

I will be doing now the course HD-104 history of modern

China from 1839 to 1976.

It will be discussion of Unit 1 China and the West with emphasis

on the module Boxer rebellion and Open Door Policy.

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Miramar. At the outset, a very broad outline of the

Topic I will begin with an introduction, followed by causes

of the Boxer Rebellion then the course, followed by the

Boxer Protocol, of September 7, 1900, We

will also discuss some of the far reaching consequences of

this rebellion. We will also highlight the Open Door Policy and

its principles. After the completion of this course the

student is expected to explain the factors responsible for the Boxer

Rebellion. comprehend the consequences

of the Boxer Rebellion and understand the principles of

the Open Door Policy.

We begin with an introduction.

We are discussing the history of China.

In the very early times the Chinese referred to China as

zhongguo, which meant the middle

country. The Chinese considered China to be the geographical center of the world .It was a very ancient, flourishing civilization.

The Chinese have contributed the compass, paper, silk and porcelain to the world. China was ruled by numerous dynasties like the Han, Tang, Shang Qing. Zhou, the Ming etc.

We are referring to the political conditions in 1839.

The rule of the Qing Dynasty began in 1644.

The Qing dynasty was established by the Manchus from the Far East, Manchuria.

The manchus established themselves with very strong leaders at the beginning. The Chinese never recognized or accepted them.

However, they continued to rule.

As we approach the 19th century, the rule of the Qing dynasty weakened. In 1839, the affairs of the court at peking were controlled by the Empress Dowager Tsu Hsi. The emperor at this time was controlled by the Empress.

China by this time had weakened considerably. In the background, we have the advent of the Europeans.

The Europeans like in the rest of Asia, had made inroads in China.

The Portuguese, English, French, Germans, all had come to China to trade.

As they entered China to trade they gradually tried to establish themselves. They were interested in gaining more concessions in China and very firmly setting themselves up.

Now as a reaction to all these developments, we have the Boxer Rebellion taking place.

In 1839 we had the beginning of the opium wars . The first opium war ended and the Treaty of Nanking was

signed. And this was followed by the Treaties of Tientsin and the Convention of Peking. Under these treaties and the

Convention, the Europeans got numerous rights in China.

The Manchu dynasty was unable to stop the Europeans.

They were unable to control them. the Europeans established their spheres of influence , control over the

Ports, the Customs and the railway lines. Now as a reaction to stopping the foreigners and trying to assert themselves, the Chinese began thinking of an uprising. And in this context we have the Boxer Uprising taking place in 1899.

Now who were the boxers and why were they called so. The boxers belonged to a secret society I ho-Chuan, which meant harmonious

Brotherhood, or the Society of Righteous and Harmonious fists.

The members of this society were called by the

Europeans as boxers because of certain gymnastic exercises that

they practiced regularly and resembled those of the boxers.

Now, this society was instrumental in greatly inciting the people of China, and bringing about

this rebellion. We analyze the causes that were responsible

for this rebellion.

In the first place, there was a tremendous resentment among the

Chinese against Christianity. Under the Treaty of Nanking,

Treaties of Tientsin and the Convention of Peking the

missionaries secured the right to preach Christianity in China.

They began converting Chinese to

Christianity. The Christian missionaries and the converts

began exploiting the natives. They would indulge in crimes and

the missionaries would protect

these converts. Gradually resentment began building

up against the missionaries as well as the Chinese converts.

This rebellion was also a reaction against imperialism.

The Europeans began gradually entrenching themselves in China.

The Europeans and the missionaries were regarded as

one by the native Chinese.

And gradually the Chinese began to think that if they were not checked, China would one day be reduced to the state of a colony like India and Burma.

A number of economic factors were also responsible for this rebellion. The Europeans continued to flood Chinese markets with their cheap goods.

For example, foreign cloth was sold at 1/3 the price of the Chinese cloth. As a result, the native industry was destroyed.

This led to unemployment.

The Europeans tried to control the Chinese customs or the tariff collection.

As a result of this, the government suffered from lack of revenue. They began to impose taxes on the common man. This again led to a lot of discontentment, so it was very clear that the Europeans were responsible for the economic problems of the Chinese, Thus, there was a great need to get rid of them. Now, to complicate matters, China at this time faced a number of natural calamities. She was faced with famines and floods. The feeling among the conservative Chinese was that the Europeans and the missionaries were enraging their gods and therefore China was faced with all these problems.

So the need of the hour was to get rid of the Europeans.

Now, thus we're moving on to the course of this rebellion, and we

find that the boxes were originally anti manchu. Their

original desire was to get rid of the weak, Manchu dynasty that

was unable to administer China

efficiently. But then as time passed their aims came to be

reduced to expelling the foreigners and eradicating

Christianity. This rebellion began in the shantung province

in 1899 as a result of peasant discontent. Gradually it spread

throughout the province and north China. The participants of this

rebellion included, the members of the secret society, the

Taoist and Buddhist priests, disbanded soldiers etc.. There were a

number of riff-raffs that were included in it. There were

revolutionaries also who joined this movement. Now it is very

clear that the participants of this rebellion,

aimed at doing away with everything that was connected with the

Europeans and the native Christians, so their activities

included destruction of the

properties owned by the missionaries and the Europeans-

uprooting of railway lines and also burning the buildings that

the missionaries lived in.

So in this manner, the rebellion continued to spread. The governor of Shantung, Yu hsien, greatly patronized this movement. However, the French complained and he was removed from the governorship and replaced by Yuan Shih Kai, who greatly suppressed this movement. The movement moved to the province of Chihli. Gradually it spread to the other areas. By 1900 the boxers continued to exercise an influence at the Peking or the Manchu court. The Empress Tzu Hsi was quite impressed with their activities and felt that they could be used to do away with the foreigners. Very secretly she began supporting them. Orders were issued to the governors and other officials to provide support to them. Now the Europeans and the others were unable to understand the exact attitude of the Manchu Dynasty and the Empress preferred to keep it that way. So in negotiations that followed, the Europeans did not understand what the empress really intended to do.

Gradually the rebellion spread and by May the boxers had made an impact on the whole of northern China and by 28th they were trying to attack the legations and other embassies. The embassies and legations in Peking made an

appeal to their mother countries to supply them with additional soldiers and as a result a contingent of 1500 soldiers were dispatched from Tientsin to Peking which was defeated.

The boxers quickly spread their activities further and we find that the Europeans planned a second expedition that comprised over 8000 troops which was dispatched from Tientsin to Peking. This force arrived in Peking and seized it. There was a looting of Peking that

followed. The French managed to loot the silver from the capital. They took away rice while the Germans took away the art treasures to their museums in Germany. So it was very clear now that the Manchus had no choice but to deal with the foreigners. Negotiations with them began on August 15th.

The Manchu rulers, that is the emperor and the empress along with attendants dressed as peasants fled to Sian and set up a temporary court there. The remainder of the officials at the Manchu Court were left to sign the Boxer Protocol which came into being on September 7, 1900. It was signed between the representatives of the Manchus (China) and the Allied powers.

The terms of this protocol were as follows.

China had to pay an indemnity of 333 million dollars.

Its custom duties were fixed to 5%. Import of arms, ammunition, materials for their manufacture were prohibited for two years, and this ban could also be extended. It was decided that those responsible for the rebellion would be punished by death..

Civil service examination in the centers where the rebellion had occurred was suspended for five years. Foreign troops came to be stationed in Peking as legation guards and foreign policing in the area from Peking to the sea was also permitted. The Manchus had to apologize to Germany and Japan for the murder of the German minister and the Japanese Chancellor of legation.

Treaties were also signed on bilateral basis, but the most favored nation clause applied to all the nations. Under these treaties, the internal transit tax likin was also abolished for the foreign goods and replaced by a seven and a half percent, which would be paid in addition to the normal 5%.

Mining regulations were to be revised in favor of the Europeans. Many ports were to be opened for trade and Commerce. Custom houses were placed under the foreign Inspectorate of customs.

So the Europeans began interfering in the collection of custom duties. Edicts were to be designed to prevent any anti foreign activities. After the signing of the Boxer Protocol, the royal family returned to Peking on January 7, 1900. The Boxer Rebellion produced a number of consequences, very far reaching once. Russia had sent her troops into Manchuria. Now she continued occupying it.

She had given an assurance under a treaty signed in 1900, that the two Lac troops that were pushed into Manchuria would be withdrawn in three phases of six months interval. However, this remained on paper. The foreign powers who had seized Peking and had their troops stationed at Peking began to interfere in the internal affairs of China. The Manchus were dictated to, by the representatives of the foreign powers. The international relations also underwent great changes. New alliances came into existence, an example of this was the Anglo Japanese alliance of 1902. The sovereignty of China was greatly affected, as foreign troops came to be stationed at Peking and collection of custom duties, etc. landed into the hands of the Europeans. Now when all this was happening, the United States

of America announced the Open Door Policy to safeguard the interest of China.

The Open Door Policy was proposed by the Secretary of State of USA, John Hay on September 6, 1899.

He was supported by the then President William McKinley.

The basic intention of this policy was to safeguard the commercial interests of US in China.

The principles of the Open Door Policy were as follows: Each power would maintain free access to a treaty port or to any other vested interests within its sphere. Non interference with the administration of Chinese Customs and Tariffs would be followed. There would also be no discrimination in charge of the harbor dues or the railway rates.

And against the background of the boxer uprising, Hay 's second circular followed on July 3rd,1900, which stressed the importance of preserving China's territorial and administrative integrity. The Open Door Policy formed the basis of the United States policy towards the East.Now we can summarize and say

that the Boxer Rebellion greatly disturbed the Manchu Dynasty. It is proved that the dynasty was unable to manage the foreigners and rule efficiently.

This encouraged revolutionary activities which led to the Revolution of 1911 and establishment of a Republic in

China in 1912.

Thank you.