italian and are usually short. The vowels o and u may be long, in which case vocalization should be longer. However, this is not indicated in the romanization used in this text. In general, the vowels are pronounced as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{a} & \text{ as in “father”} \\
\text{e} & \text{ as in “men”} \\
\text{i} & \text{ as in “machine”} \\
\text{o} & \text{ as in “potato”} \\
\text{u} & \text{ as in “push”}
\end{align*}
\]

DIPHTHONGS

The diphthongs ae, ai, oi, and ui are not, strictly speaking, true diphthongs but are composed of two separate vowels with the stress and higher pitch falling on the first vowel, thus the diphthongs ae and ai are pronounced much alike in many cases.

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1 Statement prepared by Hugh Horton, Professor of Japanese, Columbia University.
PRONUNCIATION OF CHINESE WORDS

Names of Chinese persons and places, since they are written originally in
Chinese characters, can be reproduced in western books only by writing their
sound. This is called transliteration or romanization.

Chinese characters are of course pronounced in different ways in different
parts of the Far East; but the Peking dialect (also called Mandarin or kuan-hua)
is generally taken as the standard. Unfortunately its sounds do not always have
exact equivalents in English, and so it is necessary to indicate them by a con-
ventionalized system, in which the English letters do not necessarily have their
normal English sound but stand for certain Chinese sounds. The system of
romanization commonly used is called the Wade system.

To pronounce the Wade symbols as though they were English words would
be to create a new and outlandish spoken language, meaningless both to Chinese
and to non-Chinese. It would also be confusing because there would often be two
possibilities: e.g. tao could be “tah-o” or “tay-o” (whereas it should be “dow”).
Therefore in pronouncing the Wade system the attempt must be made to ap-
proximate the Chinese sound, rather than invent our own.

Pronunciation in the Peking dialect according to the Wade system:

VOWELS: (as in Italian)

a as in “father”       * e like the u in “under”
c as in “Edward”       ih like the e in “her” (no real equiv-
i alent in English)
o like “aw” in “saw” (but often like the u in “cut”)   ü like the French u or German ü
u as in “lunar”

CONSONANTS: The apostrophe following a consonant indicates aspiration;
and the lack of the apostrophe indicates the lack of aspiration,—which sounds
to our ears very much like voicing. Therefore:

(UNASPIRATED)       (ASPIRATED)
ch is sounded like the j in “jam”     ch’ as in “chin”
k like the g in “gun”               k’ as in “kin”
p like the b in “bat”             p’ as in “pun”
t like the d in “doll”          t’ as in “tap”
ts and tz are sounded like dz       ts’ and tz’ like the ts of “Patsy”
j between French j and English r.

Most of the other consonants are similar to those in English.

Warning: there are other systems of romanization used in other western lan-
guages; in newspapers and popular books the diacritical marks ‘^’ ‘”’ ‘’ are
commonly omitted; as a result there are many irregularities to be met with,
chiefly due to the dropping of the apostrophe; also k or k’ are often substituted
for ch or ch’ before i.

1 Slightly modified from a statement prepared by J. K. Fairbank, Department of History.
Harvard.