

CHINESE REVOLUTION

Opium Wars

Tai Ping Rebellion

Efforts at Reform

Growing European Influence

The Boxer Rebellion

The Fall of the Qing

OPIUM WARS

1839-1842

Who:

- British vs. Chinese



What, Where, When, Why:

- Europeans had been trading with China for hundreds of years, but were restricted to only trading in a small outlet at Guangzhou. The British do not like this.
- There is an unfavorable trade balance in China
- Britain used opium, which is grown in India, to even the trading. It will actually swing in Britain's favor, meaning silver is now leaving China for the opium.
- Chinese government knows how dangerous opium is and they outlaw it. They ask Britain to stop dealing in China, but Britain refuses.
- China blockades the ports and takes all of the opium
- Britain will go to war over this.

Result

- China is no match for Britain's military.
- The Treaty of Nanjing in 1842. The Chinese agree to open five coastal ports to British trade, limited tax on British goods, and pay for the cost of war. Europeans were also allowed to live in the five ports and were not subject to Chinese laws but their own (extraterritorially)
- China also gives the British the island of Hong Kong.

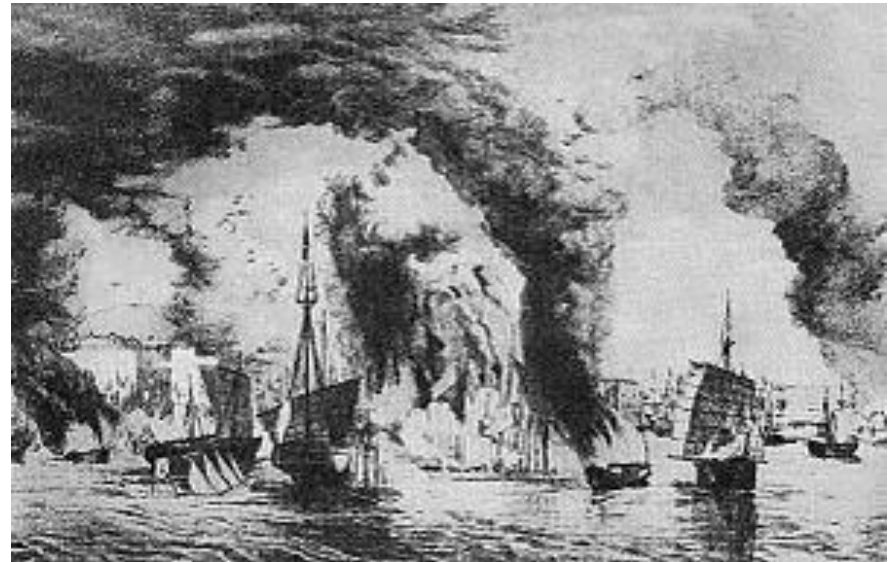
Short term impacts of the Opium War

- Chinese people become addicted to drugs. Just say no.
 - Hugs not drugs
 - No hope with dope
 - Crack is Whack
 - Coke is a Joke
- Silver goes from coming into the country, to leaving the country
- China is forced to open more ports for trading



Long term impacts

- Weakens China
- China had closed itself off from the rest of the world and is now forced to open its ports to the Europeans
- Showed the world that the Chinese military was not as strong as the European militaries
- Cost the Qing a ton of money.



TAI PING REBELLION

1850-1864

Who, What, When, Where, Why

- Peasants revolted in response to the Chinese government failing to deal with pressing internal economic problems.
- It was led by **Hong Xiuquan**. A Christian convert who viewed himself as the a younger brother of Jesus Christ.
 - Joined by great crowds of peasants, Hong captured the town of Yongan and proclaimed a new dynasty, the Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace (Tai Ping Tianguo in Chinese)
- The Tai Ping Rebellion appealed to many people because it called for social reforms.

Who, What, When, Where, Why

- Hong's rebellion also called for people to give up private possessions.
- Peasants were to hold lands and farms in common, and money, food, and clothing were to be shared equally by all
- Hong outlawed alcohol and tobacco and eliminated the practice of binding women's feet.

Who, What, When, Where, Why

- In March 1853, the rebels seized Nanjing, the second largest city of the empire, and massacred 25,000 men, women, and children.
- The revolt continues for 10 more years but gradually begins to fall apart.
- Europeans came to the aid of the Qing dynasty when they realized the destructive nature of the Tai Ping forces.
- In 1864, Chinese forces, with European aid, recapture Nanjing and destroyed the remaining rebel force.

Short term impacts

- One of the most devastating civil wars in history.
- As many as 20 million people died in the 14 year struggle

Long term impacts

- British and French applied force to gain greater trade privileges
- As a result of the Treaty of Tianjin in 1858. The Chinese agreed to legalize the opium trade and open new ports to foreign trade.
- The Chinese also surrendered the Kowloon Peninsula to Great Britain.
- When the Chinese resisted parts of the treaty, the British seized Beijing in 1860

EFFORTS AT REFORM

Who, What, Where, Why, and When

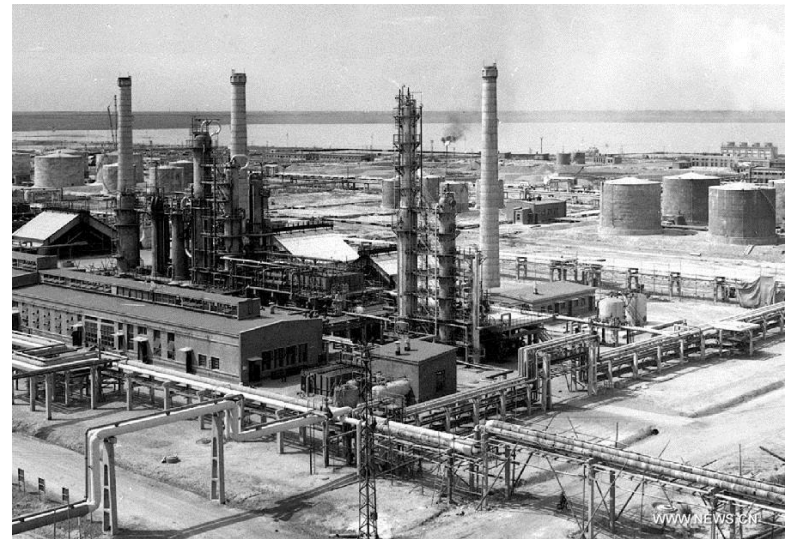
- By the 1870s, the Qing dynasty was in decline.
- Unable to restore order themselves, government troops had relied on forces recruited by regional warlords to help fight the Tai Ping Rebellion.
- To finance their private armies, warlords had collected taxes from local people.
- After crushing the revolt, many of these warlords refused to dismiss their units.
- They would continue to collect local taxes for their own use.

Who, What, Where, Why, and When

- In its weakened state, the Qing court finally began to listen to the appeals of reform-minded officials.
- The reformers called for a new policy they called “self-strengthening.”
 - This meant that China should adopt Western technology while keeping its Confucian values and institutions
- Under this policy, factories were built to produce modern weapons and ships, increasing China’s military strength.
- The traditional Chinese imperial bureaucracy was also retained, and civil service examinations based on Confucian writers were still used to select government staff members.

Short term impacts

- New ideas on how China's government should be run.
- Keeping Confucian values, but adopting Western technology.



Long term impacts

- China's military is modernized
- Industry is built up without touching the basic elements of Chinese civilization.
- Railroads, weapons factories, and shipyards were built
- Chinese values remain unchanged



GROWING EUROPEAN INFLUENCE

Who, What, When, Why, Where

- European states begin to “create spheres of influence”, areas where the imperial powers had exclusive trading rights.
- After the Tai Ping Rebellion, warlords in the provinces began to negotiate directly with foreign nations.
- In return for money, the warlords granted these nations exclusive trading rights or railroad-building and mining privileges.

China: Spheres of Influence and Treaty Ports, c. 1900



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- Human-Environment Interaction** Which countries had spheres of influence in China?
- Location** What foreign power shown on the map had access to inland China? What geographic feature made this possible?

Who, What, When, Why, Where

Sino-Japanese War

- The Chinese would go to war with Japan over Japanese inroads into Korea, a land that the Chinese have controlled for a long time.
- Japan wins easily
- Japan demands to receive the island of Taiwan and the Liaodong Peninsula.
- Fearing Japan's growing power, the European powers force Japan to give the Liaodong Peninsula back to China
- Later in 1897, two German missionaries were murdered by Chinese rioters. Germany used this to demand territories in the Shandong Peninsula.



Who, What, When, Why, Where

- In 1898, the young emperor Guang Xu launches a massive reform known as the One Hundred Days of Reform.
- One Hundred Days of Reforms:
 - Major changes in politics, administration, and in education
 - He intended to modernize government by replacing civil service exams, adopting Western-style schools, banks and a free press
 - Trained the military to use modern weapons and Western fighting techniques
- Many opposed these reforms including Guang's aunt Empress Dowager Ci Xi
 - She becomes a dominant force and with the aid of the imperial army she eventually imprisoned Guang and ended the reforms.

Empress Dowager Ci Xi (1835-1908)



- Through her unwillingness to make significant reforms helped bring about the overthrow of the Qing Dynasty.
- She rose in power in 1856 when she gave birth to Emperor Xian Feng's first and only son.
- She ruled twice for a total of 50 years.
 - After the death of her son and later on behalf of her nephew who she threw in prison
- Was well aware of her power as she once said "I have often thought that I am the cleverest woman who ever lived... I have 400 million people all dependent on my judgment."

Open Door Policy

- In 1899, U.S. secretary of state John Hay presented a proposal that ensured equal access to the Chinese market for all nations.
- The Open Door policy did not end the system of spheres of influence but it did reduce restrictions on foreign imports imposed by the dominating power within each sphere

Short term impacts

- European countries made new claims on Chinese territory.
- Japan gets Taiwan
- Government unrest in times of unpopular reforms

Long term impacts

- Qing is weakened by the loss to Japan in Sino-Japanese War and continued European influence.

BOXER REBELLION

Who, What, When, Why, Where

- Boxer was the name given to members of a secret organization called the **Society of Harmonious Fists**.
 - Practiced a system of exercise that they thought would protect them from bullets.
 - Shadowboxing (Boxing with an imaginary opponent)
- Boxers were upset by the foreign takeover of Chinese lands.
- Their slogan was “destroy the foreigner” and especially disliked Christian missionaries and Chinese converts to Christianity.
- They would roam the countryside and slaughter foreign missionaries, Chinese Christians, and foreign business men.

Who, What, When, Why, Where

- The response to the killings was immediate and overwhelming.
- An allied army consisting of 20,000 British, French, German, Russian, American, and Japanese troops attacked Beijing in August 1900. The army restored order and demanded more concessions from the Chinese government
- The Chinese government was forced to pay heavy damages to the powers that had crushed the uprising

Short term impacts

- Boxers would go around the countryside murdering any foreigner or Chinese Christian.
- China would be forced to pay for the damages caused by the Boxers.



Long term impacts

- Qing is now weaker than ever and is very close to collapse.



THE FALL OF THE QING

Who, What, When, Why, Where

- After the Boxer Rebellion, the Qing dynasty in China tried desperately to reform itself.
- Empress Dowager Ci Xi, who had long resisted her adviser's suggestions for change, now embraced a number of reforms in education, administration, and the legal system.
- The civil service exam system was replaced by a new educational system based on the Western model.
- These reforms did nothing for the peasants, artisans, and miners, whose living conditions were getting worse as taxes increased.
- Unrest was growing.

Sun Yat-sen (1866-1925)

- Leader of the revolutionary movement that overthrew the Qing dynasty.
- Born to a peasant family in a village near Guangzhou and educated in Hawaii in a British school.
- Returned to China to practice medicine but soon began to use his earnings to finance revolutionary activities.
- A failed rebellion forced Sun to flee to Japan and later to the U.S. and London.
- He raised money to carry out his revolutionary plans. After the Qing collapsed in 1911, he returned to China
- He is considered as the founder of modern China



Who, What, When, Why, Where

- The Qing is near its end when in 1908 Empress Dowager Ci Xi dies. Her nephew Guang Xu died one day before his aunt.
- The throne is now occupied by China's "last emperor" the infant Henry Pu Yi
- Followers of Sun Yat-sen launched an uprising in central China. Sun Yat-sen was in the U.S., so the uprising has no leader but the government was too weak to stop it.
- The Qing fell opening the door for new political forces.

Short term impacts

- Qing dynasty falls
- No leader in China so the military takes over
- Sun Yat-sen and his colleagues accept General Yuan Shigai as president of the new Chinese republic in 1911 because they lacked the military force to compete with his control over the army.



Long term impacts

- Qing fall
- China is now under the control of the military
- Chinese society would now start to adopt new “Western” ideas of thinking.

