

1 | Late Qing China

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The Qing dynasty's failure is centered upon the early Industrial Rev.

1.1 | Failures of the Qing court

- Considered the British as a lowly subject and dismissed their claims to increase trade and communication
- Created a high trade deficit through the oblivious to trade through Confucian philosophy

1.2 | The Opium Wars

- The British used opium as compensation for the trade deficit between Britain=>China and China=>Britain
- When Chinese officials began controlling the trade of opium, it was both too late and also was handled with mixed results due to difference in opinion.
- When sudden enforcement of trade occurred, the British felt like it was an insult to the British crown and proceeded to wage war against the navally-weak China.
- After losing the opium war, the Qing court had to agree to a series of supplicating agreements that ended with hurtful consequences and CLAIM without realizing destroyed the foreign policies of China.

1.3 | Beginnings of Unrest

- The Taiping Movement
 - Taiping movement threatened the Qing government's (a.k.a. British) trading of opium, but supported the spread of Christianity (albeit the flavor where the emperor is Jesus' younger brother.)
 - Power struggle in the Taiping regime led to internal collapse a few years later.
 - Manchu weakness forced them to give the Chinese-Chinese army more power to quell the movement

In 1858, Anglo-French forces invaded Beijing, storming the summer palace, took over the Chinese tax system, and eventually basically established the Qing rule as a colony of the west.

- Kidnapped Chinese people to serve as indentured servants in the west.
- Confusion officials called for "self-strengthening", usually to little results due to the agricultural-dependent Qing state.

1.4 | Japan vs. China

- The Chinese succeeded Taiwan to Japan
- Led the Western nations to fear for the collapse of the profitable Qing dynasty
- In turn, the **Scramble for concessions** occurred where countries fervently attempted to establish special trading licenses.
- The uninvolved US issued "open door notes" to all countries, calling on opening China as a free trade zone.

1.5 | The Empress Dowagers vs. Herself vs. The Europeans

- The empress dowager's mismanagement of funds are CLAIM a symptom of the Qing court weakness.
- Kang Youwei urged the emperor to issue many edicts of westernization, but was quickly crushed by the empress dowager cixi.
- Conservatives seized the control of the Qing court, which resulted in more anger and mutiny throughout the country (but, interestingly, against western regions.)

1.5.1 | Boxer Rebellion and the Final Countdown

- The Boxer rebellion urged the whole country to dispose of any foreigners there may be for they believed that the foreigners were the root of Qing dynasty's problems.
- The empress eventually supported their decision, causing the **8-nation army** to invade and her to flee to the countryside. After this, the e.d. decided to support westernization.
- Urge for the adoption of constitutional monarchy created centers of opposition to the Qing imperial system.
- Sun Zhongshan, after being found out to promote the overthrowing of the Chinese government, fled to Japan and established his concept of revolution.
- Qiu Jin — a woman revolutionary who studied in Japan and went back to China for the revolutionary cause. She was later executed for treason.

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China vs. Imperialism

The Dynastic Cycle...

1. New Empire

- Peace
- Order

2. Old Empire

- Corruption
- Incompetence
- Downfall

3. Conflict

- Natural Disasters
- Invasions

Repeat!

The British acquired a large amount of tea, silk, and vermillion from China, but imported basically only Opium.

- Opium => unproductivity
 - Weakened the productivity of China
 - Offset the trade deficit with Britain

Opium is technically illegal, so the whole operation is largely smuggling.

Taiping Rebellion

- CLAIM @sushu: much more scary than even the Opium war
 - Took a large part of the country
 - Got control of a large part of grain and wheat production
- 太平天国 — Taiping Rebellion
 - Thinks that he is Jesus' old brother
 - * Had a fever dream of visiting "father"
 - * After hearing about Christian philosophy, re-cons the dream into
 - Is a failed scholar who did not work for the government
 - Harnessed peasant discontent + cut South China away
- To rapidly quell the Taiping rebellion...
 - Granted more army and power to the provincial government
 - Decentralized control, which caused problems down the line