

THE DECLINE AND FALL OF QING CHINA (1850S – 1912)

DECLINE AND FALL OF QING CHINA

EXTERNAL THREAT

- Refers to the encroachment of the western powers (imperialism) in East Asia.
- Western powers adopted a hawkish attitude or foreign policy in their to extract benefits against China
- Indirect and direct confrontation caused Qing China to agree to concession.

The Treaty of Nanking (29 August 1842)

- **Ceded** Hong Kong to Britain
- Paid huge **indemnity** of 20 million silver dollars
- Compensation included
 - 12 million for Britain's war costs
 - 3 million to English merchants for their debts, and
 - 5 million as compensation for opium that Lin Zexu destroyed
- Opening of 5 Chinese **treaty ports** (Guangzhou, Shanghai, Xiamen/Amoy, Ningbo, and Fuzhou)
- **Extraterritoriality** for British citizens residing in these treaty ports, meaning that they were subject to British, not Chinese, laws
- **"Most favored nation"** clause that any rights gained by other foreign countries would automatically apply to Great Britain

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EXTERNAL THREAT

Treaty of Tianjin, 1857–1859

- Following the First Opium War in the 1840s, the **Western powers concluded a series of treaties with China** in an effort to open its lucrative markets to Western trade.
- In the 1850s, the United States and the European powers **grew increasingly dissatisfied with both the terms of their treaties with China** and the Qing Government's failure to adhere to them.
- The British forced the issue by **attacking the Chinese port cities** of Guangzhou and Tianjin in the Second Opium War.
- Under the most-favored-nation clause contained in the existing treaties, **all of the foreign powers operating in China were permitted to seek the same concessions of China that Great Britain achieved by force.**
- As a result, **France, Russia, and the United States** all signed treaties ([list](#)) with China at Tianjin in quick succession in 1858.

Treaty		Year	Imposer	Imposed on
English name	Chinese name			
Treaty of Nanking	南京條約	1842	 United Kingdom	 Qing dynasty
Treaty of the Bogue	虎門條約	1843	 United Kingdom	
Treaty of Wanghia	中美望廈條約	1844	 United States	
Treaty of Whampoa	黃埔條約	1844	 France	
Treaty of Canton	中瑞廣州條約	1847	 Sweden-Norway	
Treaty of Kulja	中俄伊犁塔爾巴哈臺通商章程	1851	 Russia	
Treaty of Aigun	璦琿條約	1858	 Russia	
Treaty of Tientsin (1858)	天津條約	1858	 France	
			 United Kingdom	
			 Russia	
			 United States	
Convention of Peking	北京條約	1860	 United Kingdom	
			 France	
			 Russia	
Chefoo Convention	煙臺條約	1876	 United Kingdom	
Treaty of Livadia	里瓦幾亞條約	1879	 Russia	
Treaty of Saint Petersburg	伊犁條約	1881	 Russia	
Treaty of Tientsin (1885)	中法新約	1885	 France	
Sino-Portuguese Treaty of Peking	中葡北京條約	1887	 Portugal	
Treaty of Shimonoseki (Treaty of Maguan)	馬關條約	1895	 Japan	
Li-Lobanov Treaty	中俄密約	1896	 Russia	
Convention for the Extension of Hong Kong Territory	展拓香港界址專條	1898	 United Kingdom	
Treaty of Kwangchow Wan ^[fr]	廣州灣租界條約	1899	 France	
Boxer Protocol	辛丑條約	1901	 United Kingdom	
			 United States	
			 Japan	
			 Russia	
			 France	
			 Germany	
			 Italy	
			 Austria-Hungary	
			 Belgium	
			 Spain	
			 Netherlands	
Simla Accord	西姆拉條約	1914	 United Kingdom	 Republic of China
Twenty-One Demands	二十一條	1915	 Japan	
Tanggu Truce	塘沽協定	1933	 Japan	

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INTERNAL THREAT

- Refers to attempts by local to rebel ([list](#)), resist or revolt against the incumbent regime.
- These movements could escalate into armed confrontation with government.
- The impact or scale of damage such confrontations varies depending of the degree of local support and the government's ability to suppress them.

THE TAIPING REBELLION

Origin

- The Taiping Rebellion was a revolt against the Qing dynasty in China, fought with religious conviction over regional economic conditions, and **lasting from 1850 to 1864**.
- The Taiping forces were run as a cult-like group called the God Worshipping Society by self-proclaimed prophet Hong Xiuquan, and resulted in the rebels **seizing the city of Nanjing for a decade**.

Outcome

- The Taiping Rebellion eventually failed, however, and led to the **deaths** of more than 20 million people.
- Estimates vary, but the Taiping Rebellion is believed to have **claimed between 20 million and 70 million lives**, making it one of the deadliest conflicts in human history.

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EARLY ATTEMPTS AT REFORMS

THE SELF-STRENGTHENING MOVEMENT

- In the mid-19th century, the Qing state, after withstanding challenges, embarked upon a programme of **reform and strengthening** the state.
- This period referred to as the Tongzhi Restoration had two major policy components
- Tongzhi was the reign title of the Emperor who reigned from 1861-1874.

Two aspects of the policy were:

1) Restoration of Qing Power:

- **Restoring the power and glory** of the state and by implication of Confucian Society.
- The idea of restoration was not anything new.

2) Self-Strengthening Reforms:

- This entailed a **limited modernisation policy** concerned initially with the creation of an [armaments industry](#).
- However, during the 1870's and 1880's modernisation was extended to areas of [industry](#), [communications](#) and most importantly to education.

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FIRST SINO-JAPANESE WAR

A) State of Military-Naval Modernisation

The Case of Japan

- Before long, however, Great Britain was working on Japan to transform it into its “marcher-lord” in the Asia-Pacific region.
- From 1872 until 1888, the British ran a program to train Japanese naval officers.
- British naval officers taught at the Tokyo Naval College.
- From 1870 to 1900, most Japanese battleships were built in British yards.

The Case of China

- China was also attempting to build up its military power.
- It was purchasing warships from abroad under the Self-Strengthening program laid out by Li Hongchang, the main diplomat and modernizer at the Qing Court
- But the training of Chinese sailors lagged behind, and the Japanese scored an easy naval victory over China in this first Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95.

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FIRST SINO-JAPANESE WAR

B) Cause of Conflict

- Japan became intent on eliminating Chinese dominance in Asia, in order to establish their own control over Korea.
- Korea was formally under Chinese suzerainty.
- But Japan, was building up its military power, had a growing diplomatic presence on the peninsula.
- A contrived “uprising” by Korean nationalists led to the pro-Japan faction at the Korean court “requesting” Japanese troops to help suppress the rebellion in 1894.
- The movement of Japanese troops to Korea placed them in direct conflict with China.
- This led to the [outbreak of the war](#).

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FIRST SINO-JAPANESE WAR

C) Immediate Outcome

- 15 On April 17, 1895, the Treaty of Shimonoseki was signed. It provided for
- Recognition of Korean independence and termination of tribute to China;
 - An indemnity of 200 million taels to Japan;
 - Cession of Taiwan, the Pescadores, and the Liaotung peninsula;
 - The opening of Chungking, Soochow, Hangchow, and Sha-shih as ports; and
 - The right of Japanese nationals to open factories and engage in industry and manufacturing in China.

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FIRST SINO-JAPANESE WAR

C) Reasons for Defeat

Unified Modernised Japan

- Japan had become a modern state after Meiji Restoration.
- Reforms were wholesome – political, economic and military.
- in which a nationalistic consciousness bonded the government and people into a unified body.

A Disunited China

- In China, the government and people were separate entities.
- Western observers described the war as one between Li Hung-chang's Peiyang fleet and Huai army and Japan.
- No unity of command, and no nationwide mobilisation in China.
- Li Hung-chang had no the authority to decide policy matters or to control the ships and troops outside his Peiyang command and his Huai army.

Hindrance to Modernisation

- Corruption at court and in the Peiyang command doomed the Chinese effort from the start.
- The dowager's misuse of the naval funds for the construction of the Summer Palace.
- The British adviser's recommendation before the war that China purchase two fast ships went unheeded.
- Instead these two ships were purchased by Japan, and one of them, the Yoshino, established a splendid record in the naval battle.

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FIRST SINO-JAPANESE WAR

D) Impact on Qing China

NEW POLITICAL MOVEMENTS IN CHINA

- The defeat demonstrated beyond doubt the inability of the Manchus to cope with the challenge of the times.
- Superficial modernisation of the Self-Strengthening type could not regenerate a rule deeply embedded in decadence.
- Furthermore, new crises of imperialism threatened the dismemberment of China.
- There was now a realisation among thinking Chinese that China's salvation lay in a radical reform or even a revolution.
- The progressives advocated institutional reorganisation after the fashion of Emperor Meiji.
- The radicals demanded a revolution to replace the Manchu dynasty with a Chinese republic.
- These two currents constituted the main political movements in postwar China.

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REFORMS OF 1898 (aka Hundred Days Reform)

- The measures which were all based on Western models, included:
 - Major modifications of the civil service
 - Innovations in education
 - Extensive industrial reorganisation.

REACTIONS TOWARDS REFORMS

- The progressive elements around Emperor Guangxu (Kuang Hsu) had persuaded him that reform would convince the Chinese people that the imperial government was still in control.
- Unfortunately for him, the progressives were outweighed by the reactionaries at court.
- The Empress Dowager Cixi and her ultra-conservative faction overawed the emperor and out-manoeuvred his supporters.
- Appalled by the speed and range of the attempted reforms, Cixi took over the government.
- Guangxu was obliged to retract his former support of the reformers, all of whom were dismissed, many of them being executed or imprisoned.
- What the failure of the 100 Days had revealed was both the crippling lack of cohesion among the advocates of reform in China and the strength of conservatism in Chinese politics.
- These divisions were to persist as a constant feature of China's history in the first half of the twentieth century.

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THE BOXER RISING 1900-1

Origin and Cause

- Caused by Cixi's detestation of foreigners
- Also her attempted to use the national feelings generated by the Sino-Japanese War and sentiments evoked from the Reforms of 1898 (100 Days)
- There was a nationwide campaign against the 'foreign devils' in China
- She gave her backing to the Boxers
- A collective term for an assortment of anti-Western secret societies, which viewed the Christian Church as their chief enemy.
- By 1900, the Boxers had begun to perpetrate violent attacks on Chinese Christians and foreign missionaries.
- With Cixi's approval, this extended into a series of indiscriminate massacres of Westerners.
- Cixi now judged it opportune to order the international settlements in Beijing to be besieged.

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THE BOXER RISING 1900-1

A Miscalculated Plan

- She had badly misjudged the situation.
- Cixi's appeals to the regional governors to send troops to Beijing to form a Chinese army were largely ignored.
- The reality was that the government in Beijing had neither the strength to enforce compliance from the provinces nor the prestige to attract their help.
- Rather than assist the Manchu government, a number of provincial leaders made common cause with the foreigners by promising to protect Western nationals.
- Within a short time, the Western powers had raised an army to which nine nations contributed, although the majority of the troops were provided by Japan.
- Once this international force had reached Beijing, it had little difficulty in breaking the siege of the legations and crushing the Boxers.
- Cixi and the emperor fled south to Xian (Sian) in Shaanxi province.

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THE RISE OF REVOLUTIONARIES

Background

- Sun travelled frequently and returned to Tokyo.
- Educated at Iolani School, Honolulu 1879-1882.
- Fluent in English and studied Medicine in British Hong Kong 1897-1892.

Sun's Early Politics

- Headed an unsuccessful coup against the Qing in 1895.
- In exile in Europe, Japan, Canada and the USA 1895-1911.
- He was seized in London by Qing government agents 1896.
- But was released after intervention by the British government.
- Also, carried out massive revolutionary work from abroad.
- He established the Chinese United League (Tongmeng hui) on 20 August 1905
- Among the founders, Sun became president.
- Amongst his prominent lieutenants were Huang Xing and Song Ja-ren.

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THE RISE OF REVOLUTIONARIES

Manifesto

- The League's manifesto comprised four basic points:
 - Expulsion of the Manchus;
 - Restoration of Chinese rule;
 - Establishment of a republic;
 - Equalisation of land rights.
- These ideas were the basis of Sun's three principles: nationalism, democracy and people's livelihood.

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THE RISE OF REVOLUTIONARIES

Intensification of Activities before October 1911

- The pace of revolutionary activity quickened.
- The first revolution of 1895 had been followed by another failed one in 1900.
- But between 1906 and 1911 there were eight, making ten in all.
- All took place in the south, especially in Guangdong, Guangzhou.
- The last occurred in April 1911.
- The Guangzhou uprising shocked the Qing court.
- It was prelude for the eventual attempt at the Hubei, capital Wuchang later the same year.
- In July 1911 Song Jiaoren and others devised a plan from Shanghai to strike at the central provinces of China in an eleventh attempt to bring down.

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THE RISE OF REVOLUTIONARIES

The Trigger / Final Demise

- Qing government's attempt to nationalise the railways led to unrest and protest in Sichuan.
- The Qing government sent troops to Sichuan from Hubei to suppress the disorder.
- The revolutionaries took advantage of a military vacuum in Hubei.
- On 9 October 1911 some revolutionaries in Wuchang and Hanyang accidentally let off a bomb accidentally.
- The Qing police reacted by arresting many revolutionaries.
- Two battalions of the New Army that had gone over to the revolution.
- They successfully took control of the city on 10 October.
- Revolution had begun and the whole country had declared itself in support of the revolution.