



QING DYNASTY

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Formatting Note: underlined phrases or vocabulary will be defined in the Glossary.



Dear Delegates,

It is my honor to welcome you all to PEAMUN XIII, our second virtual conference we've hosted. My name is Cindy Su, and I am very excited to be chairing this committee with Nhan Phan this year. We look forward to hearing your creative directives, hearing your thoughtful debates, as well as seeing your collaborative teamwork to solve issues in Post-Opium war China.

In this committee, we hope to inspire you all to continue thinking about history and how it impacts our world today. Oftentimes, we tend to put history in an unrelatable box that distances ourselves from the facts, but inevitably, history will repeat itself. We hope that by experiencing the heart of a crisis and a recovering country, you all will be able to better understand that history is not so far from how our society is like today, and take lessons from the past. Although this is a specialized committee, delegates should be ready to collaborate to create directives to the issues raised in Post-Opium war China. Delegates should also expect to respond quickly to Crisis Updates that will move the committee throughout time.

In preparation for this committee, delegates should conduct careful research into the Opium War in China, as well as its causes, and how the country was affected in the aftermath. This background guide contains some preliminary information about the situation and characters inside the committee, but delegates should look for more details to better prepare themselves. We are also excited to welcome any delegates that may be new to MUN. These delegates may also find it beneficial to research parliamentary procedure before the conference to become more familiar with the system of debate that will take place during the committee.

My co-chair and I are so excited to meet you during the conference, and we hope that this will be a fun, memorable, and educational experience for you all! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at cdsu@exeter.edu and Nhan at nphan@exeter.edu.

Thanks, and see you all soon!

Cindy Su



Historical Context

The Qing Dynasty was the last dynasty to ever rule China. Their reign started from 1644 all the way to 1912, before being overtaken by the Republic of China. The formation of the Qing Dynasty first started when the Manchu people in Northern China began to unite against the Ming Dynasty. This also explains why the Qing Dynasty was also known as the Manchu Dynasty. Shunzhi was the first designated emperor of the Qing Dynasty and reigned from 1644 to 1661. Manchu troops captured Beijing in 1644, and Shunzhi was proclaimed emperor. He was five years old when he succeeded to the throne and he ruled under the dominion of Dorgon (prince of Manchuria).¹ Another reason that the Qing Dynasty was also known as the Manchu Dynasty was because the Qing made sure that over half of the high-level officials in the government were Manchus.

Under Kangxi, the second emperor of the Qing Dynasty, the Manchus signed the Treaty of Nerchinsk with Russia, which extended the Manchurian boundary at the Argun River, thus expanding their territory. Kangxi served from 1661 to 1722. Kang and subsequent emperors (Yongzheng and Qianlong) expanded the Qing's commerce, handicraft industries and art/media. Science was another major focus during this period of time. Under these emperors, scientific methods of philology were developed.²

However, this period of flourish did not last for long. Increased population pressure and concentration of land ownership within China created many problems. Many factors that contributed to this included Kan Hsi's tax reforms, the expansion of Chinese borders under Kangxi's reign, increased food production and farming.³ It is also during this period of time that Manchu armies were worn down because of an overflow in civil unrest that were exacerbated by severe floods and famine. We will explore more from this period of time until 1905, to the formation of the United League.

First Opium War

Before the first Opium War began on September 4th 1839, the Qing Dynasty government was opposed to the illegal opium trade that was propagating throughout China. Opium back then

¹ <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Shunzhi>.

² <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Qing-dynasty>.

³ ZP., Wang SJ;Miao. "[On the Rapid Population Growth during the Period of Emperors Qian Long, Jia Qing, and Dao Guang of the Qing Dynasty]." U.S. National Library of Medicine.



was taken to relieve tension and pain. However, that was the case until the 17th century. After the practice of tobacco smoking spread from North America to China, opium smoking became popular throughout China. British merchants illegally traded opium with Chinese merchants in return for tea, silk and other Chinese goods. As a result of this, opium addiction and importations grew during the first century of the Qing Dynasty. Notice that there is a positive feedback loop, increased addiction fueled increased importations, and so on. In 1729, the Yongzheng emperor prohibited the sale and smoking of opium, but that still failed to hamper the illegal trades. In 1796, the Jiaqing emperor outlawed opium imports and cultivation. However, even through all governmental efforts, the opium trade continued to thrive. ⁴

With all of this said, the antagonism between the Qing government and British forces increased, leading up to the First Opium War. In 1839, the government destroyed more than 20,000 opium chests (1400 tons) that were stored by British merchants. In July of the same year, drunk British sailors killed a Chinese villager. However, the British government refused to turn the accused sailors to the Chinese courts.

During the first war, British warships destroyed a Chinese blockade in Hong Kong, and sent troops in 1840 to China. They subsequently attacked and occupied Hong Kong in May of 1841. Against the Qing government, British forces held several successful campaigns after the takeover of Hong Kong, which included the capture of Nanjing. The fighting temporarily ended after the Nanjing offensive, and Chinese forces were forced to sign the Treaty of Nanjing as a result. ⁵

The Treaty of Nanjing, which was signed on August 29th in 1842, was one of the treaties that the Qing dynasty had to sign. The terms of the treaty stated: China had to compensate the British, China also had to give away Hong Kong and they also had to agree to establish a cheap trade tariff. This trade tariff would allow British manufactured goods to gain an advantage over Chinese goods and eventually destroy many Chinese industries. Other subterms included the opening of more trading ports and allowing British missionaries to enter China. The Treaty of Nanjing was also known as “an unequal treaty.” The term became associated with the concept of China’s humiliation and concession of autonomy to foreign powers. ⁶

⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/opium-trade>

⁵ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Opium-Wars>

⁶ <https://www.britannica.com/event/Treaty-of-Nanjing>.



Taiping Rebellion

The Taiping Rebellion was a political and religious uprising that lasted for 14 years from 1850 to 1864. About 20 million people died as a result of this rebellion. Hong Xiuqian led this uprising, and because of his Christian teachings, he believed himself to be the son of God and the younger brother of Jesus. He and his friend, Feng Yunshan, formed the God Worshippers' Society among the peasants who found themselves unsatisfied with the government of Guangxi province. In 1851, he officially created the Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace, to which he proclaimed himself to be the "Heavenly King." The Christianity of the Taipings completely ignored the New Testament ideas, which focused on kindness and compassion. Taiping Christianity focused on the Old Testament, which focused on worship and obedience.

After their support base grew to millions, they swept several key regions in China, including the fertile valleys of the Yangtze River and eventually, Nanjing. On March 10th, 1853, they officially captured Nanjing from the hands of the Qing government. They renamed the city to Tianjing, which meant "Heavenly Capital." Their takeover campaigns into the upper Yangtze valley reaped many successes. However, their dispatch campaigns in Beijing failed to overtake the Qing government there. During the process, anyone who opposed Hong or attempted to take over his power were slain and killed.

In 1860, the Taipings attempted to take over Shanghai. However, they were stopped in their tracks by the western-trained army under the leadership of Zeng Guofan. The Taiping expansion attempt was unsuccessful. In fact, by 1862, Zeng's army surrounded Nanjing. Hong suicided in May. The city then eventually fell later in 1864, marking the end of the rebellion.⁷

Second Opium War

Early October 1856, Chinese officials boarded the British ship *Arrow* and arrested several crew members and seized the vessel. They also lowered, tore down and trampled the British flag on the ship. The British viewed this as an excuse to extend their trading rights in China and

⁷ <https://www.history.com/topics/china/taiping-rebellion>.



found a reason to renew tensions.⁸ Later in October, British forces sent a warship to the Pearl River estuary to bombard Canton. As a result of this, the Qing government suspended all trading during this period.

There were a lot of brawls between British and Chinese troops. However, in December, tensions escalated to a new level as trading warehouses owned by the British were burnt by the Chinese forces in Canton. The Second Opium War was just beginning. Earlier in 1856, a French missionary was killed in China. As a result, the French joined the British in their offensive against China. Late 1857, they began military operations to attempt to control China once again.

Canton was the first Qing territory to fall under British and French attack. They installed a compliant official to replace the more rebellious former governor. May 1858, British warships reached Tianjin and they forced the Qing government into a tough spot. If British forces were to move ahead and take over Tianjin, the Qing government would have lost not one, but two major hotspots. As a result, the Treaty of Tianjin was signed in June of 1858. However, this was not the end of the war.

The terms of the Treaty of Tianjin stated that Chinese forces must: provide residence in Beijing for Allied envoys, open new trading ports for trade and residence and allow the right of foreign travel in the interior of China as well as the freedom of movement for Christian missionaries.⁹ The Treaty of Tianjin was also known as one of the “unequal treaties,” similar to that of the Treaty of Nanjing.

During June 1859, the British were en route to Beijing with western diplomats to ratify the treaties. However, the Chinese forces refused to let them in through the Dagu forts and proposed an alternate route to Beijing. The government refused to sign into effect the treaties and hostilities resumed. This was the second part of the Second Opium War. August 1860, more British and French warships proceeded to Tianjin and then subsequently captured Beijing in October, where they burned the emperor’s summer palace. Later that month, the Chinese signed the Beijing Convention. This marked the end of the Second Opium War.

⁸ <https://www.historytoday.com/archive/months-past/arrow-incident>.

⁹ “TREATY OF TIENTSIN.” Omeka RSS. <https://oelawhk.lib.hku.hk/items/show/1025>.



The Beijing Convention forced China to ratify the Treaty of Tianjin and also to give up their southern portion of the Kowloon Peninsula, which is next to Hong Kong, to the British forces.¹⁰

Present Situation

Our committee will begin right after the end of the Second Opium War, running approximately from 1860-1905. As a result of the treaties signed, both from the First and Second Opium war, China had to pay a penalty of \$21 million, cede Hong Kong to the British, and increase the number of treaty ports for British trading and residence from one to five.¹¹ Through this period of history, China, a previously secretive and private country, was forced to open up and receive Western influence. The humiliations and suffering that China experienced not only weakened the dynastic system, but also took a toll on the trust of the Chinese people in the government, which all paved the way for uprisings like the Taiping and Boxer rebellions. In addition, opium is still a rampant problem- people are still addicted and imports are still happening.

Issues to consider

Opium

Opium, the heart of the last 20 years in China's history, along with other drugs and narcotics, are still spreading quickly in China. During the Second Opium War (1856-1860), opium imports to China had reached 50,000 to 60,000 chests a year, and would continue to increase for the next three decades.¹² The drug itself causes users to lose alertness and coordination with a short-term high. As a result of its highly addictive nature, overdoses are common, yet overdose treatment is still widely unavailable. Naloxone, the "antidote" to opioid overdoses, was not invented until 1961 which makes opium highly lethal. As the center of this entire time period and starting point for this committee, strong policies to mitigate the effects of the drug and future plans must be made.

¹⁰ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Opium-Wars>

¹¹ <https://www.britannica.com/summary/Causes-and-Effects-of-the-Opium-Wars>

¹² <https://www.britannica.com/topic/opium-trade>



Hong Kong

Hong Kong was a part of the territory the Qing Dynasty gave to European forces. It was first involved in trade since the Tang Dynasty. The Qing Dynasty was the last imperial Dynasty to maintain control of Hong Kong before it turned into a British colony. The British partially chose Hong Kong because of its geographical location and proximity to the rest of Southeast Asia.

The Great Clearance, a forced evacuation event, moved over 16,000 people inland while Hong Kong became a British military stronghold against China. Whilst people were moving out, the Tanka, Hokkien and Hakka began to move into Hong Kong. The British East India Company also began to make their first appearance in Hong Kong. When the Treaty of Nanjing was signed in 1842, Hong Kong was already an integral part in the British trade network. It was under the British that we saw Hong Kong as a flourishing trade center.¹³

Northern Chinese Famine of 1876-1879

The Northern Chinese Famine of 1876 to 1879 was accelerated with the drought of the Yellow River basin area. This drought was exacerbated with a period of no rain in 1877, further worsening the famine crisis. About 108 million people perished because of starvation and diseases that were caused by the famine itself. However, the drought was not what caused the famine itself. During the mid-century rebellions that took place within Qing China, as well as a lack of strong leadership and the encroachment of foreign imperialism all contributed to the causation of this famine.

During the 18th century, the Qing government focused heavily on storing and distributing grain. This allowed them to prevent serious droughts from causing mass starvation.¹⁴ However, during the rebellions that took place in the country (Taiping Rebellion, Nian Rebellion and Muslim Revolts), national resources were used, which meant that there were not enough resources to deal with a major drought. Military expenses took up over 75% of the government expenditure during that period of time. The Qing government was ill-prepared to deal with a

¹³ <https://mediakron.bc.edu/edges/hong-kong-and-the-century-old-story>.

¹⁴ Pomeranz, Kenneth. *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 68, no. 1 (2008): 212-20. Lillian M. Li, *Fighting Famine in North China: State, Market, and Environmental Decline, 1690s-1990s* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2007), chapter 8.



major hunger incident. There were also fiscal problems that contributed to the causation of the famine. The government had to spend 100,000,000 taels to suppress the White Lotus Rebellion, and fiscal reserves began to decline. Moreover, because the Qing government had to pay indemnities to Western forces, this created additional fiscal pressures for the government to handle.¹⁵

Political Unrest

Many of the citizens in China are currently unhappy with the monarchy and ruling system of Qing China. After over 2000 years with an emperor and being ruled by a monarchy, many people are beginning to view this system of ruling as unfair. A reason for this shift is the extreme overpopulation, high unemployment, and shortage of arable land that prevented many people from getting enough resources for their families. Another reason is also the corruption that grew rampant in the government officials, especially in the Qing dynasty, where some officials were known to pocket millions of silver taels for themselves. Especially with revolutionaries on the rise such as people like Sun Yat-sen and the spread of philosophies like the Three Principles of the People, delegates need to be prepared to face this upcoming shift in culture and population.

Economic Hurdles

After the Opium Wars, the Chinese economy was struggling to recover from the indemnity and the economic losses that were dealt to them during the war. They had lost their tariff autonomy in the Treaty of Nanjing, which meant that they were no longer free to determine trade tariffs on their own. Following the Treaty of Nanjing were the Treaties of Wangxia and Whampoa with the United States and France, respectively. Both of those treaties included clauses that addressed trading equality; they lost jurisdiction over their trading rights, trading grounds as well as trading rules.¹⁶

The Treaty of Wanghia was signed in 1844 with the United States. It contained 5 main provisions: extraterritoriality, fixed trade tariffs, rights to buy land, rights to learn Chinese as well as the formation of a “favored nation” status. Moreover, Article II states: “Citizens of the United States resorting to China for the purpose of commerce will pay the duties of import and export

¹⁵ https://disasterhistory.org/north-china-famine-1876-79#_edn2.

¹⁶ <https://www.britannica.com/place/China/The-first-Opium-War-and-its-aftermath>.



prescribed by the Tariff which is fixed by and made a part of this Treaty... Fees and charges of every sort are wholly abolished; and officers of the revenue who may be guilty of exaction shall be punished according to the laws of China.”¹⁷ The Treaty of Whampoa, signed with the Kingdom of France in 1844, also contained nearly all of the same terms, which included the aforementioned “favored nation” status.

United League (Tongmenghui)

In 1905, Sun Yat Sen became the head of a secret revolutionary coalition that he created in order to overthrow the current incompetent Qing government called the United League, or as known as the Tongmenghui, in Tokyo. The United League produced several pieces of propaganda under its mouthpiece, titled the “People’s Journal.” After its success in distributing its message throughout China as well as other regions in Asia, a branch of the Tongmenghui was formed in Singapore in 1906.

This secret movement combined republican, nationalist and socialist views to form its political platform, which was to completely overthrow the Manchu empire and “restore China to the Chinese.”¹⁸ It was also through this underground movement that the Three Principles of the People were formed. The first principle was “nationalism.” It mainly focused on opposition to the Manchu dynasty and foreign encroachment into China. The second principle was “democracy.” It focused on the rights of the people by allowing them to control their own government through elections and referendums. The third principle was “livelihood.” It focused on the idea of equalization of land ownership through taxation and ensuring the wellbeing of the people. These principles carried on even after the 1911 Xinhai Revolution.¹⁹

Possible Solutions

Note on Possible Solutions

Even though the solutions mentioned below were solutions used by the Chinese government during the Qing Dynasty, these were not necessarily the most effective. These solutions only partially

¹⁷ “Treaty of Wanghia (Treaty of Wang-Hsia), May 18, 1844.” US, December 13, 1901.
<https://china.usc.edu/treaty-wangxia-treaty-wang-hsia-may-18-1844>.

¹⁸ <https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Tongmenghui>.

¹⁹ <https://www.britannica.com/event/Three-Principles-of-the-People>.



covered the issues the Qing Dynasty government faced, not all of them. Alongside these responses, we would like to see you brainstorm and collaborate to form new ideas and answers of your own.

Government Response to the Famine

The Chinese responded to this famine by carrying out an array of religious and symbolic rituals that aimed to send rain by demonstrating the government's sincerity and concern for the misery of the people that were experiencing the famine.²⁰ The government promoted better irrigation practices, implemented flood control measures as well as supervised the distribution of grains among the rural regions. They also sold state grain below market prices in heavily affected areas to further stabilize the price of food. In an effort to stem the damage from the famine, they reduced and cancelled taxes in affected areas as well as imported grains from surplus regions in the Middle and Lower Yangtze. Soup kitchens and emergency shelters for those who were affected were also opened.²¹

Economic Improvement

In the period following the wars, Southeastern Chinese coasts reopened for trading, and foreign trade also expanded at a rate of 4% growth a year. New businesses, both local and national, were opened as people were given incentives to open new businesses and contribute to economic growth. People's wealth steadily increased and as a result, more people paid taxes. The government used taxpayer's money to facilitate the opening of more trading hotspots as well as hire laborers to contribute to the country's public sectors. As the 18th century began to arrive, the population of the country more than doubled due to the fact that food scarcity and hunger is less of a problem and also because of improving living standards. Increased food production also contributed to the increased wealth and welfare of the country.²²

²⁰ Jeffrey Snyder-Reinke, *Dry Spells: State Rainmaking and Local Governance in Late Imperial China* (Cambridge: Harvard University Asia Center, 2009), chapter 4.

²¹ Pomeranz, Kenneth. *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 68, no. 1 (2008): 212-20. Lillian M. Li, *Fighting Famine in North China: State, Market, and Environmental Decline, 1690s-1990s* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2007), chapter 8.

²² <https://theqingdynasty.com/qing-dynasty-economy.html>.



Position Papers

If you wish to be eligible for awards, expect to turn in your position paper during late October. A well-written and well-researched position paper will show the chairs that you did through preparation for the conference.

Character Profiles

Note on Characters:

We understand that because this is a historical committee, it may be difficult to find information on your particular character, but the emphasis of the committee is more on solving the issues presented, so regardless of your character, we hope that you won't feel discouraged to actively participate in debate and being engaging to work with others on solutions. Life spans and reigns can be ignored for the sake of cohesiveness in the committee. In addition, we recognize the lack of diversity especially in gender, and hope that you all will continue thinking about the narratives that haven't been recorded in history even if they aren't present in committee.

Tongzhi Emperor

Tongzhi Emperor was the 9th emperor of the Qing Dynasty. He reigned from 1861 to 1875 under the rule of his mother, Empress Dowager Cixi. He was the only surviving son of the Xianfeng Emperor and his mother. He became emperor at the age of five upon the death of his father. He had very little influence in state affairs. However, he attempted to kickstart the “Tongzhi Restoration,” which was unsuccessful. The Tongzhi Restoration was an attempt to restore the “traditional order” of the Qing Dynasty after the Opium War, and the Taiping Rebellion. During the Taiping Rebellion, he ordered Zeng Guofan to counterattack. Zeng's appointment proved to be wise as the Heavenly Capital fell in July 1864.²³

Lin Zexu

²³ “Tongzhi.” Encyclopædia Britannica. Encyclopædia Britannica, inc., April 23, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Tongzhi-emperor-of-Qing-dynasty>.



Lin Zexu was the viceroy, Governor-General, and scholar-official under the Qing Dynasty. He was very much against the illegal British opium trade and was one of the primary catalysts for the First Opium War. Lin had an imperial commission from the Daoguang Emperor to halt the illegal importation of opium by the British. He arrested over 1,700 Chinese opium dealers in a matter of months. After the First Opium War began, Lin led the war preparation efforts but ultimately failed to halt the British attacks and was exiled to Xinjiang. However, the Qing government rehabilitated Lin and appointed him Governor-General of Shaan-Gan in 1845.²⁴

Qishan

Qishan was an official of the Qing Dynasty. He negotiated the Convention of Chuanbi on behalf of the Qing government with the British during the First Opium War. Some viewed him as a traitor. After Lin Zexu was exiled to Xinjiang, the Daoguang Emperor ordered Qishan to replace him as the acting Viceroy of Liangguang. He was also tasked with negotiation for peace with the British. Without seeking approval from the Qing imperial court, Qishan agreed to the Convention of Chuanbi, which required the Qing Empire to pay the British six million silver coins and cede Hong Kong.²⁵

Empress Dowager Cixi

Empress Dowager Cixi was part of the Manchu Yehe Nara Clan. She was a Chinese empress dowager and regent who controlled the Qing Dynasty government for 47 years from 1861. Cixi ousted a group of regents appointed by the late Xianfeng emperor and assumed shared regency with Empress Dowager Ci'an. Cixi supervised the Tongzhi Restoration and backed the military reforms of the Self-Strengthening Movement. After the Boxer Rebellion led to an invasion by Western armies, Cixi backed the Boxer groups and declared war, which she lost. After this humiliating defeat, she began to implement institutional reforms to turn China into a constitutional monarchy.²⁶

²⁴ Hayford, C. W.. "Lin Zexu." Encyclopedia Britannica, November 18, 2020. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Lin-Zexu>.

²⁵ Pletcher, K.. "Wang Qishan." Encyclopedia Britannica, June 27, 2020. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Wang-Qishan>.

²⁶ Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Cixi." Encyclopedia Britannica, November 25, 2020. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Cixi>.



Hong Xiuqian

Hong Xiuqian was a Chinese revolutionary who led the Taiping Rebellion against the Qing dynasty government. He was the founder of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom in southern China; he was referred to as the “Heavenly King.” Hong burned all Confucian and Buddhist statues and books and preached to his community about his visions: he had been directed to rid the world of demon worship, he was the literal son of God and younger brother to Jesus. Hong implemented an ambitious reform and modernization program as part of his attempts to convert more people. The Taiping Rebellion ultimately lost ground and the Qing government regained control.²⁷

Liang Qichao

Liang Qichao was a Chinese social activist and scholar during the Qing Dynasty. He had a major contribution to the reformation of modern China through his writings and reform movements. He was a disciple to Kang Youwei. After China’s defeat by Japan in 1895, Liang’s writing came to the attention of the emperor and helped to form the Hundred Days of Reform. The emperor acted on the advice of Liang in an attempt to fix and reform the flawed imperial system. The advice Liang ushered included setting up schools and improving education and remaking the civil service examination exam. Liang fled to Japan after Empress Dowager Cixi issued warrants for his arrest, but his iconoclastic journalism still majorly affected the Chinese youth.²⁸

Kang Youwei

Kang Youwei was a political thinker and intellectual in the Qing Dynasty. His ideas, along with Liang’s, were influential in the Hundred Days of Reform. Kang advocated for a Chinese constitutional monarchy. He sought to promote Confucianism as a solution against the Westernization of China. When China was beaten by Japan in 1895, Kang recruited hundreds of graduates and protested against the humiliating peace terms, and demanded reforms to the empire structure. Kang was exiled by Empress Dowager Cixi, along with Liang. They continued

²⁷ Feigon, L. Nathan. "Hong Xiuquan." Encyclopedia Britannica, May 28, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Hong-Xiuquan>.

²⁸ Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Liang Qichao." Encyclopedia Britannica, February 19, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Liang-Qichao>.



their journalistic writing in exile. He completed *The Great Commonwealth* (Da Tongshu) during exile.²⁹

Li Hongzhang

Li Hongzhang was a Chinese politician and diplomat of the Qing Dynasty. He helped to shut down several major rebellion attempts (including the Taiping Rebellion) and he served in the Qing Imperial court as the Viceroy of Zhili, Huguang, and Liangguang. He has a pro-modern stance; he antagonized the British with his support for Russia in order to combat Japanese expansion in Manchuria. After the First Sino-Japanese War, he had a fallout with the Chinese government. However, he had a major role in steering China's industrial and military modernization.³⁰

Prince Gong

Gong Qingwang, or Prince Gong, was the leading official in the late Qing Dynasty. He tried to repair a weakened government and tried to reconcile with the West in order to salvage the damage done in past combats. He was assigned to make peace with the British and the French forces who occupied Beijing in 1860, during the Second Opium War. He urged China to try and adopt Western military techniques. He, as a result, influenced the emperor to form the Zongli Yamen, which means "Office for General Management." Its job was similar to that of a foreign affairs office; it helped to modernize China.³¹

Zeng Guofan

Zeng Guofan was a Chinese military general and Confucian scholar of the Qing Dynasty. He organized and led the Xiang Army in combating the Taiping Rebellion, which ultimately resulted in the Qing Dynasty government victory. He helped to restore stability in the Qing Dynasty.

²⁹ Lo, J.. "Kang Youwei." Encyclopedia Britannica, March 27, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Kang-Youwei>.

³⁰ Rawlinson, J. Lang. "Li Hongzhang." Encyclopedia Britannica, February 12, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Li-Hongzhang>.

³¹ Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Gong Qingwang." Encyclopedia Britannica, May 26, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Gong-Qinwang>.



Zeng was also one of the men who led the Tongzhi Restoration in an attempt to reform and improve the dynasty structure. He was best known for his Confucian practices and strategic perception, as well as his ruthlessness in suppressing rebellions and uprisings.³²

Zuo Zongtang

Zuo Zongtang, or General Tso, was a Chinese statesman and the military leader of the Qing Dynasty government. In 1851, he first got involved in the Qing military by joining the military to quash the Taiping Rebellion. He was then recommended by Zeng Guodan to take on the role of the provincial governor of Zhejiang Province. He succeeded in suppressing the Taiping rebels; he was then promoted to Viceroy of Min-Zhe. He was then promoted to higher ranks for his military contributions. He also made contributions to the Qing's agriculture by promoting cotton cultivation in northwestern China as a replacement for opium.³³

Liu Guangdi

Liu Guangdi was a Chinese government minister. He was one of the six leaders of the Hundred Days' Reform. Liu joined the Constitutional Reform. Liu was recommended to the Guangxu emperor because of his political beliefs. He was then promoted as one of the ministers of the military. Liu wanted to get rid of Empress Dowager Cixi's reign and control and was in favor of a total constitutional reformation of the government. Liu was also a poet of reformism during the late Qing Dynasty, publishing several poems that described his political views.³⁴

Qian Daxin

Qian Daxin was a scholar, historian, and linguist during the Qing Dynasty. He was the commissioner of education and examinations in the Guangdong region of China at the time. He followed the "Kao zheng" approach. This approach deals with the methods of textual criticism, as "Kao zheng" itself means "search for evidence." Qian was also an advocate of Han

³² Hsieh, S.. "Zeng Guofan." Encyclopedia Britannica, March 8, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Zeng-Guofan>.

³³ Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Zuo Zongtang." Encyclopedia Britannica, November 6, 2020. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Zuo-Zongtang>.

³⁴ "Liu Guangdi - Google Arts & Culture." Google. Accessed June 21, 2021. https://artsandculture.google.com/entity/g122_sghb?hl=nl.



Confucianism. It was related to studies of the past and it also dealt a lot with the phonology of ancient text and its similarities to modern classical texts.³⁵

Ronglu

Ronglu was a Manchu political and military leader of the Qing Dynasty. He was deeply favored by Empress Dowager Cixi, hence why he was elected to serve in many important civil and military positions in the Qing government (including the Grand Council, Secretary of Defense, Wuwei Corps Commander, etc.) He was initially accused of corruption (accepting bribes). As a result of this, he offended Prince Chun and was forced to retire in 1879. However, 12 years later, he was restored to civil service as the General of Xian.³⁶

Li Lianying

Li Liangying was a Chinese imperial eunuch in the Qing Dynasty. He was the de facto ruler of China from 1869 to 1908 through both the Tongzhi Emperor and Guangxu Emperor. Li helped Empress Dowager Cixi to seize power from a group of regents in the Xinyou Coup. Cixi then chose Li to be her new personal attendant and then, later on, promoted him to be Grand Supervisor. As a result of this, Li held a highly influential position in the inner palace. Li was the Head Eunuch within the Qing Dynasty Government. He accepted bribes from officials and in return, spoke well of them in front of the Empress Dowager.³⁷

Prince Tuan

The most reactionary and backward-looking clique in the Forbidden City was led by Prince Tuan. A member of the Imperial family and wrongly trusted by Empress Dowager, Tuan encouraged the Boxer movement and its attack on the foreign legations. His suicidal policies

³⁵ Theobald, Ulrich. "Qian Daxin 錢大昕." Qian Daxin 錢大昕 (www.chinaknowledge.de). Accessed June 21, 2021. <http://www.chinaknowledge.de/History/Qing/personsqiandaxin.html>.

³⁶ Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Ronglu." Encyclopedia Britannica, April 7, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Ronglu>.

³⁷ "Li Lianying - Google Arts & Culture." Google. Google. Accessed June 21, 2021. https://artsandculture.google.com/entity/li-lianying/m03c_ld?hl=en.



were rejected too late to avoid catastrophe, and foreign armies invaded and occupied the capital. China was left in the grip of conquerors.

Zhang Bing Lin

Zhang Bing Lin was a nationalist leader and a prominent Confucian scholar during the late Qing Dynasty. Early in his life, working as a newspaper editor, he strongly expressed his anti-imperial viewpoint. As a result, he was arrested in 1903. After his release from prison in 1906, he became one of the chief polemicists for the Tongmenghui, which was the revolutionary group led by Sun Yat-Sen. Zhang was best known for his works rather than for his activism.³⁸

Liu Shiwei

Liu Shiwei was a nationalist revolutionary activist during the Qing dynasty. Liu held a firm belief that in order to strengthen the nation, the government had to exclude all non-Chinese people, referring to his own viewpoints as “greater nationalism.” He thought that the inclusion of non-Chinese people would pollute Chinese people, language, and culture and weaken the Chinese national morale.³⁹

Cen Chunxuan

Cen Chunxuan was a Chinese politician during the Qing Dynasty. He first started off in the government as a fourth-grade official in the government agency in charge of the imperial transport system. In 1898, the Guangxu Emperor promoted him to a second-grade official position. In 1903, he was appointed as the Viceroy of Guangdong and Guangxi. He also urged the Emperor to establish a constitutional monarchy.⁴⁰

Weng Tonghe

Weng Tonghe was a Chinese scholar in the Qing Dynasty. He was named a top scholar in 1856 and admitted to the Hanlin Academy. In 1865, he was appointed an imperial tutor. Throughout

³⁸ Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia. "Zhang Binglin." Encyclopedia Britannica, June 10, 2021. <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Zhang-Binglin>.

³⁹ Schneider, Julia C. " Liu Shiwei: The Expulsion of the Non-Chinese People from China's History". In Nation and Ethnicity, (Leiden, The Netherlands: Brill, 2017) doi: https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004330122_005

⁴⁰ Who's Who in China, Third Edition, pp 743–744; M.C. Powell, Editor; Published by The China Weekly Review, Shanghai, June 1, 1925, Tsen Chun-hsuan.



his life, Weng occupied several influential positions in the Qing government, which included Vice President as well as the President of the Board of Punishments. He was best known for being Kang Youwei's patron.⁴¹

Qu Hongji

Qu Hongji was a politician during the Qing Dynasty. He was the first ever appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs. He was first very involved in the reform of the Imperial Examination System as well as the formation of Provisional Constitutionalism. With these important reforms and contributions, he was appointed the Minister of Foreign Affairs. However, Empress Dowager Cixi withdrew her support for him later on and dismissed him from office.

Yu Minzhong

Yu Minzhong was an official of the Qing Dynasty, and he served as the chief grand councilor for part of the reign of the Qianlong Emperor. Born and raised in Jintan, Jiangsu province, he was extremely accomplished as a scholar, receiving the highest score on the Imperial examination. He also served as an editor and scribe to the emperor. However, during his tenure as the head of the Grand Council, which handled military affairs and acted as a privy council to the emperor, there was also a significant rise in corruption.

Yikuang

Formally known as Prince Qing, he was a Manchu noble and served as the first Prime Minister of the Imperial Cabinet, an office created in May 1911 to replace the Grand Council. He was heavily involved in the “sales” of official positions, taking sums of money to give recommendations of people to certain government posts, and became a “go-to person” for backroom deals in politics.⁴² He was sympathetic towards foreigners in the Boxer Rebellion and

⁴¹ 翁同龢. Qing Dynasty, Weng Tonghe (1830-1904) Calligraphy Gallery. Accessed June 24, 2021. <https://www.skyren-art.com/en/dingshimei/calligraphy-/352-1830-1904.html>.

⁴² Yikuang, Prince Qing, Nouah's Ark. Accessed June 19, 2021 http://www.nouahsark.com/en/infocenter/culture/history/monarchs/yikuang_prince_qing.php



became involved in foreign affairs for China, going with Li Hongzhang to negotiate for peace at the Eight-Nation Alliance after the invasion of Beijing in 1901.

Yixuan

Formally known as Prince Chun, he was an imperial prince and a statesman. He was the father of the Guangxu Emperor and the paternal grandfather of Puyi (the Last Emperor).⁴³ He lived in comfort, as his mother was Noble Consort Lin, meaning she was second only to the Empress herself. Following the death of the Xianfeng emperor, Yixuan, Prince Gong, and the two dowager empresses launched the Xinyou Coup to seize the regency from Sushun and his faction. After the coup, he held the highest ranks in the imperial court and created a dual career in the military and civil services, even later being appointed to build the new imperial navy.

Sushun

Although born in a noble family, he was very average in his skills. However, starting from his position as a military general, he became one of the Xianfeng Emperor's closest aides. Even though he was a supporter of Zeng Guofan and Li Hongzhang, he was also known for his firm policy against the West.⁴⁴ During the Second Opium War, he was one of the chief architects of Qing foreign policy and he rejected many of the treaties that were made in the late 1850s, in particular the territorial concessions in the Sino-Russian Treaty of Aigun that gave away over 231,660 sq miles of Northeast China.

Yinchang

His life was greatly intertwined with Germany, studying German at an age of 13 and later sent to Berlin, where he studied military science and acted as a translator.⁴⁵ As a result of his international education, he was an educational reformer and taught German military techniques, as well as working to abolish the Imperial Examination and replacing Confucian classics with sciences and humanities. He was later appointed the nation's first Minister of War.

⁴³ Yixuan, Prince Chun, Fampeople.com. Accessed June 21, 2021 <https://fampeople.com/cat-yixuan-prince-chun>

⁴⁴ Sushun (Qing dynasty), WikiZer. Accessed June 22, 2021 https://www.wikizero.com/en/Sushun_%28Qing_dynasty%29

⁴⁵ Yinchang, Military Wikia. Accessed June 23, 2021. <https://military.wikia.org/wiki/Yinchang>



Wenxiang

Appointed to the Board of Works after receiving the highest degree in the imperial examination, Wenxiang advanced through the ranks and in 1858, he was appointed vice president to the Board of Rites, which controlled religion and foreign relations, and also became a member of the Grand Council. After the invasion of Beijing during the Second Opium War he took part in negotiating with the British and French even when the Xianfeng emperor fled from the capital. He was one of the architects behind the Self-strengthening movement and was instrumental in creating the Qing government's cooperative policy towards the Western powers in the period 1861–76.

Guangxu Emperor

Also known as Zaitian, he was the tenth Emperor of the Qing dynasty. After being recommended to the throne by his aunt Empress Dowager Cixi, he ascended to the throne at age four, where Empress Dowager Cixi and Cian acted as regents until he turned 16, when he started to rule in his own right. He attempted the Hundred Days Reform after being inspired by constitutional monarchies, but the traditional culture of China could not adapt quickly enough, and Cixi staged a military coup, which succeeded and put him under house arrest thereafter.

Empress Dowager Ci'an

She was the empress consort of the Xianfeng Emperor, and even after her husband's death, she became regent along with Empress Dowager Cixi through the reigns of two emperors. Even though she technically had seniority over Cixi as they ruled together, she seldom intervened in political issues, though she made decisions in family affairs.

Huang Kan

Huang Kan was a phonologist and revolutionary during the Qing Dynasty. He contributed extensively into research on ancient Chinese phonology as well as the rhythm schemes in ancient literature. He was also an educator who had several cases of political disagreement with the university administration. He also had multiple conflicts with authorities. As a linguist, he is considered to be one of the great masters in Chinese philology and linguistics.



Questions to Consider

- How will China's international relations be affected due to the increased presence of Western nations at their ports?
- How can we revise our drug policies to prevent more people from becoming addicted? How can we heal those that are already suffering?
- What is the most effective way to deal with rebellions and uprisings and regain public trust and patience?
- What are the priorities of this government? How can the government fulfill their promises of satisfying these priorities?
- How should we move forward with international relations? Should we be apprehensive of the West? Should we be welcoming?

Glossary of Terms

Republic of China - a sovereign state prior to its relocation to what's known as Taiwan today, led by Sun Yat-Sen after the Xinhai Revolution of 1911.

Dominion - sovereignty or control, supremacy and dominance

Philology - the branch of knowledge that deals with the structure, historical development and relationships within a language or between languages.

Kan Hsi's tax reforms - during Kangxi's reign, taxes were reduced and often exempted for businesses; in fact, all provinces received tax reliefs that totalled over 30 million taels in 1711.

Unequal treaties - any of a series of treaties China was forced to sign which led to the concession of many of its territorial, sovereign and trading rights.

Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace - it was an unofficial religious political state in China from 1851 to 1864 which supported the overthrow of the government.

Ratify - sign or give formal consent to a treaty or agreement, making it officially valid.



The Great Clearance - a series of orders issued from 1661 to 1679 which called for the evacuation of citizens in areas conceded to Western forces.

British East India Company - an English company formed for the exploitation of trade with regions in Asia and India; it started off as a monopolistic trading body.

Fiscal - relating to government revenue, especially taxes.

Indemnities - security or protection against a loss or other financial burden.

“favored nation” status - the country(s) in question will receive the same treatment China gave to other Western powers in preceding treaties.

Viceroy - a ruler exercising authority in a colony on behalf of a sovereign.

Convention of Chuanbi - an agreement between Qishan and Charles Elliot during the First Opium War. However, both governments rejected them at the time.

Boxer Rebellion - an uprising against foreign forces in 1900, started by peasants and supported by the government afterwards.

Iconoclastic - characterized by attacking cherished beliefs or institutions

Provisional Constitutionalism - an outline of basic rules and laws formed after victory in the Xinhai Revolution

Imperial Examination - a civil service examination in China to select candidates for the state government.



Eight-Nation Alliance - a military alliance that invaded China in 1900, aiming to besiege the Boxer Rebellion.

Sino-Russian Treaty of Aigun - a treaty signed in 1858 between the Russian Empire and the Qing Dynasty which established the border between the Russian Far East and former Manchuria.

Phonologist - a person who studies the speech sounds of a language

Further Reading

You can check Britannica for more information on the relevant topics of this committee as well as for your character. In terms of the effect of the Opium Wars on China, please look at the treaty texts in the bibliography (Treaty of Tientsin, Treaty of Wanghia, Treaty of Nanjing). Please have a good understanding of the effects of the Opium War on the different aspects of life in China.

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