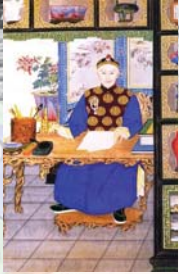


From Exile to Independence

The Trials of a Dalai Lama



The Dalai Lama in Beijing



Emperor Guangxu



The Dalai Lama arrives in Beijing railway station

In 1908, the Dalai Lama proceeded to China. In Beijing, he had an audience with Emperor Guangxu and the Dowager Empress. When both passed away at the end of the year, the Tibetan ruler performed their funeral rites. A few months later, he decided to return to Tibet.

Shortly after his arrival, the news spread that Chao Erfeng, Governor of Sichuan Province was at the gate of Lhasa. The Dalai Lama had no choice but to flee again; this time, he headed towards India. In February 1910, the Dalai Lama's party crossed the Indian border and took residence in Darjeeling. A month later, the Dalai Lama went to Calcutta to meet Lord Minto, the Viceroy.



Illustration showing the Dalai Lama in Calcutta



Visit to the Viceroy Lord Minto in Calcutta



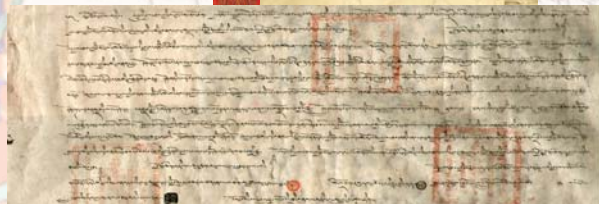
The Dalai Lama in Kalimpong (1910)

For the Tibetan leader, his unwanted journeys were occasions to get acquainted with the 'world outside' and get a crash course in foreign relations.

He returned to Tibet in 1912 and in January 1913, he issued a public statement declaring his nation independent.



A proclamation of the Dalai Lama



In 1913, the Dalai Lama signed a Treaty of Friendship with the Jetsundamba of Mongolia



After the return of the Dalai Lama, the Chinese troops leave Tibet (1912)