

Notes on Terms, Currencies, Weights, and Measures

1. When referring to Chinese or Japanese figures, I give their family name first, followed by their given name (e.g., Ma Yinchu). I use the Pinyin system of romanization with exceptions for Sun-Yat-sen, Chiang Kai-shek, and his son Chiang Ching-kuo. The nonspecialist might be more familiar with these romanizations, so I adopt them.
2. When speaking about coins, I will often refer to grains (e.g., 412 grains or 378 grains silver, etc.). A grain is equal to 0.026 grams.
3. Chinese weights and measure
 - 1 *dan* (picul) = 100 *jin* = 59.7 kg
 - 1 *jin* (catty) = 16 *liang* = 597 g = 0.597 kg
 - 1 *liang* (ounce) = 10 *qian* = 37.3 g
 - 1 *qian* (mace) = 10 *fen* = 3.7 g
 - 1 *fen* (candareen) = 10 *li* = 0.37 g
4. In the British monetary system there were 12 pence (d.) in a shilling (s.) and 20 shillings in a pound (£), or 240 pence in a pound. In early chapters, when London was the main center for silver trading, I provide silver prices in British terms (e.g., 24d.). As New York grows in importance over the course of the narrative, I will provide silver prices in cents.
5. After the United States returned to gold convertibility after the Civil War, the dollar was in effect fixed at £1=\$4.85 dollars. If the cost of procuring pounds exceeded \$4.85 and was beyond the additional cost of shipping and insuring the gold, then the metal, rather than a bill of exchange, would be used to settle a transaction.
6. After Japan adopted the gold-exchange standard in 1897, one Japanese yen (¥) was equal to 50 U.S. cents.

**CHINA AND THE END
OF GLOBAL SILVER,
1873-1937**

