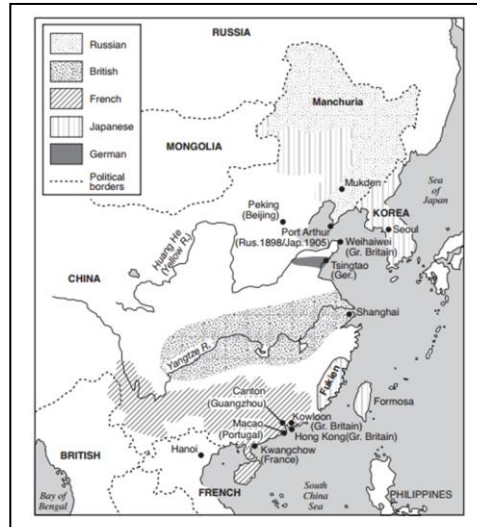
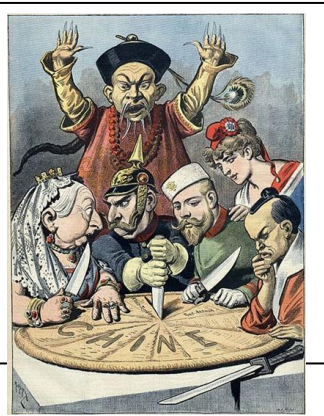
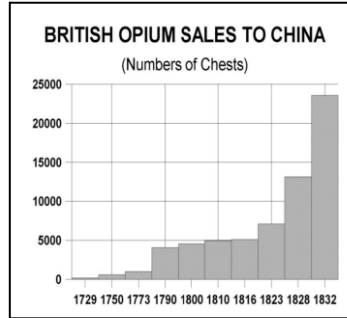
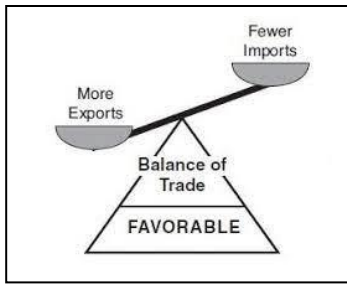


Aim #18: How does imperialism impact China?



Mini Lecture

- By the 19th century, China had been a world leader in developing art & technology for over 1,000 years. They thought of themselves as the **Middle Kingdom (ethnocentric)** & viewed Europeans as barbarians, who had nothing to offer (so they ignored European technology, especially new weapons). China had a **favorable balance of trade** and dictated limited trade with Europeans- requiring **kowtow** & only gold & silver.
- China, however, was slow to industrialize. Europeans saw great opportunities in China. They could hire inexpensive labor, sell goods to China's large population, & get natural resources such as coal & iron.
- The Qing Dynasty tried to resist European power & influence, but was too weak. They objected to the British selling **opium** as the flow of money out of China to pay for opium severely damaged China's economy. Far worse, many Chinese were becoming addicts.
- In 1839, Chinese officials destroyed tons of opium and imprisoned British opium merchants. The British responded by sending a fleet of warships to invade China in the name of free trade. Without a modern navy & weapons, the Chinese could not defend themselves & were easily defeated.
- In 1842, the Chinese were forced to sign the **Treaty of Nanjing**- giving the British & other foreigners new privileges: allowing foreigners to trade in six Chinese ports (than just one) and Britain gained control of Hong Kong. These ports and their surrounding areas were known as the countries' **sphere of influence**. Foreigners also gained **extraterritoriality**.
- The Treaty of Nanjing was the first of many unequal treaties the Chinese had to sign, giving over more concessions to outsiders.
- The Qing Dynasty lost popular support for its failure to protect China from foreign invasion & drugs. Chinese people rebelled in the **Taiping Rebellion** of 1850, where the Qing asked Westerners for help to shut it down. They did, 14 years later, killing 20 million Chinese.
- The Qing attempted to address China's problems through a major reform movement known as the **Self-Strengthening Movement** and the "**Hundred Days of Reform**". It included several initiatives such as improving military technology, repaying debts, participating more in international trade, & creating a diplomatic corps to deal with other countries.
- Demand for more reform (such as eliminating corruption & the outdated civil service exam and the establishment of Western-style industrial, commercial, & medical systems) increased after China's defeat in the Sino-Japanese War (1894). However, **Empress Cixi** shut down all these reforms because she wanted to conserve & protect traditional systems.
- Cixi's fear of outside influence was shared by a group called the **Righteous and Harmonious Order of Fists** (Westerners called them "**Boxers**"). It was a secret society based on training & rituals they believed made them invulnerable.
- The Boxers opposed foreign presence and in 1899-1901 waged a violent anti-foreign campaign known as the **Boxer Rebellion**, targeting Christian missionaries & converts.
- The foreign powers organized a military force and shut down the rebellion- forcing the empress to pay an indemnity. Despite defeat, Chinese nationalism spread- the Rebellion showed that the Chinese can organize themselves to drive off the foreigners.

Review Questions:

- How did Westerners gain trading rights in China?
- What were the causes and effects of the Opium Wars?
- What were the causes and effects of the Boxer Rebellion?

Enduring Issue:

China's response to foreign influence is one many nations face.

Imperialism in China



How did British and Chinese points of view concerning trade between the two nations differ? How were they similar?



Directions: Examine the image and letter below, answer the questions that follow, and explain how the points of views of the 2 nations differed and were similar.

A British Point of View Concerning the Chinese and Lord Macartney's Mission



The author of the image was a British political cartoonist named James Gillray (1756-1815). The two images come from the same picture drawn by Gillray in 1792. The image of the left is the Chinese Emperor of the Qing Dynasty. The image on the right is of Lord George Macartney a representative of the British King George III.

He specialized in caricature, a style of drawing that exaggerates certain features of a subject to make fun of them
His cartoons were widely distributed throughout Great Britain and Europe and often critical of the British King, George III.

The cartoon below, entitled "*The reception of the diplomatique and his suite, at the Court of Peking*" was published in 1792, a year before Lord Macartney's actual interaction with the Qing Emperor.

1. How does Gillray depict the Chinese Emperor and Macartney differently?
2. Why might Gillray have depicted the two men differently?

The Qing Emperor's Response to Lord Macartney's Mission

The Qianlong Emperor's Letter to George III, 1793

...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 future, so that, by perpetual submission to our Throne, you may secure peace and prosperity for your country hereafter.

Yesterday your Ambassador petitioned my Ministers to memorialize me regarding your trade with China, but his proposal [to open more northern ports to trade] is not consistent with our dynastic usage and cannot be entertained... as the tea, silk and porcelain which the Celestial Empire produces, are absolute necessities to European nations and to yourselves, we have permitted, as a signal mark of favour, that foreign *hongs* [merchant firms] should be established at Canton, so that your wants might be supplied and your country thus participate in our beneficence.

Your request for a small island near Chusan, where your merchants may reside and goods be warehoused, arises from your desire to develop trade. As there are neither foreign *hongs* nor interpreters in or near Chusan, where none of your ships have ever called, such an island would be utterly useless for your purposes.... Consider, moreover, that England is not the only barbarian land which wishes to establish . . . trade with our Empire: supposing that other nations were all to imitate your evil example and beseech me to present them each and all with a site for trading purposes, how could I possibly comply? This also is a flagrant infringement of the usage of my Empire and cannot possibly be entertained.

How did Europeans, the Japanese, and the United States gain, consolidate, and maintain power in China?

Directions: Examine the videos, images, and text on imperialism in China and answer the accompanying questions.

First Opium War (1839-1842)

Watch this [History Channel Clip about the Opium Wars from Mankind: The Story of All of Us](#) and [this clip from from another documentary on the Opium Wars \(0:35-7:20\)](#) then read the information below.

In the 19th century, the British had a trade imbalance with China, meaning that they were buying a lot of Chinese goods, but not selling very much to the Chinese. The main reason for this imbalance was that the British became a nation of tea drinkers and the demand for Chinese tea rose astronomically. It is estimated that the average London worker spent five percent of his or her total household budget on tea. To prevent a trade imbalance, the British tried to sell more of their own products to China, but there was not much demand for products like heavy woolen fabrics in a country accustomed to either cotton or silk clothing.

Though the Qing Emperor declared that his country had no interest in European goods, the British found one product that they could profit from in China: opium. Opium is an addictive drug that comes from the poppy plant and is usually smoked. It is grown in regions of Central Asia that during the 18th, 19th, and part of the 20th century were a part of the British colony of India. The British did all they could to increase the trade. They bribed officials, helped the Chinese work out elaborate smuggling schemes to get the opium into China's interior, and distributed free samples of the drug to innocent victims.

The cost to China was enormous. The drug weakened a large percentage of the population (some estimate that 10 percent of the population regularly used opium by the late nineteenth century), and silver began to flow out of the country to pay for the opium. Many of the economic problems China faced later were either directly or indirectly traced to the opium trade. The government debated whether to legalize the drug through a government monopoly like that on salt, hoping to barter Chinese goods in return for opium. Instead, the Chinese outlawed the drug and in 1838 the emperor decided to send one of his most able officials, Lin Tse-hsu (Lin Zexu, 1785-1850), to Canton (Guangzhou) to do whatever was necessary to end the drug traffic forever.

Lin was able to put his first two proposals into effect easily. Addicts were rounded up, forcibly treated, and domestic drug dealers were harshly punished. His third objective — to confiscate foreign stores and force foreign merchants to sign pledges of good conduct, agreeing never to trade in opium and to be punished by Chinese law if ever found in violation — eventually brought war. Opinion in England was divided: Some British felt morally uneasy about the trade, but they were overruled by those who wanted to increase England's trade with China and teach the Chinese a lesson.

1. What is opium? Why was it valuable to the British?
2. How did the Chinese government respond to the British opium trade?
3. Who won the Opium Wars? Why were they victorious?

Treaty of Nanjing, 1842

The Treaty of Nanjing was signed at the end of the first Opium War and was the first of many **unequal treaties** that the Chinese were forced to sign with imperialist nations.

The treaty stated that:

- the British gained possession of the island of Hong Kong which it held until 1997
- several Chinese cities were forced to trade with British merchants
- the Chinese had to pay the British 21 million ounces of silver
- British citizens gained the right of **extraterritoriality**. Extraterritoriality is the state of being exempt from local laws, so the British, while in China, could follow their own laws and could not be arrested or punished by the Chinese.
- Christian missionaries were allowed to preach in China
- the British would have exclusive rights (as opposed to other nations) to trade with the Chinese in British **"spheres of influence."** A sphere of influence is a country or an area of a country that another country has the power to affect what happens there.

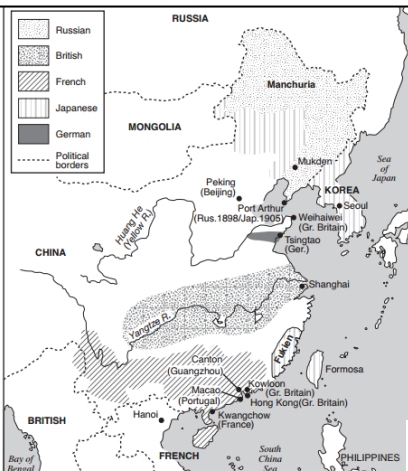


A French political cartoon from 1898 entitled, "China- the cake of kings and...of emperors."

4. Identify three ways the British benefited from the Treaty of Nanjing.
5. What is extraterritoriality?
6. What is a "sphere of influence"?

Other Unequal Treaties

Between 1842 and 1933, the Chinese were defeated in a number of wars with European powers, the United States, and Japan. Each conflict ended with treaties which included concessions similar to the Nanjing Treaty. They resulted in more Chinese ports open for trade, territory given to the winners of the war, and the right of **extraterritoriality** for the citizens of more nations. Most of these countries were given **spheres of influence** in Chinese cities in which to trade.



Spheres of Influence in China, 1895-1914

List of Some of the Unequal Treaties

Treaty	Year	Imposing Nation
Treaty of Nanjing	1842	British Empire
Treaty of Wanghia	1844	United States
Treaty of Whampoa	1844	French colonial empire
Treaty of Canton	1847	United Kingdoms of Sweden and Norway
Treaty of Aigun	1858	Russian Empire
Treaty of Tientsin	1858	French colonial empire, British Empire, Russian Empire, United States
Convention of Peking	1860	British Empire, French colonial empire, Russian Empire
Treaty of Tientsin (1885)	1885	French colonial empire
Sino-Portuguese Treaty of Peking	1887	Kingdom of Portugal
Treaty of Shimonoseki	1895	Empire of Japan
Li-Lobanov Treaty	1896	Russian Empire
Boxer Protocol	1901	British Empire, United States, the Empire of Japan, Russian Empire, French colonial empire, German Empire, Kingdom of Italy, Austro-Hungarian Empire, the Kingdom of Belgium, the Kingdom of Spain, the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Simla Accord	1914	British Empire
Twenty-One Demands	1915	Empire of Japan

7. If you were a European, American, or Japanese merchant, what might your point of view be concerning the unequal treaties with China?

8. If you were a Chinese person, what might your point of view be concerning the unequal treaties and the Chinese government that signed them?

What were the causes and effects of the Boxer Rebellion?

Directions: Watch [this video about the Boxer Rebellion](#), read the transcript and additional text below, then answer the accompanying questions.

The Boxer Rebellion (1900-1901)

(0:03) The Boxer Rebellion became the first major war to erupt in the new century. Hostilities that had been simmering for decades exploded when China declared war against the foreign powers of France, Russia, England, Japan, Austria, Italy, Germany, and the United States. The beginning of the 20th century found the two thousand-year-old Chinese empire in decline. Foreign powers descended like vultures on what was left to the dying Manchu [Qing] Dynasty. The once-powerful Chinese people fumed as they saw their land and protectorates taken over by foreigners. Hong Kong and Burma were lost to England, Korea to Japan, and Vietnam to France.

(0:52) As the power structure within the Manchu court struggled to maintain its tenuous control within China, foreign encroachment intensified internal political conflicts. What had been an ancient closed society was threatened by the corruption of progress and foreign influence. The Chinese became distrustful of foreigners and were greatly concerned by the influx of Christian missionaries who converted an increasing number of Chinese to an alien religion.

(1:22) *[Note: the footage during this section of "Boxers" attacking a Christian mission is staged. It is not real footage from the actual Boxer Rebellion]*
A campaign of terror had begun the previous year (1899) when a secret organization called Boxers began killing Christian missionaries and their converts in the northern provinces of China. The Boxers were a clandestine social society that had been in existence since the early seventeen hundreds. The group preached a mixture of Buddhist, Confucian and Daoist ideas and was radically opposed to any change in Asian culture. Members practiced a form of shadow boxing and believed that followers of the cult were invulnerable.

1. Who were the Boxers? Why did they rebel?

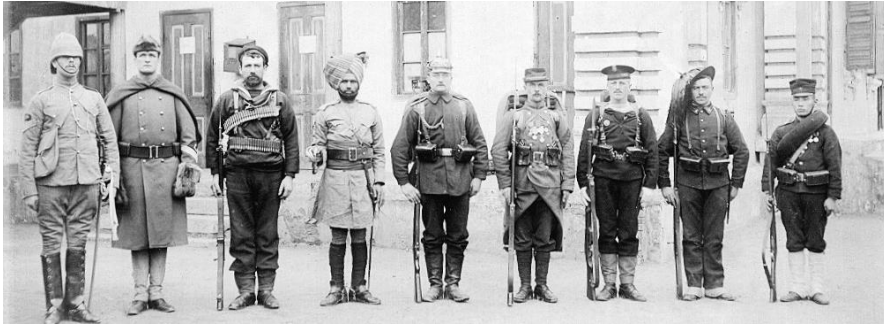
(1:51) In May of 1900, the Boxers killed four French and Belgian railway engineers. This was followed by the murder of the Japanese Chancellor in Peking. The foreign powers responded by sending ships and troops to China. The imperial court [of China] had initially condemned the Boxer violence and had sent government troops to quell the uprising, but the ruling Dowager Empress Cixi was eventually won over to the Boxer cause as a result of foreign attacks on Chinese forts and the rumor that the foreign powers wanted to return her deposed nephew to power.

2. How did the Dowager Empress Cixi, the ruler of China at the time, react to the Boxer Rebellion?

(2:27) On June 20th, the Boxers invaded Peking brandishing spears topped with the heads of murdered missionaries. They laid siege to the foreign legations [where ambassadors from foreign countries and their families lived] where almost a thousand foreigners and three thousand Chinese Christians had taken refuge.

3. Why do you think the Boxers murdered missionaries and attacked foreign legations?

(2:41) On August 4th, an international force of twenty thousand headed for Peking to rescue the besieged legations (and protect their business interests). Although the Boxer troops in the Peking area were estimated at 360,000, the international force broke through the lines after two weeks of heavy fighting. Fifty-four days after the siege began, the foreign legation was rescued. The imperial court fled Peking and the boxers were eventually forced to surrender.



Photograph of troops of the Eight Nations Alliance of 1900 that defeated the Boxers. Left to right: Britain, United States, Australia, India, Germany, France, Russia, Italy, and Japan.

4. Which countries were a part of the international force that defeated the Boxers? Why did soldiers from all of these nations join together to combat the Boxers?

What were the effects of the Boxer Rebellion?

The following excerpt is from an interview with historian and professor of history at Cornell University, Walter LaFeber.

The outcome of the Boxer Rebellion is in the short term the United States and the other imperial powers won and beat back the Boxers and massacred a number of the Boxers. In the long term, we can now see that it was the beginning of the Chinese Revolution (1911), that the Chinese saw this as something that they would have to organize themselves to defend against. If you go to Beijing now, this is not called the Boxer Rebellion. What happened in 1900 is called the Foreign Intervention. And the Chinese are very quick to tell you that one of the reasons for the Chinese Revolution and the anti-foreignism in the Chinese Revolution that erupted within the next 20 years in China was in large part the result of the foreign brutalities, the foreign missionaries, the foreign industrial entrepreneurs who moved into China in the wake of the Boxers and who essentially tried to act as if nothing had happened. Quite clearly, something very profound had happened in China. What had happened had been that the Chinese for the first time had been able to organize themselves in a way and on a military level to drive back foreign influences. In the end they didn't succeed, but they had shown that it could be done. And, as a result, the Boxer Rebellion now is looked at as the beginning of this long Chinese Revolution that finally climaxed in 1949 [with the start of the Chinese Communist Revolution].

5. According to Walter LaFeber, what were the long term effects of the Boxer Rebellion?