THE DECLINE OF THE QING DYNASTY

Ch 15.1
Competition Among Countries  As the Qing dynasty declined, Western nations increased their economic involvement with China.
The Decline of the Qing Dynasty

1. Who was involved in the Tai Ping Rebellion?
2. What caused the Opium War?
3. Why did allied forces attack Beijing?

Causes of Decline

Internal
- Peasant unrest
- Food shortages

Tai Ping Rebellion

External
- British sale of opium from India

The Opium War

Opposition of conservatives to One Hundred Days of Reform
Boxer Rebellion
War with Japan
Growing influence of imperialists
Pressure from the West and corruption, government incompetence, and peasant unrest from within led to the decline of the Qing dynasty.
Western powers wanted China to loosen trade restrictions that limited trade to the port at Guangzhou. (Britain was paying more money to China than they were making)

China Declines new trade offer

To compensate for Britain’s unfavorable trade balance, the British began trading opium. (a highly addictive drug)

Britain become a ‘drug dealer’
The Chinese retaliated with a blockade on Guangzhou, sparking the Opium War.

The British navy quickly defeated the Chinese by sailing up the Chang Jiang to Nanjing.
Open five coastal ports

Limit taxes on British imports

Pay for the cost of the war

Give Hong Kong to Great Britain

Allow Westerners living in China the right of extraterritoriality (Europeans living in their own sections of a country (China) were subject ONLY to their own laws)
Corruption, peasant unrest, incompetence, and population growth created a food shortage led many people to die of starvation.

Hong Xiuquan led a peasant revolt called the Tai Ping Rebellion (1850–1864).

The rebellion called for social reforms, such as giving land to peasants and making women equal to men.
Europeans helped the Qing dynasty defeat the Tai Ping when they saw how destructive the Tai Ping forces were.

The Tai Ping rebellion was one of the most devastating civil wars in history, during which as many as 20 million people died.
The Qing dynasty was in decline and called for reforms under a new policy called “self-strengthening.”

The Chinese government wanted to adopt Western technology but keep Confucian values. It modernized the military and built up industries while keeping the culture.
Western nations and Japan set up spheres of influence in China to gain exclusive trading rights.
France, Russia, and Great Britain seized land throughout East Asia.

European states began creating spheres of influence throughout China’s heartland by negotiating with warlords for exclusive trading rights and railroad and mining privileges.
Russia forced China to give up territories in Siberia.

Tibet became independent from Chinese influence.

The Japanese gained the island of Taiwan.

Germany demanded territories in the Shandong Peninsula.
The emperor Guang Xu called for One Hundred Days of Reform. Guang Xu wanted to base the Chinese government, education system, and military on Western models.
Many conservatives opposed the reforms, including Empress Dowager Ci Xi, who became a dominant force at court.

Ci Xi and the imperial army imprisoned the emperor and exiled, prosecuted, or imprisoned supporters of the reforms.
The United States proposed an **Open Door policy** to guarantee it would have equal trading rights with European countries in China.
In 1899 the U.S. secretary of state, John Hay, wrote notes to Britain, Russia, Germany, France, Italy, and Japan asking each country to respect equal trading rights in China.

Leads to establishment of the Open Door policy.
• The Open Door policy reduced trade restrictions and foreign influences.

• The policy also eased fears throughout the Western nations that one country would obtain overwhelming influence throughout China.
A secret organization called the Society of Harmonious Fists formed in opposition to foreign influence in China and initiated the Boxer Rebellion.

The Boxers began killing foreigners, including Western businessmen, and Christian missionaries and converts.

They were a conservative group who did NOT want foreign influence
• An allied army formed in retaliation and crushed the rebellion and demanded more concessions from the Chinese government, including a heavy indemnity (payment for damages)

• The Imperial Government was now weaker than ever.