

## Hist. 2c, L 11: Imperialism and China

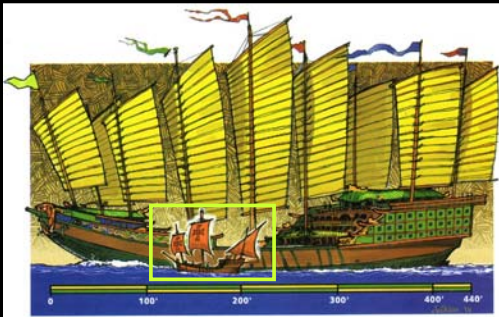
How was the greatest empire up to the 1700s reduced to "second rate" status in the 1840s?

1. Ming & Qing China: superpower
2. The British Problem: Opium as Solution  
Imperialism and China in the 19th century
3. Japanese *Karuta* (card game)  
2nd paper topics

## What is Imperialism?

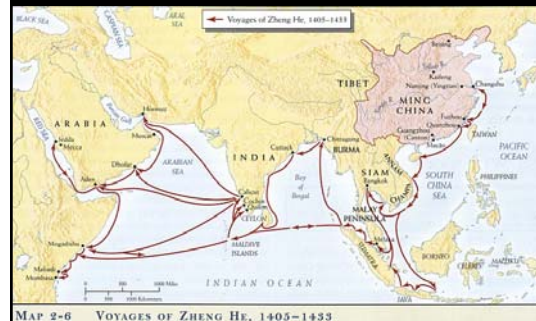
- direct economic (& political) control of one country by another
- compare mercantilism (WTWA, p. 559)
- British East India company (joint stock & gov't monopoly, in China to 1834)

## China: World Superpower til 1790s



textbook 504f: 1405 Chinese ship: 4x length, 9x cargo capacity of Columbus's Santa Maria

## Zheng He, 1405-1433



MAP 2-6 VOYAGES OF ZHENG HE, 1405-1433  
Gavin Menzies, 1421: The Year China Discovered America

## Forbidden City vs. Versailles



1400 vs. 1680

textbook chap. 14: *Splendor and Power*, pp. 609-614  
chap. 15: persistence, pp. 676-680

## Chinese Dynasties

- Mongol **Yuan** Dynasty (1271 - 1368)
- **Ming** Dynasty (1368 - 1644)
  - prosperity vs. *Ferengis* (WTWA 546ff)
  - downfall/transition (WTWA 578-583)
- Manchu **Qing** Dynasty (1644 - 1911)
  - expansion and new crops: demographics! (150 mio. ca. 1650 to 300 mio. ca. 1800)
  - Emperors Kangxi (b.1654, r. 1661-1723): 61 years
  - Yongzheng (b. 1678, r. 1723-1736)
  - Qianlong (1711-1799) (r. 1736-1796): 60 years



## Canton system



- Canton=Guangzhou:
  - 13 warehouses on Pearl River
  - 75 miles from Macao & Hong Kong
  - 1759-1842
- trading system imposed by Emperor
- all foreign trade highly regulated and confined to Canton
- tea, silk, porcelain, handcrafts (laquerware), ... -- paid for with silver

## Qianlong (Ch'ien Lung): Letter to George III (1792)



"China has no need to import goods produced by outside barbarians..."

"We possess all things. I see no value on objects strange or ingenious, and have no use for your country's manufactures."

Should your vessels touch the shore, your merchants will assuredly never be permitted to land or to reside there, but will be subject to instant expulsion. ... Tremblingly obey and show no negligence!"

## George Macartney



- cousin of king, ambassador to Russia, governor of Madras
- Lord Macartney's mission, 1793: textiles, cutlery, pottery, clocks, scientific gadgets, musical instruments
- refused to kowtow
- accompanied by son

## Canton Tea Warehouse, ca. 1800



Europeans with kerchiefs supervise

## Opium Wars, I

- "country trade": British Indian opium overland into China to balance exchange, esp. **opium**
- 1834: end of British East India Company monopoly-> competition among Brits begins
- 1839: Lin Zexu's letter to Queen Victoria
- 1839-1842 (first) Opium War
- Treaty of Nanking: indemnity, Hong Kong, "fair tariff," 5 ports
- 1843: Brits not subject to Chinese law

## Britain - China trade

- 1729: 200 chests (60 kg=133 lbs each)
  - 1767: 1,000
  - 1800: 4,500
  - 1821: 5,000
  - 1825: 10,000
  - 1831: 16,500
  - 1838: 40,000
  - 1839: 20,283 chests destroyed by Lin Zexu
  - 1850: 30,000/year
  - 1867: 70,000
- tea trade

## Steamer Nemesis outguns Chinese



National Maritime museum, Greenwich

## Opium Wars, II

- 1856-60: second Opium War (Brit + Fr.)
  - Treaty of T.
- 1884x-5: France
- 1895: Japan

## Taiping Rebellion

- Hong Xiuquan (1813-1864)
  - schoolteacher, failed bureaucrat
  - "brother of Jesus Christ"
  - Taiping: "Great Peace"
- Doctrine: similar to Marx' socialism
  - classless, egalitarian society (women, too)
  - prohibited foot bindings
  - public education: literacy
  - democratic institutions
  - military & bureaucratic reform
  - promoted industrialization



## Taiping rebellion map



WTWA  
504

## Rebellion Timeline

- 1853: captured Nanjing (massacre)
- 1855: 1 mio. Taipings halted at Beijing
- 1856: Taipings threaten Shanghai
- too radical: scholar-gentry sides with Qing regional armies staffed by Chinese
- 1860: Taipings limited to Nanjing
- 1862: Hong retreats to private life (1864 suicide)
- 1864: Nanjing retaken
- total death toll: 20-30 million

## Qing reconquer Nanjing, 1864



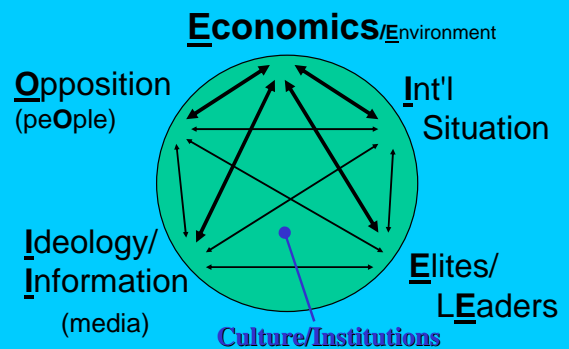
## Other Reform Movements

- 1860s & 70s: Self-Strengthening Movement "Chinese Learning at the Base, Western Learning for Use"
- 1898: 100 days reform
  - Scholar & student: Kang and Liang
  - don't preserve agrarian, pure industry
  - constitutional monarchy, civil liberties, educational and military reform, economic development
  - Gentry backs young emperor's aunt Cixi

## Final Reform Movement

- 1899: "Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists" (Boxer rebellion)
  - anti-foreign
  - backed by Empress dowager Cixi
  - 1900: 140,000 besiege Beij. foreign embassies
  - quickly crushed by British, French, Russian, US, German & Japanese troops
  - discredited Qing dynasty
- 1908 Cixi dies, succeeded by 2-year-old Puyi
- 1911: revolution topples Qing

## Model of Causes in History (EIEIO)



## Analogy for Perspective

- Colombian cocaine cartel invades the US
  - forces legalization of cocaine
  - allows cartel to import into 5 major US port cities (Galveston/Houston, New Orleans, Tampa, Savannah, Charlestown, ...)
  - (no taxes or customs oversight)
  - only drug lords have authority over Columbian citizens operating in the 5 ports
  - US has to pay \$100 billion indemnity (cost of war and previously confiscated cocaine)
- Britain to China in 1839-42 and 1856-60

## Japanese Karuta (card game)



- "carta" introduced by Portuguese sailors, 1542
- adapted older game with shells
- Jap. ABC=syllabary
  - katakana (angular)
  - hiragana (cursive)
  - kanji (Chinese)
- "fu" "i"

### 1944 *katakana* Karuta

- Increased production in cities & villages
- Practice makes perfect
- Taking care of home in father's absence
- Sacrifice is a part of life
- ABCs that bind East Asia together

- Wipe sweat, serve country
- Divine wind (kamikaze) will defeat enemies (1274 & 1281)
- Make yourself strong & tough
- Households helping out
- Writing letters to our soldiers

### Empress Cixi's marble boat

- Summer palace sacked in reprisal

### Question (What's the point?)

- Why did the Chinese fail to make the leap from the 'commercial revolution' of the later Ming period (1600-1650) to an 'industrial revolution' of the kind that began in the West a century later?
  - esteem for arts: little emphasis on material accumulation
  - lack of prominence of engineers and inventors
  - Confucian ethos (vs. dissenters):
    - no admiration for entrepreneurs
    - retention of the old, not invention of the new



### Compare Japan & India

- Japan, 1853 (compare Macartney): US in steam-powered warships
  - standoff, visit shogun, return next year
  - 1854: 2 ports opened (sumo, miniature train)
  - compare the response
- India: like Europe, no centralized state
  - competition between states made more dynamic