




## Overview

- In 1900, a secret organisation called the **Society of the Righteous and Harmonious Fists** led an uprising in northern China against the spread of Western and Japanese influence:
  - Called “boxers” because they practiced martial arts
  - Killed foreigners and Chinese Christians and destroyed foreign property.
- From June to August, Boxers besieged the foreign legation district in the Chinese capital Peking (now called Beijing).
- An international force of 20,000 troops subdued the uprising.
- Under the Boxer Protocol that officially ended the rebellion, China agreed to pay more than \$330 million in reparations.



義和團運動

Background

## Politically weak 19<sup>th</sup> Century China

- By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Western powers and Japan controlled much of China's economy.



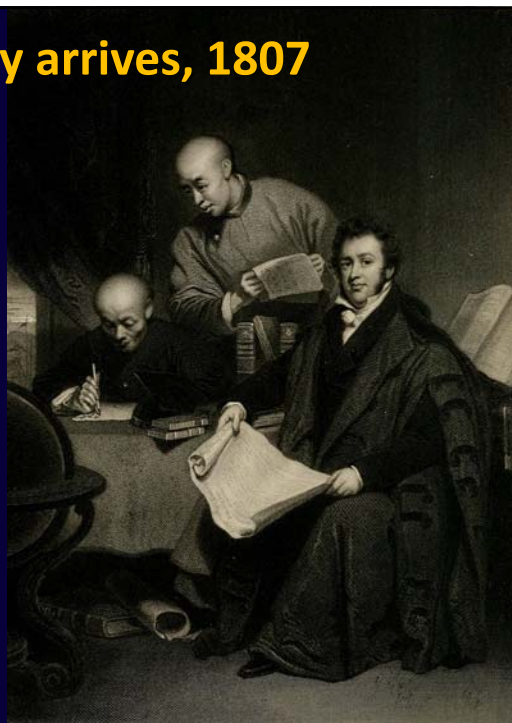
East India Company steamship *Nemesis* (right background) destroying Chinese war junks during the Second Battle of Chuenpi.

## Militarily weak 19<sup>th</sup> Century China

- China's ruling Qing Dynasty tried to resist, but suffered millions of casualties in wars and uprisings:
  - First Opium War (1839-42)
  - Second Opium War (1856-60)
  - Sino-Japanese War (1894-95)
  - The Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace Rebellion
  - Other popular rebellions (numerous)

## First Protestant Missionary arrives, 1807

- Robert Morrison of the London Missionary Society established the first mission in Guangzhou (Canton).
- Missionaries were NOT welcome.
- After 25 years, the whole Bible in Cantonese was published. The NT took 12 years to translate.
- He also published a Chinese dictionary (1815-1823).
- He baptized 10 Chinese believers.

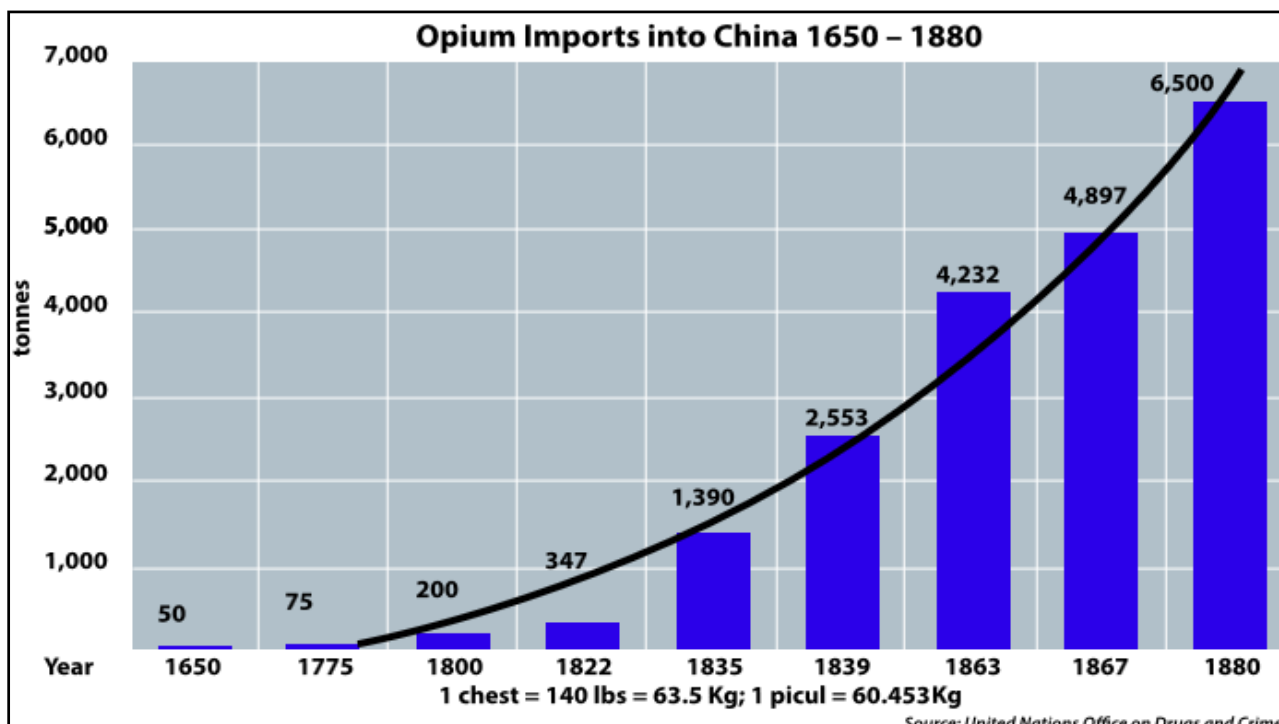


## Christian Missionaries expelled, 1835-36

- Captain Charles Elliot in an official letter wrote, “(The missionaries’) appearance has naturally been connected with that of the opium-ships...”
- Imperial Commissioner Lin Zexu wrote Queen Victoria that, “(British merchants) are so obsessed with material gain that they have no concern whatever for the harm they can cause to others. Have they no conscience?”
- The Daoguang Emperor expelled all missionaries in 1836 for distributing Christian books under an 1811 statute called "Prohibitions Concerning Sorcerers and Sorceresses" (禁止師巫邪術) in the Great Qing Code.

## Opium Trade

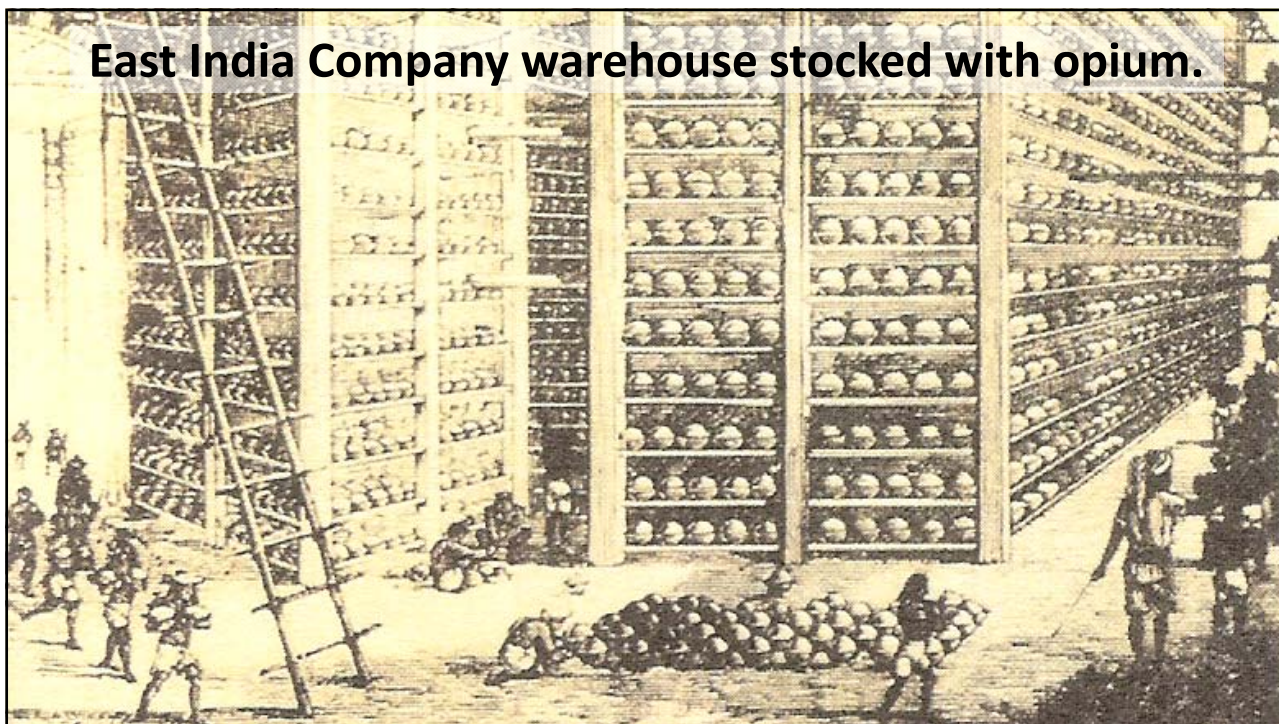
- British opium trade to China thrived:
  - 1735, opium trade was limited to 200 chests per year
  - 1799, opium trade had increased to 1,000 chests per year
  - 1820, opium trade was 4,000 chests per year
  - 1850, opium trade was 30,000 chests per year
- The Chinese (wisely) saw opium as an instrument of destruction while the British saw it as ordinary trade.
- The British simply ignored Chinese laws that they found inconvenient, which angered the Chinese.
- Cultural mindsets separated the two sides.



**British Opium ships at Lintin, China, 1824**



**East India Company warehouse stocked with opium.**



## First Opium War, 1839-42

- Finally, the Chinese got fed up and banned the opium trade outright, and ordered a blockage of foreign trade.
- They seized 20,000 chests of opium (about 1210 tons or 2.66 million lbs from British traders w/o compensation.



- While not denying China's rights, Britain sent in the navy, inflicting a decisive series of defeats on China.
- In 1842, China was forced to sign the Treaty of Nanking.



## Treaty of Nanking (Nanjing), 1842

Treaty of Perpetual Peace and Friendship between Their Majesties the Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Emperor of China



### Selected Treaty Terms



1. Pay the British government compensation:
  - a. \$6,000,000 silver for the opium that had been confiscated.
  - b. \$3,000,000 for debts Canton merchants owed British ones.
  - c. \$12,000,000 in war reparations.
2. Open four new treaty ports where all can trade.
3. Release British POWs and give amnesty to all Chinese who had cooperated with the British.
4. Make Hong Kong a crown colony in perpetuity.
5. Grant extraterritorial rights to all foreigners in China.



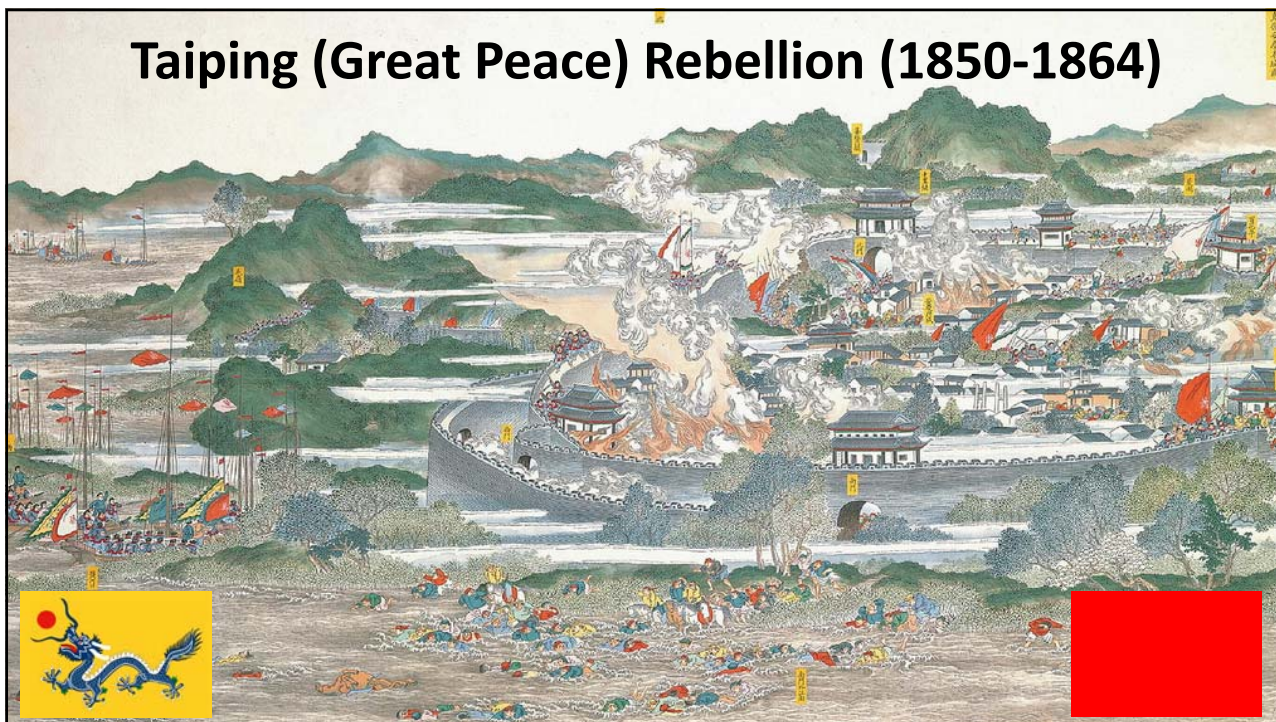
## What did China get?



- Britain to withdraw all troops from Nanking.
- Britain agreed to not interfere in China trade.
- And, of course, missionaries flocked in.



## Taiping (Great Peace) Rebellion (1850-1864)



## Hong Xiuquan's Heavenly Kingdom of Great Peace

- Hong Xiuquan (1814 - 1864) led the Taipings ("Great Peace) who held a mixture of Christian, Chinese and European ideas.
- With declining belief in Dao and Buddhism, the Taipings offered religious revival and:
  - Equality between men and women
  - Reform of hated land ownership
  - Moral values (10 Commandments)



1853 Taiping Bible

## Taiping Rebellion (1850-1864)

- Local officials in southern Guangxi province launched persecution against Hong Xiuquan's Heavenly Kingdom of Peace, who wanted all Chinese to be Christian, ruling Manchus overthrown, and a new social order set up.
- In 14 years, an estimated 20-100 million people died.
  - The largest war in China since the Qing Conquest in 1644
  - One of the bloodiest wars in human history
  - The bloodiest civil war and largest conflict of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- The Taiping Rebellion marked the beginning of the end of the Imperial system in China. It is a forerunner of Mao's Communist mass movement 100 years later.

## Selected wars by death toll

War	Deaths incl. Civilians
Taiping Rebellion	100,000,000
World War II	60,000,000
Colonization of Americas	40,000,000
Mongol conquests	35,000,000
Spanish conquest of Aztec Empire	24,300,000
Second Sino-Japanese War	22,500,000
World War I	16,000,000
Rome's Germanic Wars	15,450,000
Conquest of Timur the Great	12,700,000
Spanish conquest of Inca Empire	8,400,000
Crusades	1,750,000
Vietnam	1,700,000
Korean War	1,200,000
Albigensian Crusade	1,000,000
American Civil War	800,000
Second Punic War	770,000



## The Second Opium War

- Unlike the first, the Second Opium War pitted the British and French Empires against the Qing Dynasty.
- Rebuffed in an attempt to renegotiate commercial treaties with China to open up all of China to her merchants, legalize opium trade, and exempt British imports (including opium) from taxes, Britain was mad.
- Chinese officials then boarded the British ship Arrow in Canton and removed 12 Chinese crew. The French joined in alliance because a missionary was murdered.

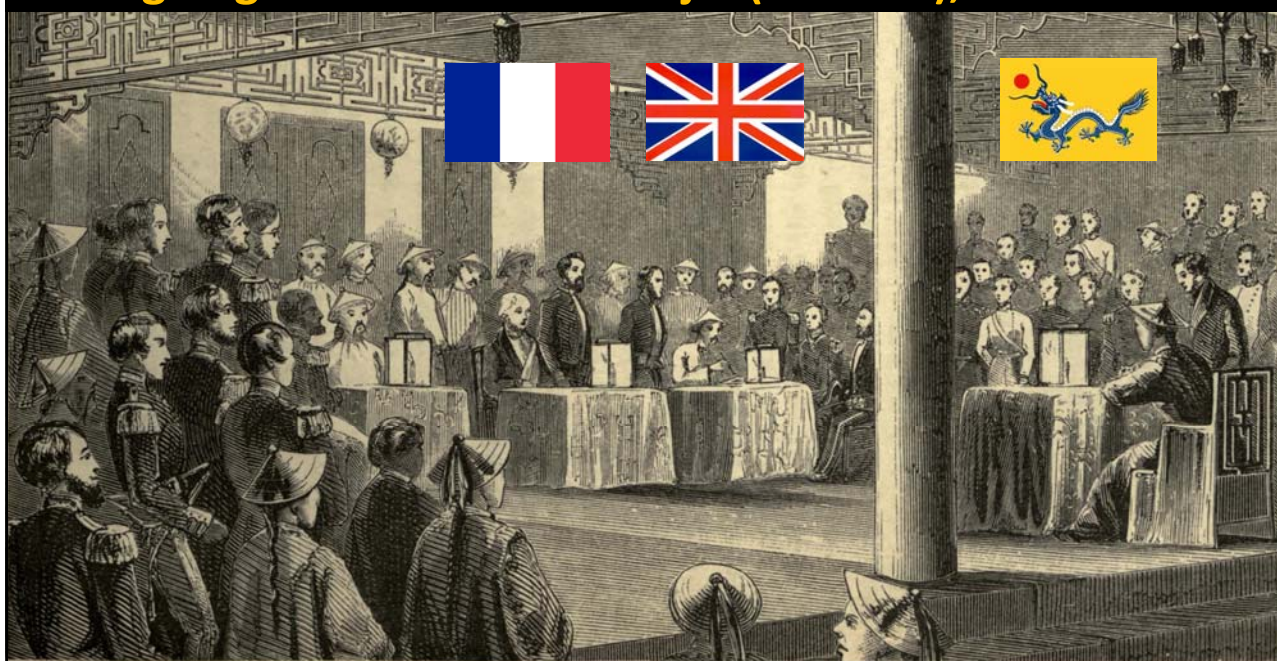
Boarding the British Ship Arrow in Canton



### It's war, me buckoes.

- To stir the pot, Chinese bakers in Hong Kong tried unsuccessfully to poison the European population.
- In 1857 after quelling the Indian Mutiny, the British fleet arrived, met the French, and seized Pearl River forts south of Canton. They then occupied Canton.
- Already fighting the Taiping Rebellion, the emperor negotiated the (unfair) Treaties of Tianjin.
- The emperor was persuaded to renege on the wildly unpopular treaties, and war resumed in 1859.

### Signing the Treaties of Tianjin (Tientsin), June 1858



## A mere misstep

- Disregarding Chinese orders not to land troops at Taku, Admiral Sir James Hope sailed his squadron in to bomb the Taku Forts. Meeting heavy resistance, the neutral American fleet helped him to escape.
- The stunned British and French then assembled 17,700 men and 173 ships in Hong Kong. They took the Taku Forts and Tianjin. The Chinese called for talks.
  - Alas, talks collapsed when the Chinese arrested and tortured the British envoy and his party.
- Two more Chinese defeats opened the way to Beijing.





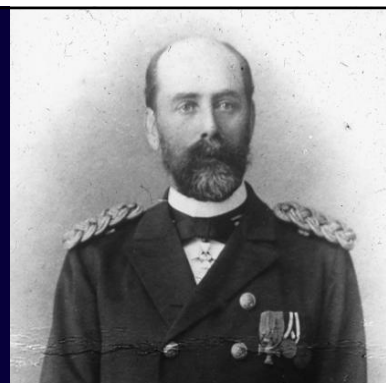
## Missionaries in Rural North China

- Treaty of Tianjin (1858/ratified 1860)
  - Rights of inland travel and residence to missionaries
- Education, medicine, philanthropy
- Destablizing rural communities
  - Upset local balance of power
  - Church buildings/fengshui
  - Disrupted ancestor worship
  - Prohibited converts from participating in communal life
  - Saving infanticide victims
  - Christian hospitals



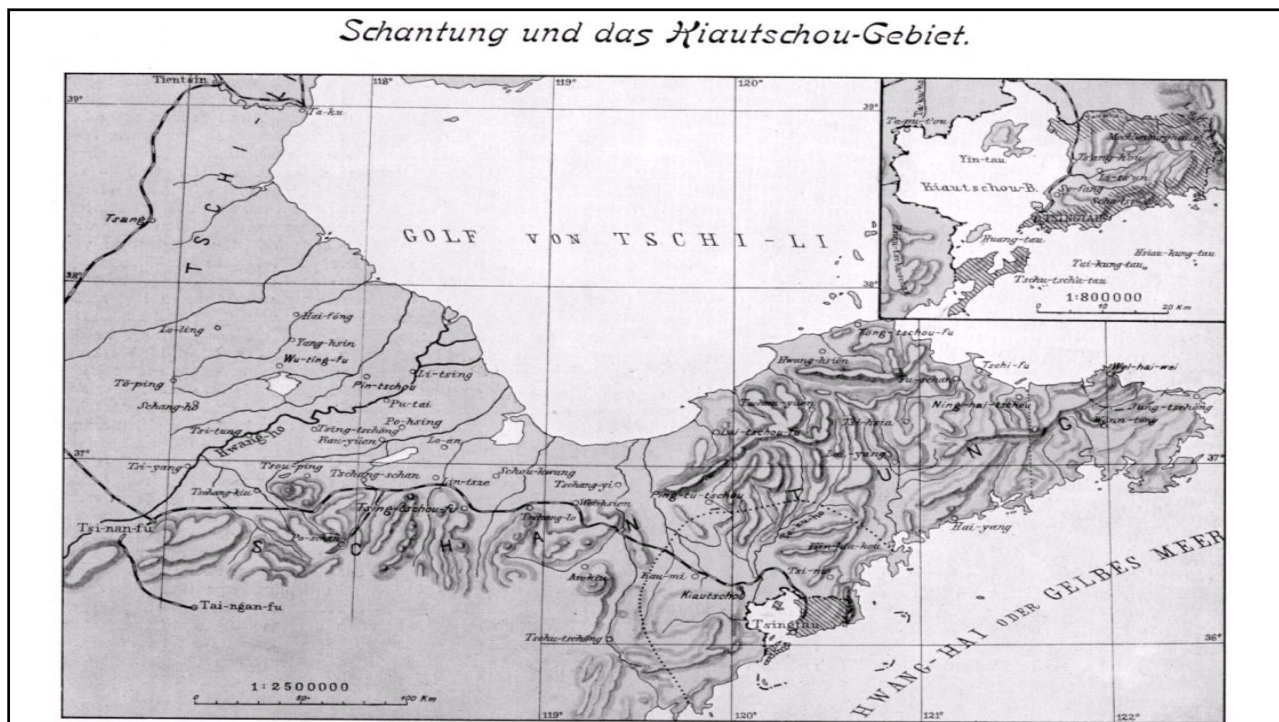
## Germany in Shandong

- East Asian Cruiser Division without a base
  - Rear Admiral Otto von Diederichs
- Juye Incident, 1 November 1897
  - Big Sword Society 大刀會
  - “The opening wedge”
- Seizure of Kiautschou Bay and Jiaozhou Bay as base 14/11.
  - Coaling station, naval base
  - 99-year lease (1898-1914)
  - “not the sole but the principal cause”





### Schantung und das Kiautschou-Gebiet.



### The Scramble for Concessions, 1895-1900

- End of Sino-Japanese War, 1895
- Political and economic concessions
  - Forced loans
  - Territorial leases
    - Jiaozhou Bay – Germany
    - Port Arthur/Guangdong – Russia, Japan
    - Guangzhouwan – France
    - Weihaiwei, New Territories – Great Britain
  - Developmental rights
    - Mines, railroads
- Spheres of Influence
- US "Open Door" Policy
  - Sec. of State John Hay
  - US shares in rights and protects China's political and territorial integrity





## Origins of the Boxers

- North China in 1898/99
  - Western Shandong, Eastern Zhili, Shanxi
  - Social/Economic Conditions
    - North China Plain – dense population, cereal crops
    - “The Scourge” – Flooding along the Yellow River
    - Drought, poverty, famine
    - Weak gentry leadership
- Beliefs/Spiritual Boxing 義和拳
  - Popular culture (novels, village theater)
  - Sectarian traditions
  - Invulnerability and spirit possession
  - “Support the Qing, Exterminate the Foreign [religion]”  
扶清滅洋



## Origins of the Boxers

- “Militia United in Righteousness”  
義和團, 1898-
  - Acephalous
  - Weak community structure
  - Shallow, but wide distribution
- Attitude of Officials
  - Zhili Viceroy Yulu (9/1898-7/1900)
  - Shandong Governor Yuxian (Mar-Dec 1899)
  - Shandong Governor Yuan Shikai (Dec. 1899-1901)



Young women = Red Lanterns  
 Married women = Blue Lanterns  
 Elderly women = Black Lanterns



## Red Lanterns

Possessed magical powers:

- walk on water,
- set fire to Christian homes,
- stop their guns,
- clap hands to cure illness,
- heal wounds with clear water
- massage dead back to life
- fly, and
- astral projection

When Boxer magic failed, women frequently took the blame.

## The Boxers Rebel

- June 11-Sept. 21, 1898: Hundred Days Reform, Emperor Guangxu (Kwang Hsu) tries to quickly modernize China
- Sept. 21, 1898: On the verge of handing over sovereignty to Japan, Guangxu is stopped and goes into internal exile. Empress Dowager Cixi (Tsu His) rules in his name.
- Oct. 1898: Boxers attack Liyuantun village's Catholic church, converted from a temple to the Jade Emperor
- Jan. 1900: Empress Dowager Cixi rescinds condemnation of Boxers, issues letter of support
- Jan-May, 1900: Boxers storm through countryside, burning churches, killing missionaries and converts



● May 30, 1900: British Minister Claude MacDonald requests defense force for Beijing foreign legations; Chinese allow 400 troops from eight nations into capital.

## The Murder of Japanese Chancellor Sugiyama Akira

June 11, 1900



## Advance on Beijing

- Empress Dowager and the Court
  - Public support for Boxers, Jan. 1900
  - Remaining ambivalence
    - Yuan Shikai and Yulu, May 1900
- Attacks on Christians, Jan-Aug
  - Chinese Christians, 32,000+ killed
  - Foreign missionaries, 250+ killed
- Tensions Mount
  - Railways and telegraph lines to Beijing cut, 28 May-5 June, isolating Beijing.
  - Japanese Chancellor Sugiyama Akira killed by Gen. Dong's troops, 11 June
  - Rioting and first attacks around the Legation Quarter, 14 June



## Things quickly go south in the capital



- Kansu Braves moved to the inner city to burn Christian churches. When German Minister Baron Clemens von Ketteler was assaulted with rocks, he ordered his guards to shoot back.
- British Envoy McDonald cautioned Ketteler to be extra careful until the extra troops arrive.
- The next day, Ketteler arrested a Kansu suspect and a boy. After flogging both, he shot the boy.
- Thousands of angry Boxers stormed Beijing in response to boy's murder, attacking and killing Chinese Christians.

## Things quickly go south in the capital

- June 16, 1900: Empress Dowager Cixi and Emperor Guangxu hold council meeting, decide to fully support Boxers.
- June 19, 1900: Qing government sends messengers to offer foreign legation members safe passage out of Beijing; instead, the foreigners shoot the messengers dead.
- June 20, 1900: Manchu Bannerman Captain En Hai kills Minister von Ketteler in a melee to avenge the murdered "Boxer" boy.

## Ketteler's assassination

- At 0800 on 20 June, a heavily guarded Ketteler headed for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. One block from the ministry he was recognised and shot by En Hai.
- On trial, Ketteler's assassin said, "I received orders from my sergeant to kill every foreigner that came up the street... I am glad to die for having killed one of the enemies of my country."



## The Decision for War

- The Empress Dowager's Decision, 16-21 June
  - Allied attack on the Dagu Forts, 17 June
  - Official declaration, 21 June
- The Southeast Mutual Defence Pact 東南互保
  - Li Hongzhang, Liu Kunyi, Zhang Zhidong, Yuan Shikai
  - Ignored declaration of war



Dowager Empress Cixi

## The Guards Army

- The Guards Army or "Grand Army of the North" est. June 1899
  - Center: Ronglu 榮祿
    - Moderate, likely protected legations
  - Front: Nie Shicheng 聶士成
    - Fought Boxers and foreigners
    - Died in Battle of Tianjin
  - Rear: Dong Fuxiang 董福祥
    - Gansu Braves/"10,000 Islamic Rabble"
    - Anti-foreign, led main siege army
    - Escorted Cixi to Xi'an
  - Left: Song Qing 宋慶
    - Battle of Yangcun
  - Right: Yuan Shikai 袁世凱
    - New Army, best troops
    - anti-Boxer



Gansu Braves



Dong Fuxiang

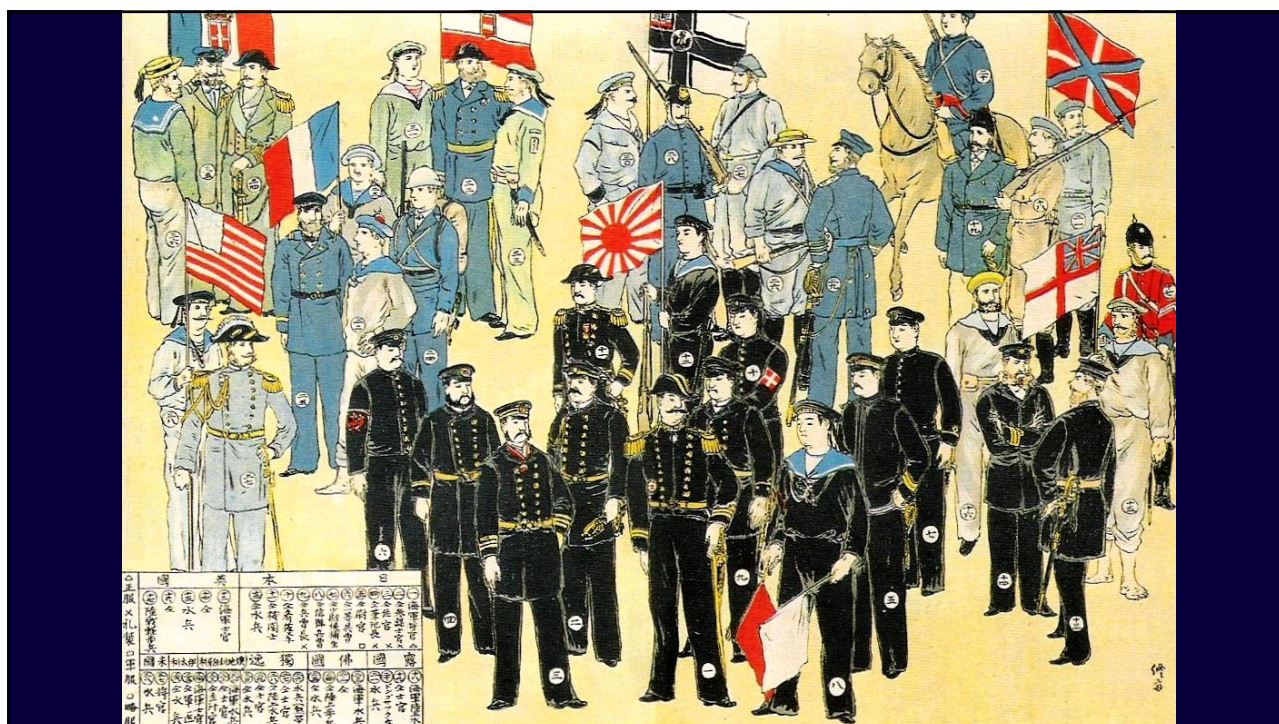


### Guard's Army (Grand Army of the North" 武衛軍)



### Gansu Braves

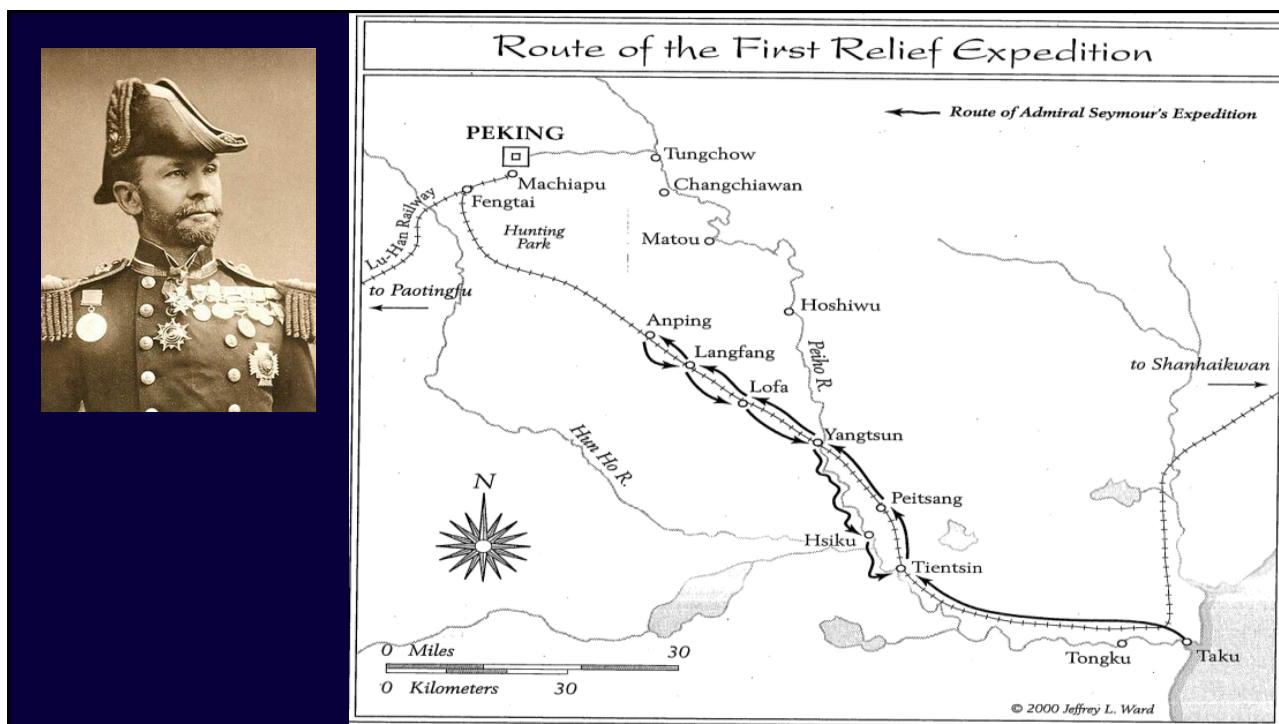




## Seymour's Expedition

- Vice Admiral Sir Edward Hobart Seymour, GCB, OM, GCVO, PC, 1840-1929
- June 10-25
- To re-establish rail connections to Beijing
- 2,000 marines of eight countries
- Expedition fails
  - 62 killed
  - 200+ wounded

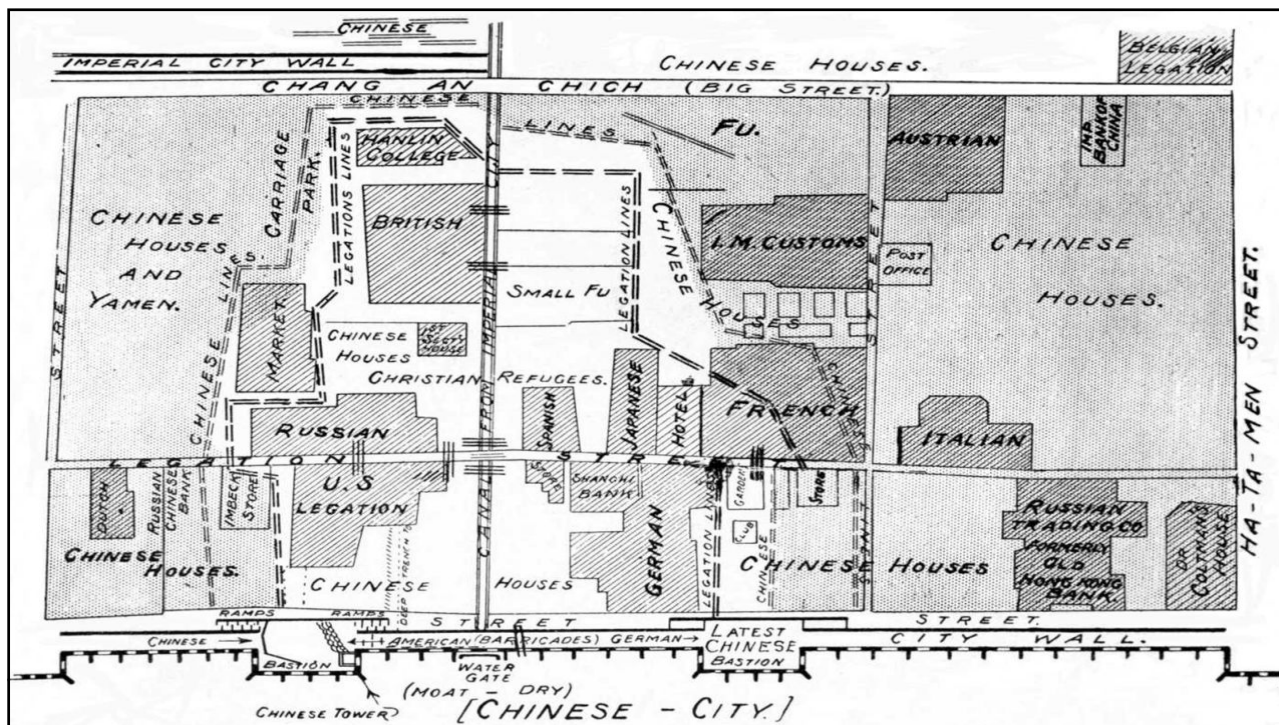




## Siege of the Legations 20/6 – 14/8

- Beginnings of the Siege
  - 19 June: Cixi "invites" foreigners to leave
  - Diplomatic Corps wavers
- Siege of the Legations begins
  - Legations shelter 473 foreign civilians, 400 foreign soldiers, and approximately 3,000 Chinese Christians.
  - 21 June: Cixi declares war against the foreign powers





## Siege of the Legations 20/6 – 14/8

- Conflict among Qing officials
  - The Prince of Duan and the "Reactionary Party"
  - Southern Viceroys, Ronglu, Yuan Shikai
- June 22-23, 1900: Chinese set fire to parts of Legation district; priceless Hanlin Academy library burns
- June 30, 1900: Chinese force Germans from position atop "Tartar Wall" overlooking legations, but Americans hold position.

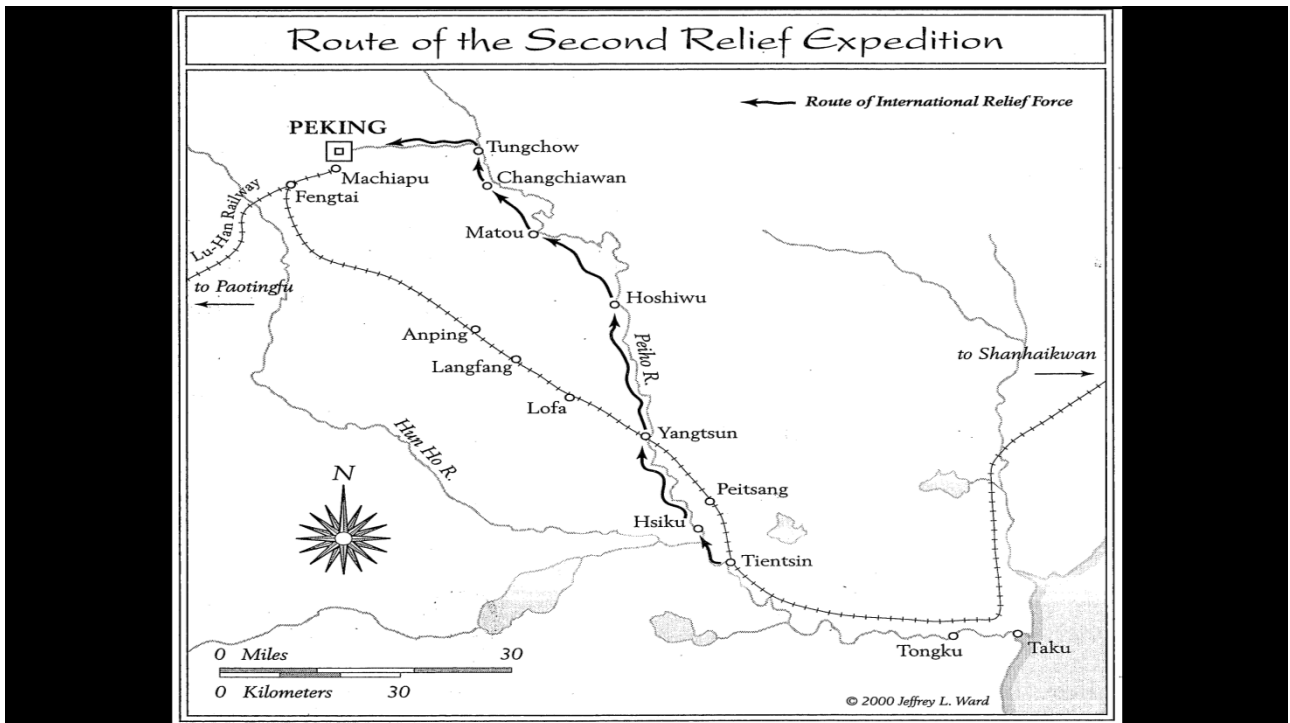




Boxer gun structure on the wall of the Imperial City.

### The Boxer War rages on

- July 3, 1900: 56 US, British and Russian soldiers on Tartar Wall launch 2 am surprise attack, kill 20 Chinese soldiers, and drive survivors from wall
- July 9, 1900: Outside of Beijing; Shanxi Province governor executes 44 missionary families (men, women and children) after offering them asylum at Taiyuan. Victims of "Taiyuan Massacre" become martyrs in eyes of Chinese Christians
- July 13-14, 1900: Also 120 km (75 miles) outside Beijing, Battle of Tientsin (Tianjin); Eight-Nations relief force besieges Boxer-held city, 550 Boxers and 250 foreigners killed. Foreign troops (especially Germans and Russians) rampage through city afterward, looting, raping and killing civilians, while Japanese and Americans try to restrain them



## Eight Nation Expeditionary Force 八國聯軍

- Capture of Dagu Forts, 17 June
- Battle of Tianjin, 13-14 July
  - Bloodiest battle
- Expedition begins, 4 August
  - 20,000 troops of 8 nations
- Battle of Yangcun, 6 August
  - Last line of stiff resistance
- Battle of Beijing, 14-15 August



### Battle of Tientsin (Tianjin)









The Battle of Yangcun

### Meanwhile, back in Beijing

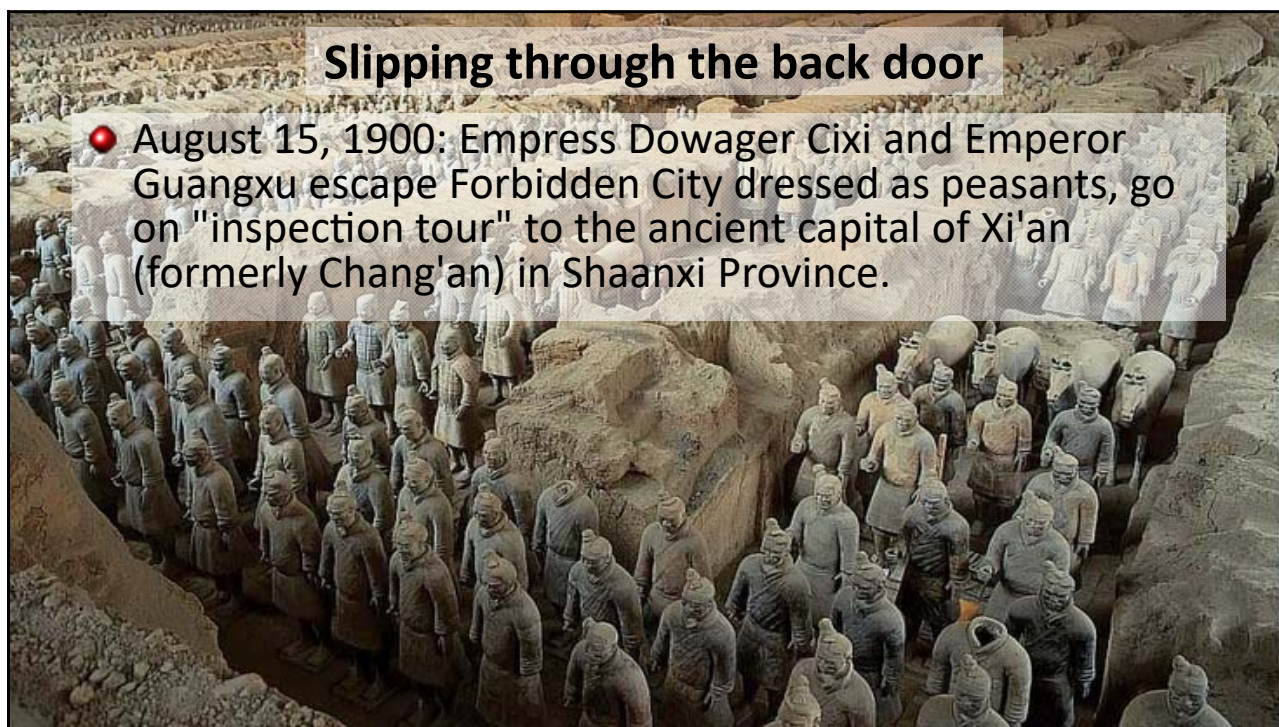
- July 13, 1900: In Beijing, Chinese set off a mine under French Legation, force French and Austrians to shelter in British compound
- July 13, 1900: Advancing Chinese drive Japanese and Italian troops to precarious last defense line at Prince Su's palace
- July 16, 1900: Australian journalist George Morrison injured and British Captain Strouts killed by Chinese snipers

July 16, 1900: London Daily Mail published a report that all legation besieged had been massacred, including mercy killing of women and children, Russians boiled to death in oil, etc. Story was false, fabricated by reporter in Shanghai.

## Relief at last

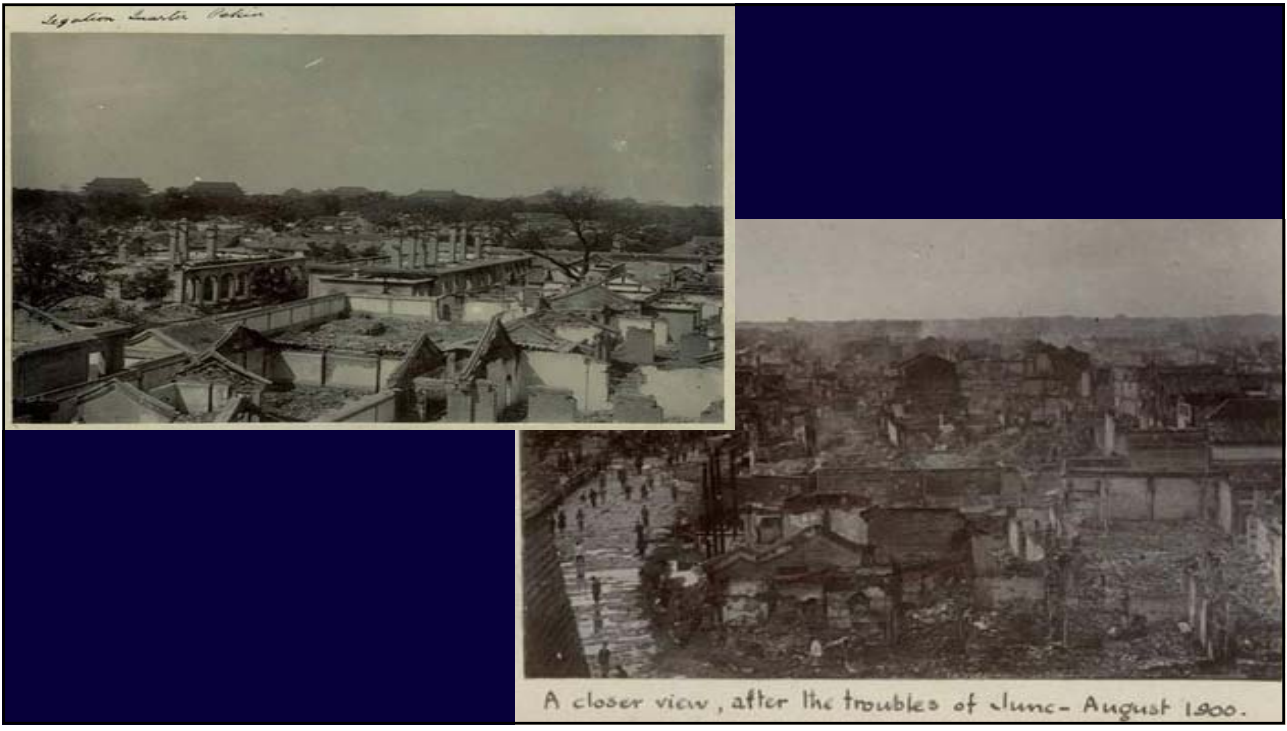
- July 17, 1900: Eight-Nations relief force lands on coast, begins march to Beijing
- July 17, 1900: Qing government declares cease-fire on legations
- August 13, 1900: Chinese end cease-fire, bombard legations as foreign "rescue" force approaches capital
- August 14, 1900: Relief force lifts siege on legations, forgets to relieve besieged Catholic North Cathedral until August 16









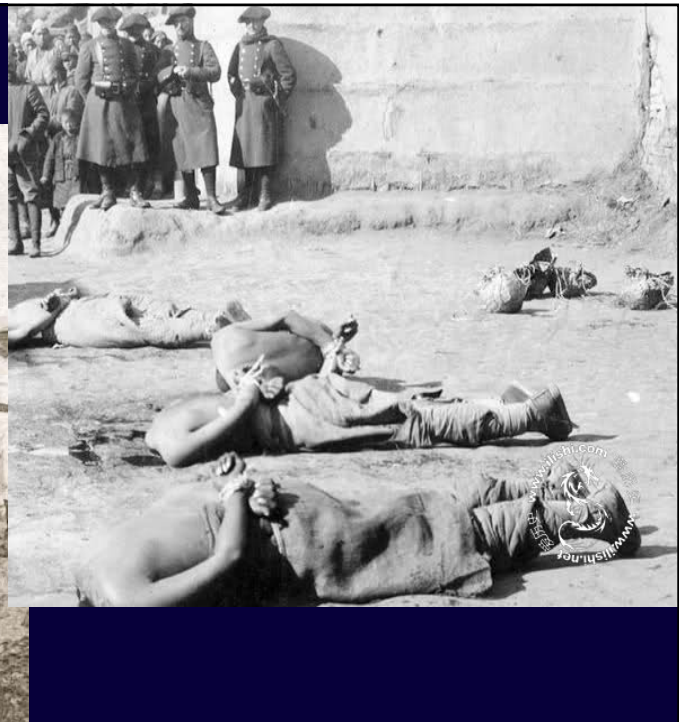
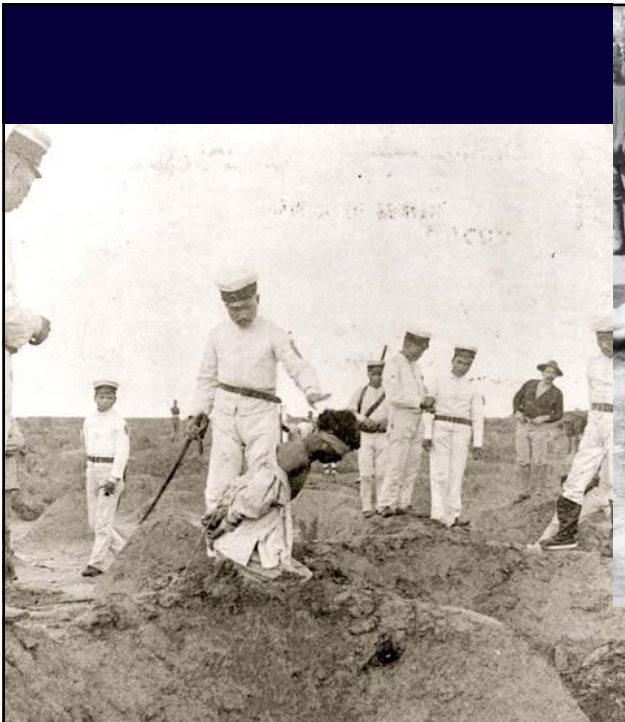


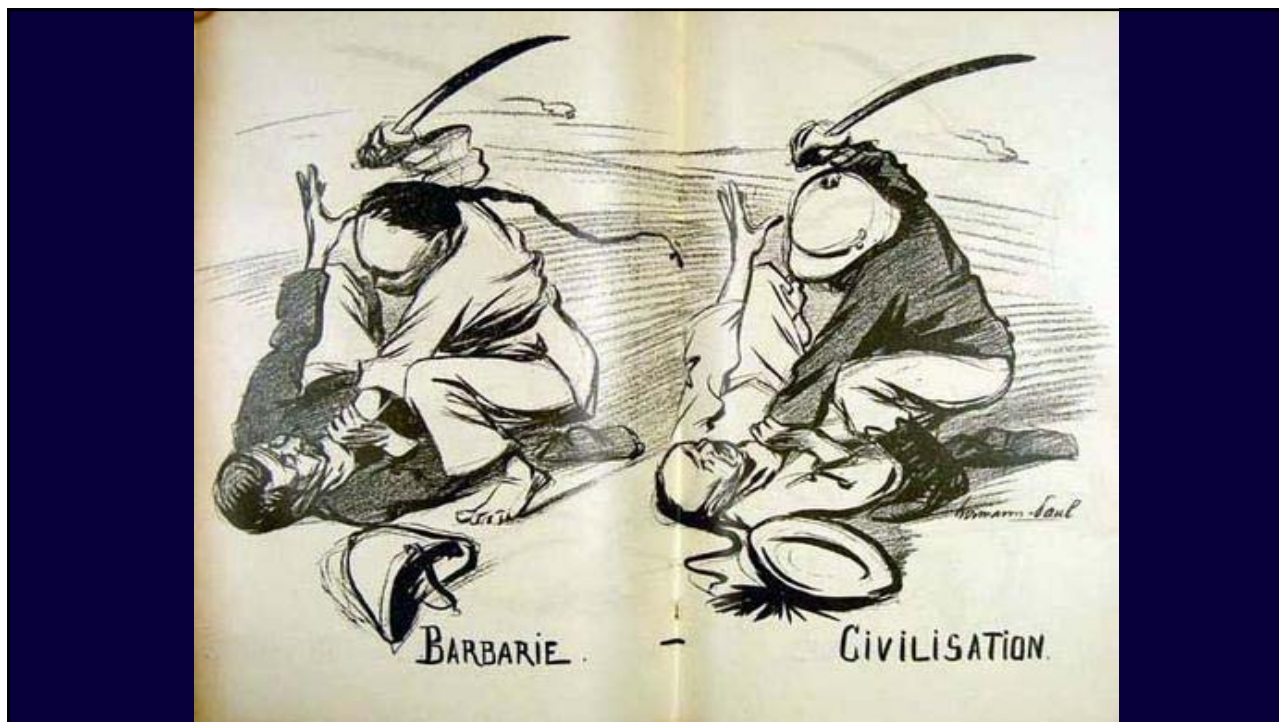
Occupation of Beijing  
14 Aug. 1900-17 Sept.  
1901

“Tour of Inspection”  
Cixi and Guangxu  
15 Aug. 1900-7 Jan. 1902

## "God is Crazy, Too"

- Indiscriminate slaughter of suspected Boxers
  - U.S. Gen Chafee: 1 Boxer to 50 innocents
  - Punitive expeditions
  - Torture, mutilation
- "Some splendid looting"
- Daily auctions
- Missionaries
- Intentional desecration/destruction of sacred sites
- Parades, military marches





## The Boxer Protocol 辛丑條約, 7 Sept 1901



- 450 million tael indemnity
- Military guards in Legation Quarter
- Destruction of Dagu Forts
- Creation of Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Government officials punished for their crimes.
- Prohibition of all anti-foreign societies
- Suspension of civil service examinations in all areas affected by the Boxers
- Apology mission to Germany for murder of Baron von Ketteler
- Apology mission to Japan for death of Sugiyama



## Conclusion

- First example of mass nationalism
- The power of popular anti-imperialism
- Court “orthodoxizing the heterodox”
  - Support moves towards reformers and revolutionaries
- Enhanced military power of Yuan Shikai
  - Most of the Guards Army destroyed, except Yuan’s Division
- Crippling cost of Boxer Protocol
  - Challenge of funding reforms
- Empress Dowager launches New Policies Reforms, 1901-1908
  - Fundamentally transforms the nature of the state

## The rest of that story

- Sept. 21, 1900: Russian troops seize Jilin and occupy Manchuria, moves that will spark 1904-05 Russo-Japanese War
- Jan. 1902: Empress Dowager Cixi and Emperor Guangxu return to Beijing from Xi'an and resume control of government
- 1905: Empress Dowager Cixi abolishes imperial examination system for training bureaucrats in favor of western-style university system, part of an attempt at sweeping modernization
- Nov. 14-15, 1908: Emperor Guangxu dies of arsenic poisoning, followed the next day by Empress Dowager Cixi
- Feb. 12, 1912: Qing Dynasty falls to Sun Yat-sen; formal abdication by Last Emperor Puyi