## Imperialism in China ER Name:

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| From 1839-1945, China was repeatedly imperialized by foreign powers—primarily from Europe but also Japan and USA. This period is frequently referred to as the **Century of Humiliation**. | |
| **Trade with Britain**: China in 1800 was self-sufficient, which means it didn’t need anything from any other countries. Because of this, China only accepted trade in silver, which it used for currency. Britain had a lot that it wanted from China, mostly tea and porcelain.  Britain found another thing China wanted, opium, a drug similar to heroin. Britain smuggled this into China in huge quantities to fuel their desire for tea and porcelain. Opium had a terrible effect on China and led to its first ever drug addiction epidemic. | **Why would China only trade for silver?**  **Why did Britain start smuggling opium?** |
| **The Opium War (1839-1842):** in 1839, China tried to end the opium trade. This upset British merchants and eventually led to war. The British fleet repeatedly destroyed all Chinese ships sent against it. The fleet then began sailing up rivers, destroying cities and forts. China surrendered in 1842. | **What events led to war between Britain and China?** |
| **Treaty of Nanjing:** after the Opium War, China was forced to sign the first of what are called the **Unequal Treaties**. The treaty ended the First Opium War but it forced China to do a number of things. 1) China had to open five ports to foreign trade. 2) China had to surrender Hong Kong to the British—who would rule it for the next 150 years. | **What did the treaty of Nanjing force China to do?** |
| **The Taiping Rebellion (1850-1864):** European imperialism was not the biggest problem for China in the 1850s, it was the Taiping Rebellion.  By the 1830s, a small number of Chinese missionaries began to preach their own particular brand of Christianity called the God Worshipping Society. This revolved around their leader, Hong Xiuquan, who believed he was the younger brother of Jesus and named himself Heavenly King of Great Peace. His followers adopted the name Taiping (“great peace”).  By 1850, the Taiping had some 30 million worshippers and an army of 500,000 (the 7th largest in the world). The Heavenly King denounced the authority of the Emperor and war began. This was the bloodiest war in history until this time. 20-30 million people died in the war. The Taiping were eventually beaten but the Qing never recovered from the devastation. | **How was the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom connected to Christianity?**  **What was the scope of the rebellion? (how large was it?)**  **What was the effect on China?** |
| **More Treaties:** China continued to be attacked by foreign powers and continued to be forced into unfair treaties. Japan also joined in imperializing China.  The new treaties generally:   * Opened ports to trade * Forced China to surrender land * Forced China to pay money * Forced China to legalize opium and Christianity | **List the demands of the Unequal Treaties:** |
| **Reform Movements:** China quickly realized that it needed to catch up to Western technology and economy. However, China’s government believed its way of doing things was the key to stability and refused to change any part of the government or society. Because of this, reforms were very conservative and focused only on military and economy. Reforms were also slowed by corruption. Many reformers pushed for greater reforms but were stopped by the conservative government. | **Why was the government unwilling to change the government or society?**  **What were the challenges to reforming?** |
| **Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901):** In 1899, a rebellion began in northern China to kick out western powers. The government tried to fight the Boxers at first but quickly switched to supporting them. An Eight Nation Alliance of industrial countries invaded and quickly defeated both the Boxers and the Qing army. After the war, the armies spent over a year looting, raping, and murdering in the major cities and the countryside around them. China was forced to sign yet another unequal treaty. | **What did the Boxers want?**  **What did the 8-Nation Alliance do to get revenge on China?** |
| **Xinhai Revolution (1911-1912):** finally the people got fed up with the central government and revolted. A massive revolution overthrew the government and the 2000 year old Chinese Empire came to an end. This new government was no longer limited by the conservativism of the old government and could actually reform the country. However, the government struggled to keep control and a civil war began. | **Describe the revolution:**  **What happened to China after the Xinhai Revolution?** |
| **2nd Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945):** in the years from 1912-1937, Western powers slowly withdrew from China as Japan grew to be the main imperial power in China. In 1937, Japan invaded China to conquer the country. This became part of World War 2 and China joined many western countries in the Allies. Now Britain, Russia, and America helped China to throw off the Japanese.  After the war, western countries ended their treaties with China and China’s civil war was won by the communists, who finally succeeded in ended the last parts of Imperialism. | **Describe the war:**  **How did the end of the Sino-Japanese War and the Chinese Civil War end imperialism in China?** |