

Taiping Rebellion

Taiping Rebellion	
<i>Battle of the Yangtze</i>	
Date	December 1850 - August 1864
Location	China
Result	Victory by the Qing Dynasty Fall of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom Weakening of the Qing Dynasty
Belligerents	
Qing Dynasty Later stages: United Kingdom United Kingdom France France	Taiping Heavenly Kingdom
Commanders and leaders	
Qing Dynasty Xianfeng Emperor Qing Dynasty Tongzhi Emperor Qing Dynasty Empress Dowager Cixi Qing Dynasty Zeng Guofan Qing Dynasty Sengge Rinchen Zuo Zongtang United Kingdom Charles George Gordon United States Frederick Townsend Ward †	Hong Xiuquan † Yang Xiuqing Xiao Chaogui † Feng Yunshan † Wei Changhui † Shi Dakai † Li Xiucheng † United States Henry Andres Burgevine †
Qing Dynasty Guam Wing	
Strength	
2,000,000–5,000,000 regulars ~340,000 militia	1,000,000–3,000,000 regulars 100,000 female regulars
Casualties and losses	
Over 50,000 soldiers killed	Around 75,000 soldiers killed

Total Dead~20,000,000 including civilians and soldiers (best estimate)^[source?]

The **Taiping Rebellion** was a [civil war](#) in [China](#) from 1850 to 1864. It was led by Hong Xiuquan. The Taiping Rebellion was against the ruling [Qing Dynasty](#). About 20 million people died.^[source?] Most of them were [civilians](#).

Hong established the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom ().^[1] When it was most powerful, it had about 30 million people joining in it. The rebels tried to change society. Troops were nicknamed the Long hair (, cháng máo).

History of the rebellion

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

The Taiping Rebellion at its greatest power

Hong Xiuquan was a clever student. He wanted to go into government service. He studied hard and would probably have passed the government tests.^[2] However, he discovered that the officials in charge expected [bribes](#).^[2] Hong's family was poor at this time and did not have any money. Their family was loyal to the old [Ming dynasty](#), and decided that his failure was because of the corrupt Manchu [Qing dynasty](#).^[2] Soon after, Hong became seriously ill. In a [fever](#), he saw himself in the "Thirty-third Heaven".^[2] He said that he saw a man called the Venerable (Respected) in Years. The Venerable in Years gave Hong a [sword](#) and told him to destroy the [demon](#)-worshippers who had rebelled against the Venerable in Years. With the help of the Venerable in Years's son, Hong saw himself doing battle against the demon forces.

Shortly after he became healthy again, Hong read the [Old Testament](#) and believed it showed his [vision](#) was right. He felt that he had met with God and that God had chosen him for a son/prophet/messiah.^[2]

Nimade wanted to know more about [Christianity](#). The [missionaries](#) he met disagreed with Hong's vision. They did not agree that he was the brother of [Jesus](#).^[2] Hong left them and decided to make his own cult. In Hong's cult, God was the Father, Christ was the Son and Elder (Older) Brother, and Hong was the Younger Brother.^[2] He called the [New Testament](#) the "Former Testament". He called his own ideas the New Testament.^[2] Hong's friend Yang Xiuqing used to sell firewood.^[3] Yang claimed to be able to act as a voice of [God](#), to direct the people and gain [political](#) power.^[3]

China was very weak at this time, and the people were hungry. People began to join Hong's new religion. By 1851 he had a ten-thousand-man army. The rebels cut off their pigtaileds and made their hair loose. This showed that they were in rebellion to the Manchu.

The Taiping Rebellion lasted from 1851 to 1864. It has been guessed that in the fighting, 20 to 30 million people died.^[2] At last, corruption of the rebellion's leaders made people angry. Hong committed [suicide](#) in June 1864.^[2] The Ever-Victorious Army led by [Charles George Gordon](#) joined the war. The Taiping capital, [Nanjing](#), became controlled by the Imperial Army.

References

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- Media related to [Taiping Rebellion](#) at Wikimedia Commons

1. [↑] note that the uncommon variant character is used. This is different from the more common variants and . The variant is different because it does not have a dot stroke, like . This was the variant used by the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom in its name. The character for also uses an uncommon variant. However, it is not present in Unicode. The upper stroke going sideways in is longer than the lower one in this case.
2. [↑] [2.00](#) [2.01](#) [2.02](#) [2.03](#) [2.04](#) [2.05](#) [2.06](#) [2.07](#) [2.08](#) [2.09](#) Koontz, Terri; Mark Sidwell, S.M. Bunker (June 2005). *World Studies*. Greenville, South Carolina: Bob Jones University Press. [ISBN 1-59166-431-4](#).
3. [↑] [3.0](#) [3.1](#) Jonathan Spence, *God's Chinese Son: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom of Hong Xiuquan* (1996) [ISBN 0-393-03844-0](#)

Further reading

[[change](#) | [change source](#)]

- Jonathan Spence, *God's Chinese Son: The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom of Hong Xiuquan* (1996) [ISBN 0-393-03844-0](#)
- Thomas H. Reilly, *The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom: Rebellion and the Blasphemy of Empire* (2004) [ISBN 0-295-98430-9](#)
- Lindley, Augustus, *Ti-ping Tien-Kwoh: The History of the Ti-Ping Revolution* (1866, reprinted 1970) [OCLC 3467844](#) [Google books access](#)
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- Carr, Caleb, *The Devil Soldier: The American Soldier of Fortune Who Became a God in China* (1994) [ISBN 0-679-76128-4](#)
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