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, British merchant ships were arriving in China loaded with opium to trade with the Chinese for tea. In 1839, Chinese government official Lin Zeux (Lin ZHAY 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 hurtful it is. Since you do not permit it to injure your own country, you ought not to have the injurious drug transferred to another.

Focus Question: How did Western powers 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.

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.

Event
Causes

Stipulate, p. 774
v. to specifically demand something in an agreement
As part of their truce, the British stipulated that their sister could no longer borrow her clothes without asking.

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
Definition and Sample Sentence
v. to specifically demand something in an agreement
As part of their truce, the British stipulated that their sister could no longer borrow her clothes without asking.

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.

Set a Purpose
• WITNESS HISTORY: Read the selection aloud or play the audio.
• Read Witness History Audio CD, Opium for Tea

Ask Why do you think British traders introduced opium into China if it was prohibited in their own countries? (Sample: Opium addiction would guarantee a market.) Ask what the opium trade says about how the British viewed the Chinese.

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 read 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
Trade Between Britain and China/The Taiping Rebellion Weakens China

Instruct
- Introduce: Vocabulary Builder
  Have students read the Vocabulary Builder term and definition. Ask them to predict how the Western powers obtained treaties with China that stipulated favorable conditions. (threat of force)
- Teach
  Write trade surplus, trade deficit, and balance of trade on the board and ask students to define them. Ask students: 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? (China signed the first of several unequal treaties with Europe powers.) How did European powers take advantage of the Taiping Rebellion? (They continued to push for more influence in China.)
- Quick Activity
  On the board, create three columns, labeled Causes, Events, 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
- Teach
  The British introduced opium; when the Chinese tried to stop the opium trade, the British responded with gunboats.

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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 easily 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 1856 to 1858, 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 1840s, 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

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 ruinous 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 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 warships, 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 (Ty ping), which lasted from 1850 to 1864, was probably the most devastating peasant revolt in history. The leader, Hong Xiuquan (Hong shyoo CHWAHN), called for an end to the hated Qing dynasty. The Taiping rebels were based in all 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 Qing government survived, but it had to share power with regional commanders. During the rebellion, Europeans kept up pressure on China, and Russia seized lands in the north.

Checkpoint How did the Taiping Rebellion and other internal problems weaken the Qing dynasty?

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.

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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 empress 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.

Launching Reform Efforts

Instruct

■ Introduce Point out that China’s 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 threats threatened Confucian ways.) What pushed China toward change? (losses in war)

■ Teach Ask Who won the First Sino-Japanese war, and why? (The Japanese won because of its modern army.) Using the Think-Write-Pair-Share strategy (TE, p. T23), ask students to respond to this question. How did efforts at reform both help and hurt China? (Reforms led to some improvements, but also to more internal conflict.)

■ Quick Activity Display Color Transparency 148: The Great Powers Divide China. Ask students to identify the powers portrayed and explain what situation the cartoon is referring to. Then ask how the cartoonist views the great powers in China. Color Transparencies, 148

Independent Practice

Primary Source To help students better understand Chinese views on reform, have them read the excerpt from “Exhortation to Study” by Chang Chih-tung and complete the worksheet.

Answers

■ Years of turmoil, as well as power given to regional leaders, weakened the Qing dynasty and made China vulnerable to European encroachment.

Thinking Critically

1. Living conditions for peasants worsened causing them to finally rise up under Hong Xiuquan’s leadership.
2. areas of southeastern China including Shanghai, Ningbo, and Fuzhou.
The Qing Dynasty Falls

Instruct

■ Introduce: Key Terms Ask students to find the key term Boxer Uprising 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? (Its failure forced even conservatives to agree to institutional and economic reforms.) What were the Three Principles of the People? (Sun Yixian’s principles for a new China: nationalism, democracy, and livelihood.) What challenges faced Sun Yixian’s new republic? (Sample: creating conditions for democracy and capitalism after thousands of years of empire and loss of power to Western powers)

■ 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 lives reflect 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.

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. In 1894, Japanese pressure on China led to the Sino-Japanese War. It ended in disaster for China, with Japan gaining the island of Taiwan.

Carving Spheres of Influence The crushing defeat revealed China’s weakness. Western powers moved swiftly to carve out spheres of influence along the Chinese coast. The British took the Chang River valley. The French acquired the territory near their colony of Indochina. Germany and Russia gained territory in northern China.

The United States, a longtime trader with the Chinese, did not take part in the carving up of China. It feared that European powers might shut out American merchants. A few years later, in 1899, it called for a policy to keep Chinese trade open to everyone on an equal basis. The imperial powers accepted the idea of an Open Door Policy, as it came to be called. No one, however, consulted the Chinese.

Hundreds of Days of Reform Defeated by Japan and humiliated by Westerners, Chinese reformers blamed conservative officials for not modernizing China. They urged conservative leaders to stop looking back at China’s past and to modernize as Japan had.

In 1889, a young emperor, Guang Xu (gwahng shoo), launched the Hundreds of Days of Reform. New laws set out to modernize the civil service exam, streamline government, and encourage new industries. Reformers affected schools, the military, and the bureaucracy. Conservatives soon rallied against the reform effort. The emperor was imprisoned, and the aging empress Ci Xi reassumed control. Reformers fled for their lives.

Checkpoint How did reformers try to solve China’s internal problems?

The Qing Dynasty Falls

As the century ended, China was in turmoil. Anger grew against Christian missionaries who threatened traditional Chinese Confucianism. The presence of foreign troops was another source of discontent. Protected by extraterritoriality, foreigners ignored Chinese laws and lived in their own communities.

Boxer Uprising Anti-foreign feeling finally exploded in the Boxer Uprising. In 1899, a group of Chinese had formed a secret society, the Righteous Harmonious Fists. Westerners watching them...
Harmonious Fists. Westerners watching them train in the martial arts dubbed them Boxers. Their goal was to drive out the "foreign devils" who were polluting the land with their un-Chinese ways, strange buildings, machines, and telegraph lines.

In 1900, the Boxers attacked foreigners across China. In response, the Western powers and Japan organized a multinational force. This force crushed the Boxers and rescued foreigners besieged in Beijing. The empress Ci Xi had at first supported the Boxers but reversed her policy as they retreated.

Aftermath of the Uprising China once again had to make concessions to foreigners. The defeat, however, forced even Chinese conservatives to support Westernization. In a rush of reform, China admitted women to schools and stressed science and mathematics in place of Confucian thought. More students were sent abroad to study.

China also expanded economically. Mining, shipping, railroads, banking, and export of cash crops grew. Small-scale Chinese industry developed with the help of foreign capital. A Chinese business class emerged, and a new urban working class began to press for rights.

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Three Principles of the People Although the Boxer Uprising failed, the fame of Chinese nationalism spread. Reformers wanted to strengthen China's government. By the early 1900s, they had introduced a constitutional monarchy. Some reformers called for a republic.

A passionate spokesman for a Chinese republic was Sun Yixian (Sun Yat-sen), also known as Sun Yat-sen. In the early 1900s, he organized the Revolutionary Alliance to rebuild China on "Three Principles of the People." The first principle was nationalism, or freeing China from foreign domination. The second was democracy, or representative government. The third was livelihood, or economic security for all Chinese.

Birth of a Republic When Ci Xi died in 1908 and a two-year-old boy inherited the throne, China slipped into chaos. In 1911, uprisings in the provinces swiftly spread. Peasants, students, local warlords, and even court politicians helped topple the Qing dynasty.

In December 1911, Sun Yixian was named president of the new Chinese republic. The republic faced overwhelming problems and was almost constantly at war with itself or foreign invaders.

Checkpoint What caused the Qing dynasty to fall?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

1. Draw Conclusions. How did Western powers gain greater trading rights in China?
2. Summarize. (a) What internal problems threatened the Qing dynasty? (b) What were the goals of Chinese reformers?
3. Synthesize Information. How was the Qing dynasty replaced by a republic?

Writing About History

Quick Write. Write a Conclusion. Before writing a persuasive essay, make a list of your arguments. In organizing the essay, it’s often a good idea to save your strongest argument for last, for practice, write a concluding paragraph for a persuasive essay that either supports or opposes internal reform efforts to Westernize China in the 1860s.

BIOGRAPHY

Sun Yixian: Sun Yixian (1866–1925) was not born to please the powers 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 1895, he went into exile. Sun studied many nations, seeking support against the Qing dynasty. When revolution erupted in China, Sun was in Denver, Colorado. He returned to China to begin his leading role in the new republic. How did Sun’s background prepare him to lead?

BIOGRAPHY

Assess and Reteach

Assess Progress

(a) Have students complete the Section Assessment.
(b) Administer the Section Quiz.

Teaching Resources, Unit 5, p. 67

To further assess student understanding, use

Progress Monitoring Transparencies, 103

Reteach

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

Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 223

Adapted Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 223

Spanish Reading and Note Taking Study Guide, p. 223

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 to topple the dynasty.

BIOGRAPHY It gave him access to ideas that may not have otherwise discovered.

Progress Monitoring Online

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

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