



Boxer Rebellion

“Today China is extremely weak. We have only the people's hearts and minds to depend upon.”

-Empress Dowager Cixi

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Committee Background

EMPIRE OF THE GREAT QING, 1900—Over the last century, the Qing dynasty's proud, longstanding dominance over Eastern Asia has been checked by the growing spheres of influence controlled by invasive foreign imperialist powers. Humiliating Chinese defeats in the Opium Wars, the Sino-French War, and the Sino-Japanese War have all taken their toll on the Qing dynasty and Chinese civilization at large. The spread of opium by foreign merchants and Christianity by foreign missionaries have worked in tandem to erode Chinese tolerance of foreign visitors. Now, with reports of Boxer rebels from the Fists of Righteous Harmony society lashing out against foreigners and Christians, killing civilians, and burning buildings, even foreign diplomats and nationals living in the Peking Legation Quarter fear for their safety as tensions heighten to new extremes...

The Qing Dynasty

The ruling Qing dynasty, a bloodline of emperors from the Manchu clan Aisin-Gioro, has ruled China since 1644, when the dynasty's Manchurian ancestors invaded the entire country after desperate officials in the Ming dynasty requested their aid in fighting off bandits who had captured the capital.¹ The Manchu people of Manchuria (a region in northeastern China) were a separate ethnic group from the rest of the Chinese population, who were predominantly of the Han ethnicity.²

Throughout its history, the Qing dynasty has tried to appease this ethnic majority, adopting mainstream Chinese values, taking steps such as adopting Confucian tenets and creating a hierarchical rule governing the country's diverse regions. The Qing appointed many local Chinese leaders as the governors of the country's divided provinces, with eight viceroys (or Governors-General), commonly Manchus, who managed groups of governors and were in charge of multi-provincial military affairs, food production, waterways, civil affairs, salt control, and various other internal functions for those regions.³

In addition to governors and viceroys, the emperors of the Qing dynasty usually managed their government with their Grand Council of ministers who

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¹ Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.. "Qing dynasty (Chinese history)." Encyclopedia Britannica. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/112846/Qing-dynasty> (accessed January 5, 2014).

² Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.. "Manchu (people)." Encyclopedia Britannica. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/361411/Manchu> (accessed January 6, 2014).

³ Chu, Samuel C., and Kwang-Ching Liu. *Li Hung-chang and China's early modernization*. Armonk, New York: M. E. Sharpe, 1994. Google Books. http://books.google.com/books?id=CepVq07pyO4C&printsec=frontcover&source=gbg_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false (accessed January 7, 2014).

served as advisors to the emperor.⁴ Most of the highest-ranking officials in the Qing dynasty were Manchus, especially princes (duke-like officials who were direct male descendants of the emperor's bloodline) who dominated the Imperial court.

Mandate of Heaven

According to Confucian tradition, every historic emperor's right to their predecessor's throne has come from the "Mandate of Heaven," an honor bestowed by the gods. This ethnocentric belief placed the emperor at the center of the Chinese world as ruler of the "Middle Kingdom" while it characterized all surrounding lands as being inhabited by foreign "barbarians" who were less civilized than the Chinese.⁵ Before the arrival of Western imperialists in Asia, the Chinese had dominated the region through their "tributary system," in which smaller neighboring "tributary states" (like Japan, Korea, Vietnam, and others) pledged themselves as vassals to the emperors of China. In exchange for trade rights with and protection from the Chinese, tributary states would cede sovereignty and offer up periodic tributes to the Chinese emperor.⁶

The ruling emperor's ability to remain on the throne was traditionally viewed as evidence of their continued divine right to rule, whereas rebellions that successfully overthrew the emperor or disasters (natural or man-made) that led to unrest were interpreted as warnings of waning divine favor.⁷ Zaitian, the Guangxu Emperor, is the most recent ruler of the reigning Qing dynasty to claim his right to the throne through the Mandate of Heaven, but his recent displacement from power after the Empress' coup following the Hundred Days' Reform has placed significant strain on the viability his divine favor.

Opium Wars

The decline of the Qing dynasty's dominance in China began in the nineteenth-century with the Opium Wars of British aggression in retaliation against the Qing dynasty's repressive "Canton system" of trade in the port of Canton. Under this system, foreigners' trading privileges were restricted by high tariffs and unreasonable exchange rates. In addition, foreign merchants were prohibited from entering the mainland and had their movements restricted to the confines of Canton.⁸

Tea was the Chinese good most sought-after by British merchants—high demand throughout the British Empire meant that it could be easily sold for a profit—but Chinese merchants would only trade it in exchange for silver. Since the silver cost of tea created difficulties for many British merchants, some of them began illegally smuggling opium into China to sell for silver that could then be used to buy tea. Soon the illicit trade began to escalate as millions of Chinese became addicted to opium. By the 1830's, opium had so heavily corrupted society that 90% of all Chinese males under the age of 40 living in coastal areas were addicted to the drug.⁹ Attempts by the Chinese to aggressively crack down on the trade escalated into conflicts with Britain in the First (1839-42) and Second Opium Wars (1856-1860), both devastating and humiliating defeats for China.

⁴ Yoon, Wook. "Grand Council and the Communication Systems in the Late Qing" Yale University. Doc88.com. <http://www.doc88.com/p-181636164395.html> (accessed January 7, 2014).

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Higgins, Roland L.. "Pacific Century: The Tributary System." University of Mississippi. <http://www.olemiss.edu/courses/pol337/tributar.pdf> (accessed January 18, 2014).

⁷ Szczepanski, Kallie. "What Is the Mandate of Heaven?" About.com Asian History.

<http://asianhistory.about.com/od/ancientchina/f/What-Is-The-Mandate-Of-Heaven.htm> (accessed January 5, 2014).

⁸ Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.. "Canton system (Chinese history)." Encyclopedia Britannica.

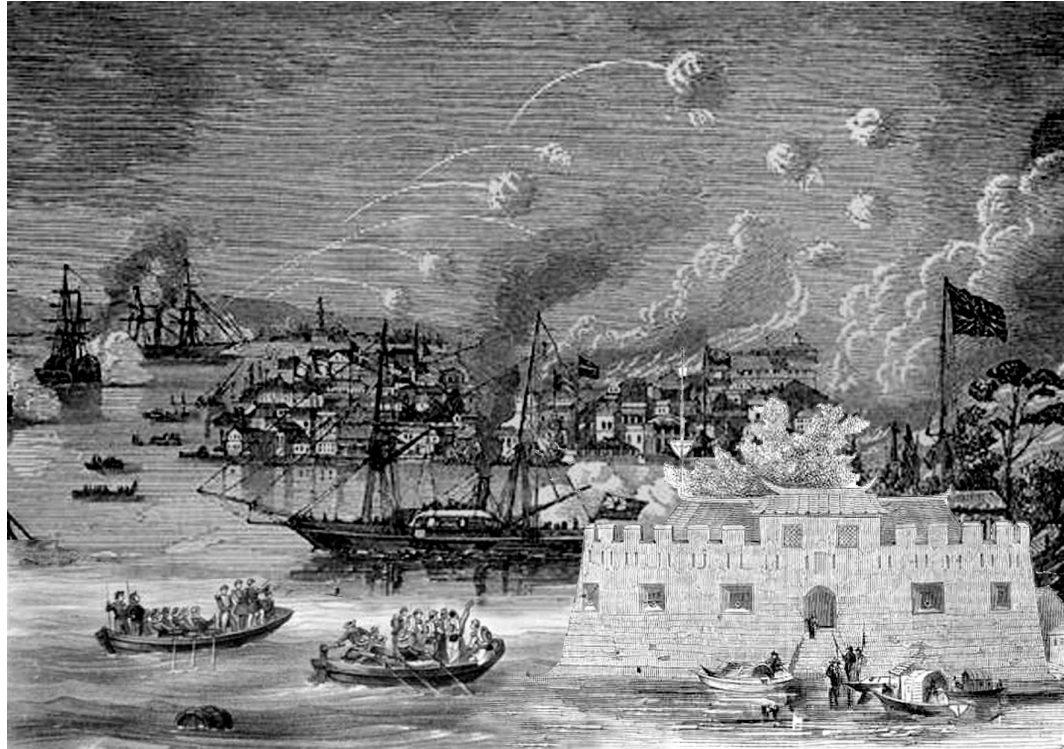
<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/93224/Canton-system> (accessed January 25, 2014).

⁹ Allingham, Phillip V.. "England and China: The Opium Wars, 1839-60." The Victorian Web.

<http://www.victorianweb.org/history/empire/opiumwars/opiumwars1.html> (accessed January 18, 2014).

Opium Wars, 1830s

Image Credit:
BBC



Unequal Treaties

The Qing dynasty's terrible defeats in the Opium Wars were exacerbated by the westerners' extremely abusive terms for Chinese surrender. The Treaty of Nanking that resolved the First Opium War was the first of many "Unequal Treaties" infamously forced upon the Chinese by imperialist nations; many Chinese still mark the outbreak of the war as the start of an ongoing "Century of National Humiliation" for the Chinese people.

Over the course of the century, defeats at the hands of Great Britain, France, and Japan and perpetual exploitations by the United States, Russia, and Germany came about as the Qing dynasty was forced to accept many more unequal treaties. Each agreement typically required the Chinese to cede access to new ports, pay war indemnities, and grant foreign citizens extraterritoriality (stipulating that foreign citizens could only be tried in their own nation's courts, exempting them from Chinese justice). The Treaty of Tientsin that ended the Second Opium War forced China to allow religious freedom and the free movement of foreigners throughout China. As a result, Christian missionaries began spreading across China in search of new converts.¹⁰

The terms of these unequal treaties also gave each imperialist nation their own "spheres of influence," sections of China where foreign officials and traders effectively held more power and influence than local Chinese authorities. Great Britain received Hong Kong and five other ports including Canton, Shanghai, and Weihaiwei (Port Edward) in the Opium Wars.¹¹ Russia gained Port Arthur and parts of Manchuria from the Li-Lobonav Treaty, and the United States obtained rights to share access to all of Great Britain's ports following the Treaty of Wanghia.¹²

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

Additionally, some nations forcibly annexed Chinese territory. Japan gained Korea in the Sino-Japanese War, and France captured what would become French Indochina in the Sino-French War. Most recently, Germany seized control of Qidao in Jiazhou Bay of Shandong Province in response to the Juye Incident—the murder of two German missionaries by militant Chinese.¹³



Following the Qing dynasty’s horrible defeat in the Second Opium War in 1860 and costly victory in the Taiping Rebellion of 1865, many officials in government saw a need for a modernization of the Chinese military.¹⁴ While improvements were made in a subsequent wave of restructuring dubbed the “Self Strengthening Movement,” there was enough government resistance to this movement—on the grounds that it reflected Western ideals—to bureaucratically halt it. One of the movement’s few successes was the foundation of Zongli Yamen, the Qing dynasty’s first centralized, though limited, Office of Foreign Affairs, in 1861.¹⁵ What little progress was made through the Self-Strengthening Movement failed to prevent future humiliating defeats for the Qing dynasty, especially at the hands of the Japanese in the Sino-Japanese War in 1895, again exposing dangerous weaknesses in Chinese infrastructure and the need for real change.¹⁶

¹³ Esherick, Joseph. *The origins of the Boxer Uprising*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.

¹⁴ "The Self-Strengthening Movement." Alpha History. <http://alphahistory.com/chineserevolution/self-strengthening-movement/> (accessed January 26, 2014).

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

The Hundred Days' Reform

After the Chinese defeat in the Sino-Japanese War, most Chinese officials and even the Emperor himself began to see a need for a radical new direction in Chinese policy. However, when it came to large-scale reforms, particularly with regard to education, civil society, or government, gridlock prevailed. Members of government were polarized between the initial factions of Reformists and Conservatives.¹⁷

The most prominent Reformist group, led by the radical politician Kang Youwei and his protégée Liang Qichao, aimed to mirror Japan's successful Meiji Restoration, which transformed Japan from a weak feudal society into an industrialized new world power in the span of a few decades. Kang's reforms called for the modernization of the ancient imperial civil service examination system as well as a massive restructuring of every branch of government. However, the Conservatives opposed such large-scale reforms because many of the changes would severely limit their power and expose their corrupt activities.¹⁸

Soon, the Reformists' ideas captured the Guangxu Emperor's attention in January 1898, and Kang was made an advisor to the Emperor as he, Liang, and other Reformist leaders in his group formally joined the Imperial court. Soon, the Emperor began enacting hundreds of their changes in a period that came to be known as the Hundred Days' Reform.¹⁹ These reforms included modernizing the Chinese economy to make it more capitalist and interconnected, introducing measures to reduce corruption in government, and creating a parliamentary system that would have weakened the existing monarchy.²⁰

Coup of 1898

Unfortunately, the new reforms were ill-received by most members of the Imperial court, and many felt Kang was pushing for a transformation of Chinese government that would expect it to embrace progressive systems far too rapidly. The Reformists were also accused of colluding too closely with foreigners, especially given their involvement with the Japanese Prime Minister Itō Hirobumi and the Welsh missionary Timothy Richard, who proposed measures that would have ceded a degree of Chinese sovereignty to foreign powers. Interpreting the reforms to be a dangerous threat that would undermine the monarchy and aristocracy, the Empress Dowager staged a coup d'état with assistance from General Ronglu and General Yuan Shikai, removing the Guangxu Emperor from power and ending the Hundred Days' Reform.²¹ The Emperor was then forced to relinquish decision-making authority to the Empress under the pretense of "mental illness reasons."

Following the coup, while Kang Youwei and Liang Qichao were able to flee the nation to escape the Empress' wrath, six other leaders of their movement who failed to escape were brutally executed by the Empress.²² In times since, the duo have re-established themselves in Japan, where their new "Protect the Emperor Society" has gained a following among Chinese ex-patriots and sympathetic Japanese.

¹⁷ "Hundred Days' Reforms." Alpha History. <http://alphahistory.com/chineserevolution/hundred-days-reforms/> (accessed January 23, 2014).

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc. "Hundred Days of Reform (Chinese history)." Encyclopedia Britannica. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/276504/Hundred-Days-of-Reform> (accessed January 22, 2014).

²² "Chinese Revolution." Alpha History. <http://alphahistory.com/chineserevolution/hundred-days-reforms/> (accessed January 23, 2014).

Not long afterward, the Empress repealed nearly every Reformist edict enacted by the Emperor.²³ To a large degree, the line in the sand between those who supported and those who opposed the Hundred Days' Reform two years ago matches the line between supporters and opponents of the Fists of Righteous Harmony's war on foreigners in the current crisis.

The Guangxu Emperor

In many ways, the Guangxu Emperor's downfall in the Hundred Days' Reform led many Chinese to begin questioning whether the Qing dynasty still held the Confucian "Mandate of Heaven." Though his life was spared and he was able to remain emperor, the coup only refrained from regicide or dethronement to avoid the ire of foreign powers who would interpret such actions as Chinese resistance to imperialism. This would have provided an impetus for use of force, which might have pressured the Chinese further into submission.²⁴ Since being placed under house arrest, the Emperor has been demoted to being a figurehead, though he retains his title and still remains an informed (though symbolic) member of the Grand Council.²⁵

Empress Dowager Cixi

In terms of China's supreme leadership, the Empress Dowager Cixi has been the *de facto* ruler of China for the last four decades. Born a Manchu of the noble Yehenara clan, Cixi was chosen to become an imperial concubine for the Xaifeng Emperor at a young age. Upon the Xaifeng Emperor's death in 1861, she ascended to Regent Empress and wielded the power behind the throne for her young son, the newly-coronated Tongzhi Emperor. Following her son's death in 1875, she instated her nephew Zaitian as the new Guangxu Emperor and has served as his powerful regent ever since.²⁶



The Empress

Image Credit:
WikiMedia Commons

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.. "Guangxu (emperor of Qing dynasty)." Encyclopedia Britannica. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/324181/Guangxu> (accessed January 7, 2014).

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Szczepanski, Kallie. "Cixi, Empress Dowager of Qing China." About.com Asian History. <http://asianhistory.about.com/od/modernchina/p/Dowager-Empress-Cixi-Of-Qing-China.htm> (accessed January 7, 2014).

Factions of the Imperial Court

Following the Coup of 1898, the Empress Dowager has replaced many reformers in the court with members of the growing “Ironhat” faction, and now three major political factions currently dominate the Imperial court: Ironhats, Conservatives, and Reformists. Ironhats, like Prince Duan or Prince Zhuang, are a splinter-faction of xenophobic conservative Manchus with the ultimate goal of expelling foreigners from China. More moderate Conservatives like General Ronglu or Prince Qing oppose most infrastructural reforms but feel that violence and hostility against foreigners might be unwise and could provoke retaliation from imperialist powers. Finally, Reformists like Zhang Zhidong or Li Hongzhang are less radical than Kang’s Reformists but believe that China’s infrastructure ultimately needs to be remodeled to prevent the collapse of the Qing dynasty’s rule.

Tensions Between Chinese and Foreigners

Following each of their military defeats to foreign powers, the Chinese were required to cede access of additional ports to imperialist powers as well as loosen restrictions on the movement of foreigners throughout the mainland. With each cession, the Qing dynasty lost more of its ability to insulate Chinese culture from outside influences. Following the Unequal Treaties, it became impossible for the Qing dynasty to continue quarantining the scope of foreign influence on Chinese civilization, as China was forced to open its borders to allow the movement of foreigners; tensions have been on the rise ever since.²⁷

The Unequal Treaties granted a special legal status to foreigners that exempted them from Chinese law, and this created problems for any Chinese who came into conflict with foreigners. The foreign courts nearly always sided with their own citizens and were then allowed to exact their own forms of justice on the accused Chinese. Most notoriously, missionaries have been especially known to administer their own forms of “missionary justice” on common Chinese committing acts considered either criminal or against Christian values. This one-sided justice system has led to growing Chinese hatred of all foreigners, especially missionaries.²⁸

Recently, a secret society known as the “Fists of Righteous Harmony” has begun to gain popularity in Shandong Province for its militant anti-foreigner ideology. They encourage their members—who are known as Boxers—to practice martial arts fighting techniques to fight and expel the “foreign devils.” The Boxers are mostly peasants from rural areas, and though they are united by a host of grievances against the foreigners in their country, they lack specific direction, and a religious zealotry is infused in the movement. Many Boxers believe that their religious rituals will grant them the strengths of ancestral spirits and their faith in the Chinese gods will make their skin impervious to bullets.²⁹

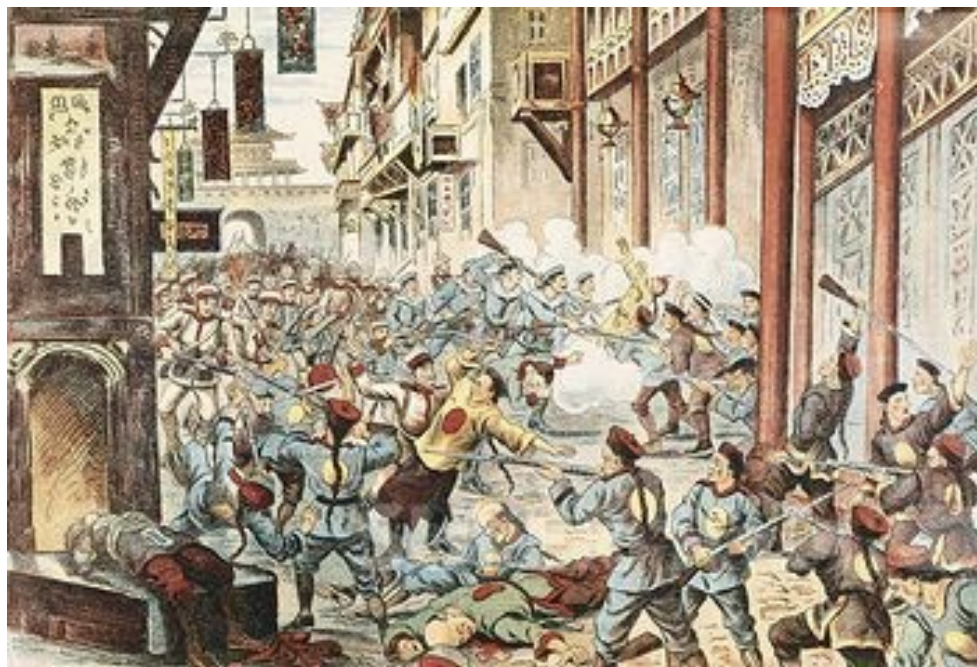
²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Esherick, Joseph. *The origins of the Boxer Uprising*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.

²⁹ “Boxer Beliefs.” BOXERS. <http://www.bris.ac.uk/Depts/History/Projects/Boxers/boxbeliefs.htm> (accessed January 25, 2014).

Many in the Chinese public draw similarities between the Fists of Righteous Harmony and an earlier Boxer movement known as the Big Swords Society. The Big Swords were also an anti-foreigner group, but their fighters were mostly dedicated to expelling bandits from Shandong Province.³⁰ Their region of origin was near the tri-provincial border between Jiangsu, Shandong, and Henan where criminals thrived since they could evade any one province's law enforcement by escaping outside its jurisdiction.³¹

Yuxian, who was then the governor of Shandong Province, was prompted by the Guangxu Emperor to support the Big Swords' crusade to crush the bandit insurgency, which had also begun disrupting Chinese military supply lines in the Sino-Japanese War.³² However, after their alliance succeeded, he turned around and brutally suppressed the Big Swords once he felt they were becoming too "loud" and was no longer interested in tolerating their illegal violence against Christians.³³



Violence against foreigners, 1899

Image Credit:
WikiMedia Commons

The Boxers have become problematic for the Qing dynasty in recent years, especially after provoking the Germans in the Juye Incident in 1897. In that incident, Boxers in Shandong Province murdered two German missionaries. The Germans' response of extreme escalation was to send battleships and seize Jiaozhou Bay in Shandong, where they have since established a new naval base in the port village of Qidao.³⁴ Even more recently, a skirmish in Shandong between Boxers and the Qing dynasty's Wuwei Troop in the Battle of Senluo Temple left both sides with casualties. Though the Boxers lost and were forced to flee, their impressive performance against the more powerful Wuwei Troop has led to a surge in support for the Boxer movement outside of Shandong Province.³⁵ Now,

³⁰ Esherick, Joseph. *The origins of the Boxer Uprising*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Ibid.

³³ Szczepanski, Kallie. "Cixi, Empress Dowager of Qing China." About.com Asian History.

<http://asianhistory.about.com/od/modernchina/p/Dowager-Empress-Cixi-Of-Qing-China.htm> (accessed January 7, 2014).

³⁴ Esherick, Joseph. *The origins of the Boxer Uprising*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.

³⁵ Ibid.

the Imperial court has been forced to take the rebellious movement seriously for the first time.³⁶

The Qing dynasty has a history of brutally suppressing rebellions, including the Taiping Rebellion in the 1850's and mid 1860's of Chinese Christian cultists, the Dungan Revolt of Chinese Muslims in the 1860's-1870's, and even the unsuccessful Guangzhou Uprising of Sun Yat-Sen's Revive China Society in 1895 that spurred Sun's flight to self-exile in Japan. As a general principle, the Qing dynasty considers any large-scale non-governmental organization to be a challenge to their power that cannot be tolerated.³⁷ Many members of the Imperial court point to Yuxian's problems with the Big Swords and see the Boxers of the Fists of Righteous Harmony as no different from past threats. However, Ironhats view the Boxers' nationalism as a valuable force waiting to be harnessed.

In the aftermath of the German escalation, many in the Imperial court feel that they can no longer tolerate such abusive actions by foreign powers that override Chinese sovereignty. If the Qing dynasty were to utilize the popular support of the Boxers to start a nation-wide uprising, the foreigners would be overwhelmingly outnumbered. It has long been known by foreign powers that China, with 25% of the world's population (400 million people), would be very difficult for foreign nations to conquer completely without sacrificing many of the resources that make China so valuable. If the foreigners attempted a large-scale invasion, they might be outnumbered, which could lead to a redraft of the Unequal Treaties. Yet, at the same time, allowing the Boxers' insurgency to continue to grow will definitely risk provoking the wrath of imperialist powers, which could prove disastrous. The Qing dynasty is now at a crossroads: should it swallow its national pride and accept the abuses of imperialism or attempt to wriggle free of its strangling grip?

Questions to Consider:

- In what ways might it benefit the Qing dynasty to support the Boxers?
- Is the Guangxu Emperor still worthy enough to claim the right to the Mandate of Heaven? Is the Qing dynasty worthy of continuing its line?
- If provoked by more violence, will the foreign powers work together to quell the insurgency, or will they work against each other to extend their own interests?
- Can the Ironhats find a way to persuade another court faction to join them in supporting the Boxers, possibly by promising some future cessions in exchange?

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Esherick, Joseph. *The origins of the Boxer Uprising*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.

Modernization of China and Reform

With the failures of both the Self-Strengthening Movement that sought to modernize China's infrastructure and the Hundred Days' Reform that aimed to restructure the government, the last decade has stifled the momentum of reform. However, a foundation of progressive support remains in the government. A great number of Chinese leaders believe that Kang Youwei's core ideas, though incredibly radical and impractical in his proposed form, showed great insight through his thorough solutions to perceived problems with the current system.

Over the last several decades, Chinese industrialists have tried to copy foreign technology by introducing railroads, telegraph lines, steamships, cotton mills, and other innovations to grow the Chinese economy. The Qing dynasty's Confucian philosophy, however, generally discourages the adoption of foreign ideas.³⁸ In light of the Empress' recent elevation of Ironhats, the Reformists have tried to be more shrewdly political in their approach to reforms, but many Reformists sense a new opportunity to push through proposals as China faces its current crossroads.

While the majority of Ironhats and many of the Conservatives oppose any reforms to infrastructure, other officials favor reforms including challenging the government's standard unwillingness to cooperate with foreigners and incorporating beneficial Western ideas in the Confucian-focused education of Chinese students. The majority of Ironhats and a large number of Conservatives feel such reforms would represent submitting to the uncivilized influence of foreign "barbarians," but to the Reformists, modernizing China only serves to allow the country to adapt and evolve beyond its current state of being easily overpowered by foreign forces.

Questions to Consider:

- Should the Qing dynasty deviate from traditional Confucian tenets and institute modernizing reforms?
- Are the railways' benefits of increased efficiency in transportation worth the cession of sovereignty to foreign nations that is required to have them be built?
- Can the Reformists find a way to persuade another court faction to institute their proposed reforms, possibly by promising some future support in exchange?

³⁸ "The Self-Strengthening Movement." Alpha History. <http://alphahistory.com/chineserevolution/self-strengthening-movement/> (accessed January 26, 2014).

Map of Chinese provinces
 Image Credit:
 Wikimedia Commons



Delegate Positions

In addition to the characters portrayed by delegates in committee, delegates are also allowed and encouraged to interact with crisis characters including the Empress Dowager Cixi, the Guangxu Emperor, Baron Clemens von Ketteler (German Minister), George Ernest Morrison (*The Times*' Australian Peking correspondent), and many others via crisis as an application of personal powers.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Every delegate is a real person who existed in these positions in real life. However, we have slightly modified their portfolio powers in order to accommodate the fact that all of these delegates are in the same room at the same time.

The Chinese Delegation

Empire of the Great Qing—The Chinese Delegation must guide the Empire of the Great Qing at its current crossroads towards either submitting or resisting imperialism. They must also decide whether to respect traditional institutions or modify them through reform. Regardless of any individual delegates' stance on the issues, the need for a decisive change of course is clear, and the interplay between the Qing dynasty and foreign spheres of influence will never again be the same. The interest groups represented by delegates in this committee are Conservatives, Ironhats, Reformists, Manchu Chinese, Han Chinese, Boxers, the Aisin-Gioro clan, and Christian converts. While the Chinese delegates are physically more scattered geographically than the foreign delegates, personal powers can still be used to affect anything from railroads to telegrams to waterways to overcome these distances.

Zaiyi,
Prince Duan

Member of Zongli Yamen

Commander of Manchu Bannermen in the Tiger and Divine Corps

Prince Duan is a Manchu in the Aisin-Gioro clan and one of the leaders of the Ironhat anti-foreign faction in the Imperial court. Prince Duan has earned enormous favor from the Empress Dowager both for his active opposition against Reformists during the Hundred Days' Reform and for his marriage to her niece.³⁹ It is known that the Empress Dowager favors Prince Duan's eldest son, Pujun, to succeed the Guangxu Emperor on the throne, but to Prince Duan's anger, foreign leaders have petitioned (unsuccessfully) for a new heir to be chosen out of their fear of an ideologically-Ironhat Emperor.⁴⁰ Prince Duan sees the Boxers as a force with fighting potential that should be harnessed to expel the "foreign devils," and his pro-Boxer stance often sets him at odds with his chief rival, Prince Qing, over the leadership of Zongli Yamen, the Office of Foreign Affairs.⁴¹ Prince Duan commands a personal militia of traditionally trained Manchu bannermen known as the Tiger and Divine Corps.

Yikuang,
Prince Qing

Head Minister of Zongli Yamen

Commander of Manchu Bannermen in the Divine Engine Division

Though Prince Qing holds enormous power as Head Minister of Zongli Yamen (Office of Foreign Affairs), his political reputation has yet to fully recover from a personal scandal dating back to his youth.⁴² A Manchu in the Aisin-Gioro clan, Prince Qing is a Conservative who views the Boxer movement as a peasant uprising that must be suppressed. His anti-Boxer views often pit him against his rival, Prince Duan, for the leadership of Zongli Yamen.⁴³ A vocal foreign sympathizer in the Imperial court, Prince Qing is also notoriously corrupt. He commands a personal militia of traditionally trained Manchu bannermen fighters known as the Divine Engine Division.

Li Hongzhang

Viceroy of Liangguang

Former Viceroy of Zhili and Minister of Beiyang

The Reformist statesman Li Hongzhang is a celebrated hero of the Taiping Rebellion and Opium Wars and was one of the leaders of the Self-Strengthening Movement that sought to restructure and modernize China's military. He has long been considered the leading diplomat of his time, but his court standing has recently taken a hit since he presided over the Chinese defeat in the Sino-Japanese War as Supreme Commander.⁴⁴ Li was recently made Viceroy of Liangguang with control over the southern coastal provinces of Guangdong and Guanxi, but this was a demotion from his long-held posts as Viceroy of Zhili and Minister of Beiyang, two related positions he had held for a quarter-century.⁴⁵ The Viceroy of Zhili, most senior of the eight viceroys, is responsible for the capital Zhili region surrounding Peking, and is simultaneously also Minister of Beiyang, a major diplomatic position in charge of negotiating international

³⁹ Harrington, Peter. *Peking 1900: the Boxer rebellion*. Apple iBooks. Oxford: Osprey Military, 2001.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Preston, Diana. *The boxer rebellion: the dramatic story of China's war on foreigners that shook the world in the summer of 1900*. New York: Walker, 2000. Google Books.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=iWxKQejMtlMC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false> (accessed January 7, 2014).

⁴⁴ Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.. "Li Hongzhang (Chinese statesman)." Encyclopedia Britannica Online.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/338621/Li-Hongzhang> (accessed January 25, 2014).

⁴⁵ Ibid.

trade.⁴⁶ Li's protégée, Wang Wenshao, now holds both posts, but when Li still served, he used his influence to engage in modernizing projects including founding the Chinese Merchants' Steam Navigation Company and working to encourage more positive negotiations with foreigners.

Recently, *The Times'* Peking correspondent George Ernest Morrison exposed the Li-Lobanov Treaty, an 1896 agreement between Li Hongzhang and Russia's Foreign Minister that leased Russia the land to build its railroad across Manchuria in exchange for a mutual defense agreement against Japanese aggression.⁴⁷ The treaty was Li's attempt to play the rival nations of Russia and Japan against each other following their developing tensions from the Triple Intervention, an incident during the Sino-Japanese War in which Japan attempted to invade Russia's Port Arthur, but was forced to withdraw when given war threats by Russia, France, and Germany.⁴⁸ As a foreign sympathizer who believes in suppressing the Boxers, Li is held in high regard by many foreign nations. He is also one of the few Chinese diplomats to have made foreign visits. Always strong in his opinions, Li Hongzhang is not afraid to take an opposing stance to the throne if he feels it in the best interests of the country.

General Ronglu

Minister of the Board of War Supreme Commander of the Wuwei Troop (Center Division)

A highly respected Manchu statesman and military officer, Ronglu has served the Imperial court in countless capacities in past years, including being Head Minister of Zongli Yamen (Office of Foreign Affairs), Grand Councilor of the Grand Council, and even briefly Viceroy of Zhili and Minister of Beiyang.⁴⁹ He is a member of the Guwalgiya clan. Now, as Minister of the Board of War, Ronglu is not only the Supreme Commander of the Wuwei Troop, but he also commands Manchu bannermen from the Center Division stationed in Peking.⁵⁰ Ronglu has always held the favor of the Empress Dowager throughout his career, especially recently with his loyalty during her overthrowing of the Emperor in the Coup of 1898.⁵¹ Nonetheless, Ronglu prefers practical solutions and often disagrees with the court's radical Ironhat faction that wants to go to war with foreign powers.

Xu Jingcheng

Minister of Public Works Member of Zongli Yamen

A talented statesman and prominent diplomat, the Reformist politician Xu Jingcheng has held countless posts across his career, including Minister of Education and Minister to various countries, most notably France, Germany, and Russia. While in Europe, Xu attracted enormous controversy when he converted to Roman Catholicism, but he remains an avid follower of his adopted faith today. As Minister of Public Works, he is in charge of organizing construction

⁴⁶ "Viceroy of Zhili - The Most Honorable and Powerful Regional Viceroys of the Qing Dynasty." China Travel Guide. <http://www.chinatravel.ws/china-guide/viceroy-of-zhili---the-most-honorable-and-powerful-regional-viceroys-of-the-qing-dynasty.htm> (accessed January 19, 2014).

⁴⁷ Caraway, William. "Ch. 29 - Twilight of the Yi Dynasty: My Neighbor, My Friend." The Korean History Project. <http://www.koreanhistoryproject.org/Ket/C29/E2903.htm> (accessed January 25, 2014).

⁴⁸ Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.. "Treaty of Shimonoseki (1895, China-Japan)." Encyclopedia Britannica Online. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/540685/Treaty-of-Shimonoseki?anchor=ref17188> (accessed January 25, 2014).

⁴⁹ Xiang, Lanxin. *The origins of the Boxer War: a multinational study*. London: Psychology Press, 2003. Google Books. <http://books.google.com/books?id=lAxresT12ogC&pg=PA228&lpg=PA228&dq=Gangyi+Boxers&source=bl&ots=M1zowOKxWb&sig=HJ60GkJxoT4uYXx3j3RjQlJKgug&hl=en&sa=X&ei=tD7MUo2ZE8ivsATF-4DgDA&ved=oCFIQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q&f=false> (accessed January 7, 2014).

⁵⁰ Harrington, Peter. *Peking 1900: the Boxer rebellion*. Apple iBooks. Oxford: Osprey Military, 2001.

⁵¹ Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.. "Ronglu (Chinese official)." Encyclopedia Britannica. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/308226/Ronglu> (accessed January 19, 2014).

projects, manufacturing equipment, gathering resource materials, repairing roads and structures, as well as standardizing weights and measures for the government.⁵² His time as a diplomat abroad has given him useful experience in negotiating with foreigners, and his instrumental role in bringing railroads to China led to him being appointed Inspector-General of the Chinese Eastern Railroad and an executive for the Kaiping Tramway.⁵³ Unlike his mentor, the prominent politician Wang Wenshao, Xu is not afraid to take a stance different from that of the throne.⁵⁴ A crafty plotter, Xu Jingcheng believes that the ends always justify the means.

Sheng Xuanhuai

**Minister of Transportation
President of the Nanyang Public School System**

A respected Chinese industrialist, Sheng Xuanhuai is a modernizer who helped found some of the country's major universities, develop the steel industry from infancy, and establish the Telegraph Administration that built telegraph lines across China.⁵⁵ He believes China can be saved from backwardness and destitution by modernizing the country's technology and infrastructure, and his admiration for modernized cultures factors into his being a foreign sympathizer. Sheng has been a close friend of Li Hongzhang for a long time, and even served as his economic advisor in the 1870's.⁵⁶ A respected member of the Imperial court, Sheng was recently authorized by the Guangxu Emperor to establish the large new Nanyang Public School system in Shanghai with Sheng as its president.⁵⁷

Zaixun,
Prince Zhuang

Nine Gates Infantry Commander of Peking

Zaixun is a Manchu of the Aisin-Gioro clan and radical Ironhat who zealously supports the Boxer movement, considering the Boxers to be patriots rather than criminals.⁵⁸ Though a member of high nobility, he embraces the peasant-based rituals of the Fists of Righteous Harmony and believes that their ideology of expelling "foreign devils" has a place in the Qing dynasty's agenda to establish their dominance throughout China. Since he is the Nine Gates Infantry Commander of Peking, he controls traffic in and out of the capital and also manages night patrols, essentially making him Peking's police commissioner.

General Nie
Schicheng

Commander of the Tenacious Army in the Wuwei Troop (Front Division)

Nie Shicheng's zealous hatred of foreign imperialists—an anti-foreign sentiment shared by his troops—has created controversies for the entire Wuwei Troop, with reports of troops in his Tenacious Army attacking individual foreigners without orders.⁵⁹ A decorated military veteran from the Taiping Rebellion and Sino-Japanese War, General Nie holds a unique stance as being both anti-foreigner

⁵² Hucker, Charles. "Governmental Organization of The Ming Dynasty." JSTOR. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2718619> (accessed January 24, 2014).

⁵³ Xiang, Ah. "The National Humiliation - Peking." Republican China Blog. <http://www.imperialchina.org/Peking.html>(accessed January 24, 2014).

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.. "Sheng Xuanhuai (Chinese official)." Encyclopedia Britannica. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/539896/Sheng-Xuanhuai> (accessed January 8, 2014).

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ "Tabbed Content." *Jiao Tong University*. Shanghai Jiao Tong University, n.d. Web. 27 Sept. 2014. <<http://en.sjtu.edu.cn/about-this-site/module-examples/tabbed-content/>>.

⁵⁸ Xiang, Lanxin. *The origins of the Boxer War: a multinational study*. London: Psychology Press, 2003. Google Books. <http://books.google.com/books?id=lAxresT12ogC&pg=PA228&lpg=PA228&dq=Gangyi+Boxers&source=bl&ots=MizowOKxWb&sig=HJ6oGkJxoT4uYXx313RJQlJKgug&hl=en&sa=X&ei=tD7MUo2ZE8ivsATF-4DgDA&ved=oCFIQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q&f=false> (accessed January 7, 2014).

⁵⁹ Esherick, Joseph. *The origins of the Boxer Uprising*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.

and anti-Boxer. The Tenacious Army is one of the two most powerful armies within the Wuwei Troop, second only to General Yuan Shikai's Newly Created Army in modern weaponry, but second-to-none in discipline with its modern training obtained from German military advisors.⁶⁰ General Nie may ultimately have to decide which he hates less: Boxers or foreigners.

General
Dong Fuxiang

Commander of the Kansu Braves in the Wuwei Troop (Rear Division)
Dong Fuxiang is a Han Chinese general in command of the Kansu Braves, a large force of Muslim Chinese fighters.⁶¹ He is very xenophobic and also incredibly loyal to the Empress Dowager. Dong has proven himself to be an effective commander in the past, having successfully suppressed both of the Dungan Revolts in his home province of Kansu. However, his poorly disciplined and ill-equipped Kansu Braves are often disparagingly referred to as the "Kansu Irregulars,"⁶² and their overzealousness in attacking foreigners without orders has created difficulties for the Qing dynasty in defining its stance towards foreigners.⁶³

General
Song Qing

Commander of the Resolute Army in the Wuwei Troop (Left Division)
General Song Qing is an elderly and very experienced military officer who commands the Resolute Army, the Left Division of the Wuwei Troop, which is a large and well-equipped force with modern German guns and artillery at their disposal.⁶⁴ A veteran of the Sino-Japanese War and the Taiping Rebellion, General Song is a strong loyalist to the Qing dynasty. He believes in the superiority of Chinese culture over Western values, holds strongly to Confucian tenets, and dislikes the intrusion of foreigners into Chinese civilization. The General is a native of Shandong Province who has climbed his way up through the ranks of Chinese society.

General
Yuan Shikai

**Governor of Shandong Province
Commander of the Newly Created Army in the Wuwei Troop (Right Division)**

The opportunistic General Yuan Shikai is both a senior military officer and Conservative statesman. Yuan has gained recognition for being one of the central Chinese generals who commanded troops in Korea during the Sino-Japanese War when he served under Li Hongzhang.⁶⁵ During the Coup of 1898, Yuan backed the Empress Dowager alongside his mentor Ronglu by exposing and helping to foil the Guangxu Emperor's secret plan for resistance.⁶⁶ Now, he commands the Newly Created Army in the Wuwei Troop, the division with the largest fighting force and most modern equipment, comparable only to General Nie Shicheng's Tenacious Army.⁶⁷

As Governor of Shandong, a province in northeastern China, Yuan Shikai is one of the most powerful Han Chinese administrators in the empire. Shandong Province is also the birthplace of the Boxer movement, and so Yuan Shikai was

⁶⁰ Harrington, Peter. *Peking 1900: the Boxer rebellion*. Apple eBooks. Oxford: Osprey Military, 2001.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Esherick, Joseph. *The origins of the Boxer Uprising*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.

⁶⁴ Harrington, Peter. *Peking 1900: the Boxer rebellion*. Apple eBooks. Oxford: Osprey Military, 2001.

⁶⁵ Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.. "Yuan Shikai (president of China)." Encyclopædia Britannica.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/654504/Yuan-Shikai> (accessed January 25, 2014).

⁶⁶ Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.. "Hundred Days of Reform (Chinese history)." Encyclopædia Britannica.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/276504/Hundred-Days-of-Reform> (accessed January 22, 2014).

⁶⁷ Harrington, Peter. *Peking 1900: the Boxer rebellion*. Apple eBooks. Oxford: Osprey Military, 2001.

the Shandong governor during the Juye Incident and aftermath when the Germans invaded Jiazhou Bay.⁶⁸ Personal experience has led him to adopt a policy of suppressing the Boxers as he feels they are dangerously provoking foreign escalation that could cost him power, but since he is more of an opportunist than an ideologue, his stance is highly adaptable to circumstances.⁶⁹

Zhang Zhidong

**Viceroy of Huguang
Commander of the Self-Strengthening Army**

Though an outspoken supporter of reform movements, Zhang Zhidong has been able to remain the Viceroy of Huguang, ruling a region that encompasses the southern provinces of Hunan and Hubei that neighbor Shandong.⁷⁰ Zhang was a major proponent of the modernizing Self-Strengthening Movement, and was famous for developing his Self-Strengthening Army, one of China's few early successes in attempting to form modern fighting forces based on Western models.⁷¹ Zhang comes from a family of scholars and holds a strong loyalty to the Empress Dowager Cixi, even though he personally disagrees with her recent appointment of officials from the xenophobic Ironhat faction of the court.⁷² Though he did not fully support the Hundred Days' Reform, he believes that many of Kang Youwei's ideas could still bring groundbreaking benefits if properly implemented.

Wang Wenshao

**Viceroy of Zhili and Minister of Beiyang
Former Grand Councilor of the Grand Council**

Whatever the Manchu official Wang Wenshao's personal opinions, his timid nature has led to him being viewed as a "political survivor" who is unwilling to risk his career for ideals.⁷³ Wang agrees with the foreign-sympathizing faction of his protégée Xu Jingcheng and old mentor Li Hongzhang, but will never actively oppose the throne from fear of negative consequences.⁷⁴ Though he has often expressed his personal reservations, his unwavering loyalty of always acting in line with the Empress' judgment has earned him her favor. Though Wang personally fears that the Boxers are dangerously provoking foreign powers, he officially maintains a moderate stance to protect his neutrality. Nonetheless, Wang primarily fears that the Boxers alone will not be able to overcome foreign powers.

As the former Grand Councilor of the Grand Council, the highest position a Manchu could possibly hold outside of royalty, Wang has proven himself to be someone who is able to bring divided factions towards compromise, but even his ability to inspire cooperation may not be enough to unite the divided factions of the Imperial court. For the last few years, he has held the honor of being Viceroy of Zhili and Minister of Beiyang, two connected positions that were previously held by Li Hongzhang for over two decades, and the enormous expectations of

⁶⁸ Esherick, Joseph. *The origins of the Boxer Uprising*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.. "Zhang Zhidong (Chinese official)." Encyclopedia Britannica.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/105525/Zhang-Zhidong> (accessed January 19, 2014).

⁷¹ Harrington, Peter. *Peking 1900: the Boxer rebellion*. Apple iBooks. Oxford: Osprey Military, 2001.

⁷² Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.. "Zhang Zhidong (Chinese official)." Encyclopedia Britannica.

<http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/105525/Zhang-Zhidong> (accessed January 19, 2014).

⁷³ Xiang, Lanxin. *The origins of the Boxer War: a multinational study*. London: Psychology Press, 2003. Google Books.

<http://books.google.com/books?id=IAxresT12ogC&pg=PA228&lpg=PA228&dq=Gangvi+Boxers&source=bl&ots=MizowOKxWb&sig=HJ6oGkXoT4uYXx313RJQlJKgug&hl=en&sa=X&ei=tD7MUo2ZE8ivsATF-4DgDA&ved=0CFIQ6AEwBA#v=onepage&q&f=false> (accessed January 7, 2014).

⁷⁴ Ibid.

these positions have placed enormous pressure on Wang with such big shoes to fill. Wang's position as Viceroy of Zhili is the most prestigious viceroy position, since Zhili's boundaries surround Peking, and his position as Minister of Beiyang is a major diplomatic post focused on international trade negotiations.⁷⁵

Yuxian

Governor of Shanxi Province Former Governor of Shandong Province

Yuxian, a Manchu by birth, was recently reassigned positions to being the new governor of Shanxi Province, following his controversial governorship over Shandong.⁷⁶ While governor of Shandong, Yuxian dealt with the problem of bandits in southwestern Shandong by pitting Boxers from the Big Swords Society against them, and then used his own forces to eradicate the Big Swords once they began overzealously attacking Christians and disrupting the peace.⁷⁷ Yuxian has always disliked foreigners and Christians, finding their special status under the Unequal Treaties to be an abusive imposition on the Chinese people, since Chinese citizens are not legally able to defend themselves against foreigners' abuses.⁷⁸ As governor of Shandong, he often viewed Boxers' raids as justified retribution against the unjust abuses of "missionary justice," and has only acted to intervene when ordered by the Imperial court or when he felt one side's aggression became overly belligerent.⁷⁹ Under this philosophy, Yuxian would mostly side against foreigners.

Following pressure on the Imperial court from the Diplomatic corps over his discrimination against Christians, Yuxian was relocated to the position of Shanxi governor, and now rules over the province with the largest coal deposits in all of China. Members of the xenophobic Ironhat faction of the Imperial court consider Yuxian to be fully in alignment with their ideology, but Yuxian considers himself to be a moderate Ironhat at best.

Cao Futian

Commander of Boxers in Tientsin

Cao Futian is as much a spiritual leader as he is a military commander for his Boxers in battle. A former bandit who was known for his brutality, Cao Futian now commands a Boxer militia in Tientsin composed majorly of laid-off railway construction workers, idle youths, religious fanatics, and hardened criminals.⁸⁰ Cao is a charismatic leader and devout Spirit Boxer who rushes into battle wielding a millet stalk that he says is a sword, and he has transformed his ragtag militia into a zealous troop of Spirit Boxers who believe that the favor of the Chinese gods will make them impervious to bullets.⁸¹ Cao Futian has held a deep hatred of foreigners since even before missionaries converted his brothers' families to Christianity, feeling that their very presence in China is a perverse invasion into Chinese society. In the eyes of Cao Futian, every Christian (regardless of nationality) is a foreigner who must be expelled for tainting the purity of Chinese culture.

⁷⁵ "Viceroy of Zhili - The Most Honorable and Powerful Regional Viceroys of the Qing Dynasty." China Travel Guide. <http://www.chinatravel.ws/china-guide/viceroy-of-zhili---the-most-honorable-and-powerful-regional-viceroys-of-the-qing-dynasty.htm> (accessed January 19, 2014).

⁷⁶ Esherick, Joseph. *The origins of the Boxer Uprising*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1987.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Cohen, Paul A. *History in three keys: the Boxers as event, experience, and myth*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1997. Google Books. http://books.google.com/books?id=8hiGU_tJEocC&printsec=frontcover#v=onepage&q&f=false (accessed January 18, 2014).

⁸¹ Ibid.

Ni Zanqing

Commander of Boxers in Langfang

Ni Zanqing owns one of the largest farms in Langfang, a town in Hebei Province, Zhili. As a region, Zhili neighbors Shandong Province, the birthplace of the Boxer movement and home to the Fists of Righteous Harmony. Since Langfang has a train station on the Kaiping Tramway line between Tientsin and Peking, the area is frequented by railroad travelers, most of them being foreigners and many of them missionaries. Many in Ni's family were killed in the Opium Wars against the British, so he is now a zealous follower of the Fists of Righteous Harmony for want of revenge. As the leader of the local Boxer militia, Ni Zanqing is willing to use violent force in his crusade to expel "foreign devils," and feels he is acting patriotic in defending his home.

Wang Yirong

Commander of Boxers in Peking

Though few scholars in Peking are quite radical enough to align themselves with the Boxer movement, the well-educated Wang Yirong nonetheless supports their political cause and has answered their call to arms with action. He recently accepted command of his local Boxer militia because of his belief that he can help to protect his home community from the "foreign devils."⁸² However, since Wang Yirong is no ignorant fanatic, he questions if the Boxers' initiative may be futile, though he persists in his command from a sense of duty. Before he joined the Fists of Righteous Harmony, Wang Yirong was an archaeologist famous for co-discovering the significance of "oracle bones" with ancient writing from the second-millennium B.C. Shang dynasty along with his close friend, the Reformist economist Liu E. The discovery has made them both famous since the bones are believed to have mystical medicinal properties.⁸³

The Foreign Delegation

Diplomatic Corps and Missionary Coalition—The Diplomatic corps of foreign diplomats has its base in the Legation Quarter of Peking, and is dominated by the eight imperialist powers of Great Britain, Russia, Japan, the United States, France, Germany, Italy, and Austria-Hungary. In addition to those nations, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Spain also have consulates in the Quarter, but are less influential. The Missionary Coalition between Protestants, Catholics, and Christians of all sects has begun to develop in the face of heightened Chinese hostility. These missionaries who once competed to gain converts must now cooperate to survive and save lives. The interest groups represented by delegates in this committee are the British, Russians, Japanese, French, Americans, Catholics, and Protestants, but they are not the only actors who will affect the Foreign Delegation.

⁸² Wilkinson, Endymion. *Chinese History: A Manual, 2nd Edition*. United States: Harvard University Asia Center, 2000. Google Books.[http://books.google.com/books?id=ERnrQqobsPYC&pg=PA254&lpg=PA254&dq=Chinese+History:+A+Manual+\(2nd+ed.\)&source=bl&ots=3vakfgEJaZ&sig=v4Fv9hJIXsLXMv6Qn7ubuNb8Z8&hl=en&sa=X&ei=3oP9U68gyprxAZWrgLgF&ved=0CFsQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q&f=false](http://books.google.com/books?id=ERnrQqobsPYC&pg=PA254&lpg=PA254&dq=Chinese+History:+A+Manual+(2nd+ed.)&source=bl&ots=3vakfgEJaZ&sig=v4Fv9hJIXsLXMv6Qn7ubuNb8Z8&hl=en&sa=X&ei=3oP9U68gyprxAZWrgLgF&ved=0CFsQ6AEwAw#v=onepage&q&f=false) (accessed August 27, 2014).

⁸³ Ibid.

Sir Robert Hart

Inspector-General of the Imperial Customs Maritime Service

Sir Robert Hart has led the Imperial Customs Maritime Service, a traditionally British-run bureau in the Imperial government, for nearly four decades.⁸⁴ Maritime Customs oversees coastal patrol, tax collection in ports, and manages port regulations.⁸⁵ As a British citizen serving the Qing dynasty, though often faced with conflicts of interest, Sir Robert always tries to act in ways to protect the interests of both his British and Chinese allegiances. As an advisor, Sir Robert has acted to prevent Chinese war with Great Britain several times, and has also been a leader for reforms to Chinese infrastructure by helping to establish the postal service of China and by reforming Chinese maritime laws on tariffs.⁸⁶ A modernizer, Sir Robert has often tried to help the Qing dynasty embrace modernized infrastructure, education, and technology at a pace that he felt would allow them to use it more wisely. Sir Robert is a longtime friend and ally of the lifetime diplomat Li Hongzhang, and together with the American Minister Edwin H. Conger, the three have grown very suspicious of the Reverend Timothy Richard's heavy-handed interference in the Hundred Days' Reform that would have ceded a degree of Chinese sovereignty to Japan.

Sir Claude
Maxwell
MacDonald

British Minister to China

As the British Minister to China, Sir Claude MacDonald has an understandably large political clout to wield when negotiating with the Qing dynasty. A retired Major in the British Army, Sir Claude is in frequent telegraph communication with Admiral Edward Hobart Seymour who commands the forces in China Station, the British naval base in Weihaiwei ("Port Edward"), Shandong Province.⁸⁷ Great Britain has been the strongest imperialist power in Asia for a long time, with ports established in southeastern Chinese coastal cities including Canton, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, and colonized British India not so far away. Since even before the 1839-1860 Opium Wars, the Chinese have been developing a cultivated animosity towards the British, heightened by rising levels of opium distribution by British merchants and growing Chinese conversions to Christianity spread by British missionaries.⁸⁸ Sir Claude is worried by the recent intensification of Chinese hostility and has been trying to demand that the Imperial court act to protect citizens of foreign nations from harm.⁸⁹ Though members of the Diplomatic corps have criticized Sir Claude for his tendency to assume the worst will occur, as he sees it, they all are better off safe than sorry.

Edwin H. Conger

American Minister to China

Events in the past decade have redefined the global image of American foreign policy from being somewhat isolated under the Monroe Doctrine toward being more interventionist under the current McKinley administration. Many Americans consider the United States' recent acquisition of the former Spanish colonies of Cuba and the Philippines to be a logical continuation of the Manifest Destiny ideology.⁹⁰ However, while Edwin H. Conger may be physically on the forefront of the new frontier for American imperialism as Minister to China, he

⁸⁴ Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc.. "Sir Robert Hart, 1st Baronet (British statesman)." Encyclopedia Britannica. <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/256117/Sir-Robert-Hart-1st-Baronet> (accessed January 18, 2014).

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Harrington, Peter. *Peking 1900: the Boxer rebellion*. Apple iBooks. Oxford: Osprey Military, 2001.

⁸⁸ Allingham, Phillip V.. "England and China: The Opium Wars, 1839-60." The Victorian Web. <http://www.victorianweb.org/history/empire/opiumwars/opiumwars1.html> (accessed January 18, 2014).

⁸⁹ Harrington, Peter. *Peking 1900: the Boxer rebellion*. Apple iBooks. Oxford: Osprey Military, 2001.

⁹⁰ Butler, Maj. Glen G.. "The Boxer Rebellion: Coalition Expeditionary Operations in China." *Marine Corps Gazette*, October 2003. <http://www.mca-marines.org/gazette/article/boxer-rebellion> (accessed January 24, 2014).

remains personally opposed to imperialism on moral grounds.⁹¹ A former three-term Iowa congressman and decorated Union Civil War Major, Edwin Conger achieved acclaim as Minister to Brazil when he established formal relations with the country.⁹² For his success in Brazil, President McKinley recently appointed Conger as the new Minister to China. The president hopes to maintain the United States' "Open-Door Policy" that tries to respect Chinese sovereignty while pushing for equal rights in Chinese trade for all engaging nations.⁹³ Conger, a Christian Scientist, uses his position as a diplomat to protect the safety and rights of Chinese Christians and foreign missionaries in China, and though he has been worried by recent reports of violence against foreigners, he actually holds more faith in the good will of the Qing dynasty than most other members of the Diplomatic corps.⁹⁴

Baron Mikhail de Giers

Russian Minister to China

Baron de Giers is the son of the late Russian Foreign Minister Nicolay Girs. As the Russian Minister to China, the Baron represents Russia's growing interests in East Asia. In particular, Russia aims to ensure dominance across the Liaodong Peninsula where their naval city Port Arthur is located. The Russian imperialist presence in China is distinguished by a disinterest in missionary agendas and by recent hostilities with the Japanese over Port Arthur in the Sino-Japanese War, but the Russians do not like their sense that China is merely using them as a pawn to play against Japan.⁹⁵ Russia's enormous military and its close proximity to China would make it a formidable foe if provoked by the forces of any other nation, and the Baron is not known to be a very patient man.

Nishi Tokujirō

Japanese Minister to China

Nishi Tokujirō is an experienced diplomat who is dedicated to representing the interests of the Empire of Japan. Japan's recent victory against China in the Sino-Japanese War has established Japan as a new imperialist power and won it the high-value territory of Korea.⁹⁶ Russo-Japanese tensions have been on the rise since the Triple Intervention, when the Japanese attempted to take Port Arthur in the Liaodong Peninsula from the Russians.⁹⁷ The two nations are also presently tense over conflicting railroad development interests in Manchuria and northeastern China. Japanese Prime Minister Itō Hirobumi's attempts to encroach on Chinese sovereignty during the Hundred Days' Reform stirred controversy in the international community, but Japan's close proximity to China and powerful military would make it a force to be reckoned with if provoked by the Chinese or Russians. In these difficult times, Nishi is grateful for the advice of Sugiyama Akira, his close friend who serves under him in Peking as chancellor.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² "San Francisco Call, Volume 101, Number 170, 19 May 1907: Edwin H. Conger Dies at Pasadena After Long Illness." California Digital Newspaper Collection. <http://cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc?a=d&d=SFC19070519.2.60> (accessed January 24, 2014)

⁹³ Aboukhadijeh, Feross. "McKinley and Roosevelt." StudyNotes. <http://www.apstudynotes.org/us-history/topics/mckinley-and-roosevelt/> (accessed January 24, 2014).

⁹⁴ Thompson, Larry Clinton. *William Scott Ament and the Boxer Rebellion Heroism, Hubris and the "Ideal Missionary"*. Jefferson: McFarland & Company, Inc., Publishers, 2009. Google Books. http://books.google.com/books?id=5K9BN96p1hcC&dq=prince+tuan+replaced+as+president&source=gbs_navlinks_s (accessed January 24, 2014).

⁹⁵ "The Sino-Japanese War 1894-1895." The Russo-Japanese War Research Society. <http://www.russojapanesewar.com/chino-war.html> (accessed January 7, 2014).

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

Herbert Hoover

Engineering and Mining Consultant to the Imperial Court

Herbert Hoover has only just begun living in China with his newlywed wife, but the Hoovers both already speak Mandarin and are exceptionally well acquainted with their new home locale of Tientsin.⁹⁸ Herbert Hoover is an Iowa-born expert on mining, and he has been hired by the Australian firm, Bewick, Moreing & Co. as a consultant to the Imperial court of the emperor.⁹⁹ Hoover's specialization in coal has given him a large number of connections to the railroad and steamship enterprises of China.

Bishop Pierre-Marie-Alphonse Favier

Vicar Apostolic of Northern Zhili

Bishop Favier has served the Catholic Church in China for decades, and while Chinese xenophobia is nothing new to him, he has never seen such widespread anti-foreigner hostility in his entire career. As Vicar Apostolic of Northern Zhili, Bishop Favier is a regional leader for the Catholic Church. He operates mainly out of Peking in the Church of the North (or Beitang), a major cathedral in Peking located just outside the International Legation Quarter.¹⁰⁰ Recently, the French government sparked controversy with the Chinese when it required the Qing dynasty to give special "Mandarin legal status" to Catholic missionaries in China. This "Mandarin legal status" would legally give missionaries the same honorable status as governors and viceroys without the same power in order to improve missionaries' continued protection under Chinese law.¹⁰¹

Favier is considered to be the most prominent bishop in China, and played a role in obtaining a French protectorate status for Catholic missions and missionaries in China. However, the Boxers naturally have little care for such laws, and though the Qing dynasty has indulged French requests that obligate Chinese authorities to protect missionaries, most view their cooperation as half-hearted.¹⁰²

Meanwhile, the Bishop has begun offering sanctuary in his cathedral to refugees of Boxer violence. He has been in constant communication with French Minister Stéphen Pichon, who has assured him that he can wire for French troops to be deployed from French Indochina to protect the cathedral or legations at any time.

The Reverend Timothy Richard

Missionary in Shandong Province

Timothy Richard is a prominent Welsh Baptist missionary with a history of pressing for social reforms in China. He was instrumental in providing relief for starving Chinese in the Famine of 1876-7, is a leading advocate in movements to end the Chinese tradition of "foot-binding" for young women, and continues to call for increased sexual equality in China.¹⁰³ His willingness to learn the traditions of local groups combined with his profound respect for their values has helped him win many Chinese converts to Christianity and establish a dialogue between Buddhist and Christian communities.¹⁰⁴ Though held in very high regard throughout the international community for his humanitarianism, Richard

⁹⁸ A&E Television Networks. "Future President Hoover caught in Boxer Rebellion." The History Channel. <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/future-president-hoover-caught-in-boxer-rebellion> (accessed January 19, 2014).

⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰⁰ Favier, A.. "Full text of "The Heart of Peking: Bishop A. Favier's Diary of the Siege, May-August, 1900"." The Internet Archive. http://www.archive.org/stream/heartpekinbishooofrgoog/heartpekinbishooofrgoog_djvu.txt (accessed January 25, 2014).

¹⁰¹ Doyle, Rev. A.P. "The Crisis in China and the Missions." *Catholic World*, July 1900, Volume 71 Issue 424. The Making of America. 548-554.

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/moajrnl/bac8387.0071.424/568?xc=1&g=moagrp&q1=favier&node=bac8387.0071.424%3A15&iew=image> (accessed January 25, 2014).

¹⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰³ "Timothy Richard." BMS Home. <http://www.bmsworldmission.org/about-us/our-heritage/asia/timothy-richard> (accessed January 7, 2014).

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

recently attracted enormous controversy for his heavy-handed involvement in the Hundred Days' Reform. He allegedly colluded with the Japanese Prime Minister to influence reforms that included an exclusive trade federation between Great Britain, the United States, Japan, and China, as well as a partial cession of Chinese sovereignty to Japan.

Appendix: Guide to Pronunciation and Variant Spellings of Foreign Terms

One of the trickiest things about researching the Boxer Rebellion is that some of the sources on the topic use different spellings of the same Chinese phrases (e.g. Dong Fuxiang is sometimes written as “Tung Fu-hsiang”). This appendix has been included to help delegates research their roles by listing some variant spellings of these foreign phrases, while also providing some simplified closer-to-accurate pronunciations of terms. **(NOTE: While delegates should not stress knowing all of these, it will make discourse easier if everyone tries to become slightly familiar with this list by reading it once or twice.)**

(NOTE: The Chinese “Zh” in “Zhang” is similar to a French “J-” in “Jacques;” also common in Chinese is pronouncing “X” as “Sh-” and “Q” as “Ch-”)

Chinese	Aisin-Gioro (Aye-sin Jee-uh-row)
	Beiyang (Bay-yung)
	Beitang (Bay-tung): <i>Pei-tang, Church of the North, Church of the Saviour Beijing, Xishiko Church</i>
	Canton (Can-ton): <i>Guangzhou, Kuang-chou, Kwangchow</i>
	Cao Futian (Cow Foo-Tee-yen)
	Cixi (Tseh-shee): <i>Ci Xi, Tsi Hsi, Tzu Hsi</i>
	Dong Fuxiang: (Tong Foo-Shyung): <i>Tung Fu-hsiang</i>
	Duan (Too-AN): <i>Tuan</i> [See Zaiyi]
	Guangdong (Gwong-dong): <i>Kuan-tong, Kwantong</i>
	Guangxu (Gwong-shoo): <i>Kuang-hsu, Kuang-hsü</i> [See Zaitian]
	Huguang (Hoo-gwong)
	Jiazhou (Jee-ow-zhu) Bay: <i>Kiao-chau, Kiaochow, Kiauchau</i>
	Juye (Joo-yee)
	Kang Youwei (Kong Yo-way)

Kansu (Gon-soo): *Gansu*

Langfang (Long-fong)

Liangguang (Lee-ang Gwong)

Liangjiang (Lee-ang Jeh-yung)

Liang Qichao (Lee-ang Chee-chow): *Liang Qi-chao*

Liaodong (Lee-dong) Peninsula: *Liao-tung*

Li Hongzhang (Lee hone-zhung): *Li Hung-chang*

Liu E (Lee-yoo Ee): *Liu O*

Liu Kunyi (Lee-yoo Kun-ye): *Liu K'un-i*

Lüshunkou (Loo-shun-ko): *Lüshun, Port Arthur*

Nanjing (Nan-jing): *Nanking*

Nanyang (Nan-yung) Public School: *Jiao Tong University*

Ni Zhanqing (Nee Zan-cheeng): *Ni Zhanqing, Ni Zhenqing, Ni Zhenqing*

Nie Shicheng (Nee-eh shee-chung): *Nieh Shih-ch'eng, Nie Shicheng Zhu*

Peking (Pee-king): *Beijing*

Pujun (Poo-jun)

Qing (Cheeng): *Chi'ing, Ching*

Qingdao (Cheeng-dow)

Ronglu (Rong-loo): *Jung-Lu, Guwalgiya Ronglu*

Senluo (Sun-loo-oh)

Shandong (Shan-dong): *Shandung*

Shanxi (Shan-shee)

Sheng Xuanhuai (Sheng Shoo-an-hoo-aye): *Sheng Gongbao*

Song Qing (Song Cheeng): *Sung Ch'ing*

Tientsin (Tee-yent-sin): *Tianjin, Tientsen*

Wang Wenshao (Wong Wen-show): *Wen Wenzhao*

Wang Yirong (Wong Yee-rong)

Weihaiwei (Way-hi-way): *Port Edward, Weihai*

Wuwei (Woo-way) Troop: *Guards Army*

Xu Jingcheng (Shoo jing-chung): *Hsu Ching Cheng, Hsü Ching-ch'eng*

Yikuang (Yee-kwong): *Yi-kuang*

Yuan Shikai (Yoo-en Shih-kai): *Yüan Shih-k'ai*

Yuxian (Yoo-shee-yan): *Yu-xian, Aisin-Gioro Yuxian*

Zaifeng (Tsai-feng): *Aisin-Giro Zaifeng, Prince Chun*

Zaitian (Tsai-tee-yen): *Aisin-Gioro Tsai-tien, Dzai-Tiyan* [See **Guangxu**]

Zaixun (Tsai-shoon): *Zhaixun, Aisin-Gioro Zaixun* [See **Zhuang**]

Zaiyi (Tsai-ye): *Aisin-Gioro Zaiyi, Zai-yi* [See **Duan**]

Zhang Zhidong (Zhang Zhuh-dong): *Chang Chih-tung*

Zhili (Zhih-lee): *Chihli*

Zhuang (Zhoo-ong) [See **Zaixun**]

Zhu Hongdeng (Zhoo Hong-dung)

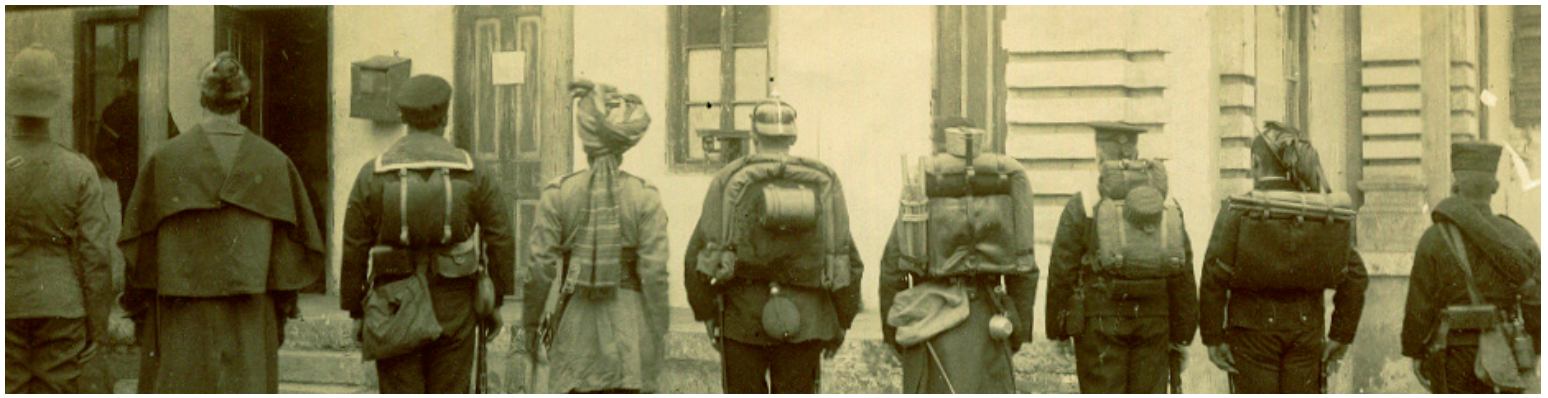
Zongli Yamen (Tsong-lee Yah-min): *Tsungli Yamen, Tsung-li-yamen*

Russian

Mikhail de Giers (Mee-kell deh Geers): *Michail Nicolajewitsch de Giers; Mikhail Nikoleyich von Girs; Michael Nicolaevich von Giers, Mikhail Nicolayevich Girs; Mikail von Giers*

*“Would Germany do like this
to America, to England, to
France, to Russia? Or only to
China the helpless -- imitating
the elephant’s assault upon the
field mice?”*

*-Mark Twain, To The Person
Sitting in Darkness*



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