The Republic of China was established on January 1, 1912. Although China’s last imperial dynasty, the Great Qing, survived until 1911, efforts to construct a modern Chinese nation-state had begun in earnest in the late-1890s. During the final decades of the Qing dynasty, officials, intellectuals, and education reformers promoted the dismantling and subsequent remodeling of Chinese society. This included religion. In this talk, I will explore the variety of ways in which Chinese Buddhists have been viewed, and have viewed themselves, as modern subjects involved in this process.

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