


SSWH16: ANALYZE THE RISE OF NATIONALISM AND WORLDWIDE IMPERIALISM



ELEMENT C: EXAMINE ANTI-IMPERIAL RESISTANCE, INCLUDE: OPIUM WARS, BOXER REBELLION, AND THE INDIAN REVOLT OF 1857.

Opium Wars

- During the early 1800s, British opium incapacitated Chinese workers and drained silver from the Chinese economy.
 - In an attempt to stop the trade, which the Chinese considered illegal, the Qing trade commissioner seized large amounts of opium from British warehouses in Canton and destroyed it in 1839.
- This act provoked the first of two Opium Wars between the British and Chinese.
 - The Qing Dynasty relied on a pre-industrial military that was no match for the professionalism and technology of the British Navy.
 - The First Opium War ended in 1842 and the second in 1860.
 - After both wars, the Chinese were forced to sign "unequal treaties" that opened more ports to Western trade, lowered tariffs, surrendered Hong Kong to the British, and legalized the opium trade.



Boxer Rebellion

- After these defeats and a massive internal rebellion known as the Taiping, some Chinese officials believed that it was time for reform.
 - A campaign for economic and military reform called the self-strengthening movement began but had little success because of opposition from the ruler Empress Dowager Cixi.
- Cixi instead placed her faith in a secret martial arts brotherhood known as the Society of the Righteous and Harmonious Fists, also known as the Boxers.
 - The Boxers organized an ill-fated plan to drive foreign powers from China and restore the full glory of Qing rule.
 - The Boxer Rebellion was crushed by a multi-national force that included several European nations, Russia, Japan and the United States.
 - After this defeat, the Qing Dynasty was so weakened that it never recovered and a revolution in 1911 removed the last emperor from power and established the Chinese Republic.



Indian Revolt of 1857 or Sepoy Mutiny

- In South Asia, British cultural arrogance combined with the British East India Company's (BEIC) massive reliance on natives to staff their army brought rebellion in 1857.
 - Rumors began to spread among the sepoy soldiers in the BEIC army that their religious beliefs and practices were being consciously ignored by their British officers.
 - These rumors combined with years of Indian resentment to British rule led to a massive and bloody rebellion that took the company a year to suppress.
 - This Sepoy Rebellion led the British government to seize control of the colony from the BEIC and for the next 90 years, South Asia was administered directly by the British government.