



8 HA WAN, WANCHAI AND SPRING GARDEN

Ha Wan spanned Murray Barracks (around present-day Hong Kong Park east of Garden Road) to Observation Point (present-day Tin Lok Lane). The early district was known as 'Wanchai' because of a 'small bay' located between the Arsenal (present-day Arsenal Street) and Tin Lok Lane.

The area's landmark, Hung Shing Old Temple (also known as 'Tai Wong Kung'), was located next to the bay on a winding path that reached Shek Tong Tsui. Following the 1841 land reclamation project in Central and Western District, this path was expanded into Queen's Road and Wanchai's harbourfront was extended from Queen's Road East to Praya East (renamed Johnston Road in the 1930s).

In Hong Kong's first land sale held in 1841, foreign merchants successfully bid on land lots between Arsenal Street and Albany Street (present-day Tai Yuen Street) next to Stone Nullah Lane in Wanchai. Trading firms, godowns, shipyards and villas were built, including the famous Spring Gardens Villa next to which the Government House was at one point located. The leasehold of the Spring Gardens Villa area was transferred to Gibb Livingston & Co. in 1856, while a section of Albany Street eventually came under Chinese possession and was used to construct Chinese-style buildings. As a result of the above, early Ha Wan was also known as Wanchai or Spring Gardens. However, from the beginning of the 20th century onwards, it was generally referred to as Wanchai.

Wanchai

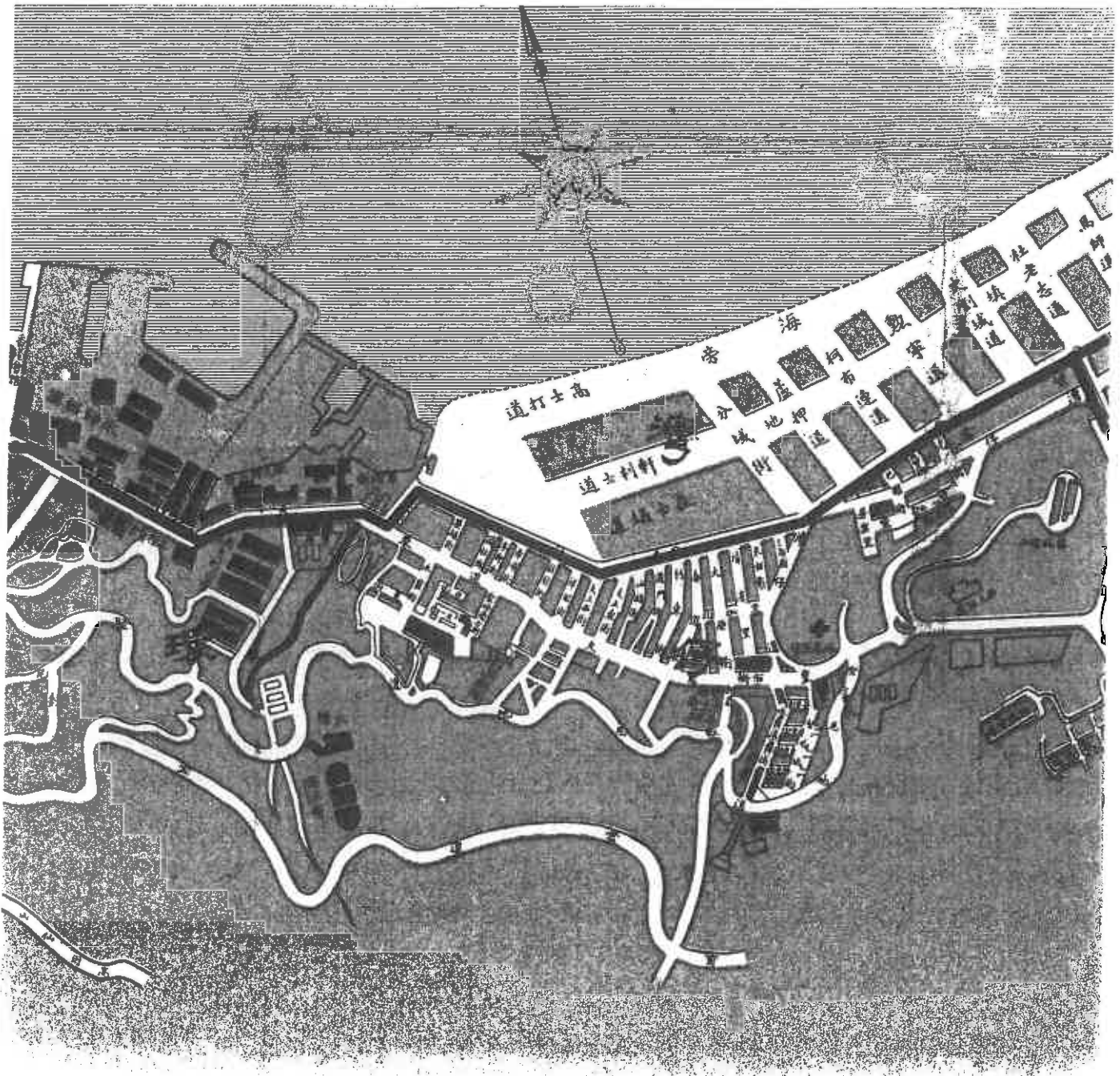
In its early days Queen's Road East extended from Garden Road to Stone Nullah (present-day Stone Nullah Lane) with the section towards Happy Valley known as Gap Road. In 1851, the zigzag Wanchai Road was constructed along Morrison Hill from Hospital Hill (present-day Wanchai Market) to the beach at Observation Point.

The land east of Stone Nullah Lane was auctioned in 1862. Most of the successful bidders were Chinese merchants and Yuk Hui Temple (Pak Tei Temple) was erected on the site in 1865. Lyall Street (renamed Tai Wong Street East in 1871) opposite Tai Wong Kung, however, remained an area populated by foreigners. The 'Big Number Brothels' emerged around Spring Garden Lane and continued to operate until the prohibition of foreign prostitution in 1932.

In 1921, Morrison Hill was levelled to provide material for reclamation carried out between Arsenal Street and East Point (near the present-day Excelsior Hotel in Causeway Bay) that turned Wanchai's small bay into land and extended its harbourfront from Johnston Road to Gloucester Road.

From 1897 onwards, a significant number of Japanese residents and businesses populated Wanchai. As a result, the area took on Japanese characteristics and became known as 'Little Tokyo'. Many Japanese shops and firms appeared, including Daibutsu Co. that was so well-known its location at the intersection of Arsenal Street and Queen's Road East was called 'Dai Fat Hau', literally 'Big Buddha (Daibutsu) Entrance'.

When trams began operating in 1904, many Chinese from Central and Western District relocated to Wanchai. The area grew more prosperous due to Wanchai's location, which was convenient for the Hung Hom Cross-harbour Tunnel completed in 1972.

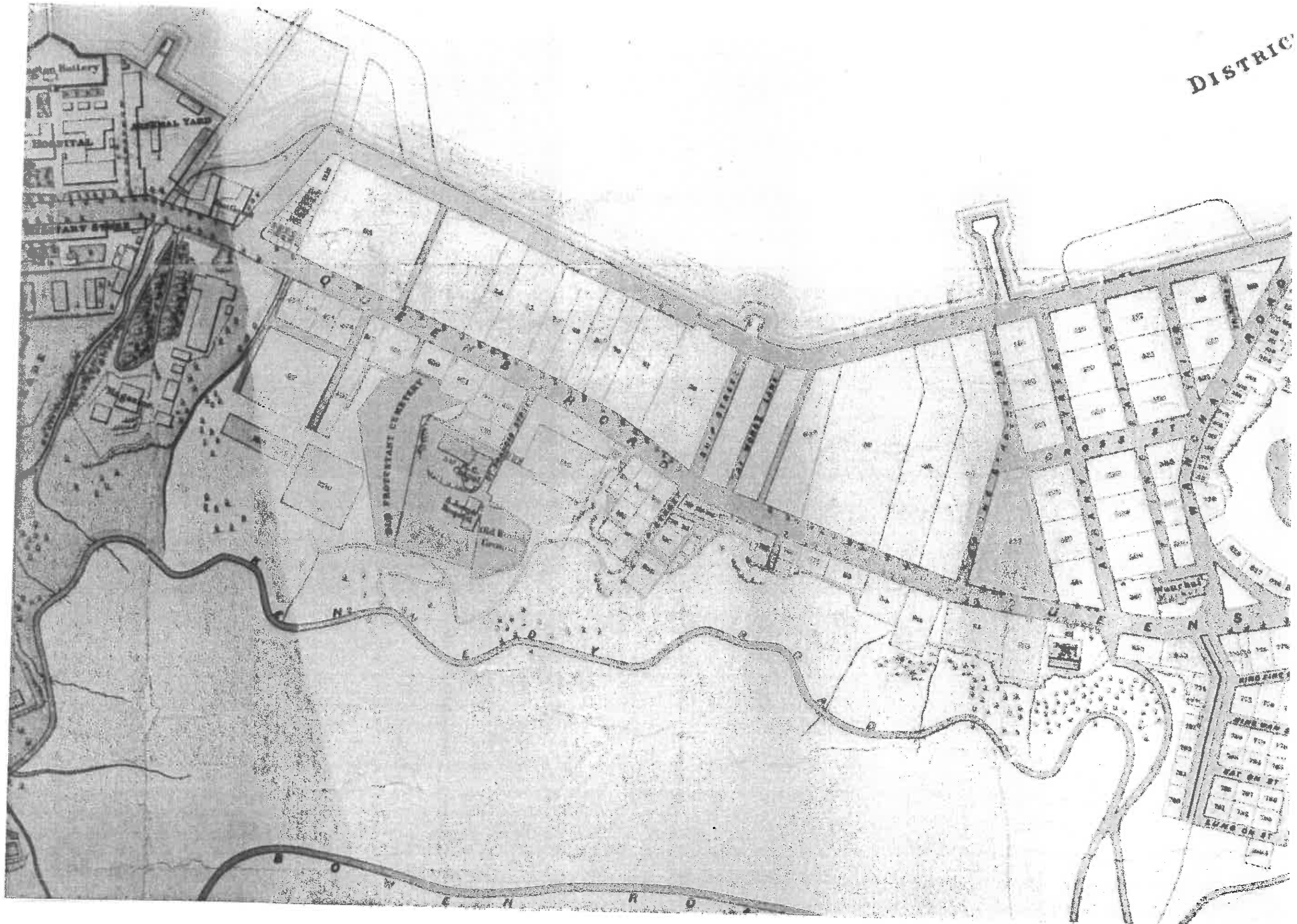


1930年下環、灣仔與春園街道圖

(由莊士敦道至告士打道海旁的新街道仍在規劃中，故街道位置並不準確。)

Map of Ha Wan, Wanchai and Spring Garden, 1930

(This map is inaccurate between Johnston Road and Gloucester Road as planning for this reclaimed area was not yet finalised at the time.)



DISTRICT

Hospital

GENERAL YARD

HOSPITAL

SENIOR SCHOOL

SENIOR SCHOOL

PROTESTANT CENTRAL SCHOOL

PROTESTANT CENTRAL SCHOOL

WATER LANE

WATER LANE

WATER LANE
WATER LANE
WATER LANE
WATER LANE
WATER LANE

WATER LANE

(before 1863)

⊗ Asile de la Sainte Enfant



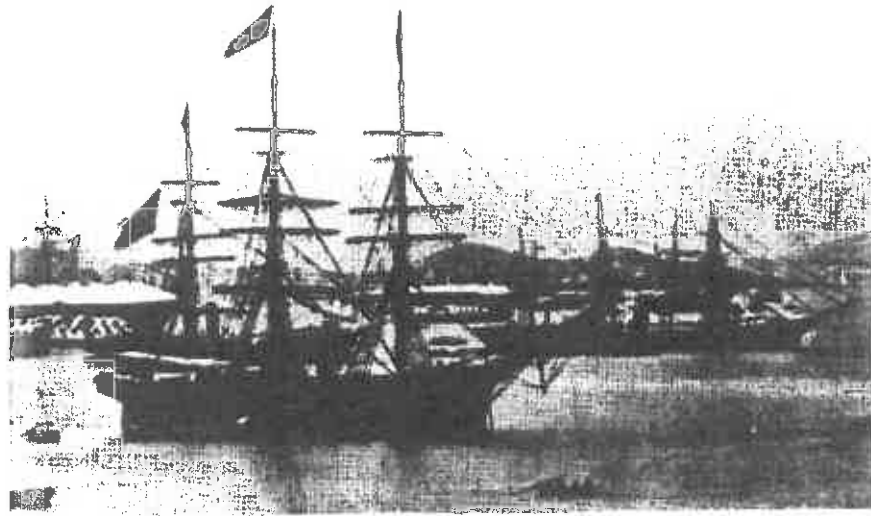
HONG KONG

1 up 12000

(Source: TESTON)

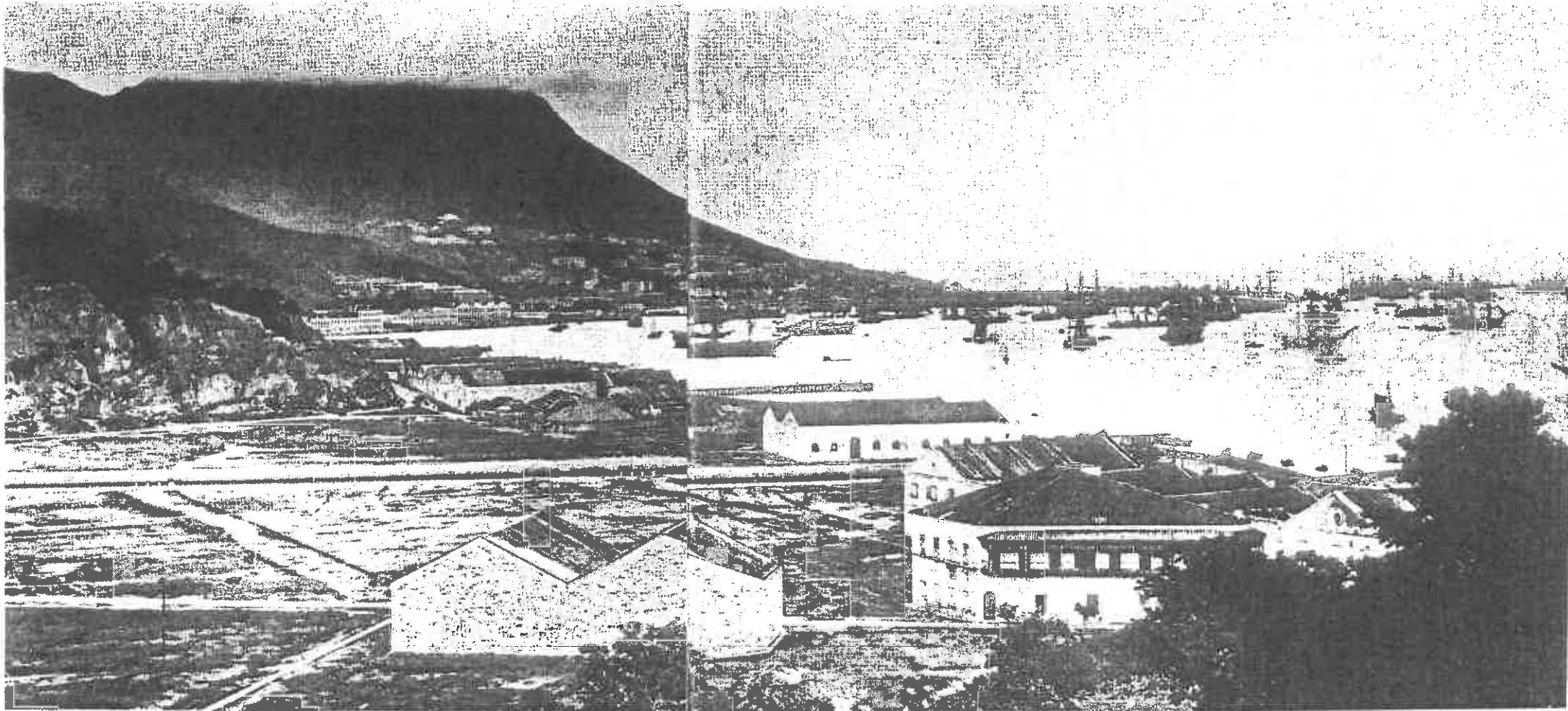


("100 Years Ago" 1970)
1870



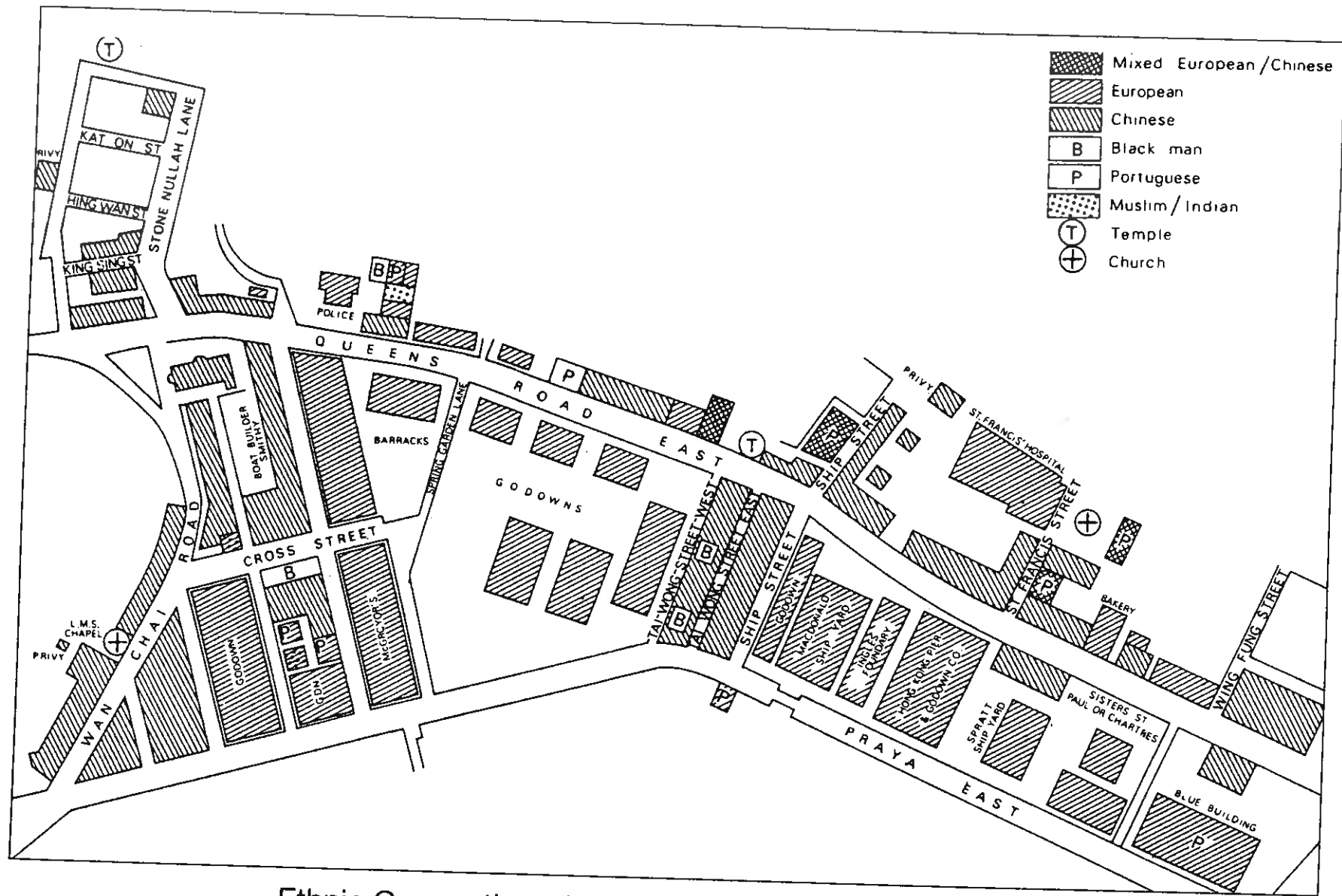
港灣內之快艦及鴉片船。

Clipper and opium ships in
Hongkong harbour. (Radio
Times Picture library)





Wanchai 1870s



Ethnic Occupation of Wan Chai (from 1872 rate books)



Hong Kong from the Cliffs: Praya East, Hong Kong, c. 1873, courtesy Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

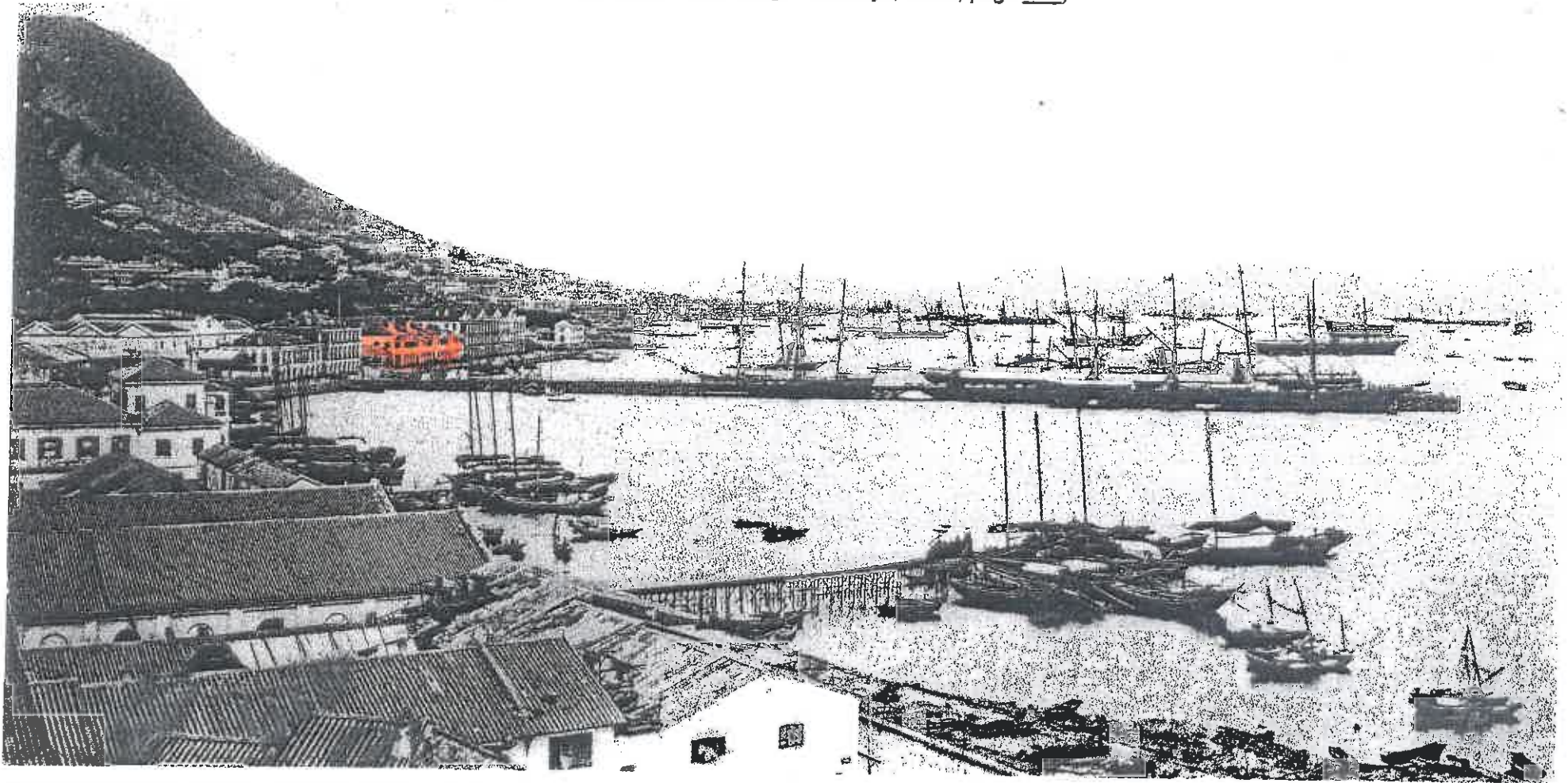


Hong Kong from the Cliffs: Praya East, Hong Kong, c. 1873, courtesy Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation



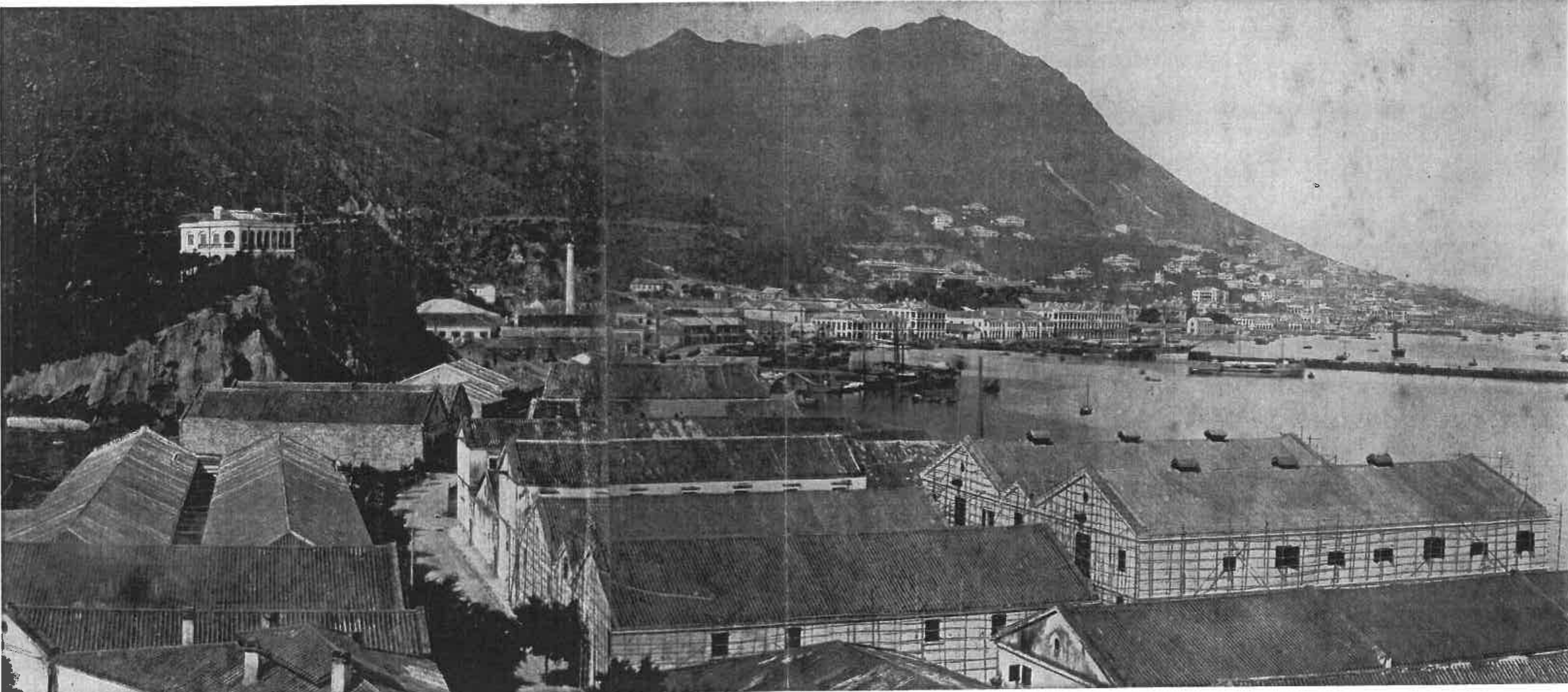
Hong Kong from the Cliffs, Praya East, Hong Kong, c. 1873, courtesy Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation

(Cheng Po Hung, *Early Hong Kong Tramways*, 2005, page ___)



約 1875 年的下環（灣仔）海旁東（現莊士敦道）。中間對著機利臣街的是隸屬香港碼頭倉庫公司的碼頭，其西鄰為海軍飯堂和軍器廠，而前方則是現在的茂羅街和克街一帶。

Praya East (now Johnston Road) in Ha Wan (Wanchai), c. 1875. In the centre opposite Gresson Street is the wharf of the Hong Kong Wharf and Godown Company. To its west are the Royal Naval Canteen and Arsenal. In the foreground is the area around present-day Mallory Street and Heard Street.



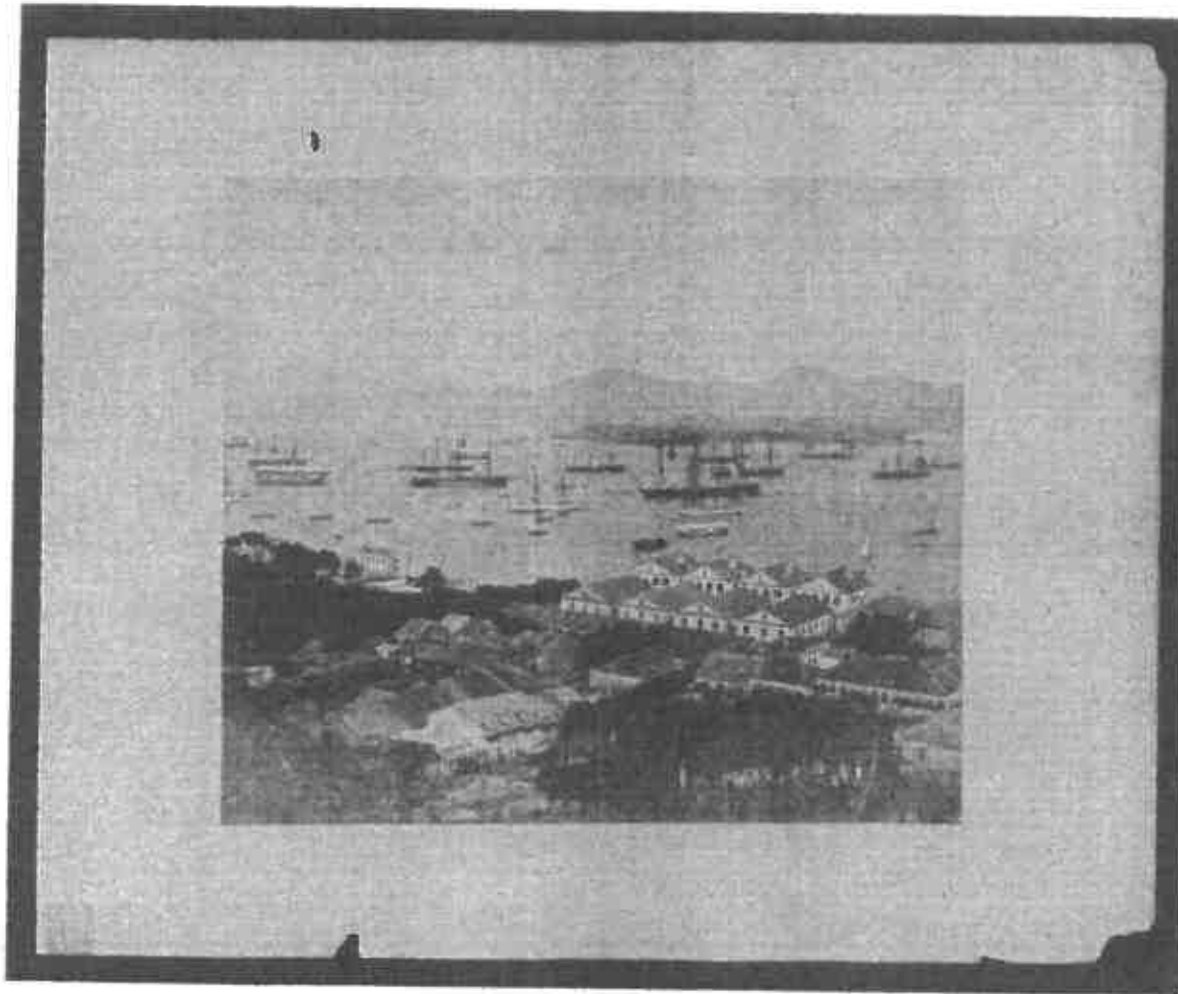
18754

1880s

(Source: Postcard)



維多利亞海港景色, 1880



CO 1069-447-55

Description:

Location: Hong Kong

Date: 1890-1900

By The National Archives UK
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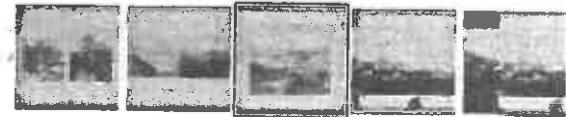
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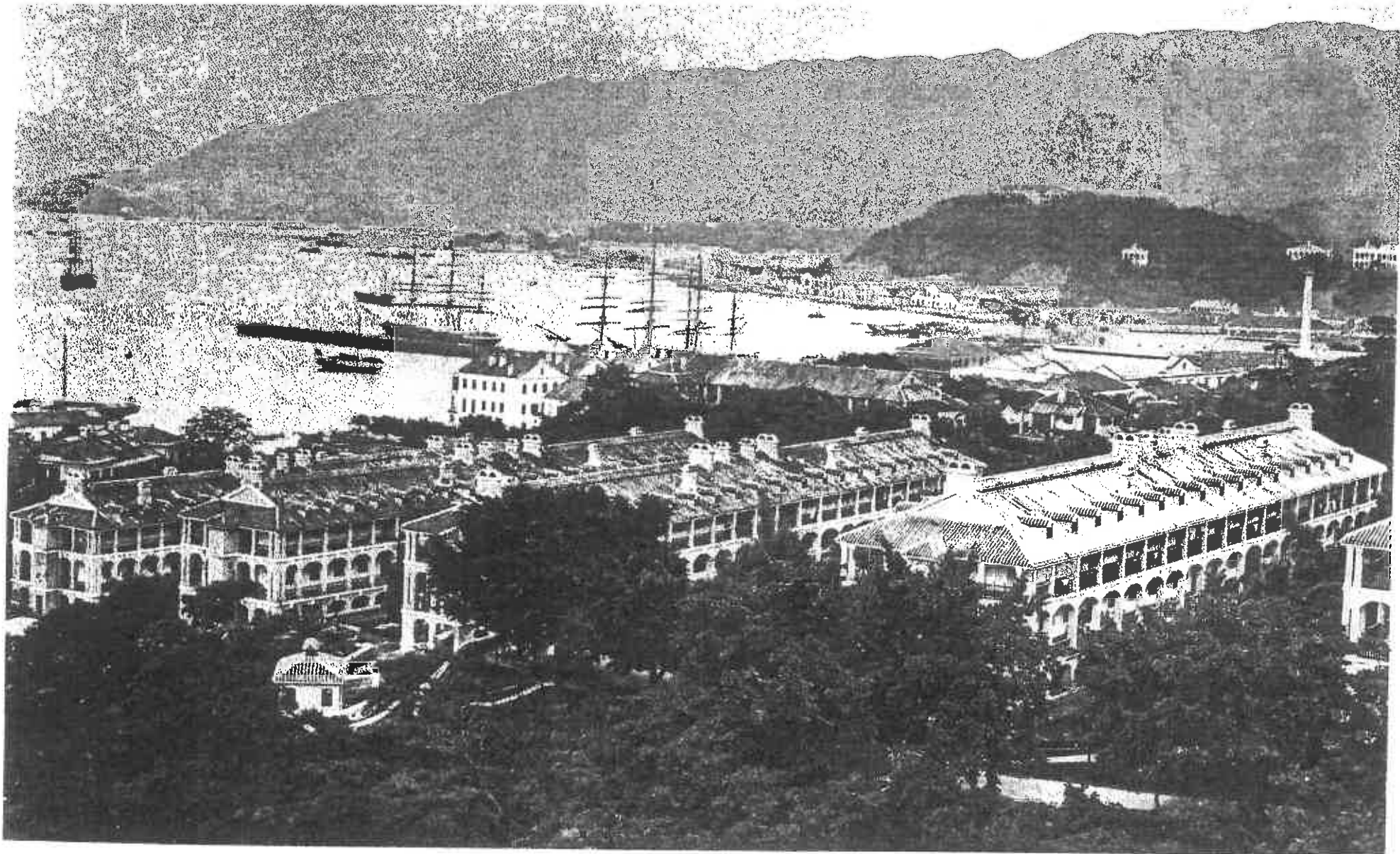
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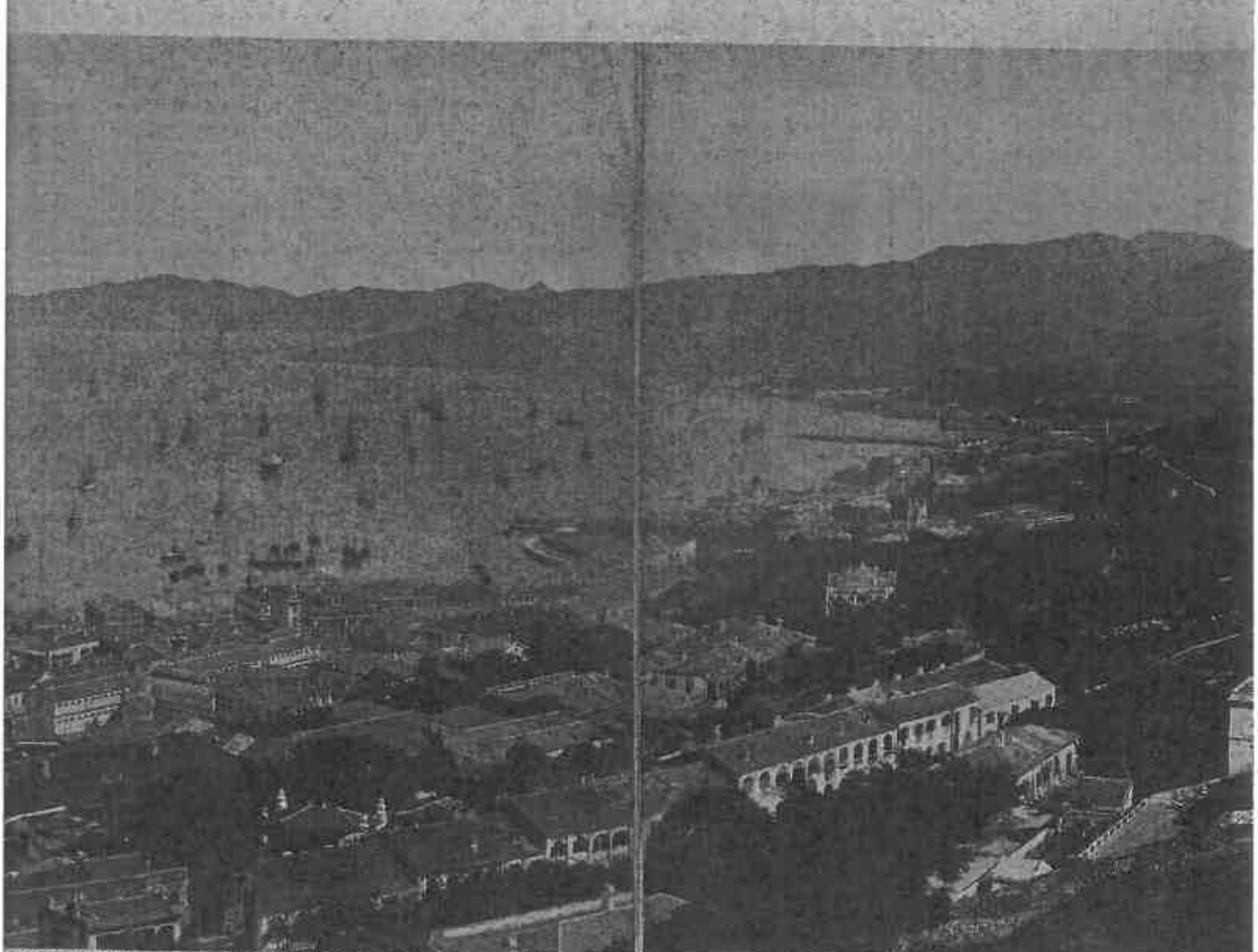
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約 1895 年的域多利軍營（現太古廣場附近）。右邊的煙囪是香港電燈公司在永豐街和電氣街交界的第一代發電廠。船桅前的建築物則是軍器廠。
Victoria Barracks (now Pacific Place), c. 1895. The chimney (right) is the Hongkong Electric Company Limited power plant (first generation) at the intersection of Wing Fung Street and Electric Street. The central building in front of the masts is the Arsenal.

(Cheng Po Hung, *Early Hong Kong Trams*, 2005, page 1)



High-rises, no traffic jams, no reclamation, no air pollution and probably not too many tourists on shopping sprees - a view of the harbour between Central and Wan Chai.

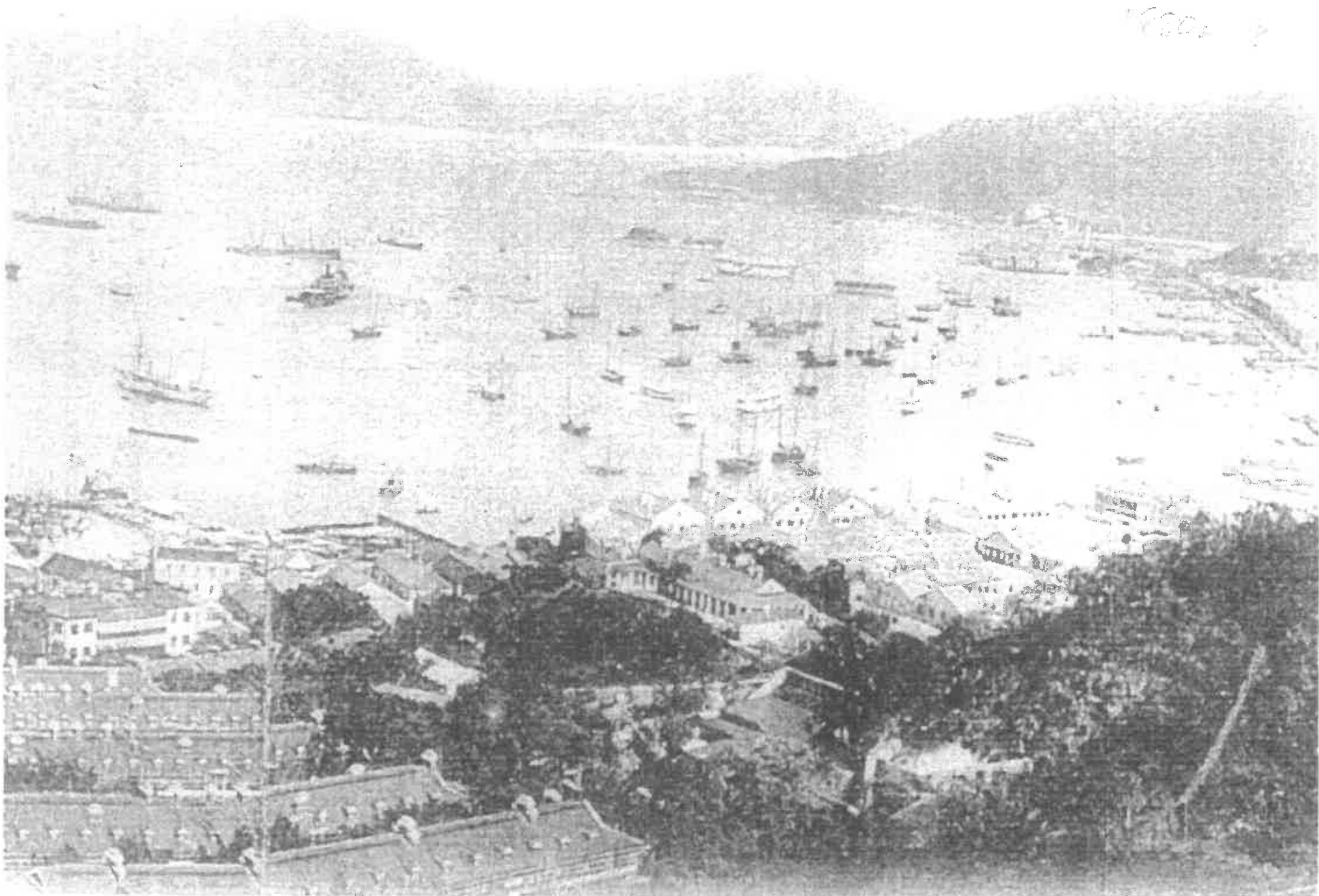
A tour of old Hong Kong

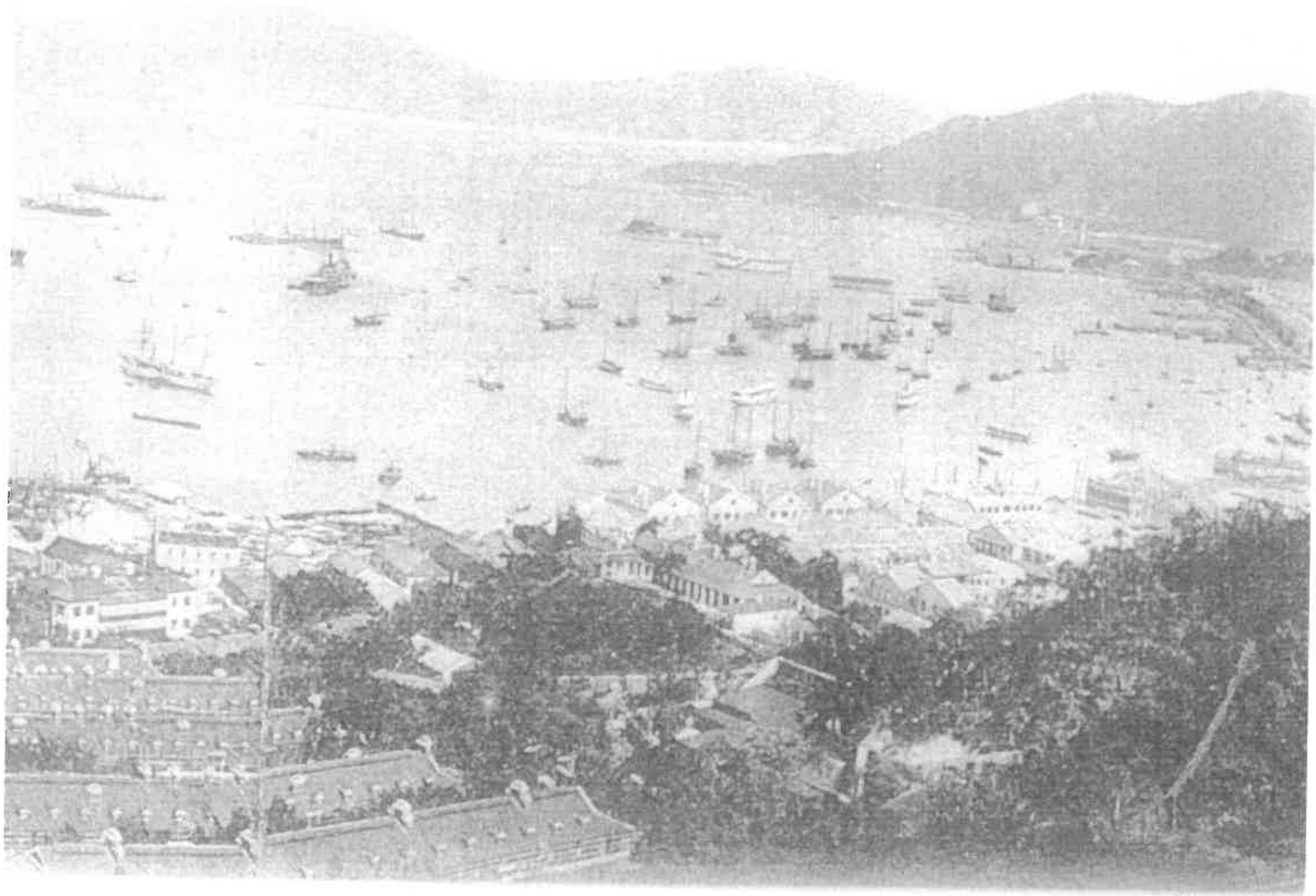
panoramic views of the harbour, Government House before its drastic
modification by Japanese invaders and old views of Queen's Road - just some of
hundreds of rare photographs of Hong Kong in the 19th century put online by
the National Archives in a year that marked the 15th anniversary of the
Handover. These images from the British Colonial Office's collection are a vivid
reminder of the dramatic changes that have transformed Hong Kong from a
fishing port to a global financial centre. The images have been uploaded to
photo-sharing website Flickr and the National Archives wants family
members to contribute comments to help improve the descriptions.





1880s







灣仔



Wanchai, c. 1900s



