

## Station 4: Imperialism in China

The Chinese have often viewed outsiders as barbarians & saw little value in trade with foreign merchants. The Great Wall was built to protect China from barbarian attacks.



But outsiders came across the Silk Road for China's exotic goods.



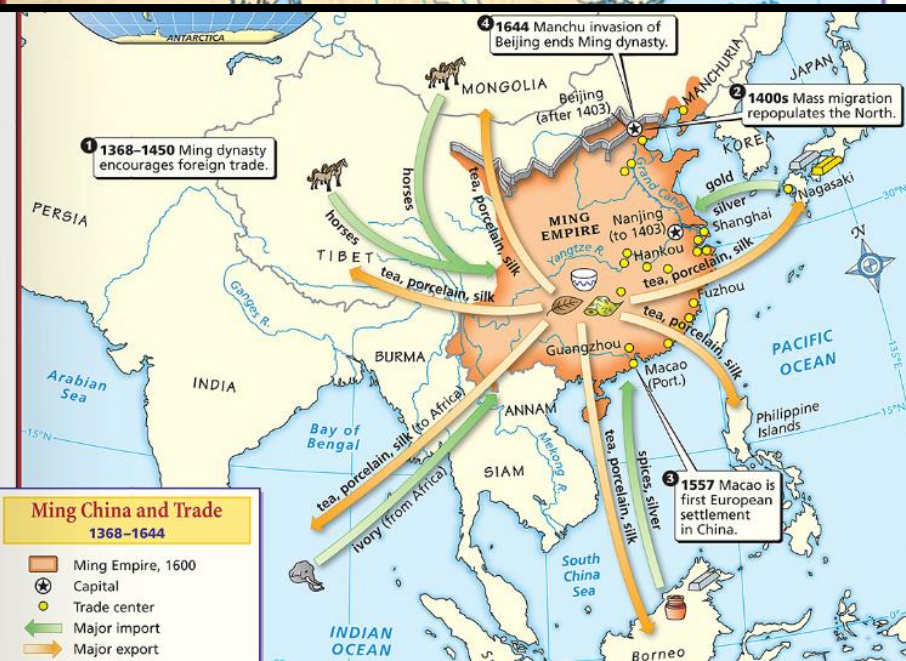
### Qin Dynasty 316-206 B.C.

- Ruled by Qin dynasty 221-206 B.C.
- Capital, 221-206 B.C.
- QIN Chinese state
- Culture group
- Barbarian attack
- Great Wall
- Desert
- China's boundary today

### Silk Road and Other Trade Routes 400-1500

- Silk Road
- Other trade route
- Sources of Trade and Cultural Exchange**
- Frankincense
- Cotton
- Compass
- Gems
- Silk
- Glassware
- Spices
- Horses
- Gunpowder
- Arabic numerals
- Plague
- Paper

As a result, China became the dominant empire in Asia (& the world).



### Ming China and Trade 1368-1644

- Ming Empire, 1600
- Capital
- Trade center
- Major import
- Major export

China's commercial trade helped to diffuse their culture throughout Asia, but foreign traders always had to obey Chinese rules and show respect.



In 1644, northern invaders called Manchus conquered China & created the Qing Dynasty.

Qing China faced 2 challenges that would threaten China's future strength.



A population boom led to a rise in the number of Chinese peasants & competition for land.

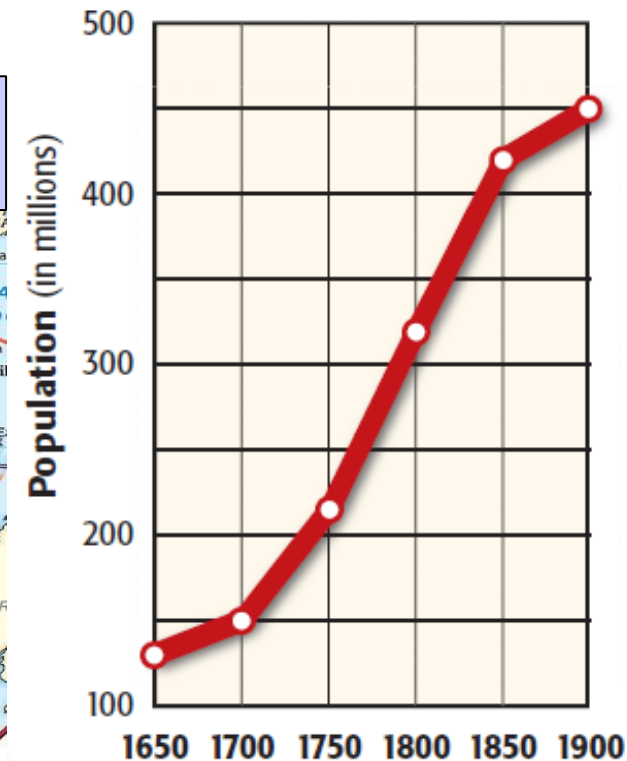
European missionaries & merchants arrived in Asia with hopes of trading with China.

In 1793, Chinese Emperor Qian Long wrote a letter to answer a request for trade by British King George III:

*"Strange and costly objects do not interest me... As your Ambassador can see for himself, we possess all things. I set no value on objects strange or ingenious, and have no use for your country's manufactures."*

What did Emperor Long say to King George?

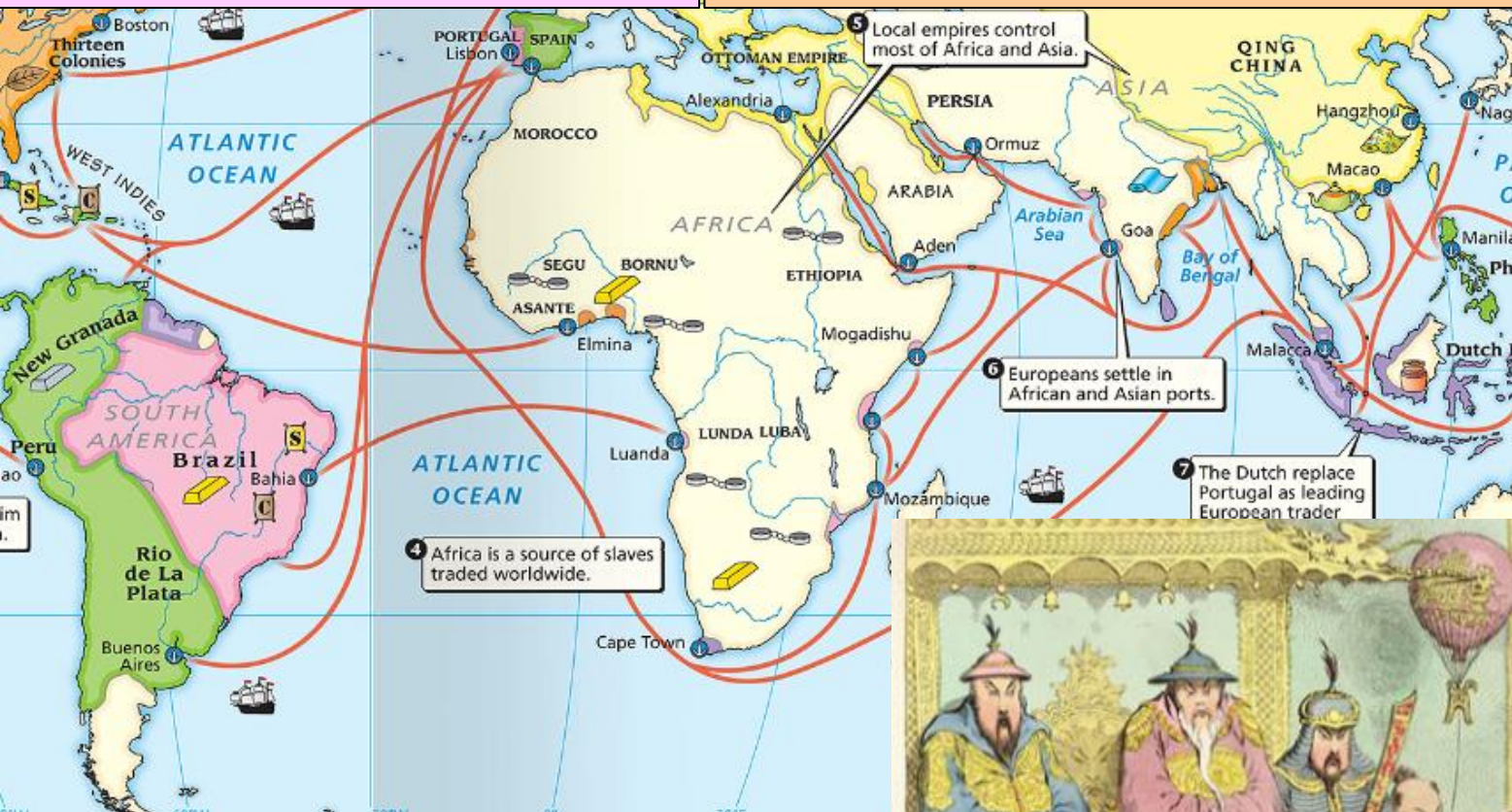
### The Growth of Early Modern China





The Chinese had little interest in trading with the West & were able to reject trade offers.

China had a healthy agricultural economy, large deposits of natural resources, & manufactured products like silk, cotton clothes, porcelain.



For decades, China exported goods to European merchants but refused to buy European products.

The British were desperate to find a product that the Chinese would buy.

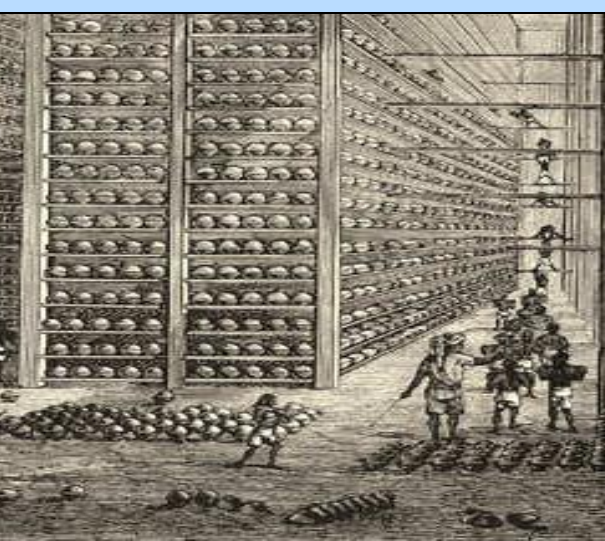
In the 1800s, the British smuggled opium from India into China.







By 1835, 12 million Chinese citizens were addicted to opium.





When Britain refused to end the opium trade, Commissioner Lin appealed directly to British Queen Victoria.

***I am told that in your own country opium smoking is forbidden under severe penalties. This means that you are aware of how harmful it is...***

***So long as you do not take it yourselves, but continue to make it and tempt the people of China to buy it, you will be showing yourselves careful of your own lives, but careless of the lives of other people, indifferent in your greed for gain to the harm you do to others; such conduct is repugnant to human feeling and at variance with the Way of Heaven...***

***On receiving this, Your Majesty will be so good as to report to me immediately on the steps that have been taken at each of your ports.*** -Excerpt from Commissioner Lin's letter to Queen Victoria

The Chinese outlawed opium sales & appointed Commissioner Lin to end opium smuggling.



From the Painting]

COMMISSIONER LIN DESTROYING CHESTS OF OPIUM.

[By H. M. Burton.



When the British refused to end the opium trade, China declared war on Britain.

Britain used its modern navy to easily win the Opium Wars (1839-42).

The Treaty of Nanjing ended the Opium Wars: Britain received Hong Kong & extraterritorial rights in China (foreigners were not subject to Chinese laws).

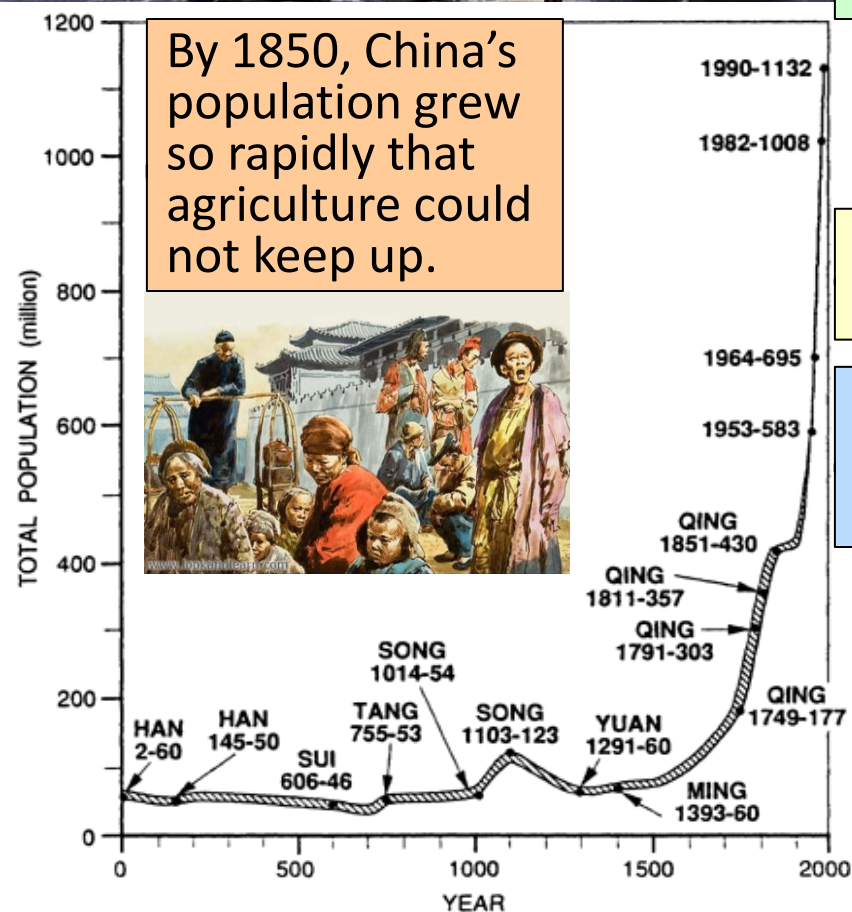
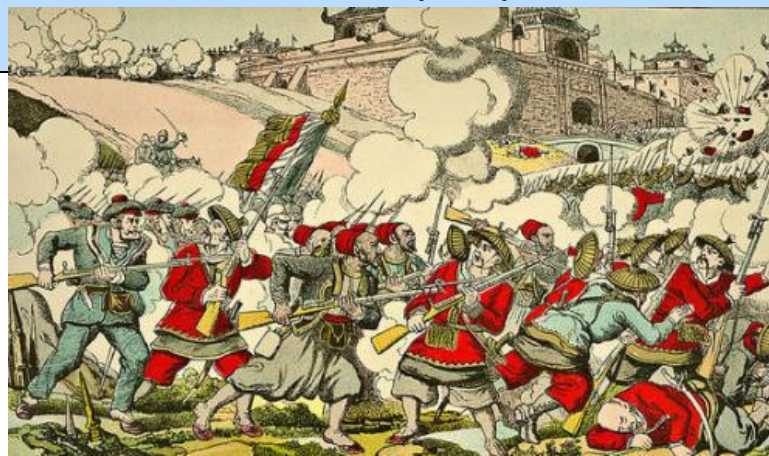
By 1850, China's population grew so rapidly that agriculture could not keep up.



In addition to foreign problems, China also faced major problems with its own people.

In 1853, Hong Xiuquan led the Taiping Rebellion in an attempt to end poverty among peasants.

The Qing defeated the rebels in 1864 but the rebellion killed 20 million people & weakened China.





Britain & other industrial powers took advantage of China's weakness to force China to sign unequal trade treaties in particular ports.

By 1900, China was carved into a series of spheres of influences: areas where a foreign nation had exclusive trade rights.



The division of China worried the USA that it would be shut out of Chinese trade.

In 1899, the USA proposed an Open Door Policy in China so merchants from all nations can trade freely.





The growth of foreign influence, poverty among peasants, & Christianity upset many Chinese.

In 1900, frustrated Chinese led the Boxer Rebellion to expel foreigners from China.

An army of 19,000 British, French, American soldiers finally ended the Boxer Rebellion.





The power of foreign imperialists & the violence of the Boxer Rebellion led to calls to reform China.

Reformers looked to the West for ways to fix China.

In 1911, Sun Yat-sen led an overthrow of the Qing Dynasty & created a democracy with a written constitution.

Sun's goal was to promote nationalism, democracy, & economic security for all Chinese citizens

Over 3,000 years of dynastic rule came to an end.

