Imperialism and war in the 19th and 20th centuries
1. International trade between China and Europe
2. Opium and the drift to war
3. Gunboat diplomacy and unequal treaties
4. Dynastic crisis
5. Chinese responses to Imperialism
Tribute system
  • center vs. periphery
  • cultural superiority
  • trade as ritualized exchange

Ministry of Rites
Office of Border Affairs
Flag of the British East India Company
19th century
Trade with Europe
17th-18th centuries

- exports of silk, porcelain, and tea
- imbalance of trade
- silver inflows to China
- Mercantilism
"Canton system"

Canton=Guangzhou
Cohong Merchant Guild (gonghang)
Macartney Mission
1793
You, O King, live beyond the confines of many seas, nevertheless, impelled by your humble desire to partake of the benefits of our civilization, you have dispatched a mission respectfully bearing your memorial. Your Envoy has crossed the seas and paid his respects at my Court on the anniversary of my birthday. To show your devotion, you have also sent offerings of your country's produce.

I have perused your memorial: the earnest terms in which it is couched reveal a respectful humility on your part, which is highly praiseworthy. In consideration of the fact that your Ambassador and his deputy have come a long way with your memorial and tribute, I have shown them high favour and have allowed them to be introduced into my presence. To manifest my indulgence, I have entertained them at a banquet and made them numerous gifts. I have also caused presents to be forwarded to the Naval Commander and six hundred of his officers and men, although they did not come to Peking, so that they too may share in my all-embracing kindness.
Our dynasty's majestic virtue has penetrated unto every country under Heaven, and Kings of all nations have offered their costly tribute by land and sea. As your Ambassador can see for himself, we possess all things. I set no value on objects strange or ingenious, and have no use for your country's manufactures. This then is my answer to your request to appoint a representative at my Court, a request contrary to our dynastic usage, which would only result in inconvenience to yourself. I have expounded my wishes in detail and have commanded your tribute Envoys to leave in peace on their homeward journey. It behooves you, O King, to respect my sentiments and to display even greater devotion and loyalty in the future, so that, by perpetual submission to our Throne, you may secure peace and prosperity for your country hereafter.
Regarding your nation's worship of the Lord of Heaven, it is the same religion as that of other European nations. Ever since the beginning of history, sage Emperors and wise rulers have bestowed on China a moral system and inculcated a code, which from time immemorial has been religiously observed by the myriads of my subjects. There has been no hankering after heterodox doctrines. Even the European (missionary) officials in my capital are forbidden to hold intercourse with Chinese subjects; they are restricted within the limits of their appointed residences, and may not go about propagating their religion. The distinction between Chinese and barbarian is most strict, and your Ambassador's request that barbarians shall be given full liberty to disseminate their religion is utterly unreasonable.
1. International trade between China and Europe
2. Opium and the drift to war
3. Gunboat diplomacy and unequal treaties
4. Dynastic crisis
5. Chinese responses to Imperialism
# British Sales of Opium to China

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Chests</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1729</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1767</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>4,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>1825</td>
<td>10,000</td>
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<td>1835</td>
<td>30,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>1838</td>
<td>40,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

(one chest is approximately 150 pounds)
Lin Zexu
1785-1850
Commissioner of Opium Suppression
Opium War
1839-42
1. International trade between China and Europe
2. Opium and the drift to war
3. Gunboat diplomacy and unequal treaties
4. Dynastic crisis
5. Chinese responses to Imperialism
The Treaty of Nanking, August 1842

• equality of nations
• opening of new ports
• Hong Kong ceded to British
• elimination of Cohong monopoly
• indemnification of destroyed Opium!
• tariff fixed at 5%
Unequal treaties
late 19th century

• "gunboat diplomacy"
• war indemnities
• loss of tariff autonomy
• treaty ports
• extraterritoriality
• "most favored nation clause"
Shanghai
Shanghai Bund
Fist Sino-Japanese War
1894-95

Meiji Restoration
1868-1912

Treaty of Shimonoseki
Carving up of China
Open Door Policy
1. International trade between China and Europe
2. Opium and the drift to war
3. Gunboat diplomacy and unequal treaties
4. Dynastic crisis
5. Chinese responses to Imperialism
White Lotus Rebellion
1795-1804

Nian Rebellion
1851-1868

Muslim Rebellions
throughout late 18th and 19th c.
Taiping Rebellion
1850-1864

Hong Xiuquan
1814-1864

Hakka minority
Triads

Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace
Taiping seal

Taiping coin
1. International trade between China and Europe
2. Opium and the drift to war
3. Gunboat diplomacy and unequal treaties
4. Dynastic crisis
5. Chinese responses to Imperialism
Zuo Zongtang
1812-1885
Gansu Army

Zeng Guofan
1811-1872
Hunan Army
Self-Strengthening movement
mid-late 19th c.

*ti* vs. *yong*

essence vs. practical use

Zhang Zhidong
1837-1909
Li Hongzhang
1823-1901

"bureaucratic capitalism"
Tongzhi Restoration

Tongzhi Emperor
r. 1861-1875
Empress Dowager Cixi
1835-1908
Yan Fu
1854-1921

"Westernization"
Guangxu Emperor
r. 1871-1908

Hundred Days' Reforms
1898
Boxer Rebellion
1900-1901

Boxers United in Righteousness
Ruins of the Grand Fountain at Qing Summer Palace (Yuanmingyuan) Beijing