The Collision Of Two Civilisations: The British Expedition To China In 1792-4

Alain Peyrefitte

In The Collision of Two Civilizations, The British Expedition to China 1792-4 Alain Peyrefitte writes that, “There is perhaps no more striking instance of the clash between advanced and traditional societies than the profound encounter, at the end of the eighteenth century, between Britain and China - the first country to be gripped by the industrial revolution and the most brilliant of all civilizations rooted in custom.” He adds that there, “was a uniqueness to the encounter between two societies that, having undergone separate development for centuries, considered themselves th