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1 | Late Qing China

The Qing dynasty's failure is centered upon the early Industrial Rev. CLAIM: Qing court became oblivious and uncaring. Considered the British as a lowly subject and dismissed their claims to increase trade and communication. 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 to 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. 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 lead to internal collapse a few years later. Manchu weakness forced them to give the Chinese-Chinese army more power. 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. The empress dowager's mismanagement of funds are CLAIM a symptom of the Qing court weakness. The Chinese cession of Taiwan to Japan lead 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 uninformed US issued "open door notes" to all countries, calling on opening China as a free trade zone. 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.) 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.