East Asia in the era of high imperialism

cchina and japan
self-strengthening movement 自强运动

• Background:
  • During the first and second Opium Wars, many Qing scholars had already started to think about learning Western technologies
Self-Strengthening movement: background

- Wei Yuan 魏源 in his book *Illustrated Treatise on the Maritime Kingdoms* (海國圖志):
  - systematically introduced different aspects of the western countries, including geography, cultural practices, and more importantly, technology
  - He wrote in the preface his purpose of writing the book: “use what the ‘barbarians’ are good at to fight against them.” 師夷長技以制夷
Self-Strengthening movement: background

- Feng Guifen 馮桂芬:
  - [The Qing government should] use the Chinese traditional ethic and teachings as essence [of governing], supplementing with technologies that enabled the power and prosperity of other [western] nations.
  - 以中國之倫常名教為原本，輔以諸國富強之術
  - Not popular when the book was first issued, but later had huge influence on the self-strengthening and the One Hundred Days’ Reform.
Zhang Zhidong
張之洞
the start of self-strengthening movement

• Jan. 11th, 1861:

• Prince Gong and other officials submitted a memorial pushing for a movement called Self-Strengthening Movement.

• Goal: make the Qing more prosperous and the military more powerful.
Cixi and the self-strengthening movement

- coup d’État of 1861
- support the “Self-Strengthening Movement”
PHASE ONE: “SELF-STRENGTHENING”: DIPLOMATIC INSTITUTION

• In 1861, the Qing government established Office in Charge of Affairs of All Nations. (總理各國事務衙門)

• Initially, it was responsible for diplomacy and business. Later its jurisdiction included all aspects regarding to foreign-related issues in areas of education, transportation and military, among others.
Phase one: “Self-Strengthening”: military industry

Jiangnan Manufacturing Bureau (a.k.a. Kiangnan Arsenal)

江南機器製造總局
Nanking Arsenal 金陵機器製造局
military industry

• The Qing had the ability to manufacture all sorts of advanced military products from the West.

• Canons, firearms, ammunitions, underwater mines, steamships, among others.
Phase one: “Self-strengthening”: foreign language schools

- School of Combined Learning 京師同文館
  - Aimed at training translators and learning knowledge about the West. (hired foreigners as teachers)
  - It taught subjects like English, and later French, German, Russian, and Japanese as well as other natural science.
  - In 1902, it was incorporated into Imperial University of Peking, later became modern day Peking University.
Phase one: “Self-strengthening”: military schools

- School of Naval Force at Weihai. 威海水師學堂
- The main purpose of this school was to train naval officers.
- Students study English, math, sailing, firing from steamships, astronomy, geography, swimming, and many others.
Phase one: the establishment of Beiyang navy 北洋水師

- Established in 1888.
- It was the first modern navy established in China, and the most powerful and large navy established by the Qing dynasty.
- The Qing government ordered fleets from Western powers like Britain, Germany.
- The navy was trained by British and German experts.
Phase two: prosperity

• With the establishment and development of military industries, officials who supported the “self-strengthening movement” started to realize that a strong and powerful national defense relied upon the development of economy.

• So they suggested the new slogan: prosperity.

• Fight wars of economy with the foreigners.
(Shanghai) Steamship Navigation Company

Government-supervised and Merchant-managed
Lanzhou Textile Company
蘭州織呢局
Government-supervised and Merchant-managed
Conservatives:
- The way of governing the dynasty was to honor propriety and righteousness rather than power and political tactics. [What the dynasty] fundamentally need is [to gain] common aspiration of the people, not technology. 立國之道，尚禮義不尚權謀，根本之圖，在人心不在技藝。
- They suggested that the Qing dynasty should use loyalty and trustworthiness as armour, propriety and righteousness as weapon to fight against the West. 以忠信為甲胄，禮義為干櫓

Reformists:
- Main slogan: self-strengthening and prosperity
- how to achieve it:
  - “Learning Merits from the Foreign to Conquer the Foreign”師夷制夷
  - “Chinese Learning for Fundamentals and Western Learning for Practical Application”中體西用
- They established diplomatic institutions to better access information from the West. Also they built military factories, schools, and government-supervised-merchant-managed companies to better learn from the West and fight the West.

Summary of “self-strengthening movement”

strengthening movement”
Other achievements of the “self-strengthening movement”

- Development in periodicals. Important Newspapers: *Shanghai News* (申報) and *A Review of the Times* (萬國公報).
- Students (many were from those newly established Western style schools) sent to study in the United States and Europe.
- Translation of western books.
- Telegraph
- Railroads
Japan and first sino-Japanese war
Japan before 1860s

- Tokugawa shogunate
- Policy: Sakoku 鎖国 “period of national isolation”
- Economy: manufacturing and commercial sector had begun to emerge
- Discontent
Japan before 1860s

• 1853, American Commodore Matthew C. Perry came to Japan with large warships and new technology.
U.S. JAPAN FLEET, Comt. PERRY carrying the "GOSPEL of GOD." to the HEATHEN, 1853.
Meiji restoration 1860s to 1890s

- 1867, the Tokugawa Shogunate came to its end. And imperial rule restored with the young emperor Meiji on the throne.

- The word “Meiji” means enlightened rule.

- It took several more years for power and authority to be fully restored under central government.
Meiji Restoration

- Westernization
- Modern and industrialized nation
- One of the great powers in international system

The Meiji Emperor and his family, circa 1880. The adults wear western-style clothes
https://www.thoughtco.com/what-was-the-meiji-restoration-195562
The First Sino-Japanese War, 1894-1895

- **Background:**
  - China: “Self-strengthening Movement” started to show signs of failing
  - The West: had different interests in the East so did not intervene directly.
Direct cause: Korea

- Korea was a tributary state of the Qing dynasty, and it is rich in coal and iron ore deposits the Japanese wanted for growing industrial needs.

- The Japan-Korea Treaty of 1876: forcing Korea open to Japanese trade. (similar treaties were signed between Korea and other nations)

- Opinions in Korea itself was split: Conservatives vs. Reformists.

- Sino-Japanese Convention of Tientsin, 1885.
Donghak Rebellion

- peasant rebellion lead by followers of the Donghak religion [Eastern Learning] (later used as political ideology).
- Qing troops came to suppress the rebellion. Japan later also sent troops.
- After the rebellion, Korean government asked the Qing and Japan to retreat their militaries back.
- Japanese suggestion: Japan and China cooperate to reform the Korean government - Chinese government refused. And Japan refused to retreat.
- The Japanese replaced the existing pro-Chinese government with a pro-Japanese government.
The Sino-Japanese War: first open confrontation

- July 25th, 1894, the Japanese, without declaration of war, attacked Qing vessels.

- August 1st, 1894: China and Japan officially declared war.
Major Battles during the First Sino-Japanese War

- 1894: The Battle of Pyongyang
- 1894: The Battle of the Yellow Sea
- 1895: The Battle of Weihaiwei
Treaty of Shimonoseki

• April 1895.

• The Qing government recognized the total independence of Korea

• The Qing ceded the Liaodong Peninsula, Taiwan and Penghu Islands (later Liaodong was “returned” to the Qing under the pressure from Russia, French and Germany)

• The Qing was to pay Japan 200 million tales of silver as war indemnity. (Later added 30 million more tales of silver to redeem Liaodong)

• Open four more ports along the Yangtze River.

• Japan can send consular officers to those ports and Japanese ships can sail into any of those ports for commerce.

• Japanese can operate manufacturing factories in port cities and its products would be free of taxes. They could also store their products in those port cities.
Hundred Days’ Reform

- Background:
  - Treaty of Shimonoseki
  - Economic foundations built during the “self-strengthening movement”
  - nationalism: “save the nation by engaging in industry”
Kang Youwei 康有為  Liang Qichao 梁啟超
• 1895, memorial to the throne led by Kang and Liang 公車上書

• 1897: Germany occupied Shandong - Emperor Guangxu agreed the reform

• 1898: Emperor Guangxu issued an edict: the official start of the Hundred Day’s Reform.
Political aspect

• “Freedom of speech”: newspapers, officials. Even ordinary people can submit memorials.

• Eliminating sinecures (positions that provided little or no work but provide a salary)

• Appoint reformists to official positions
Economical aspect

- Encourage private industries
- Establish Railroad and Mine Bureau, Agriculture-Industry-Business Bureau, etc. to introduce new western technologies to different aspects of economy
- Establish industries at the provincial level.
- Establish unions to protect business.
- Encourage commerce
Educational aspect

• Establish the Imperial University of Peking (later Peking University): both teach Chinese and Western learnings.

• Establish schools at provincial and county levels.

• Encourage establishment of private schools

• Imperial families study abroad.

• Students were sent to Japan to study

• Abolish the traditional examination system [Confucian Classics]

• Reward scientific writing and innovation and people who had special economic contribution.
Military Aspect

- Use the Western way of training
- establish local militia
- reward people who had innovations on weapons.
- Change the military examination to use of guns and canon.
The goal of the reform: Study culture, scientific technology and government structure from the West; Introduce capitalism to China; and eventually establish a Constitutional Monarchy with a Parliament.

However……
Cixi’s Coup

• Opposition to the reform was very intense among the conservative ruling elites.

• September 21, 1898, Cixi started a coup, forcing Emperor Guangxu into seclusion - house arrest within the Summer Palace until his death in 1908

• Cixi took over the government as regent

• The Hundred Days’ Reform ended with the rescinding of the new edicts and the execution of six of the reform’s chief advocates.
the Boxer Rebellion

義和團運動
The Boxers

- The Boxers (“Militia United in Righteousness”): It was a secret society around the area of Shandong.
- It was associated with local religious beliefs (for example, if they do certain practice, so they believed that no weapons can harm them).
- Initially, it was an anti-Manchu secret society.
1900, the imperialistic nations entered and occupied Beijing.
New policies of the Late Qing Dynasty
(or Late Qing Reform)
Late Qing Reform

- The Peace Protocol of 1901 (辛醜條約)

- The conservative powers suggested to reform

- In 1901, with the approval of Cixi, the Qing government started another reform.
military reform

- Establishment of “New Army”: standing army
- The “New Army” was completely westernized from the structure, their training to equipment.
- Military academies were created in each province
Economic reform

- 1903, the Qing government established Business Bureau, encouraging officials and merchants establishing industrial and business companies.

- Development in railroads

- The system of fiscal controls and tax collection was expanded and regularized
Educational Reform

- Abolished the Imperial Service Examination.
- Establish schools in provincial and county levels.
- Traditional academies were converted into western-style schools.
- Provinces would be responsible for sending students to study abroad.
political reform

- Eliminating sinecures
- New code and judicial system.
- Local and regional police forces were organized.
- Establishment of a Constitutional Monarchy in 1910
Sun Yat-sen and the Collapse of the Qing
Sun Yat-sen and his United League

• In 1904, Sun Yat-sen accounted that his organization’s goal was “to expel the Tartar barbarians, to revive the Han Chinese, to establish a Republic, and to distribute land equally”. 驅除韃虜, 恢復中華, 創立民國, 平均地權

• The United League 同盟會 was established in August 1905 in Tokyo, with Sun Yat-sen as the leader.
Who Supported Sun Yat-Sen’s Rebellion?

- Oversea Chinese.
- Newly emerged intellectuals during the Late Qing Reform
- Gentry and Businessmen
- Foreigners
- Soldiers of the new armies
Uprisings and Incidents

- Series of uprisings during the last years of the Qing

- The central focus of the uprisings were mostly connected with the United League and Sun Yat-sen

- Some uprisings involved groups that never merged with the United League

- First Guangzhou Uprising (1895): Sun was exiled after it failed.


- Other provincial uprisings.
On December 29, 1911, Sun Yat-sen was elected as the first provisional president.

January 1, 1912: the first day of the first year of the Republic of China.

February 12th: Emperor Puyi (6 years old) abdicated.