

Mgr. et Mgr. Vladimír Bízík



History of International Relations and World Politics (IRE102 / IREb1002)

The Fall of Imperial China
and Japanese Modernization Until 1945

China (中國 / 中国)– millennia of rich imperial history

Chinese inventions:

gunpowder (in search for immortality elixir)

printing (wood page block, also movable type before Guttenberg)

mechanical clock

Mercator-style maps

smallpox inoculation

many transformations, Mongol conquest (Kublai Khan)

13th-15th century – Yuan (元) conquest dynasty

restoration – Ming (明) dynasty (14th to 17th century)

age of sea exploration (later banned almost overnight)

later trend towards isolationism, xenophobia

less (but still some) international trade, contact

Qing dynasty

peasant rebellions, uprisings, chaos

1644 – Manchus invaded Beijing (北京) and conquered China

named their dynasty Qing (清) and stayed in power until 1911

one of the less traumatic dynastic transition

welcomed and seen as a better alternative to chaos

initial unrest defeated (a short-lived Ming loyalist regime in Taiwan)

The Han Emperor



MING-YIGUAN.COM

Manchu emperor



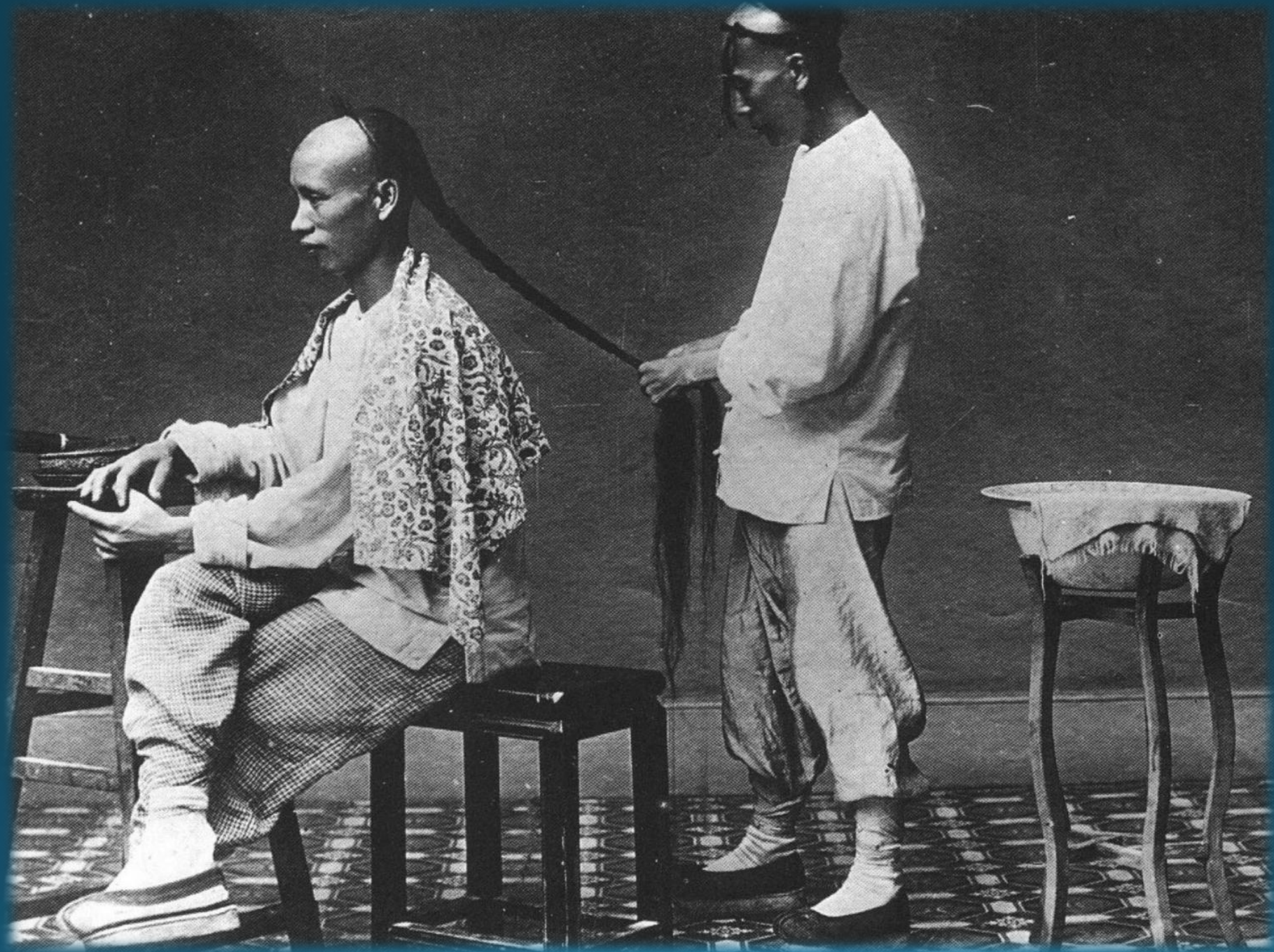
Qing dynasty

institutions and philosophy of rule remained unchanged

slight cultural change, impositions

Manchu queue (pigtail) – all boys beyond puberty, otherwise death

19th century rebellions – cutting off queues, growing hair



Politics of Men's Hair in Chinese History

(a condensed timeline)



Antiquity to Ming Dynasty

(prior to Queue Order in 1645)

Long, uncut & bound hair:
social control, Confucian filial piety, Han Chinese culturalism, virility

Cutting hair / tonsured head:
anti-social control, unfilial to parents, uncivilized, barbarian



Qing Dynasty

(1644 - 1912)

Tonsured head & queue:
social control, symbol of Han Chinese submission to Manchurian authority

Full hair / short hair:
anti-social control, treason to Manchurian government = execution



Republic of China

(after Revolution of 1911-12)

Short hair:
social control, nationalism, liberation from Manchu oppression, Westernization

Tonsured head & queue:
anti-social control, backwardness, deviant, loyalist to former Qing regime

<http://iridescentdream.com>



Nancy Duong 2013 (nouduong@yahoo.com)



CHINESE HAIRSTYLES THROUGH THE DYNASTIES



Qing dynasty

China rose again – wealth, population growth

Europe idolized China, everybody wanted trade

growth of moral philosophy

Enlightenment philosophers looked up to Qing China

Chinese imperial system

multiethnic empire

Han (漢) China (China proper) – only half of the territory

surrounding areas – no direct control, no sovereignty

suzerainty – form of feudal lordship

Chinese imperial system

a belt of surrounding vassal pseudo-independent tributary states

Korea, Vietnam, Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, etc.

sent local products (tributes) to the emperor

the emissary would perform the kowtow (叩頭 / 叩头 / 磕頭 / 磕头)

(repeated kneeling and audible bang of forehead on the floor)



Chinese imperial system

symbolic recognition of the status of a humble vassal

this submission brought many benefits:

protection, trade privileges, prestige, legitimacy for the local ruler

Chinese world order?

not all nations, not even relatively nearby ones, were members

of the tribute system

the Qing never regarded Japan or India as tributary states

some nations (e.g. European) wanted good trade relations

so they accepted some elements of the system

led to misunderstandings and friction (19th century)

Trade restrictions

China all but closed down to trade and other contact

trade restricted to the single city of Canton (Guangzhou, 廣州 / 广州)

October till January; inspections, measurements, fees, tariffs

“presents” (bribes) for inspectors

various go-betweens, ship pilots, pidgin translators and linguists

traders couldn't bring families, couldn't move freely

Cultural misunderstanding

Europeans were used to the Westphalian system

formally equal sovereign partners

Chinese considered themselves the center of civilization

everybody had to be naturally drawn to China to bear tribute

Cultural misunderstanding

envoys were expected to kowtow

after trade, they were graciously allowed to stay for a few days

and then swiftly leave

commerce was viewed as beneath the majesty's dignity

trade was something done between private men

why would the emperor deal with commerce?

Macartney Mission (1793)

British government sent Lord Macartney to the Qianlong emperor (乾隆)

demands: residential diplomatic representation in Beijing

trade throughout China, exemption for British traders from Chinese law

Macartney Mission (1793)

the Chinese thought they were tribute bearers coming to congratulate

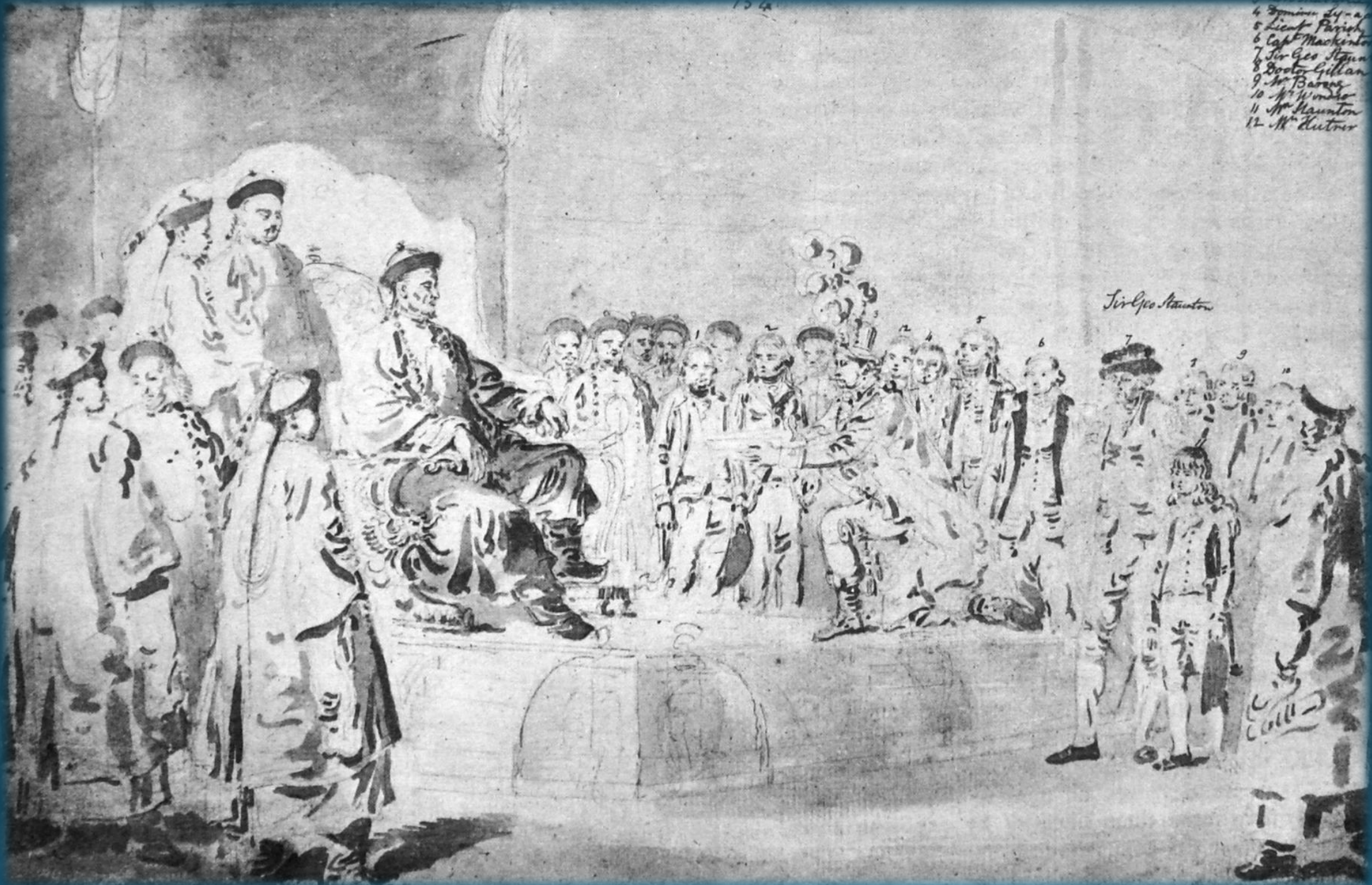
the emperor on his 83rd birthday

British refused to kowtow (just standard kneel on one knee)

British view: a servant of the most powerful monarch can't submit

Chinese view: emperor is the Son of Heaven, everybody is his tributary

- 4. Simon de la
- 5. Lieut Parish
- 6. Capt Mackintosh
- 7. Sir Geo Stuart
- 8. Doct Gillan
- 9. Mr Barron
- 10. Mr Woodro
- 11. Mr Stanton
- 12. Mr Luttrell



Sir Geo Stuart

Call

Macartney Mission (1793)

request was denied

ethnocentricity of the edict that was sent back to England

the proud British were flabbergasted

“Our Celestial Empire possesses all things in prolific abundance and lacks no product within its borders. There is therefore no need to import the manufactures of outside barbarians in exchange for our own produce.”

AN IMPERIAL EDICT TO THE KING OF ENGLAND:

You, O King, are so inclined toward our civilization that you have sent a special envoy across the seas to bring our Court your memorial of congratulations on the occasion of my birthday and to present your native products as an expression of your thoughtfulness. On perusing your memorial, so simply worded and sincerely conceived, I am impressed by your genuine respectfulness and friendliness and greatly pleased. As to the request made in your memorial, O King, to send one of your nationals to stay at the Celestial Court to take care of your country's trade with China, this is not in harmony with the state system of our dynasty and will definitely not be permitted. There has never been a precedent for letting them do whatever they like. The Celestial Court has pacified and possessed the territory within the four seas. Its sole aim is to do its utmost to achieve good government and to manage political affairs, attaching no value to strange jewels and precious objects. The various articles presented by you, O King, this time are accepted by my special order to the office in charge of such functions in consideration of the offerings having come from a long distance with sincere good wishes. As a matter of fact, the virtue and prestige of the Celestial Dynasty having spread far and wide, the kings of the myriad nations come by land and sea with all sorts of precious things. Consequently, there is nothing we lack, as your principal envoy and others have themselves observed. We have never set much store on strange or ingenious objects, nor do we need any more of your country's manufactures.

Lord Amherst's mission (1816)

one last attempt to change China's practices peacefully

Lord Amherst – former governor of British India

demand list basically identical to Macartney's

refused to kowtow and ended up being similarly unsuccessful

Paying for goods

British bought a lot of tea from China (became very popular)

also porcelain (hence "china"), artificial flowers, etc.

problem – how to pay for goods

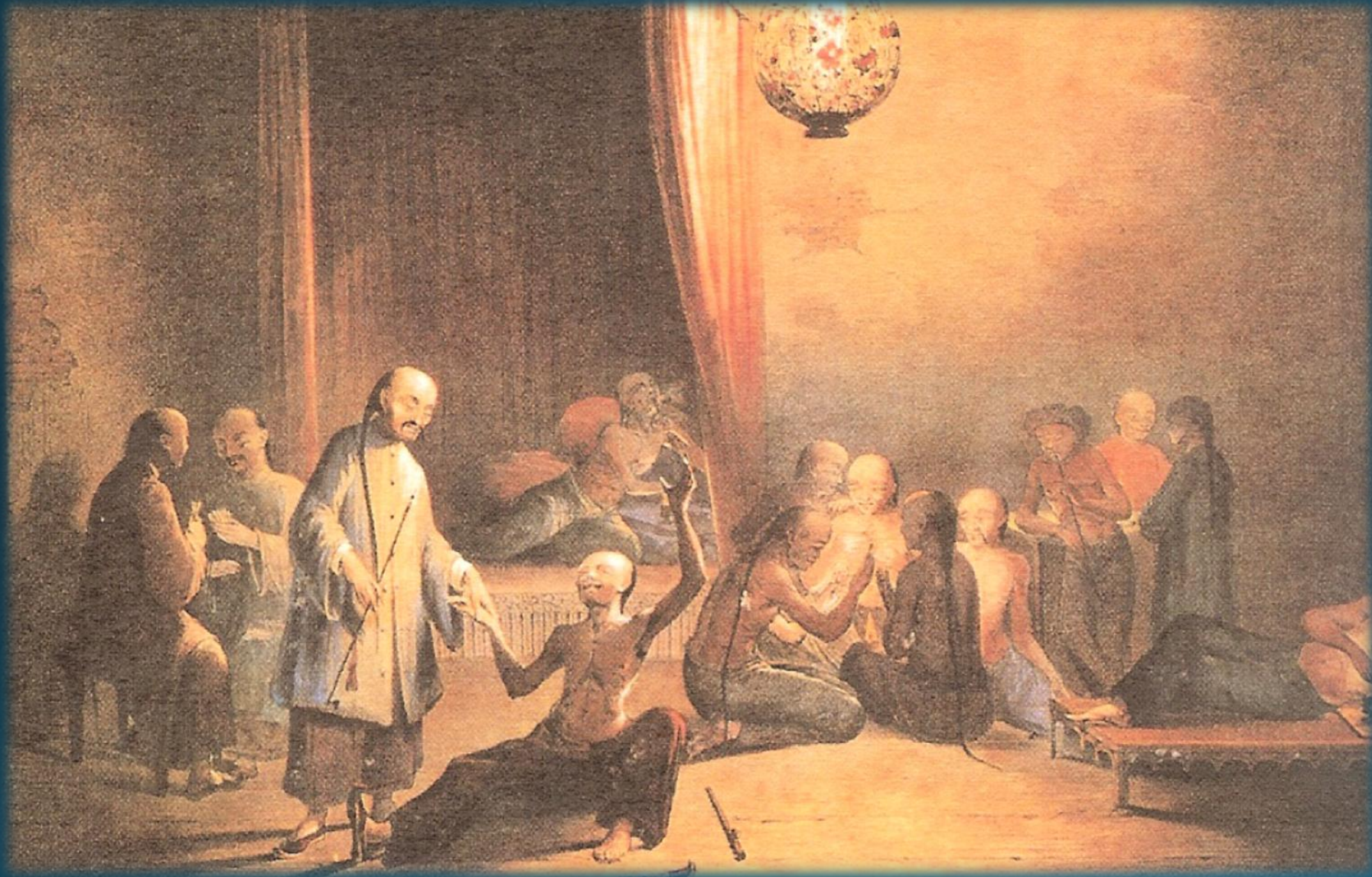
China generally demanded silver as currency

no silver mines in Britain – buying silver in Germany for golden pounds

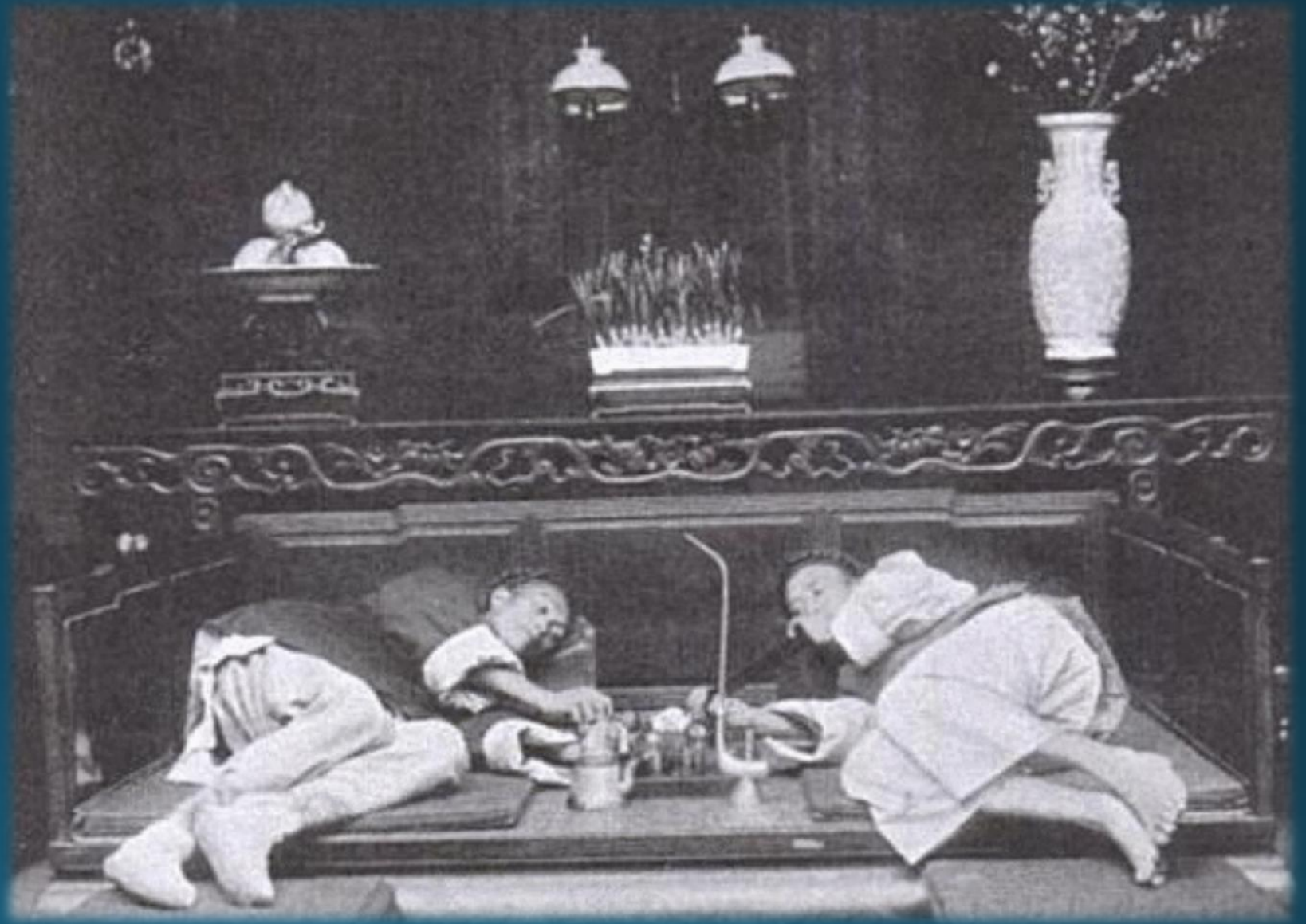
expensive – looking for alternative things to offer in exchange

Opium

“Among the remedies which it has pleased Almighty God to give to man to relieve his sufferings, none is so universal and so efficacious as opium.” (Thomas Sydenham, “Father of British Medicine”)



Opium den (18th century)



Opium smokers (19th century)

Opium

known at least since 8th century; anesthetic, aphrodisiac; no stigma

legal during the Ming dynasty

after the India conquest British East India Company gained a monopoly

Qing China banned opium (but for a long time tolerated it)

an elaborate trading scheme established

legal markets through intermediaries + illicit means

Opium

end of 18th century – British opium exports to China had skyrocketed

1799 – ban of all opium imports to China

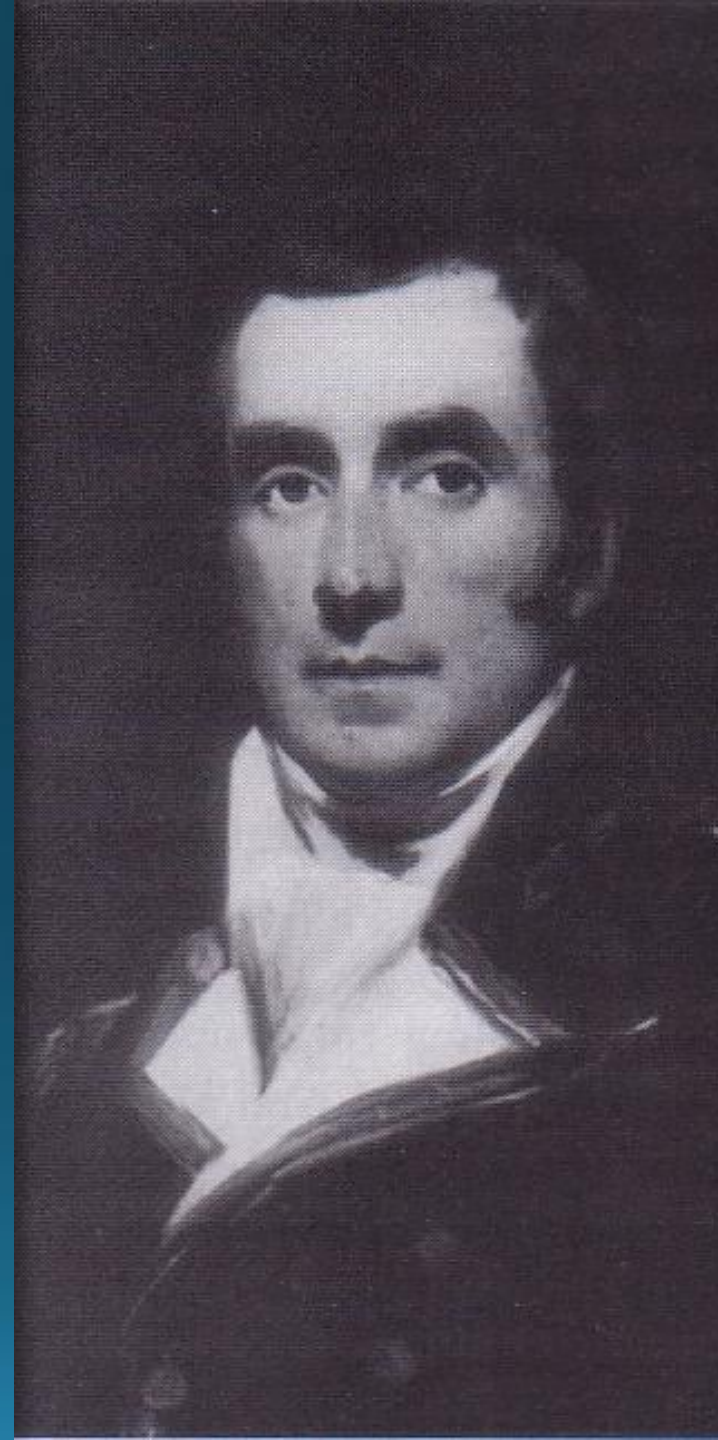
Americans entered the market too (lower-quality Turkish opium)

another condemning Qing decree

the government up north in Beijing couldn't stop trade in the south

by 1830s the trade moved mostly to private traders

Lord William John Napier
superintendent for trade



Lord William John Napier

presented himself directly to the Chinese authorities in Canton

violated all the rules of conduct

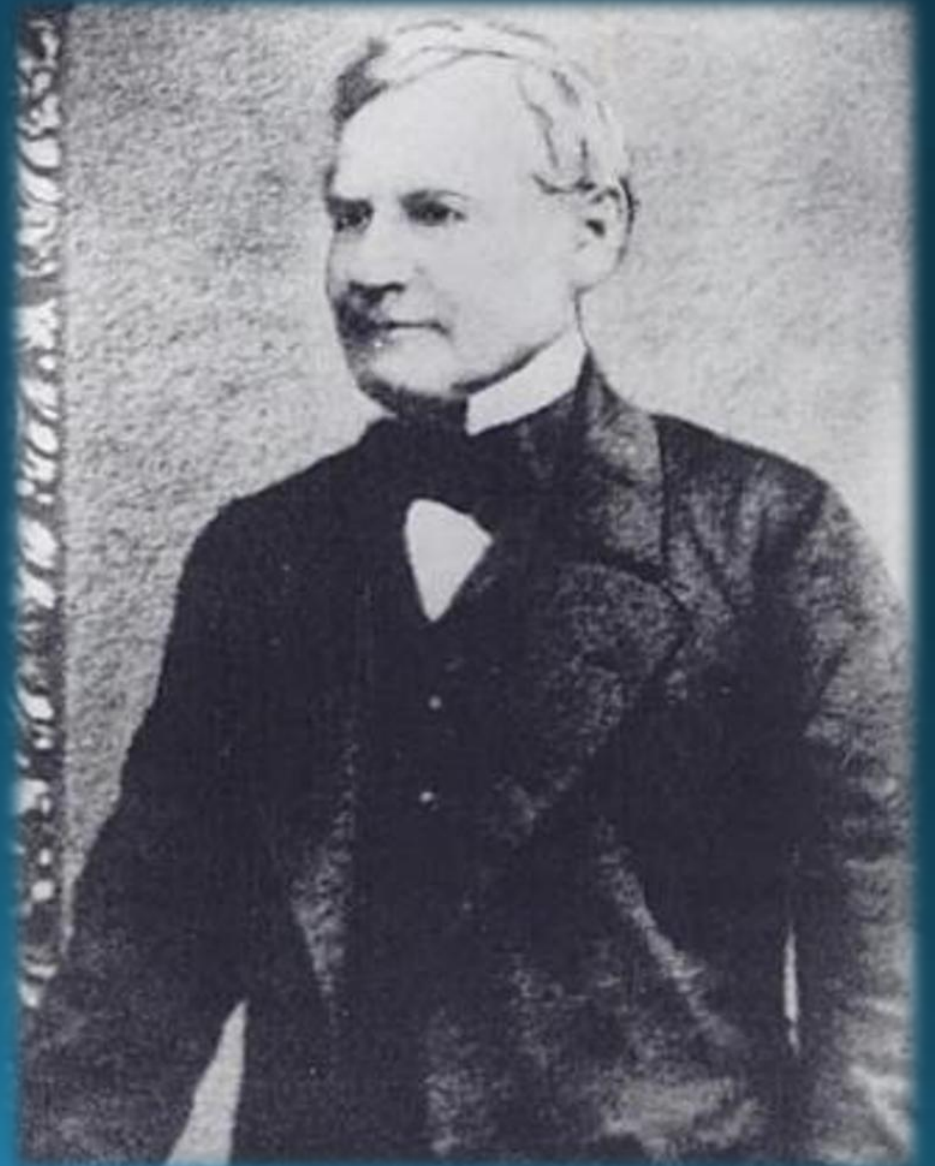
wanted to increase the dignity of British crown in China

went too far – kept bragging Britain is always ready to go to war

wanted to display fleet power – troops were less enthusiastic

Captain Charles Elliot

instructed to be less confrontational
but he dragged the countries to war



Road to the 1st Opium War

1839 – 12 million opium addicts in China

the emperor sent a special emissary to Canton, arrested Chinese dealers

sieged factories and wanted foreign merchants to give up opium

trapped traders, including Elliot, for weeks inside

Elliot confiscated all opium, proclaimed it property of Queen Victoria

surrendered it, 1,000 tons of opium burned in a month

1st Opium War (1840-1841)

destruction of Queen's property – 1840 war declared (after hot debate)

quick British advancement, ships sailed up the Yangtze River

about to bombard Nanjing (南京) - China surrendered

overwhelming British military superiority (one battle: 9 minutes)

firearms, canons vs. bows, swords

a messenger lied to the emperor about splendid Chinese victories



The **U.S.S. JEROME**, *Commander,*
 DESTROYING THE CHINESE WAR JUNKS, IN ANSON'S BAY, JAN. 27, 1841.
The **U.S.S. JEROME**, *Commander,*
 DESTROYING THE CHINESE WAR JUNKS, IN ANSON'S BAY, JAN. 27, 1841.



Nanjing Treaty (1841)

Hong Kong (香港) ceded to the British Crown

5 new port cities in the south and east

large indemnity payment

abolition of trade restrictions, uniform tariff

British extraterritoriality: exemption from Chinese jurisdiction

first of the "Unequal Treaties"

Aftermath of the 1st Opium War

turning point, beginning of downfall

from Celestial Court to the Sick Man of Asia

other nations "smelled the blood", sustained nibbling away of territories

more treaties: 1844 Treaty of Wanghia (US), Treaty of Whampoa (France)

Road to the 2nd Opium War

not all British goals were met (no representation in Beijing)

ports were open, but Canton still wouldn't let the British in

perception that only war can change China's behavior

after the Crimean War, there was appetite for war in the West

look for a *cassus belli*, an excuse

2nd Opium War (1856 - 1860)

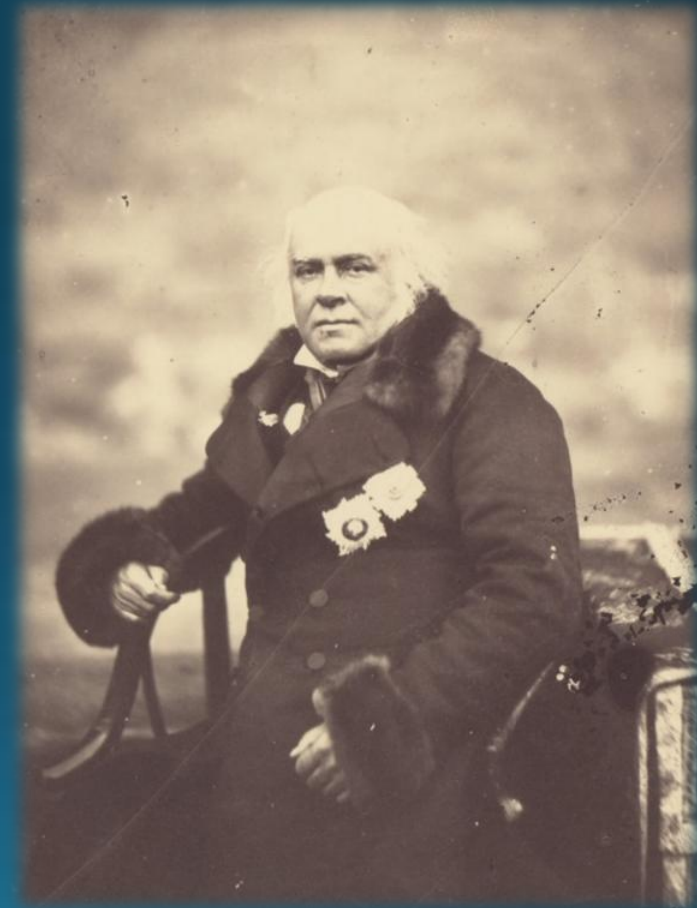
1856 a British-registered (British flag) ship boarded by Chinese officials
in search for a wanted pirate

British protested – violation of the flag – excuse for a war

France also joined (excuse: Chinese torture and killing of a missionary)

2nd Opium War (1856 - 1860)

British and French bombarded Canton for 5 days
sent an emissary, Lord Elgin, to chastise the Chinese
arrested the defiant and racist governor
and imprisoned him in India





Le pont de Pa-li-Kiao, le soir de la bataille. — Dessin de E. Bayard d'après une esquisse de M. E. Vaumort (album de Mme de Bourboulon).

2nd Opium War (1856 - 1860)

sailed north, stormed Tianjin (天津) and headed towards Beijing

terrified Chinese signed the Treaty of Tianjin (1858)

residential British diplomacy, new ports, indemnities

official government documents must be issued in English

unrestricted travel for all foreigners in China

including Protestant and Catholic missionaries

2nd Opium War (1856 - 1860)

1859 Chinese government resisted British ambassador entering Beijing
another expeditionary force, this time to Beijing, again led by Lord Elgin
they burned down the imperial (Old) Summer Palace
first time a foreign imperialist power stormed a Chinese capital
a great national trauma – the site of the palace preserved



2nd Opium War (1856 - 1860)

1860 The Convention of Beijing

once and for all stationing of diplomats in Beijing

more indemnities

cession of the Kowloon (九龍) peninsula opposite Hong Kong to Britain

right of French missionaries to own property in Chinese hinterland

Taiping Rebellion

opium wars and foreign intrusion – external calamity

Taiping (太平) rebellion – internal calamity

nearly brought down the Qing

one of the worst civil wars ever – up to 40 million casualties

before – overpopulation, millions suffered from malnutrition, starvation

1840s – starving peasants began to roam and make a living as bandits

Taiping Rebellion

Hong Xiuquan (洪秀全) – leading figure of the rebellion

mentally unstable, imaginative, very charismatic, a cult of followers

came across Christian teaching

thought he was the younger brother of Jesus Christ

thought that the biblical Kingdom of Heaven referred to China

the devils were the Manchus; personal instructions from God to rise up

Taiping Rebellion

by early 1850 – a few desperate fighters grew to a large movement

pseudo-Christian ideology

members cut their queues

allegiance to Taiping Tianguo – Greatly Peaceful Heavenly Kingdom

(太平天國 / 太平天国)

Taiping Rebellion

armies grew, captured lands wherever they came, also built a navy

1853: captured Nanjing, killed every Manchu they found

proclaimed it their capital

failed to conquer Beijing



Territoires contrôlés par les Taiping
en 1854



d'après :
Thomas A.Reilly,
*The Taiping
Heavenly Kingdom*
University of
Washington Press

Taiping Rebellion

1850s, 1860s - mostly stayed in Nanjing and surrounding region

big contrast to the rest of China – cleaner streets, more freedom

after many fights back-and-forth, Nanjing reconquered by the Qing

rebellion definitely defeated in 1864

some Western sympathy for religious reasons

but support for the government (security of interests)

The Aftermath of Taiping Rebellion

Qing never fully recovered, royal authority diminished

regions grew more independent, rise of irregular local militias

more revolutions

relatively positive view of the Taipings

both in Republican China (Sun Yat-Sen) and Communist China

The Aftermath of Taiping Rebellion

inability to resist foreign invasions

Japanese occupation of Taiwan (臺灣 / 台灣 / 台湾) in 1874

Russian occupation of part of Xinjiang (新疆) from 1871 to 1881

French invasion of Vietnam, a Qing tributary state, in 1885

Self-Strengthening Movement (1861-1895)

Qing tried to learn lessons from these upheavals, renew order, prestige

institutional and technological modernization

something close to a foreign diplomatic office, foreign language schools

reformed customs office (and let the British run it)

basics of international law, no longer shaped by China's supremacy

Self-Strengthening Movement (1861-1895)

selective learning of Western advances

leaders convince that China could modernize but not westernize

their view reduced the need to modernize only weaponry

provinces got foreign help

built new arsenals, shipyards, mines, textile mills, telegraph lines

modern navy

Self-Strengthening Movement (1861-1895)

never reached the full potential – little leadership, weak government

didn't realize that the West was powerful not just due to technology

also social, political, economic system

to be competitive would take much more

terribly unprepared for what came next

The First Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895)

status of Korea – a Chinese tributary state since the Ming

newly modernizing Japan wanted it independent (= in Japanese orbit)

1894 – a Japanese warship sunk a Qing ship in Korean waters

mutual declaration of war

Japanese fleet – much smaller, but faster, better trained, tactics

the Qing fleet was quickly defeated

The First Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895)

Chinese navy: huge incompetence, corruption

most R&D money went to somebody's pockets

ships' guns had contained sand instead of gunpowder

cannons filled with chopsticks, rice, pickles



The First Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895)

1895: Treaty of Shimonoseki (下関)

Liaodong (遼東 / 辽东) peninsula (Manchuria), Taiwan ceded to Japan

Korea was recognized independent

payment of huge war indemnities

Aftermath of the First Sino-Japanese War

Japan: new predominant
economic, military power

China: Sick Man of Asia



After 1895

Russia secured railway rights in Manchuria, seized several port cities

Germany pressured the Qing into leasing port of Shandong (山東 / 山东)

New Territories opposite Hong Kong leased to Britain for 99 years

(expired in 1997, when the British gave the New Territories, as well as

Kowloon and the island of Hong Kong, back to China)

After 1895

in a few years China was divided between major foreign powers

within their spheres of influence were basically enclaves

big humiliation of Chinese patriots

Self-Strengthening Period reforms were insufficient



Hundred Days' Reform (1898)

Kang Youwei (康有為 / 康有为)

very distinguished and respected scholar, idealist

passionate letters to the Guangxu emperor (光緒 / 光緒)

if China is to survive, drastic reform is necessary

the emperor was impressed and invited Kang for a personal audience

spoke for five hours, the emperor was convinced



Hundred Days' Reform (1898)

June – September 1898: a series of imperial reform edicts

drastic changes in law, examination system

government overhaul, goal of a federal constitutional monarchy

parliament, administrative branches, emperor a formal head of state

Coup of 1898

emperor's aunt Empress Dowager Cixi (慈禧) (“compassionate joy”)

real behind-the-curtain power (47 years in total)

had her nephew arrested and assumed power herself, abolished reform

Kang and his supporters to be arrested

Kang escaped to Japan (hero's welcome)



Coup of 1898

the reform failed, because it was not favored by people really in power

did not have the backing of the military

future revolutionaries saw that Qing had to be overthrown violently

Communist historiography: Kang was a bourgeois reformist

his class and education deceived him to thinking that a mere

institutional reform would be enough

Open Door Policy

US Secretary of State John Hay's Open Door Note 1899

proposal to keep China open to trade to all equally

no power should have total power and interfere with others' interests

allow Chinese government to work, collect taxes, etc.

only Britain showed any interest, others were reluctant



COPYRIGHT, 1898, BY KIMBLE & BOWENMAN.

PUTTING HIS FOOT DOWN.

UNCLE SAM (to the Powers).— Goodness, you may cut up this map as much as you like; but remember that I've here to stay, and that you can't divide me up into spheres of influence!

LETTERMAN CO. PUBLISHED BY

Open Door Policy

USA: isolationist strategy at that time

it was clear USA would not fight to uphold the policy

treaties and gestures from various parties, lip service to the policy

but still competition over railroad rights, mining rights, loans, ports...

later wars and revolutions made the policy completely obsolete

Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901)

a new xenophobic, superstitious, proto-nationalist movement

was anti-Westernism unjustified?

Yihequan (義和拳 / 义和拳) – Righteous and Harmonious Fists

later Yihetuan (義和團 / 义和团) - Righteous and Harmonious Militia

Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901)

originally an anti-Manchu, anti-Qing uprising

anti-Qing because of their surrender to foreign powers

a native Han government could face foreigners better

xenophobia against foreign missionaries

in the countryside they were the most visible part of foreign occupation

Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901)

initial center of the uprising was the Shandong province

boxers touted mental and physical discipline

martial arts training

claimed resistance to foreign bullets and bayonets

more and more people joined, thousands of followers

Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901)

foreigners in Shandong increasingly terrorized, open displays of power

foreign powers tried to make the government respond

but the more than ever powerful Empress Dowager Cixi

essentially got converted to their cause

she wanted to use the rebellion to fight the foreign powers

the two sides eventually joined forces

Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901)

the movement spread, got to Beijing

more and more displays of hatred of foreigners

they encircled the diplomatic neighborhood, trapped inhabitants

started massacring missionaries as well as Chinese Christians

burning foreign houses, churches, desecrating foreign graves



Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901)

Empress Dowager Cixi announced a break of diplomatic ties
declared war, all foreign diplomats ordered to leave within 24 hours
some left, some feared the journey and stayed in Beijing

Boxer Rebellion (1899-1901)

German diplomat Clemens von Ketteler murdered by a mob

the legations, against all odds, managed to call for help

the siege was actually not that bad (Cixi had food sent to the diplomats)

tremendous international attention, vastly overblown hysteria

New York Sun: "the most exciting episode ever known to civilization"

Eight-Nation Alliance

a combined relief force was assembled, tens of thousands of troops

Japan, Russia, Britain, United States, France, Austria-Hungary, Italy

numerous Qing governors (especially southern) also joined them

“proto-humanitarian intervention”

lifted the siege against foreign legations

looted the city of Beijing, punitive looting



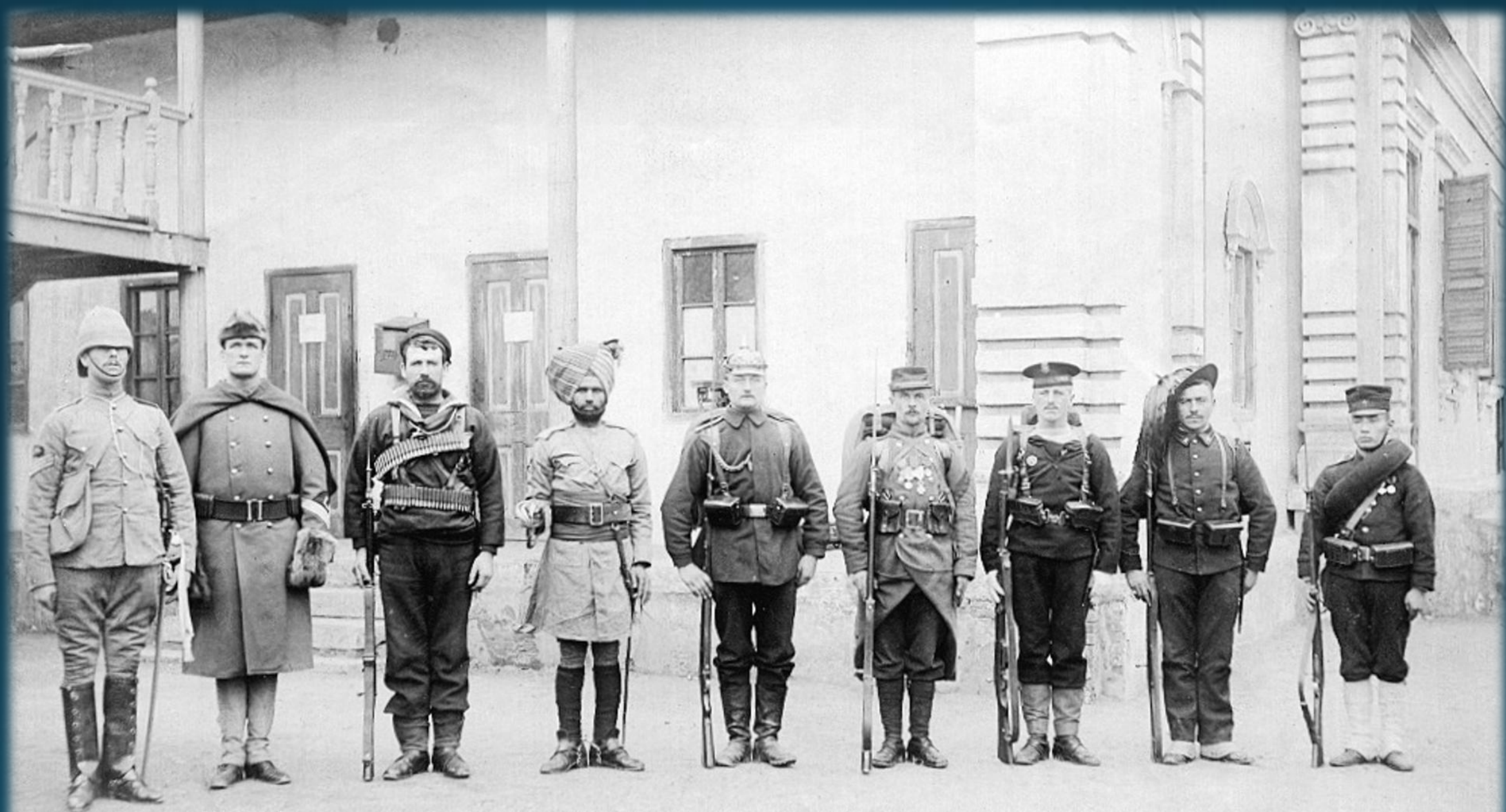
Eight-Nation Alliance

American and Japanese troops quite civilized, restrained

German troops exceptionally cruel – looting, murdering, raping

supporters of the Boxers committed suicide

Empress Dowager Cixi fled the city with her puppet emperor



Britain

**United
States**

Australia

India

Germany

France

Russia

Italy

Japan



Boxer Protocol (1901)

all parties pretended it was just a regular rebellion, swept under the rug

1901: Boxer Protocol (peace treaty)

execution of some leaders

enormous indemnities to 10 nations

largely return to previous status quo



Aftermath of the Boxer Rebellion

another national humiliation, loss of national esteem

foreigners were no longer condescended, but feared

indemnities stopped economic growth

China became unpopular in the West - "yellow peril"

the Qing limped along for a few more years, halfhearted reforms

increasingly unpopular, growing sentiment that it has to go

Revolution of 1911

most young officials, military officers,

students – elites

inspired by revolutionary ideas of

significant revolutionary and patriot

Sun Yat-Sen (孫逸仙)



Revolution of 1911

October 1911: a mutiny in the central Chinese city of Wuchang (武昌)

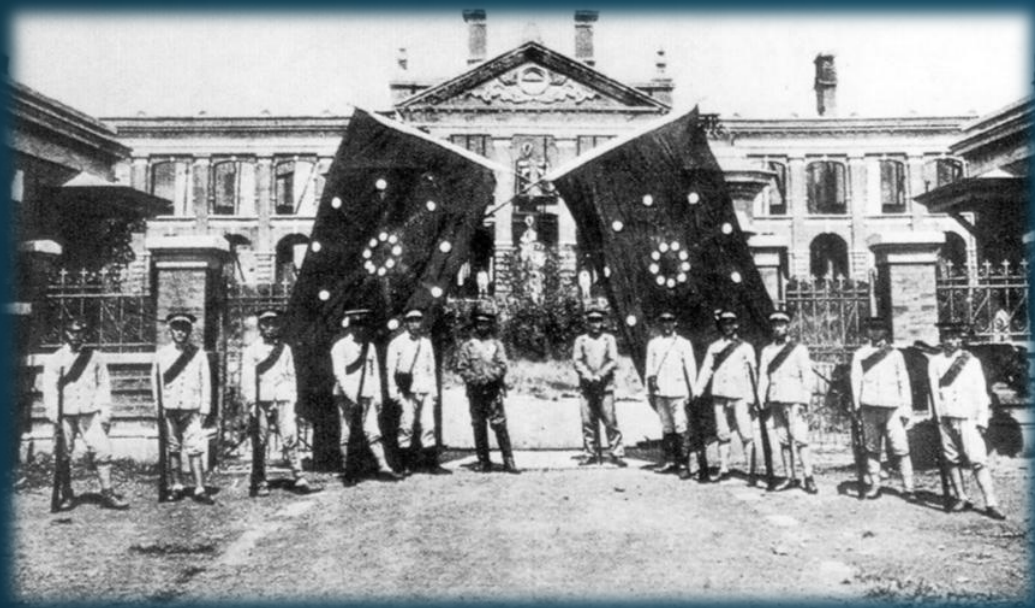
spread very quickly, Xinhai (辛亥) Revolution

early 1912 the last Manchu emperor of China abdicated

peacefully and amicably, without a cataclysmic showdown

the Qing, like dynasties before, had lost the “mandate of heaven”

end of 2,000 years of dynastic Chinese empire → Republic of China



Japan (日本)

island on the periphery of Eurasia

17th century – much better off than Britain – 200 years changed all

periphery doesn't mean much

history is never determined, it is always unpredictable, only obvious

in hindsight

Japan

about 1500 years of recorded history

2nd half of 1st millennium AD: big influence of China

religion, philosophy, system of rule, culture, language

later – isolation, competition, hostility to China

Medieval Japan

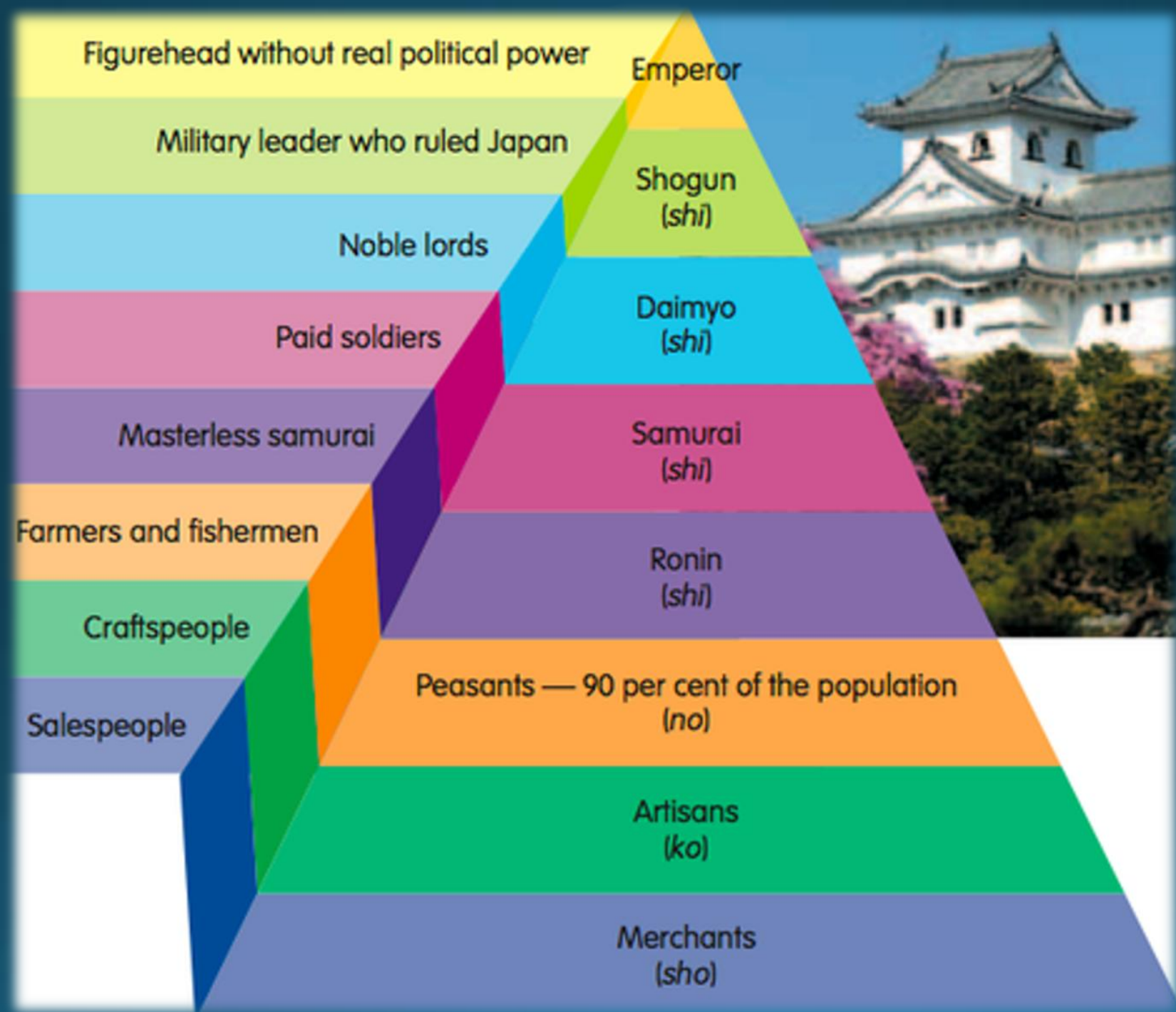
7th – 19th century - a remarkable measure of continuity

“oriental feudalism”

independently evolved a system very similar to Europe

system of land tenure and a vassal receiving tenure in exchange for

an oath of fealty



Medieval Japan

strictly stratified society

peasants (90% of population) were serfs

paid 40-45% of their income to the ruling class

the country united into Japan as we know it today (more or less) in

the 16th century

Medieval Japan

12th century onwards: rule of military commanders – shōguns (将軍)

de facto complete power

most significant: the Tokugawa (徳川) “dynasty”: 1600 – 1868

Portuguese compared it to the European system:

emperor = pope; shōgun = king/emperor

First contact with Europeans

16th century: Portuguese explorers and traders

called nanban 南蛮 – barbarians from the south

mutual wariness, also gradual learning





Japanese about Europeans:

“They eat with their fingers instead of with chopsticks such as we use. They show their feelings without any self-control. They cannot understand the meaning of written characters.”

Alessandro Valignano, an Italian missionary:

The Japanese “excel not only all the other Oriental peoples, they surpass the Europeans as well.”

A Spanish royal decree of 1609 ordered commanders “not to risk the reputation of our arms and state against Japanese soldiers.”

European technology in Japan

Japanese got from the Portuguese:

early firearms, European-style armor

decorative art

deep-frying food

refining sugar – new styles of confectionary

decorative art, language (many old loanwords from Portuguese)



Christianity in Japan

missionary work of Catholic missionaries

increasing popularity and influence of "padres"

end of 16th century: 200,000 – 300,000 Japanese Catholics

Christianity in Japan

increasingly seen as a threat to public order

Buddhist monks lobbied for restrictions

eventually a few dozen of Catholics exemplarily executed (crucified)

the rest abandoned the religion

from then on, Christianity only underground



Japanese and the Netherlands

the Dutch happily helped them with restricting the Catholics

nobody hated Catholics more than the Protestant Dutch

the Dutch came in contact with Japan shortly after the Portuguese

were called kōmō (紅毛) – red hair

Dutch monopoly for European trade

17th century

complete prohibition of trade and contact with all nations

except from China, Korea and the Netherlands

the only port for the outside world

artificial island of Dejima (出島) in the bay of Nagasaki (長崎)

Sakoku

period of sakoku (鎖国) – closed country (until 1868)

very hostile approach to foreigners

shipwrecked sailors cruelly executed

Sakoku

feudalism continued

significant population growth, building of cities, castle towns,

commodification of agriculture and domestic trade, wage labor,

increasing literacy, print culture

however: increasing population led to lack of land, starvation, unrest

2nd half of 18th century to 19th century – great deterioration

Interest of the USA

USA wanted to start trading with Japan

after the war with Mexico they had access to the Pacific

means for a more assertive policy in the Pacific region

strategic value of Japan for trade with China

The Mission of James Biddle (1846)

commodore James Biddle entered the Bay of Tokyo with two warships

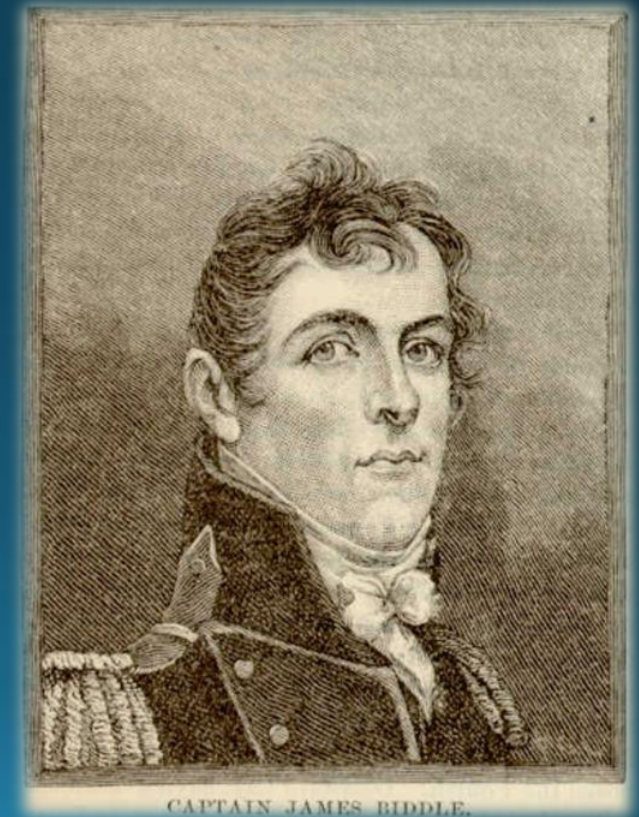
wanted Japan to sign a treaty like China had (Treaty of Wanghia)

10 days of back and forth

misunderstandings, swords drawn

all demands denied, trade only with Holland

dealing with castaways an internal matter



The Matthew Perry Expedition (1853)

commodore Matthew Perry, president Millard Fillmore

believed in Manifest Destiny

American exceptionalism, destiny-given role for America

superiority of American ideas

duty to "civilize" other nations



The Matthew Perry Expedition (1853)

Perry - geopolitical thinking

Russia destined to be America's arch-enemy

exactly opposite interests and values

wanted to sign a treaty with Japan before anybody else

to prevent Russia from gaining influence

The Matthew Perry Expedition (1853)

also wanted to annex islands in the South China Sea, e.g. Taiwan

that was denied

expedition to Japan – willingness to change its stance

by demonstration of force and superior power

The Matthew Perry Expedition (1853)

Perry read all available books on Japan, consulted with Japanologists

got "full and discretionary powers", could use force if necessary

no professional diplomats on the mission

official painters and early photographers came

castaways from Japan as unofficial interpreters

antique weapons, firearms, swords taken as gifts

The Matthew Perry Expedition (1853)

a fleet of “Black Ships” entered the Bay of Tokyo in July 1853

canons fired blank shots (allegedly to celebrate Independence Day)

surrounded by Japanese ships

one had a large sign in French demanding they leave

(they had nothing else to communicate with Europeans)

The Matthew Perry Expedition (1853)

after some time dialogue initiated with envoys

demanding a letter from the US president be delivered to the emperor

the envoys flabbergasted – who deals with the powerless emperor?

ostensible show of force, patrolling with smaller ships

The Matthew Perry Expedition (1853)

the ruling shōgun was ill, chaos, how to handle the situation

after several days: accepting a letter does not violate sovereignty

Perry was allowed to anchor his ships

he pompously went ashore, hundreds of soldiers marched

arms presentation, army band playing and singing

eventually left Japan, said he would return for a reply

北亞墨加利人

ペルリ像



Reaction to Perry's visit

a very wide debate in the government, all lords asked for opinions

the first actual political debate – birth of Japanese politics

voting took place

those in favor of opening up won

Reaction to Perry's visit

arrival of American ships prompted deep questions

how come their ships and army equipment was so advanced?

the Japanese had never seen steam powered ships

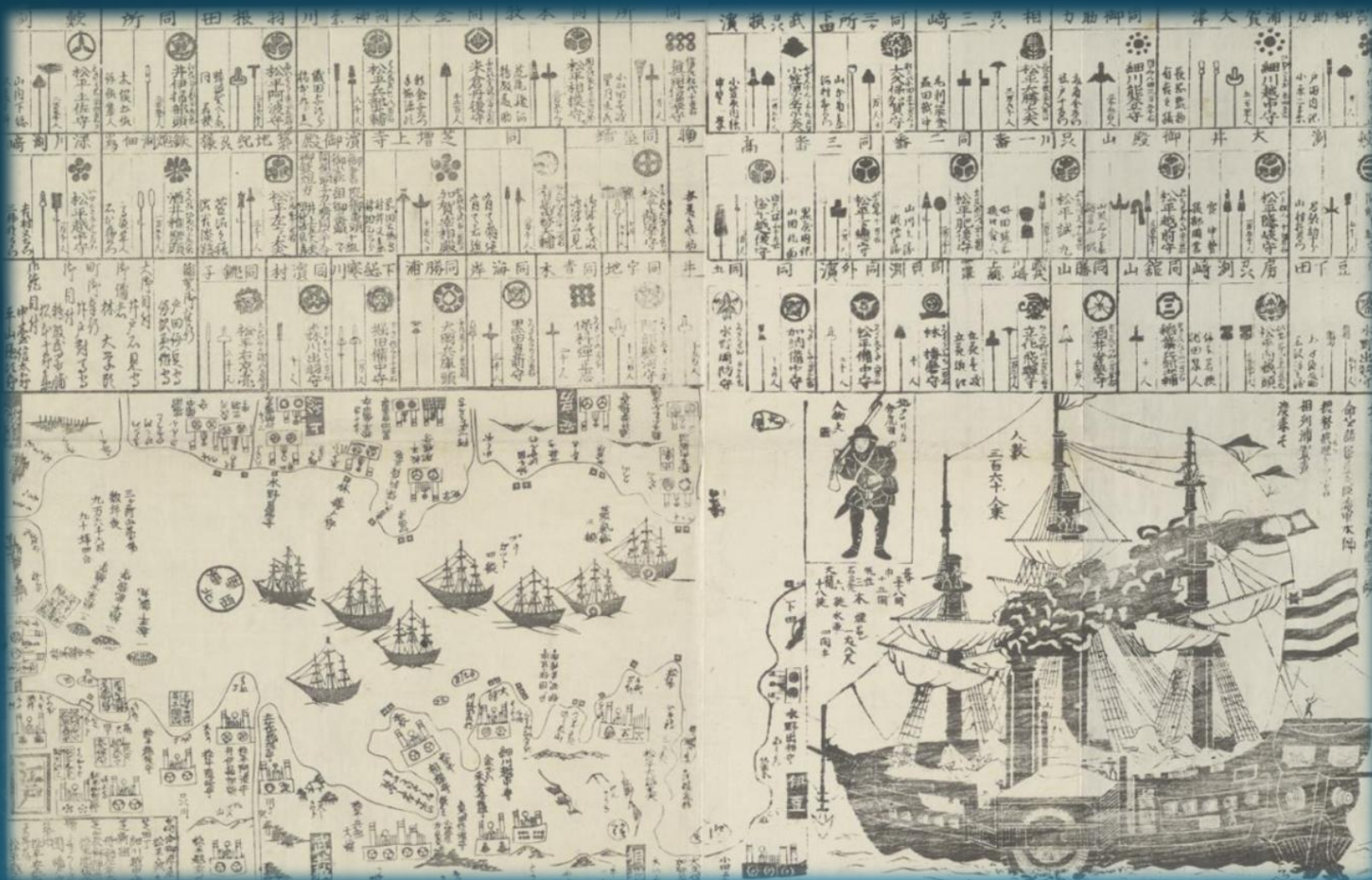
Japan saw the world as Japan, maybe China, the rest barbarians

how come these barbarians have superior technology?

what has gone wrong, what can we do?

Perry's return (1854)

Perry's fleet returned, basically all American demands were met



Treaty of Kanagawa (1854)

treaty of Kanagawa (神奈川) signed 1854

mutual peace with the US

amicable treatment of shipwrecked sailors

two small ports opened to Americans

American consulate

didn't open Japan to the world, but "put the foot in the door"

Townsend Harris
(first US consul to Japan)



arrived in 1856, no military backing

a year in isolation, nobody spoke to him, wanted him to leave

he persevered, dug through the bureaucracy

he knew he needed to talk to the shōgun

took him 6 months to get an audience

another 6 months to draw up an agreement

Treaty of Amity and Commerce (1858)

open trade stipulations

4 additional ports

US citizens can reside in treaty ports, freedom of religion

extraterritoriality for foreign traders, diplomats

the treaty – basis for treaties with other nations

the new treaties greatly polarized, destabilized the society

on the verge of civil war

some military clans protested shōgun's openness to foreigners

the crisis culminated when a clan closed off the Straits of

Shimonoseki (関門海峡) between the islands Honshu (本州) and

Kyushu (九州) to all foreign ships

Shimonoseki Campaign (1863-1864)

a military expedition to break the blockade

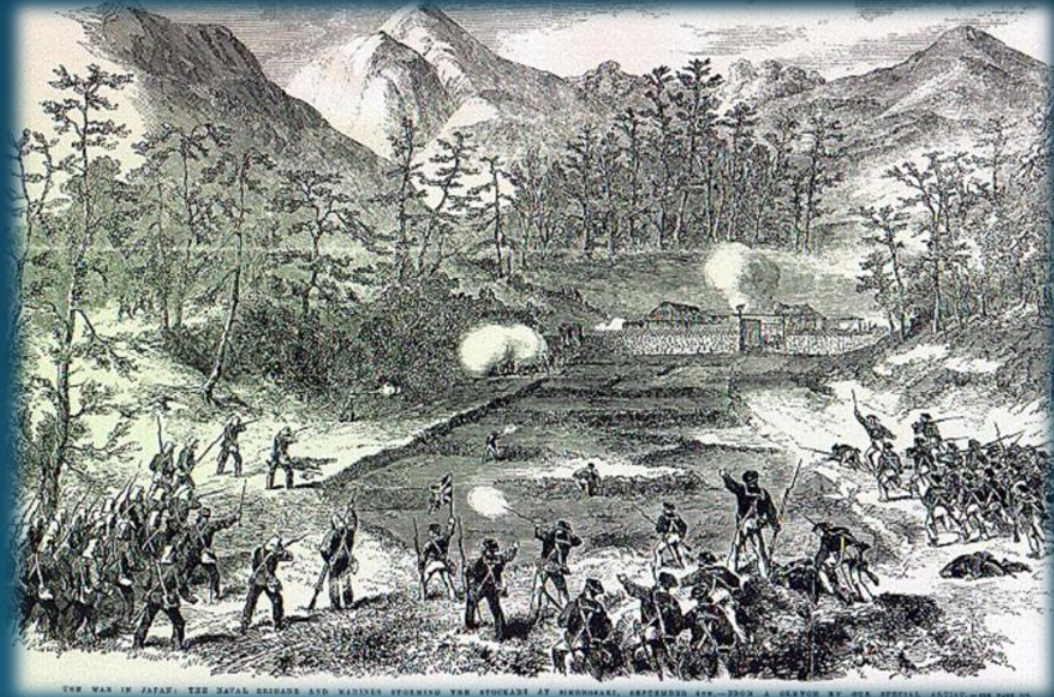
Great Britain, France, the Netherlands and the United States

one of the few times before WW₁ the US fought alongside Europeans

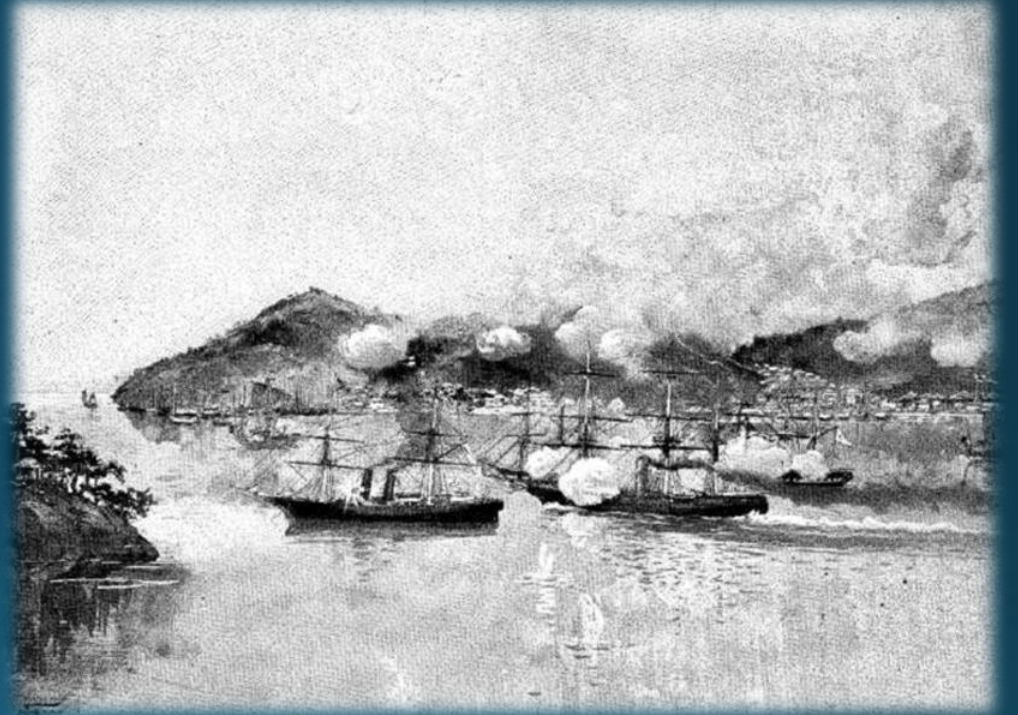
(in the middle of the Civil War, didn't want to show weakness)

the rebel clans defeated

1864 the Straits of Shimonoseki re-opened



THE WAR IN JAPAN: THE NAVAL BRIGADE AND MARINES STORMING THE STOCKADE AT SIMONOGAKI, SEPTEMBER 1894.—FROM A SKETCH BY THE SPECIAL ARTIST.—MS. 8466. 10.



After the Shimonoseki Campaign

Europeans were shocked that the central Japanese government

had acquired steam ships and other modern equipment

a decade ago Japan had never heard of them

agreement reached: payment of damages, customs and tariff regulation

one of the few multi-party treaties the US participated in

growing unrest in Japan, the shōgun had to mitigate the situation

ordered all foreigners to leave Japan

but secretly guaranteed to all foreigners that it won't be enforced

1866-1867 both the shōgun and emperor died

new shōgun Yoshinobu (慶喜)

right away started with radical reforms



Yoshinobu's Reforms

massive government overhaul

invited the French to help and supervise construction of naval arsenals

re-organization of the army

also help of Russians and the British

many weapons bought from the US

feeling that the Tokugawa shōgunate can reform itself

Japanese Revolution (1868 - 1869)

a.k.a. Boshin War (戊辰戦争)

mounting opposition to the shōgunate, reforms

samurai clans united, wanted to restore the emperor's authority

Sonnō jōi (尊皇攘夷): "Revere the Emperor, expel the barbarians."



Japanese Revolution (1868 - 1869)

the anti-Tokugawa forces prevailed, Yoshinobu resigned

the authority of the emperor was restored (symbolically)

new emperor, commonly known as Meiji (明治)

period known as the Meiji Restoration (1868-1912)

following decades: new, very radical rapid reform period



Meiji Reforms

military reform, modernization

abolishment of the samurai class

the government made sure the samurai are not alienated

given prominent government positions, respected

the “samurai spirit” stayed in the army – motivation in wars

nationwide conscription, right to bear arms

Meiji Reforms

land reform – land could now be traded, many villagers got rich

led to a natural decline of strictly divided social classes

social and economic mobility

Meiji Reforms

hand in hand with military modernization

unprecedented industrialization

in a few decades a feudal society turned into an industrial nation-state

Meiji Reforms

Western laws – inspiration primarily by German, French legal codes

foundation of the parliament (not much power at first)

emergence of political parties

the emperor didn't have real power

restoration of the emperor just a chimera, it was just an instrument

we don't know his opinions, he was mostly a poet (pacifist leanings)

The 1889 Constitution

Constitution of the Empire of Japan (大日本帝国憲法)

mix of absolutist and constitutional monarchy (inspired by UK, Prussia)

emperor - a symbolic head of state

legislative: popularly elected Imperial Diet

executive: cabinet, headed by the prime minister (real power)

independent judiciary

Meiji Reforms

reform of education, modern universities, academic freedoms

could teach foreign ideas, philosophy

new ideas – a progressive new generation

universal education

economic growth, population growth

Meiji Reforms

lifted ban on other religions

railway system, telegraph lines

hired hundreds of advisors from the West: education, mining, banking,

law, military affairs, transportation

import and contribution to Western science and medicine

Gregorian calendar, Western clothing, Western hairstyles

Meiji Reforms

most of the reforms were material and institutional

it took much slower for Western ideas to get through

reluctant to give up cultural heritage

and when they implemented Western philosophy, they got inspired by

the worst: western imperialism, sense of superiority

Japanese Expansionism

first: forays in the neighborhood, skirmishes with Korea and Taiwan

1873: at the brink of war with Korea

Japan backed off – resistance at home – demand for assertiveness

Japanese Expansionism

1874: punitive military expedition to Taiwan

(retaliation for 54 killed sailors by Taiwanese aboriginal people)

weakened Qing

first overseas deployment of imperial army and navy

appetite for more Japanese adventurism

The First Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895)

status of Korea

Japan wanted Korea independent (= in Japanese orbit)

1894 – a Japanese warship sunk a Chinese ship in Korean waters

mutual declaration of war

Japanese fleet – much smaller, but faster, better trained, tactics

the Chinese fleet was quickly defeated



The First Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895)

1895: Treaty of Shimonoseki (下関)

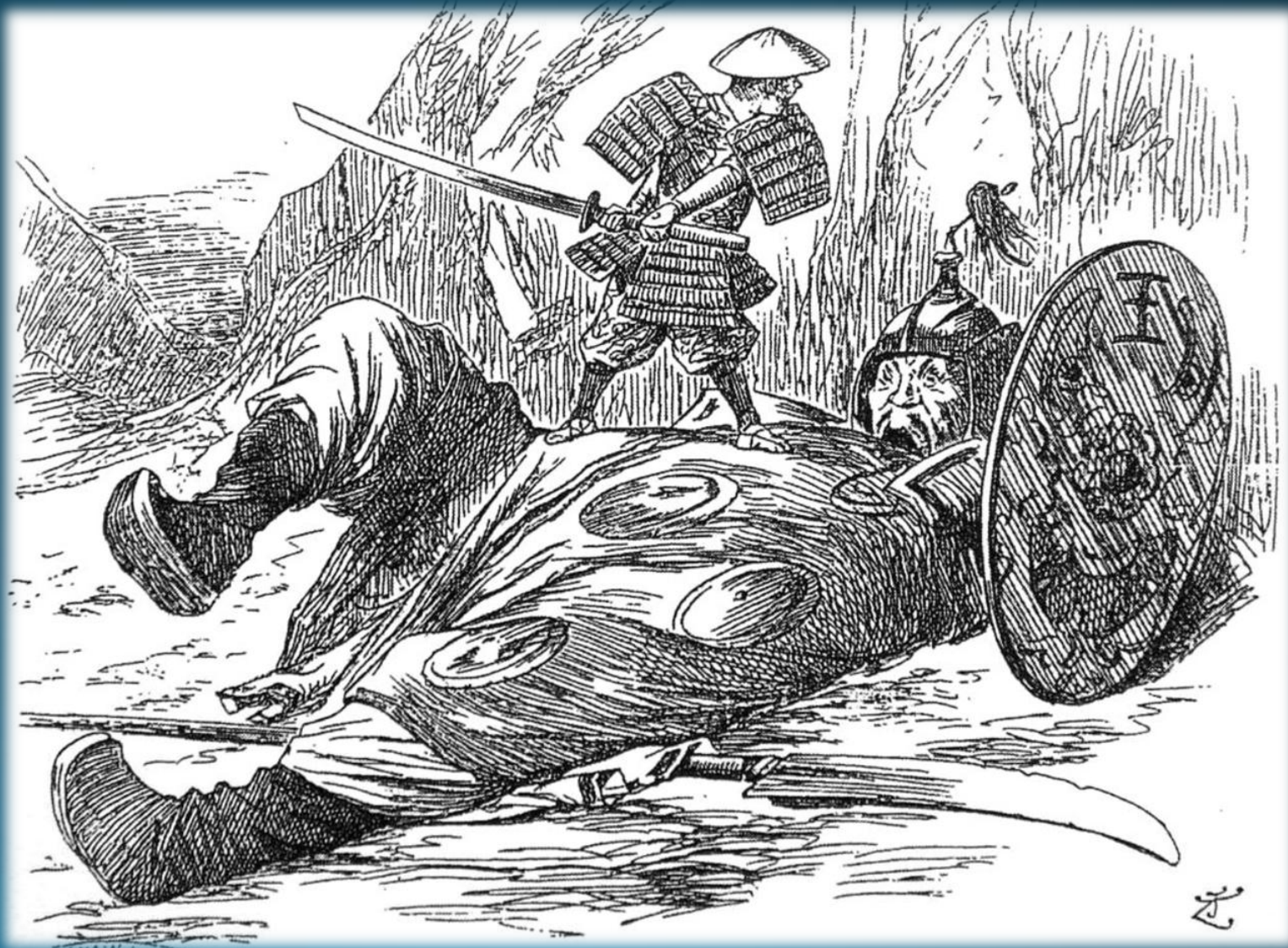
Taiwan (台灣) ceded to Japan

Korea was recognized independent

payment of huge war indemnities

Aftermath of the First Sino-Japanese War

Japan: new predominant
Asian economic, military
power



Russian Forces in Manchuria

Japanese involvement in the Boxer Uprising intervention

would lead to a conflict with Russia

Russia kept its troops in Manchuria after the intervention

wanted a warm-water port (Vladivostok only worked in summer)

USA and Japan didn't like it

Russian Forces in Manchuria

Japan offered Russia control of Manchuria

in exchange for Russian acceptance of Japanese control of Korea

Russia refused – was very confident (a huge miscalculation)

negotiations broke down

Russo-Japanese War (1904 – 1905)

1904 Japanese hostilities, attacked Russian fleet

Russia – from the start problems with logistics

obsolete equipment, training

a series of Japanese victories

decisive naval battle of Tsushima (対馬)

Russo-Japanese War (1904 – 1905)

Japan gained control of Korea, Liaodong peninsula, deep into Manchuria

Russia was in the middle of a revolution, willing to negotiate

major role of the US as a mediator in peace negotiations

president Theodore Roosevelt didn't want Russia to weaken too much

it would distort the balance of power; wanted the war to end quickly

Taft-Katsura “agreement”

in fact a memorandum sent by the Japanese to Roosevelt

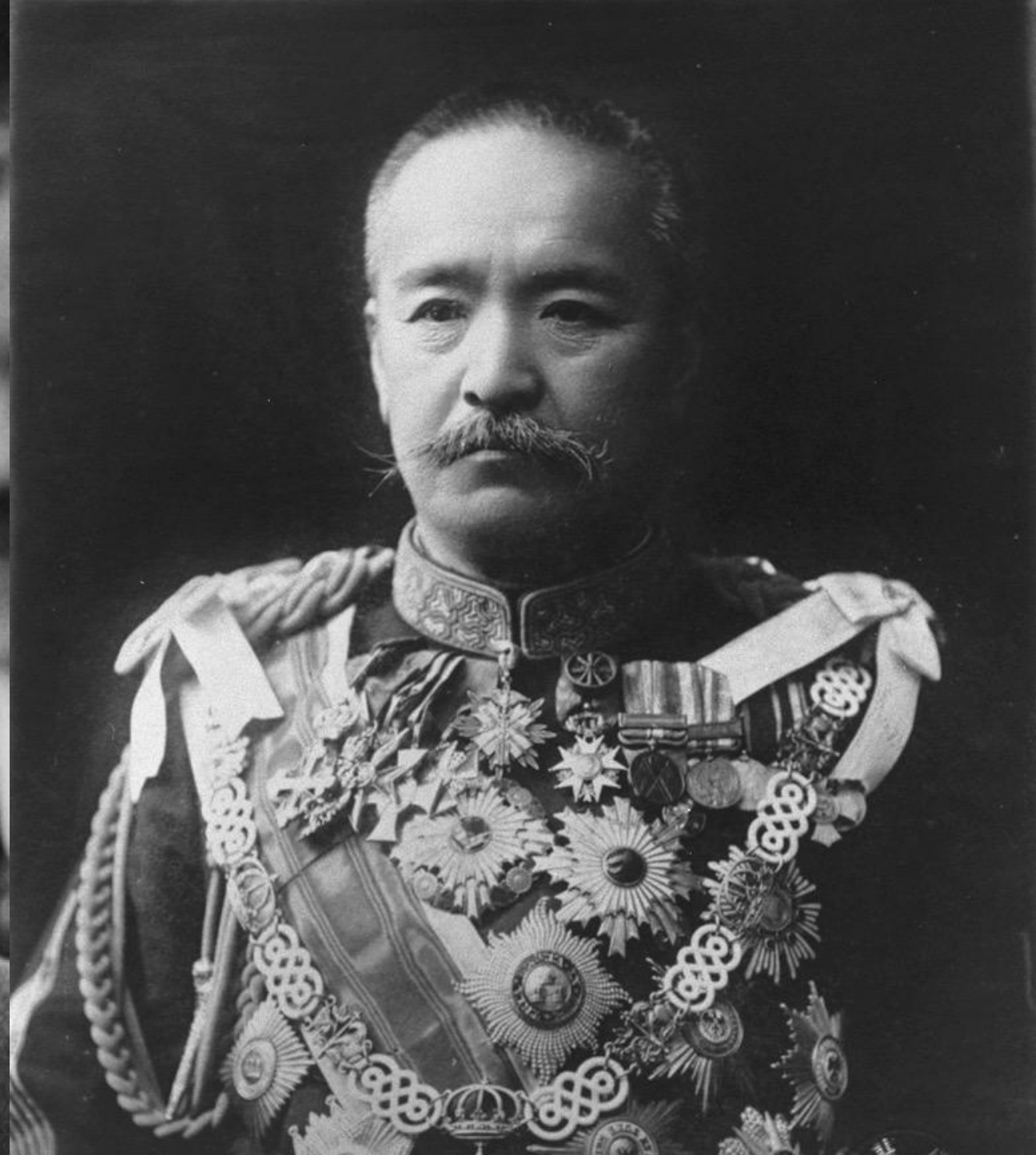
recording a conversation between US secretary of war William Howard

Taft and Japanese prime minister Tarō Katsura (桂太郎)

US would recognize Japanese influence over Korea

Japan would recognize American influence in the Philippines

not technically secret, but not publicly known until 1924



Treaty of Portsmouth (1905)

mediation by US president Theodore Roosevelt (Nobel Peace Prize)

ended the Russo-Japanese war

recognition of Japanese claims to Korea, Liaodong peninsula

(including naval base of Port Arthur), south of Manchuria and Sakhalin

Japan didn't get the large indemnities they demanded

Russia kept north of Manchuria



unbeknownst to Americans, Japan and Russia had a secret agreement
Japan became the beneficiary of secret arrangements that Russia had
gained in China, took over from Russia

Japanese public disappointed – felt that Japan deserved more
nationalists blamed mostly the US, growing animosity

Japan gradually started asserting its rights in areas it felt naturally
under its influence (e.g. China)

would manifest in WW₁, culminate in WW₂

東京勝岡橋
石造銀座
通化兩側
煉石側
高家盛栄
之圖



東京
勝岡橋
之圖

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