# Recitation: The Opium War

## A. Historical Background

* Instructions to Lord Macartney, Sept 8, 1792

Allow foreigners in Canton

Establish permanent embassy in China or allow a British officer to be in the Imperial Court

Secure grant of small island off the coast off China where British could operate under British Law

* Letter from King George III to the Emperor of China, 1792

Requesting Macartney to be appointed to the Royal Court to oversee trade between Brit and China.

* Qianlong’s Letter to George III, 1793.

Thanks for all the gifts but no thanks lolol

**Why do you think the British “request” had fallen on deaf ears? What does Qian Long’s letter say about the political state of China in 1792?**

## B. Chinese Imperial Debates on the issue of Opium

* Xu Naiji, Memorial on Legalizing Opium, June 10, 1836
* Zhu Zun, Memorial on Banning Opium, October 1836

**Why do you think Xu Naiji’s memorial did not win Emperor Daoguang’s mind? Were Xu’s ideas outrageous? What were some arguments proposed by Zhu Zun? In what ways were they divorced from international reality?**

## C. Enforcement Issues

* Imperial Edict, September 1836
* Annexed Laws on Banning Opium, July 1839

**What kind of enforcement issues do you think the Chinese officials would face? Why?**

## D. British Imperialism

* Lord Palmerston's Declaration Of War, February 20, 1840

**What were Palmerston’s demands. Why was Palmerston able to dictate Britain’s demands so readily? (Recall the introductory chapter of Headrick)**