

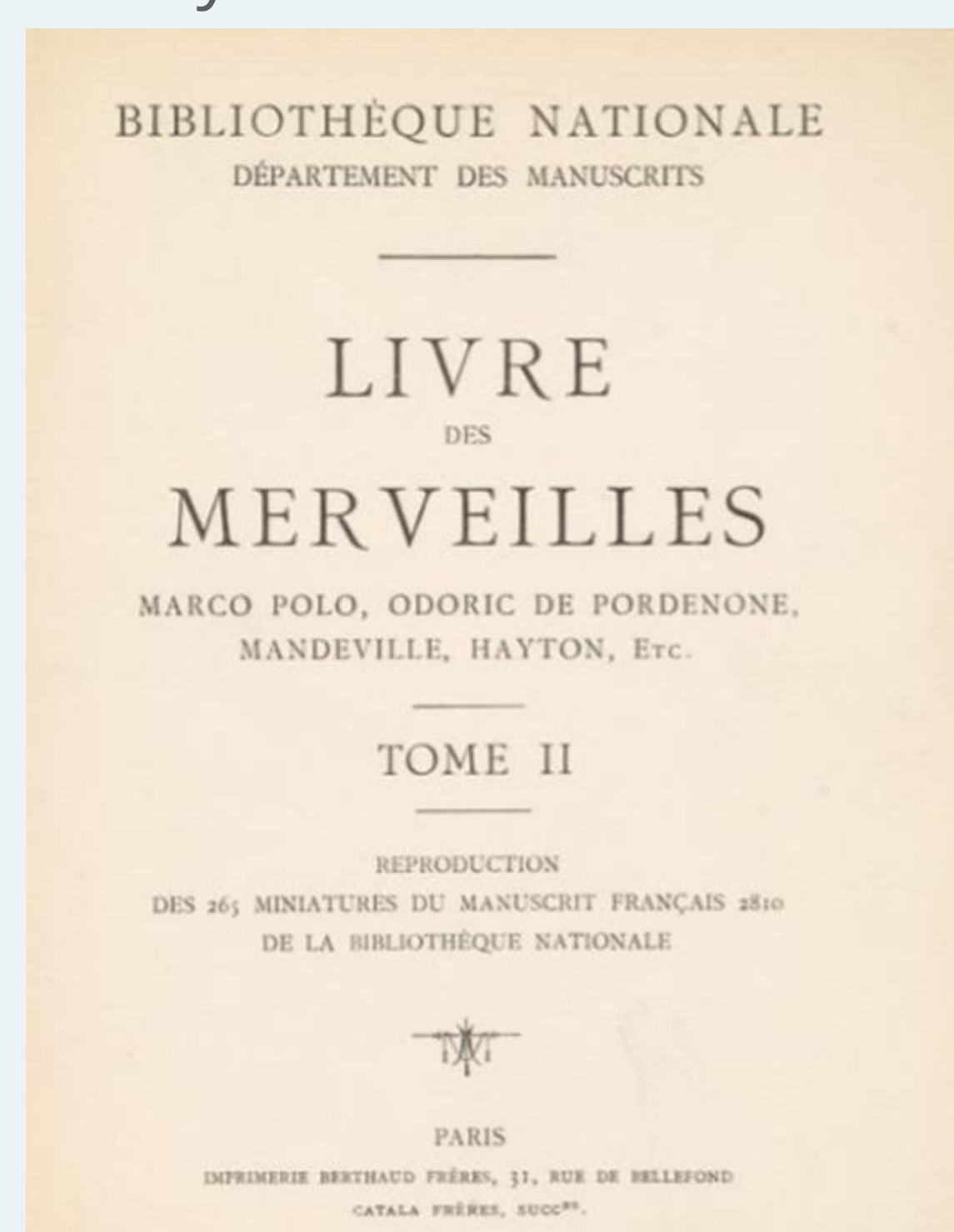
# The Dragon and the Vultures: China from the Hispanic-Mexican imaginary

Rodrigo Luna Kan, PhD student

University of Texas at El Paso  
College of Liberal Arts  
Department of History

## Building otherness

This analysis examines the construction of China within the Spanish and Mexican imagination, as well as the notions of otherness imposed on Chinese populations, from an intellectual history perspective that draws on works by authors such as Edward Said, Henry Kamen, and Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra. It also considers historical precedents as far back as Marco Polo and Hayton of Corycus.



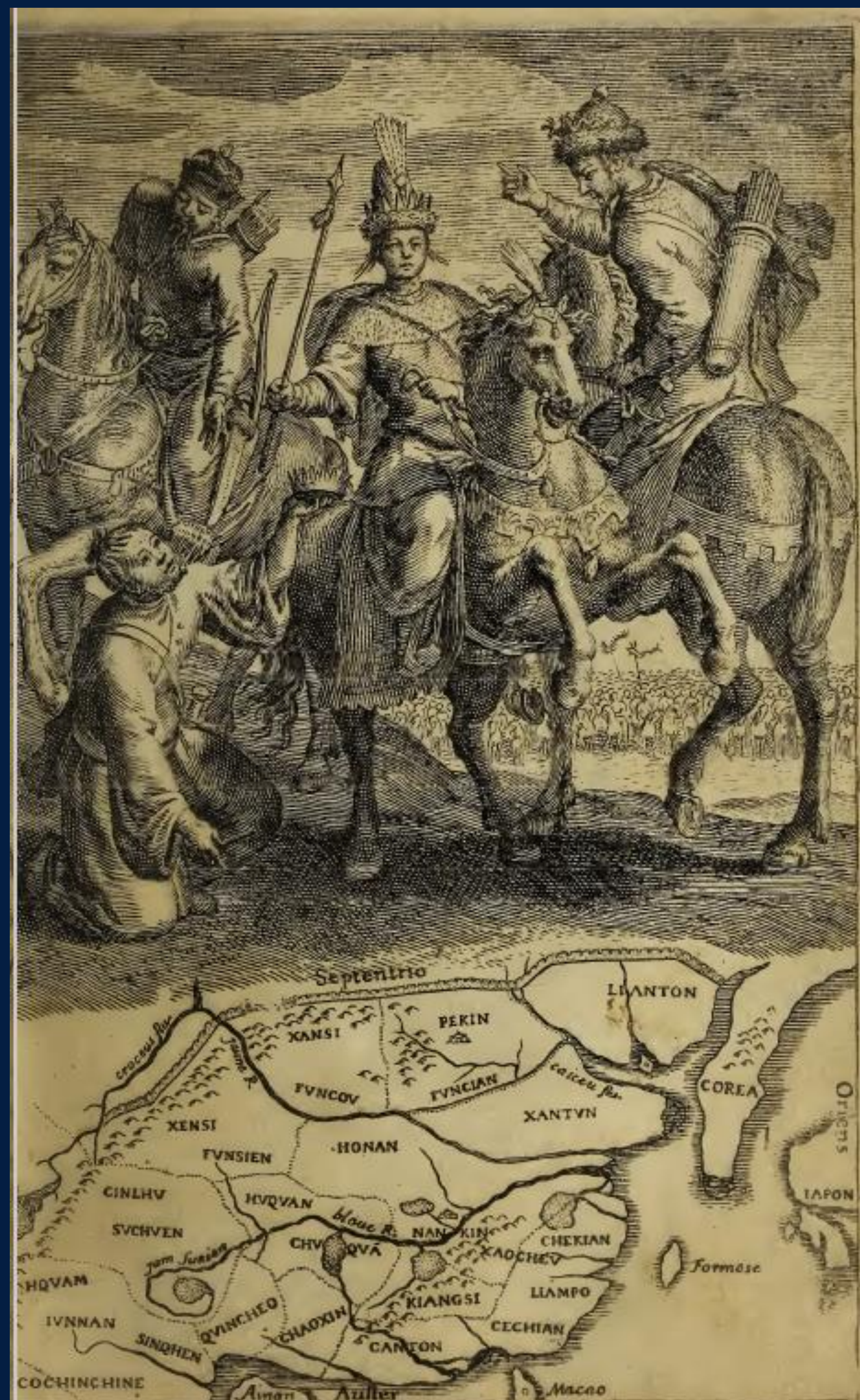
## Research questions

How did the Spanish Empire and the Mexican Republic perceive China? How was China integrated in the Spanish conquest agenda? What relevance did China have for the Spanish, and later Mexican, political, religious, and academic elites?

## Methods

Development of a theoretical framework using interdisciplinary sources; review and analysis of physical and digital archival sources; and paleographic work with physical and digital sources in Spanish, French and Portuguese; review of secondary sources.

# The Orient was almost a European invention, and had been since antiquity a place of romance, exotic beings, haunting memories and landscapes, remarkable experiences. Edward Said (2003, 1).



## Relevance

The possibility of understanding the dynamics of interreligious, commercial, and political-diplomatic exchanges, first between the Spanish Empire and then the Mexican Republic, from an intellectual history perspective, allows us to appreciate how China was integrated into the European imagination, not only as a trading partner but also as a frontier and a space for exploration and conquest during the 16th to 20th centuries.

During this period, China transitioned to a marginal space in the dynamics between independent Mexico and its ties with Europe and the United States, a process in which China became a supplier of labor as a result of a diasporic movement.

## Conclusions

The review and analysis of works by Spanish authors from the 16th and 17th centuries such as Juan de Palafox y Mendoza, Juan Mendoza, Amaro Centeno or Bernardino de Escalante and Mexican authors from the 19th and 20th centuries such as Matías Romero Avendaño, Francisco Díaz Covarrubias, Francisco Bulnes, Manuel Gamio and José Vasconcelos, refers to a continuous process of construction of otherness traversed by political, economic-colonial and institutional dynamics, among others.

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