	<p style="text-align: center;">DUNMAN HIGH SCHOOL HUMANITIES & AESTHETICS PROGRAMME YEAR 3 D1 HISTORY</p>
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Name: **ANSWER** () Class: _____ Date: _____

Unit 2: Why did the Chinese Revolution break out?

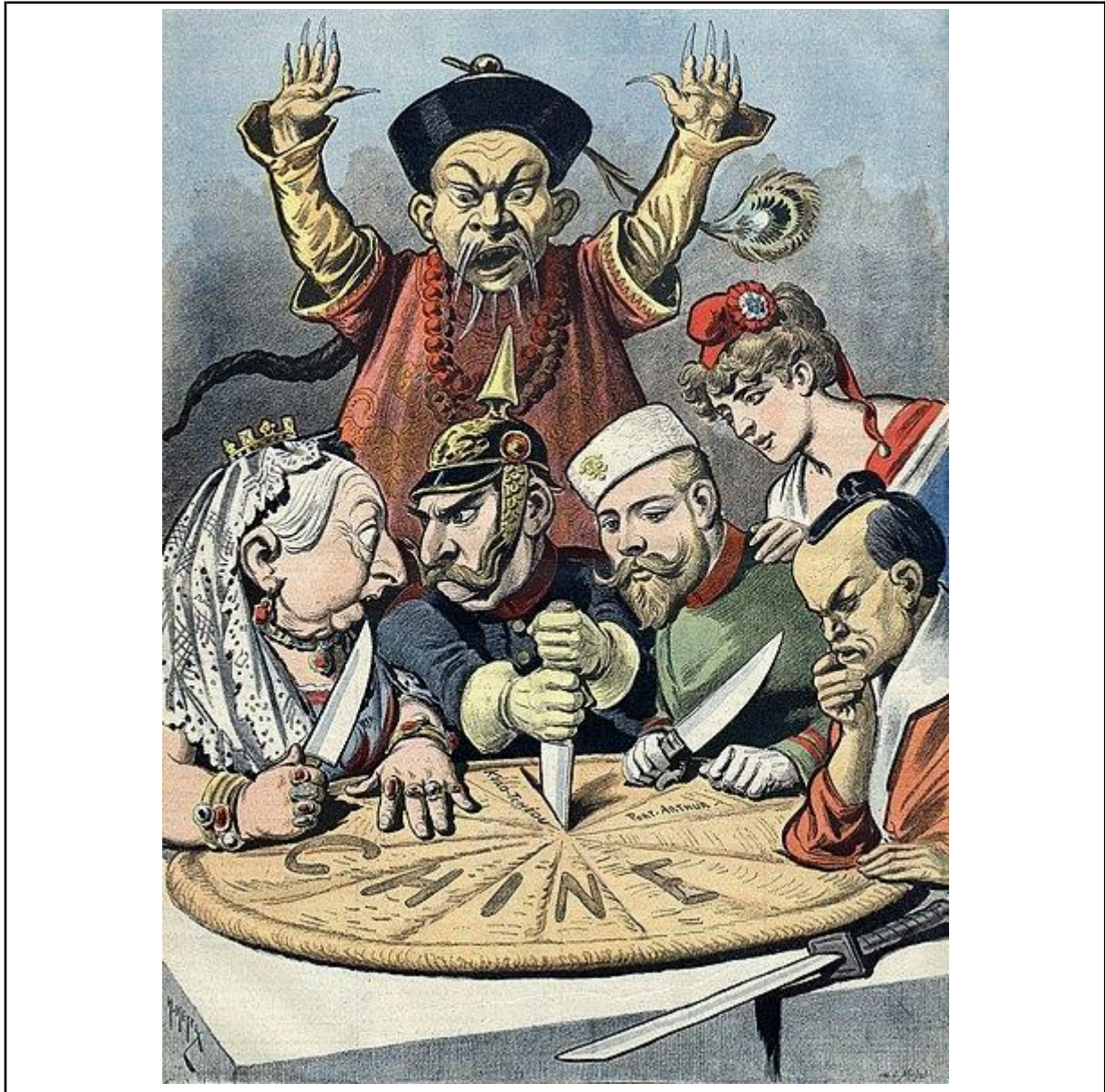
Source A: Excerpts from a *translation of the 1912 Imperial Edict of the Abdication of the Xuantong Emperor*

Owing to an earlier uprising of the people's army, all provinces have risen up in support, Jiuzhou–Huaxia has been plunged into disorder, and the people are in misery... Now, the majority of the people are leaning towards republicanism; provinces in the South and the Central took the first step in advocating for it, then the military officers in the North also desired to follow their example ... **How could we then, for the honor and glory of the royal clan, persist in opposing the desire of millions of people?** ... We, hereby, transfer the ruling power to the people of the country, and decide that the form of Government shall be constitutional republicanism. This is to satisfy the demands of the people who yearn for peace.

Source B: *Extracted from the Britannica online encyclopedia entry on the origins of the 1911 Chinese revolution.*

The chain of events immediately leading to the revolution began when an agreement was signed (April 5, 1911) with a four-power group of foreign bankers for the construction of railway lines in China. The Qing central government decided to buy over existing railway rights given to local companies in Sichuan as part of this agreement. The sum offered did not meet the demands of the local shareholders, and in September 1911 the dissatisfaction boiled over into open protests against the Qing government. On October 10, in consequence of the uncovering of a plot in Hankou that had little or no connection with the Sichuan episode, a mutiny broke out among the troops there, and this is regarded as the formal beginning of the revolution. The mutineers rapidly captured Wuchang, and soon after, provinces after provinces declared their independence from the Qing court.

Source C: **A French political cartoon from 1898.** "Chine" (French for China) is being divided between caricatures of figures representing the United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, France and Japan. China is represented by the figure who throws up his hands to try and stop them.



1. Study Source A

How useful is this source in explaining the causes of the Chinese Revolution in 1911?

Acknowledgement

Source A: Adapted from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperial_Edict_of_the_Abdication_of_the_Qing_Emperor

Source B: Adapted from <https://www.britannica.com/event/Chinese-Revolution-1911-1912>

Source C: Taken from https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:China_imperialism_cartoon.jpg

Suggested Writing Frame]

Paragraph 1 – USEFUL

L1/1 Useful/Limited in Usefulness, based on unexplained provenance only.

L2/2 Useful and/or Limited in Usefulness, unsupported.

L3/3-4 Useful and/or Limited in Usefulness, explained and supported using source content, not supported with cross-reference.

Award 3 marks for side, explained

Award 4 marks for both sides, explained

L4: L3 + Useful AND/OR Limited in Usefulness, based on source content, supported with Cross-reference

Award 4 marks for 1 side with cross-reference

Award 5 marks for both sides with cross-reference

L5: L4+ Limited in Usefulness based on critical analysis (reliability) of the provenance

Award 6 marks for more developed answers that uses contextual knowledge

(Point) Source A is **useful** in telling me that **the 1911 uprising was a result of the people wanting to use force to overthrow the Qing government to establish a democratic government.**

(Evidence and explanation) Source A states that **“the majority of the people are leaning towards republicanism; provinces in the South and the Central took the first step in advocating for it, then the military officers in the North also desired to follow their example.”**

This means that the uprising started in the southern provinces of China and had spread to many other regions to oppose the Qing government Monarchy and to establish a Republican government.

(Cross - Reference) This is also supported by evidence from Source B which tells me that **“The mutineers rapidly captured Wuchang, and soon after, provinces after provinces declared their independence from the Qing court.”**

Hence, the evidence from both of these sources **implies that the revolution broke out because the people had risen against the Qing government. The mutineers had successfully captured Wuchang and other provinces and were able to declare their independence from the Qing government.**

Paragraph 2 - LIMITATIONS

However, Source A is limited in utility **as it does not tell us about the foreign encroachments play a role in the outbreak of the 1911 Revolution.**

(Cross - Reference) This evidence can be found in Source C which **shows many foreigners carving up the Chinese pie. This can be seen in the picture with shows major countries like**

Britain, France, Japan, Italy, Germany & Russia cutting up a pie which represents China.
(Explanation)

Thus, Source A is limited in its utility as it did not point out that foreign intervention had weakened China greatly and made the people demand a change of government.

Paragraph 3 – CONCLUSION TO DETERMINE UTILITY (Critically Assess Provenance)

(Point) Ultimately Source A is limited in usefulness as it is one-sided in viewpoint. It attempts to misinform the people by saying that the government was ready to move China towards becoming a Republican country. It does not tell us the legitimate reason was the people's unhappiness towards the weak Qing government.

(Evidence) This can be evidenced by the provenance of Source A is which is affected by the imperial edict that accompanied the abdication of Xuantong who declared that the ruling government will "transfer the ruling power to the people of the country and decide that the form of government shall be constitutional republicanism."

(Explanation) Here, the Imperial Edict on the behalf of Emperor, Xuantong (author) wants to PERSUADE / CONVINCE (action word) the common people (audience) to believe that Emperor Xuantong was willing to accept a change from the Monarchy system to the Republican government. This is to minimise the resentment towards the Qing government and cast the Qing Government in a more positive light. (outcome).

This is done by saying that "the people are in misery" and so the Qing government will not "persist in opposing the desire of millions of people" (message).

Since (Emperor Xuantong) author of Source A has a motive to misinform the reader by portraying the Emperor in a positive light, it is hard to take the information at face value. Thus, the source is biased & hence not so useful as it is a cover up of the Qing government's fear & cowardice by stating that they desired to meet the needs of the people & were willing to give up their power.

While there is some degree of credibility in Source A, it does not necessarily make it useful in showing people's unhappiness which led to the demand for change was the only cause for the revolution. This would downplay the weaknesses of the Qing government that troubled China. Internal weaknesses and foreign intervention had paved the way for a revolution to break out. The source fails to provide a balanced perspective of what led to downfall the outbreak of the Chinese Revolution and hence is not totally useful.
