### Modern (1750 CE-1900 CE)

**Industrialization & Global Integration**

---

Not every rebellion in the Modern period was Enlightenment-based. They all didn’t revolve around people’s natural rights, reason, or the social contract. Below are three examples of rebellions that had a different root cause than the ones in the United States, France, Haiti, Venezuela, etc.

**Millenarianism** (n) - [from the Latin for ‘containing a thousand’] - the belief that there will be a major transformation in society, politics or religion based on a 1,000 year cycle (often these don’t follow exactly 1,000 years; but they do predict major changes i.e. 2012 Mayan doomsday.)

---

**China 1850-1864**

**Taiping Rebellion**

**Cause of the Rebellion**

The Qing Dynasty (1644-1912) was declining in power and influence in the 19th century culminating in a series of natural disasters and defeats at the hands of Western powers (Opium Wars). The mainly Han Chinese began to see the foreign Manchu Qing as ineffective and corrupt.

**Leader:**

**Hong Xiuquan**

Charismatic southern Chinese leader who had failed the Civil Service Exam on 4 separate occasions (pass rate was 1%). After a nervous breakdown, he began to see visions. His visions were of God and Jesus and they told him to cleanse the earth of demon worship. Hong built a large Christian following (30k) as he claimed to be Jesus’ Chinese brother. He then turned his forces against the Qing Dynasty.

**Major Event:**

**Foundation of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom**

Hong Xiuquan destroyed Buddhist and Confucian idols as his movement grew. This brought him into conflict with the Qing authorities as anti-Confucian sentiments were seen as sacrilegious. Hong’s army defeated the Manchus and beheaded their leader. He then proclaimed China to be the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom, which was based out of Nanjing after Hong’s men took the southern capital. He pushed for reforms like a more modern calendar, civil service exams based on the bible, an opium and footbinding ban and gender equality.

**Outcome:**

The Taiping Heavenly Kingdom was eventually defeated by a combination of Qing and European forces. Hong Xiuquan died of food poisoning and was cremated and his ashes were fired out of a cannon to see the foreign Manchu Qing retake power. Hong Xiuquan’s forces were defeated by a combination of Qing and European forces. Hong Xiuquan died of food poisoning and was cremated and his ashes were fired out of a cannon to see the foreign Manchu Qing retake power.

---

**Western United States 1890s**

**Ghost Dance**

**Cause of the Rebellion**

American settlers had begun heading West in the 19th Century under the policy known as Manifest Destiny. This often created conflict between the people who had been living in this region for thousands of years.

**Leader:**

**Wovoka**

Wovoka was a Paiute Native American. After his parents died, he was taken in by Christian ranchers where he took the name ‘Jack Wilson’. He quickly became known for his magic tricks. He had a vision during the 1889 Solar Eclipse that all of the dead Paiutes would rise from the dead and remove the Whites from North America. To do this, the Ghost Dance must be performed.

**Major Event:**

**The Battle of Wounded Knee**

Wovoka’s prophecies became popular among the Native American groups in the area, especially the Lakota and Sioux. While Wovoka insisted this would be a non-violent movement, many followers did not follow this part of the prophecy. The Sioux at the Battle of Wounded Knee believed the Dance would make them invincible to gunfire. The Ghost Dance alarmed the White authorities leading to the massacre.

**Outcome:**

The fear of rebellion that the Ghost Dance gave to the White Americans led to massacres like Wounded Knee. Some within the US government saw the reaction as strange, “if the 7th Day Adventists prepare the ascension robes for the Second Coming of the Savior, the United States Army is not put in motion to prevent them. Why should not the Indians have the same privilege?”

The Wounded Knee massacre quickly put an end to the Ghost Dance movement in fear of reprisals from the US Government.

---

**Cape Colony (South Africa) 1856-7**

**Xhosa Cattle Killing**

**Cause of the Rebellion**

In 1854, the cattle of the Xhosa, a Bantu-speaking people in modern-day South Africa, began to die off in large numbers. The Xhosa believed the disease came from the White settlers’ cattle via witchcraft.

**Leader:**

**Nongqawuse**

Nongqawuse and her teenage friend went to fetch water and were visited by Three Ancestors. She was then of informed of how to solve the Cattle problem. Nongqawuse’s prophecy was then passed on to the head of the Xhosa people. The Chief told his people that the ancestors had asked that the Xhosa kill all of their cows and avenge their cattle (their only source of income). Then, the spirits of their ancestors would rise up and remove the British settlers from the area. If done by a certain date, they would be given crops and cattle far superior to the ones they had presently.

**Major Event:**

**Cattle Killing Movement**

Nongqawuse’s prophecy was then passed on to the head of the Xhosa people. The Chief told his people that the ancestors asked that the cattle be killed by February 18, 1857. Then, the sun would rise that day to the White Americans led to massacres like the White Americans led to massacres like Wounded Knee. The sun rose that day to the White Americans led to massacres like Wounded Knee. The sun rose that day... but it was the same color as every other day.

The cattle killing grew to affect every group within the Xhosa nation. The number of cattle killed varies from 300,000. For the prophecy to come true, the cattle had to be killed by February 18, 1857. Then, the sun would rise with a red color. The sun rose that day... but it was the same color as every other day.

The population of the Xhosa dropped 75% (100,000 to 25,000). Nongqawuse was imprisoned for a time by the British. She was later released and died on a farm in 1898.