China and the New Imperialism

Objectives
- Describe what trade rights Westerners sought in China.
- Explain the internal problems Chinese reformers tried to solve.
- Understand how the Qing dynasty fell.

Terms, People, and Places
- balance of trade
- trade surplus
- trade deficit
- Opium War
- indemnity
- extraterritoriality

Note Taking
Reading Skill: Recognize Multiple Causes
As you read, create a flowchart like the one below in which you can record key events and developments that led to the decline of Qing China.

Trading Opium for Tea
By the 1850s, British merchant ships were arriving in China loaded with opium to trade with the Chinese for tea. In 1839, Chinese government official Lin Zexu (lin DZUH shoo) wrote a letter to Britain’s Queen Victoria condemning the practice.

“…we have heard that in your own country opium is prohibited with the utmost strictness and severity—this is strong proof that you know full well how harmful it is…. Since … you do not permit it to injure your own country, you ought not to have the injurious drug transferred to another country.”

Focus Question: How did Westerners use diplomacy and war to gain power in Qing China?

For centuries, Chinese regulations had ensured that China had a favorable balance of trade with other nations. A nation’s balance of trade refers to the difference between how much a country imports and how much it exports. By the 1800s, however, Western nations were using their growing power to tilt the balance of trade with East Asia in their favor.

Trade Between Britain and China
Prior to the 1800s, Chinese rulers placed strict limits on foreign traders. European merchants were restricted to a small area in southern China. China sold them silk, porcelain, and tea in exchange for gold and silver. Under this arrangement, China enjoyed a trade surplus, or exported more than it imported. By the 1830s, however, Western nations introduced opium into China if they could. By the late 1800s, British merchant ships were arriving in China loaded with opium to trade with the Chinese for tea. In 1839, Chinese government official Lin Zexu wrote a letter to Britain’s Queen Victoria condemning the practice.

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By the late 1700s, two developments were underway that would transform China’s relations with the Western world. First, China entered a period of decline. Second, the Industrial Revolution created a need for expanded markets for European goods. At the same time, it gave the West superior military power.

The Opium War
During the late 1700s, British merchants began making huge profits by trading opium grown in India for Chinese tea, which was popular in Britain. Soon, many Chinese had become addicted to the drug. Silver flowed out of China in payment for the drug, disrupting the economy.

 opposing British view. The British viewed their policies as necessary to protect their interests. The Chinese viewed them as unfair and potentially harmful. The Opium War divided China and caused it to lose some of its trade and power.

Conclusion
The Opium War and its aftermath are important lessons for understanding the modern world. Western powers used their strength to impose their will on other nations, often through military force. This pattern continues to this day.

Vocabulary Builder
Use the information below and the following resources to teach the high-use word from this section.

High-Use Word: stipulate, p. 774
- to specifically demand something in an agreement
- As part of their truce, Jess stipulated that her sister could no longer borrow her clothes without asking.

Step-by-Step

Prepare to Read
Build Background Knowledge
- Ask students to recall the Qing dynasty’s policies restricting trade with European nations. Have students predict what will happen when European imperialists turn toward China.

Select a Purpose
- WITNESS HISTORY Read the selection aloud or play the audio.
- AUDIO Witness History Audio CD, Trading Opium for Tea

Focus Point out the Section Focus Question and write it on the board. Tell students to refer to this question as they read. (Answer appears with Section 5 Assessment answers.)

Preview
- Have students preview the Section Objectives and the list of Terms, People, and Places.

Note Taking
- Have students study this section using the Guided Questioning strategy (TE, p. T20). As they read, have students fill in the flowchart listing the multiple causes of the decline of Qing China.

Reading and Note Taking
Study Guide, p. 222

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Trade Between Britain and China/The Taiping Rebellion Weaken China

Instruct

- Introduce: Vocabulary Builder
  Have students read the Vocabulary Builder term and definition. Ask them to predict how the Western powers might respond to the population explosion in China. (They hoped to end the population explosion that had begun a century earlier created hardship through trade and letting Christian missionaries preach in China.)

- Teach
  Write trade surplus, trade deficit, and balance of trade on the board and ask students to define them. Ask: What did British traders hope to achieve by continuing to trade opium? (They hoped to end the trade deficit and create huge profits.) What were the results of the Opium War? (They continued to push for more influence in China.)

- Quick Activity
  On the board, create three columns, labeled Causes, Effects, and Effects of the Taiping Rebellion. Then have students use the Infographic on the Taiping Rebellion and the text to supply information for each column.

Independent Practice

Have students access Web Code nap-2451 to take the Geography Interactive Audio Guided Tour and then answer the map skills questions in the text.

Monitor Progress

As students fill in their flowcharts, circulate to make sure they understand how the population explosion was a factor in the decline of the Qing dynasty. For a completed version of the flowchart, see Note Taking Transparencies, 151.

Answer

- The British introduced opium; when the Chinese tried to stop the opium trade, the British responded with gunboats.

The Chinese government outlawed opium and executed Chinese drug dealers. They called on Britain to stop the trade. The British refused, insisting on the right of free trade. In 1839, Chinese warships clashed with British merchants, triggering the Opium War. British gunboats, equipped with the latest in firepower, bombarded Chinese coastal and river ports. With outdated weapons and fighting methods, the Chinese were soundly defeated.

Unequal Treaties

In 1842, Britain made China accept the Treaty of Nanjing (Nahn jing). Britain received a huge indemnity, or payment for losses in the war. The British also gained the island of Hong Kong. China had to open five ports to foreign trade and grant British citizens in China extraterritoriality, the right to live under their own laws and be tried in their own courts. The treaty was the first of a series of “unequal treaties” that forced China to make concessions to Western powers. A second war, lasting from 1858 to 1856, ended with France, Russia, and the United States pressuring China to sign treaties stipulating the opening of more ports to foreign trade and letting Christian missionaries preach in China.

Checkpoint

How did British trade with China trigger the Opium Wars?

The Taiping Rebellion Weakens China

By the 1850s, the Qing dynasty was in decline. Irrigation systems and canals were poorly maintained, leading to massive flooding of the Huang valley. The population explosion that had begun a century earlier created hardship not to import opium. They refused to sign but were released when they turned over twenty thousand chests of opium. Lin dumped some 3 million pounds of opium into the sea and wrote a letter to Queen Victoria. The British, outraged, sent gunships, which quickly overwhelmed China’s antiquated defenses. Lin was blamed at first but later revered with monuments across China.

History Background

Lin Zexu and the Opium Tea Party

Although China outlawed opium in 1729 and again in 1796, the British East India Company used its monopoly on opium growing in India to make enormous profits in China, where opium had ravaged effects. In 1838, Lin Zexu, a humane and just administrator, tried to stop the opium trade. Lin confined 350 foreign merchants in their trading houses until they signed an agreement to import no more opium. They refused to sign but were released when they turned over twenty thousand chests of opium. Lin dumped some 3 million pounds of opium into the sea and wrote a letter to Queen Victoria. The British, outraged, sent gunships, which quickly overwhelmed China’s antiquated defenses. Lin was blamed at first but later revered with monuments across China.
for China’s peasants. An extravagant imperial court, tax evasion by the rich, and widespread official corruption added to the peasants’ burden. As poverty and misery increased, peasants rebelled. The Taiping Rebellion, whose emphasis on individual choice challenged the Confucian order. By the mid-1800s, educated Chinese were divided over the need to adopt Western ways. Most saw no reason for new industries because China’s wealth and taxes came from land. Although Chinese merchants were allowed to do business, they were not seen as a source of prosperity. Western technology as dangerous, too, because it threatened Confucian ideals had resulted in a successful government for more than 2,000 years. Ask. Why do you think China was so resistant to Western influence? Sample: China’s system had worked successfully for a very long time; they did not value new industry or merchants; and individualism and technological threaten Confucian ways. What pushed China toward change? (losses in war)

Launching Reform Efforts

By the mid-1800s, educated Chinese were divided over the need to adopt Western ways. Most saw no reason for new industries because China’s wealth and taxes came from land. Although Chinese merchants were allowed to do business, they were not seen as a source of prosperity. Scholar-officials also disapproved of the ideas of Western missionaries, whose emphasis on individual choice challenged the Confucian order. They saw Western technology as dangerous, too, because it threatened Confucian ways that had served China successfully for so long. By the mid-1800s, educated Chinese were divided over the need to adopt Western ways. Most saw no reason for new industries because China’s wealth and taxes came from land. Although Chinese merchants were allowed to do business, they were not seen as a source of prosperity. Scholar-officials also disapproved of the ideas of Western missionaries, whose emphasis on individual choice challenged the Confucian order. They saw Western technology as dangerous, too, because it threatened Confucian ways that had served China successfully for so long.

The Taiping Rebellion almost toppled the Qing dynasty. It is estimated to have caused the deaths of between 20 million and 30 million Chinese. The Taiping rebels were control of large parts of China and held out for 14 years. However, with the help of local regional governors and generals, the government crushed the rebellion. The Taiping Rebellion almost toppled the Qing dynasty. It is estimated to have caused the deaths of between 20 million and 30 million Chinese. The Taiping rebels were control of large parts of China and held out for 14 years. However, with the help of local regional governors and generals, the government crushed the rebellion. The Taiping Rebellion almost toppled the Qing dynasty. It is estimated to have caused the deaths of between 20 million and 30 million Chinese. The Taiping rebels were control of large parts of China and held out for 14 years. However, with the help of local regional governors and generals, the government crushed the rebellion.

Connect to Our World

Civic Responsibility Britain’s actions in India were debated in Britain’s Parliament, and sometimes actions were taken to curb abuses. In China in the 1800s, there was no representative assembly to discuss the need for reforms, and a strong-willed emperor or emperor could easily ignore the plight of peasants—even when they erupted into a rebellion that killed millions. In China today, citizens in good standing are allowed to vote for representatives who then elect members of the National People’s Congress. However, the real power still rests with leaders of the Communist Party of China (CCP). The government keeps tight control over the media and discourages dissent. In 1989, the government responded to student demonstrations for democracy by turning the army on the demonstrators, killing thousands.

Launch Opposing viewpoints. As China’s system had worked successfully for a very long time; they did not value new industry or merchants; and individualism and technological threat Confucian ways. What pushed China toward change? (losses in war)

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The Qing Dynasty Falls

Instruct

- **Introduce: Key Terms** Ask students to find the key term *Boxer Uprising* (in blue) in the text and describe what it was. Ask What grievances did the Chinese have against foreigners? (opium addiction, the undermining of Chinese culture by missionaries, foreign control, foreign troops, loss of wealth)

- **Teach: Ask How did the Boxer Uprising bring about change in China? (in blue) Ask students how their dress reflects different responses to Western culture.

- **Analyzing the Visuals** Tell students to compare the photo of the Boxer rebel on this page with the photo of Sun Yixian on the next page. Ask students how their dress reflects different responses to Western culture.

Independent Practice

Have students create a propaganda poster advocating change and representing the ideas of the Boxers, Chinese reformers, or Sun Yixian.

Monitor Progress

Check Reading and Note Taking Study Guide entries for student understanding.

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Answers

- **Reformers tried to modernize, incorporate Western technology, build industry, and streamline government.**
- **Caption** because they ignored Chinese laws and customs.

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By the late 1860s, the empress Ci Xi (tsih shih) had gained power. A strong-willed ruler, she surrounded herself with advisors who were deeply committed to Confucian traditions.

**Self-Strengthening Movement** In the 1860s, reformers launched the "self-strengthening movement." They imported Western technology, setting up factories to make modern weapons. They developed shipyards, railroads, mining, and light industry. The Chinese translated Western works on science, government, and the economy. However, the movement made limited progress because the government did not rally behind it.

**War With Japan** Meanwhile, the Western powers and nearby Japan moved rapidly ahead. Japan began to modernize after 1868. It then joined the Western imperialists in the competition for a global empire.

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**Caption** Make a list of dates that are mentioned. They should then compare the photo of the Boxer rebel (above) with the photo of Sun Yixian (below). Ask students how their dress reflects different responses to Western culture.

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**Caption** The Boxer Rebellion suffering from the effects of floods and famines, poverty, and foreign aggression, Boxers (behind) participated in an anti-western movement. In 1900, some 140,000 Boxers attempted to drive Westerners out of China. An international force eventually put down the uprising. Why were Westerners and Westerners' response a source of discontent for the Boxers?
In 1900, the Boxers attacked foreigners across China. In response, the Western powers used force to gain power in Qing China.

Assess and Reteach

Assess Progress
- Have students complete the Section Assessment.

Administer the Section Quiz.

Teaching Resources, Unit 5, p. 67

Reteach If students need more instruction, have them read the section summary.

Progress Monitoring
- Transparencies, 103

Extend Today, as China rapidly industrializes, it is flooding world markets with cheap industrial products. The United States has a record trade deficit with China. Have students research the issues and itemize how the trade deficit affects China’s relationship with Western countries.

Answers
- The Boxer Rebellion led to greater Westernization, which led to nationalism, which combined with discontent and a weak emperor. This led to higher trade deficits.

BIOGRAPHY

Sun Yixian (1866–1925) was not born to provide the hands that were poor farmers. Sun’s preparation for leadership came from his travels, education, and personal ambitions. In his two years, he lived with his brother in Hawaii and attended British and American schools. Later on, he earned a medical degree. Sun left his career in medicine to struggle against the Qing government. After a failed uprising in 1905, he went into exile. Sun studied many reform movements and sought support against the Qing dynasty. When revolution erupted in China, Sun Yixian, then in Denver, Colorado, returned to China to begin his leading role in the new republic. How did Sun’s background prepare him to lead?

Section 5 Assessment

1. Terms, People, and Places
   - Terms, People, and Places
   - Missives
   - Whittaker
   - Emperor
   - Boxer
   - Emperor Qianlong

2. Reading Skill: Recognize Multiple Causes
   - When combined with discontent, the trade deficit led to higher trade deficits.

3. Comprehension and Critical Thinking
   - How did Western powers use diplomacy and war to gain power in Qing China?

4. Writing About History
   - Quick Write: Write a Conclusion. Before writing a persuasive essay, make a list of your arguments. "It is often a good idea to save your strongest argument for last, for practice, with a concluding paragraph for a persuasive essay that either supports or opposes internal reform efforts in Western China in the 1800s.

5. Synthesize Information
   - Sun Yixian was a passionate spokesman for a Chinese republic. The Republic faced overwhelming problems and was almost constantly at war with itself or foreign invaders.

For additional assessment, have students access Progress Monitoring Online at Web Code naa-2451.

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