

The Qing Dynasty

China — Qing / Manchu

- Focused on surrounding neighbors
- Didn't aspire to conquer the world
- Allowed Europeans to trade until they felt threatened—so expelled them
- Fierce protectors of the culture
- 1724—Christianity banned, but allowed Europeans to trade at Canton

Limited contact, but allowed

Highly organized, confident civilization

Economic and Social Disorder, 1800–1839

- When the Qing conquered China in the 1600s they restored peace and stability and promoted the recovery and expansion of the agricultural economy,
- This would lay the foundation for the doubling of the Chinese population between 1650 and 1800.
- By 1800, population pressure was causing environmental damage and contributing to an increasing number of itinerant farmhands, laborers, and merchants

- There were a number of sources of discontent in Qing China.
- Various minority peoples had been driven off their land, and many people regarded the government as being weak, corrupt
- Discontent was manifest in a series of internal rebellions in the nineteenth century, beginning with the White Lotus rebellion (1794–1804).

Chinese restrictions on British trade

- Since 1759, European commercial presence limited to port of Guangzhou
- Foreign merchants forced to deal solely with licensed Chinese firms called *cohongs*, currency of trade: silver bullion
- British East India Company heavily involved in opium trade
 - Opium grown in India, sold in China for silver, silver used to buy other Chinese products

The Opium War and Its Aftermath, 1839–1850

- Believing the Europeans to be a remote and relatively unimportant people, the Qing did not at first pay much attention to trade issues or to the growth in the opium trade.
- In 1839, when the Qing government realized the harm being done by the opium trade, they decided to ban the use and import of opium

- The attempt to ban the opium trade led to the Opium War (1839–1842), in which the better-armed British naval and ground forces defeated the Qing and forced them to sign the Treaty of Nanking.
- The Treaty of Nanking and subsequent treaties signed between the Qing and the various Western powers gave Westerners special privileges and resulted in the colonization of small pockets of Qing territory
 - *Extra-territoriality*: right of foreign residents in a country to live under the laws of their native country and disregard the laws of the host country
 - *Indemnity*: exemption from incurred penalties or liabilities
 - *Most-favored-nation-status*: any privileges granted to another country are automatically extended

China—Opium Wars

- 1773—introduced opium
- 1838—Manchu edict forbidding the sale or use of opium
- 1839—Chinese seized British opium in Canton
- 1839-1842—fought
- Treaty of Nanjing—”unequal treaties” → Britain was given rights to expand trade with China and right to create more opium addicts

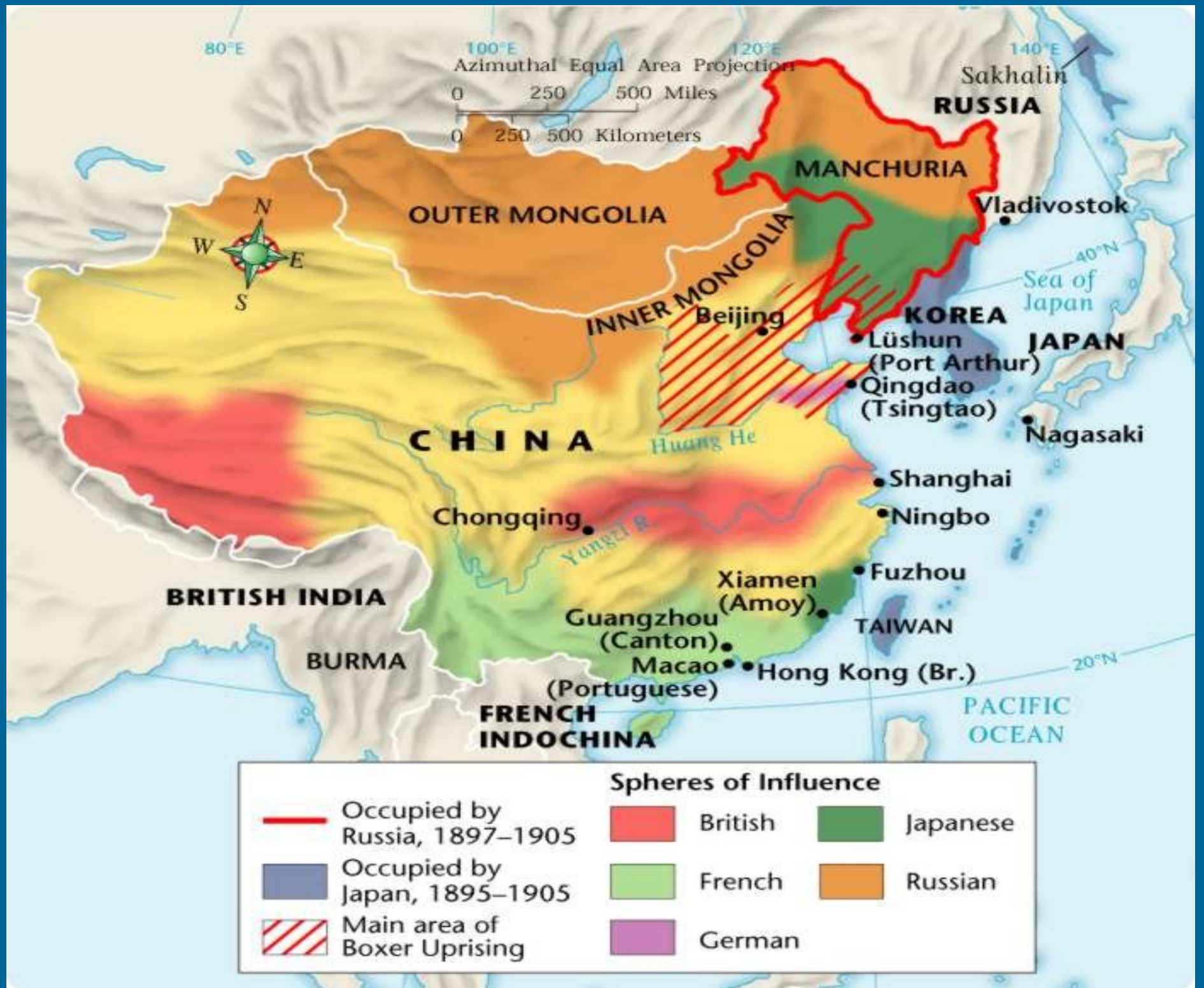
China—Opium Wars

- 1843—Hong Kong declared a crown possession
- 1844—China forced to let Christian missionaries back in the country
- 1856 2nd Opium War for 4 years
- China defeat opened all of China up to European trade
- Britain did not want to establish a colony like in India BUT fought for trading concessions

- China → carved into spheres of influence in late 19th century
- Sino-Japanese War of 1894-95: revealed China's helplessness, triggered a rush for foreign concessions and protectorates in China.

Spheres of Influence

- Qing dynasty loses influence in south-east Asia, losing tributary states to Europeans and Japanese
 - Vietnam: France, 1886
 - Burma: Great Britain, 1885
 - Korea, Taiwan, Liaodong Peninsula: Japan, 1895
- China itself divided into spheres of influence, 1895



China—Internal Rebellion

- White Lotus Rebellion—Buddhist mad at government taxes and corruption
- Taiping Rebellion—nationalistic Chinese wanted to get rid of the Manchu Dynasty
- 1876—Korea declares independence
- Sino-French War (1883)—lose control of Vietnam
- 1895—handed Taiwan over to Japan
- Spheres of Influence are created by Europeans
- U.S. Open Door Policy—supports China's sovereignty but declares equal trading policy

Breakdown → Rebellion

- Large-scale rebellions in later nineteenth century reflect poverty, discontent of Chinese peasantry
- Population rises 50% between 1800-1900, but land under cultivation remains static
- Nian Rebellion (1851-1868), Muslim Rebellion (1855-1873), Tungan Rebellion (1862-1878)
- Most Significant → Taiping Rebellion – called for destruction of Qing dynasty

The Taiping Rebellion, 1850–1864

- The Taiping Rebellion broke out in Guangxi province, where poor farmland, endemic poverty, and economic distress were complicated by ethnic divisions that relegated the minority Hakka people to the lowliest trades

- The founder of the Taiping movement was Hong Xiuquan, a man of Hakka background who became familiar with the teachings of Christian missionaries in Canton.
- Hong declared himself to be the younger brother of Jesus and founded a religious group (the “Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace” or “Taiping” movement) to which he recruited followers from among the Hakka people

Taiping Platform

- Abolition of private property
- Creation of communal wealth
- Prohibition of footbinding, concubines
- Free public education, simplification of written Chinese, mass literacy
- Prohibition of sexual relations among followers (including married couples)
 - Yet leaders maintained harems

- The Taiping forces defeated imperial troops in Guangxi, recruited (or forced) villagers into their segregated male and female battalions and work teams, and moved toward eastern and northern China.
- The Taiping forces captured Nanjing and made it the capital of their “Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace”

Taiping Defeat

- Attack on Beijing with force of 1 million, but turned back
- Imperial army unable to contain Taipings, so regional armies created with Manchu soldiers and outfitted with European weaponry
- Hong commits suicide in 1864, Nanjing recaptured
 - 100,000 Taipings massacred

- The Taiping Rebellion was one of the world's bloodiest civil wars and the greatest armed conflict before the twentieth century.
- The results of the Taiping Rebellion included 20 to 30 million deaths, depopulation and destruction of rich agricultural lands in central and eastern China, and suffering and destruction in the cities and cultural centers of eastern China

Decentralization at the End of the Qing Empire, 1864 – 1875

- After the 1850s the expenses of wars and the burden of indemnities payable to Western governments made it impossible for the Qing to get out of debt.
- With the Qing government so deeply in their debt, Britain and France became active participants in the period of recovery known as the Tongzhi Restoration that followed the Taiping Rebellion

The Self-Strengthening Movement (1860-1895)

- High point in 1860s-1870s
- Slogan “Chinese learning at the base, Western learning for use”
- Blend of Chinese cultural traditions with European industrial technology
 - Shipyards, railroads, academies
- *Change to Chinese economy and society superficial*
- Empress Dowager Cixi (1835-1908) diverted funds for her own aesthetic purposes

Hundred Days Reforms (1898)

- Interpreted Confucianism to allow for radical changes to system
- Pro-industrialization
- Emperor Guangxu attempts to implement reforms
- Empress Dowager Cixi nullifies reforms, imprisons emperor

The Boxer Rebellion

- Anti-Manchu, anti-European, and anti-Christian—the Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists or *Boxers*
- Empress Dowager Cixi supports the “Boxers”, anti-foreign militia units
- 1899 -- fight to rid China of “foreign devils”
- They used guerilla warfare tactics and slaughtered Christian missionaries and seized foreign embassies

The Boxer Rebellion

- Misled to believe European weapons would not harm them, 140,000 Boxers besiege European embassies in 1900
- Crushed by coalition of European forces
- Furthered the collapse of China → Boxer Protocol—had to pay for any costs associated with the rebellion
- China forced to accept stationing of foreign troops

- Chinese culture begins to crumble:
 - 1901—foot binding abolished
 - 1905—2000 year-old Examination System eliminated
 - 1911—imperial rule ends
 - Sun Yat-sen establishes a republic

Death of the Dowager Empress

- Emperor dies a mysterious, sudden death
- Cixi dies one day later, November 1908
- 2-year old Puyi placed on the throne
- Revolution in 1911
- Puyi abdicates, 1912