

Chapter 2 Study Guide: CROSS-CULTURAL CONFLICTS DURING THE QING

VOCABULARY

Be sure that you understand these key terms from Chapter 2. Provide a brief definition or use in a sentence that reflects its context in the reading.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Canton | Guangzhou System | “hang merchants” | monopoly | extraterritoriality |
| “Guangzhou pidgin” | opium | sovereignty | “gunboat diplomacy” | missionaries |

Table 1 Vocabulary

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What aspects of geography made Guangzhou ideal for trade?
2. What trade and social rules were put into place to limit foreign influence?
3. What commodities did Western traders use to purchase Chinese goods? What commodity began to replace these in the 1820s?
4. Explain at least two negative effects of the import of opium in China.
5. What was Lin Zexu’s “two-pronged” approach in addressing the opium problem with Chinese residents? How did he address the problem with foreign merchants?
6. What strategy did the British navy employ in response to British merchants’ demands?
7. Provide at least three effects of the “unequal treaties” signed by China between 1842 and 1933.
8. In what ways was Western “informal imperialism” in China similar to colonialism in other countries such as India, Burma, and the Philippines? What were some differences?

KEY FIGURES

| | | |
|----------|------------------|----------------|
| Lin Zexu | Emperor Daoguang | Queen Victoria |
|----------|------------------|----------------|

Table 2 Key Figures

KEY EVENTS

| | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Treaty of Nanjing | Opium War | Hong Kong ceded to the British |
| Treaty of Wangxia | Treaty of Huangpu | Arrow War of 1856 |
| Second Opium War of 1860 | Sino-French War of 1885 | Sino-Japanese War of 1895 |

Table 3 Key Events

ACTIVITY CHOICE BOARD #1

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Review the following images, quotations, and links. Then, use the prompt to discuss the chapter's concept.

- Regarding the period of 19th century imperialism, historian David Kenley says, “[S]ome Chinese became antagonistic toward the West, and toward their own government, which seemed powerless to protect them.” In your opinion, how might this past history relate to some of China’s current restrictions on foreign business practices, such as limitation of Google products?

Credit [Open Domain]: Pun-Lun. Opium Smokers. 1870s, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York



- Considering the details in this photograph, what social effects do you think opium had on Chinese society in the 1800s? In your opinion, why did Lin Zexu have two different approaches to address traders and users?
- Historian David Kenley explained extraterritoriality as guaranteeing “that any British citizen residing or traveling China would not be subject to Chinese laws, could not be arrested by Chinese officers, and could not be tried in a Chinese court of law” (pp. 17-18). What are the pros & cons of this legal concept? What are your feelings about it?

WHO, WHAT, WHERE?

Fill in the blanks to complete these statements regarding Qing cross-cultural conflicts.

Then select one of the statements for further research. Using the additional resources below, find a picture that helps you to develop a greater understanding of the statement, and describe what you see in that picture.

- Foreign Trade: Often called Canton, _____ was the most powerful trade city in southeastern China.
- Opium Trade: The imperial commissioner, _____, tried to eliminate the use of opium.
- British Role: A formal letter written to _____, tried to offer economic and moral arguments against the opium trade.
- _____.
- Informal Imperialism: The Treaty of _____ in 1842 opened a century of “national humiliation.”

INVESTIGATION STATIONS

Choose one of the following resources to further investigate. List at least three new insights that this resource provides that were not explained in Chapter 2.

Websites:

- [AFE \(Asia for Educators\): The Grandeur of the Qing](#)
- [MIT Visualizing Cultures: Rise & Fall of the Canton Trade System](#)
- [MIT Visualizing Cultures: The First Opium War](#)
- [Lin Zexu's Letter to Queen Victoria](#)
- [Treaty of Nanjing \(Nanking\) 1842](#)
- [Trade and Gunboat Diplomacy](#)

Articles:

- [The Rise and Fall of the Canton System](#)
- [The First Protestant Mission](#)
- [The National Humiliation Narrative](#)
- [Looking Back 22 Years to the Handover of Hong Kong](#)

Table 4 Activity Choice Board #1

ACTIVITY CHOICE BOARD #2

| INFOGRAPHICS | |
|--|---|
| Create an infographic to explain the system of trade that developed in Guangzhou between the 17th and 19th centuries. | |
| CAUSE & EFFECT In your opinion, which of the following events had the greatest impact on the decline of the Qing dynasty? Support your response with at least three key facts. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishing the Guangzhou System to regulate foreign trade• The importation of vast amounts of opium in the early 1800s• The Treaty of Nanjing and “gunboat diplomacy”• The various “unequal treaties” that imposed an informal imperialism | KEY EVENTS What impact did the following events have on the development of Communism in East Asia? Identify at least two examples for each event. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guangzhou System, 17-19th centuries• Opium Wars, 1839-1842• Century of Humiliation 1839-1949 |

Table 5 Activity Choice Board

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Chapter 2 in detail](#)
- [China in the World: The Rise and Fall of the Canton System](#)
- [Knocking on China’s Door: The First Protestant Mission](#)
- [MIT Visualizing Cultures: Rise & Fall of the Canton Trade System](#)
- [MIT Visualizing Cultures: The First Opium War](#)
- [Lin Zexu’s Letter to Queen Victoria](#)
- [Treaty of Nanjing \(Nanking\) 1842](#)
- [Trade and Gunboat Diplomacy](#)
- [The Rise and Fall of the Canton System](#)
- [The National Humiliation Narrative](#)
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This guide is available online for classroom use worldwide and can be accessed at [EASC's Resource page](#).

Source: Kenley, D. (2020). *Modern Chinese History* (2nd ed., Ser. Key Issues in Asian Studies). Association for Asian Studies.