

“Industrialization reduced [tea production] costs dramatically. In 1872 the production cost of a pound of tea was roughly the same in India and China. [But] by 1913 the cost of production in India had fallen by three-quarters.... In the space of a few years China had been dethroned [by India] as Britain’s main supplier of tea.

The figures tell the story: Britain imported thirty-one thousand tons of tea from China in 1859, but by 1899 that total had fallen to seven thousand tons, while imports from India had risen to nearly one hundred thousand tons. The rise of India’s tea industry had a devastating impact on China’s tea farmers and further contributed to the instability of the country, which descended into a chaotic period of rebellions, revolutions, and wars.”

Source: Tom Standage, British journalist, *A History of the World in 6 Glasses*, book published in 2006

1. Respond to parts A, B, and C.

- A. Identify one argument the author makes regarding tea production in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.
- B. Describe one likely reason for the change in tea imports to Britain, as outlined by the author.
- C. Explain how one additional piece of evidence, not included in the passage, would support the author’s claim that China “descended into a chaotic period” in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.