

Taiping Rebellion JCC: Qing Dynasty Cabinet

Chair: Emily Justak

Vice Chair: Caroline Shreve

Backroom Staff: Liam Nelson



A Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

This year's LYMUN is a little sad, since it is my last one. I am a senior and will be graduating, but I will always look back on my MUN experience with a smile. This club holds a special place in my heart, and it greatly excites me to have so many wonderful students from around the midwest participating in my committee!

This conference is a chance to use your skills and learn from others (after all this is a learning conference)! I want all the delegates in my committee to feel comfortable speaking your mind and standing firm in your points and decisions by the end of the day, but I don't expect high school age foreign ambassadors to walk in right away.

In order to get more familiar with me and my ability as a chair, here's a little about me and my history with LTHS Model United Nations. I am a senior in highschool at LT, and have been participating in MUN since freshman year. Freshman year, I vice chaired for a committee, and as a sophomore, I was able to chair my own committee; I did so last year as well, as a junior. Rest assured, I have enough experience to put on my resume.

As a delegate, I find the ability to mesh my personal knowledge with the knowledge needed for committee the most exciting parts of the conference. Finding legal loopholes and workarounds through moral means is always a fun way to make a stale conference come to life. I hope that through this committee you will learn to adapt your delegate style to the committee and the other delegates around you!

Best Wishes,

Emily Justak
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Position List

Taiping Heavenly Kingdom Cabinet

1. Hong Xiuquan (Heavenly King)
2. Hong Xuanijao
3. Yang Xiuqing (East King)
4. Feng Yunshan (South King)
5. Xiao Chaogui (West King)
6. Wei Changhui (North King)
7. Shi Dakai (Wing/Yi King)
8. Li Xiucheng (Loyal King)
9. Lai Wenguang (King of Zun)
10. Qin Rigang (King of Yen)
11. Hong Rengan (Shield King)
12. Chen Yucheng (Ying Prince)
13. Li Shixian (King of Shi)
14. Zhang Lexing (Lord of the Alliance/Nian Rebels)
15. Su Sanniang (Nian Rebels)
16. Qiu Ersao (Red Turban Rebels)
17. Chen Qingzhen (Small Swords Society)

Qing Dynasty Cabinet

1. Emperor Wezong of Qing
2. Empress Dowager Cixi
3. Empress Dowager Ci'an
4. Zeng Guofan
5. Sengge Rinchen
6. Guanwen
7. Li Hongzhang
8. Luo Bingzhang
9. Jirhangga
10. Zuo Zongtang
11. Zhang Guoliang
12. He Chun
13. Xiang Rong
14. Frederick Townsend Ward (United States of America)
15. Auguste Protet (France)
16. Napoleon III (France)
17. Charles George Gordon (United Kingdom)

Crisis Information/Background

Hello, delegates!

My name is Liam Nelson, and I will be running backroom and responding to your crisis notes throughout committee. I've been a part of LTMUN for three years, and currently serve as director of crisis committees. Outside of Model UN, I captain the LT scholastic bowl team, play golf, and participate in LT Theatre as both an actor and a pit musician.

As an experienced crisis delegate, I know that crisis committees, and JCCs in particular, have little standardization, often leaving delegates confused about exactly what crisis note/crisis update procedure will look like. Thus, I wanted to take this opportunity to give an outline of what backroom will look like in our committee.

Crisis Notes

Crisis notes are an integral part of this committee, and the quality and quantity of your crisis notes will certainly factor into awards decisions. Here are some guidelines for crisis notes that all delegates should follow in order to keep committee flowing smoothly :

- **THIS COMMITTEE WILL BE TECH!** Although other committees will not be using email for crisis communications, this one will be. All crisis notes should be sent in an email chain with the subject line reading "Character's Name - Committee" to the email provided at the start of committee (me).
- Please, please, please do not send another crisis note until you receive a response for your most recent one! Any delegate who sends a lot of crisis notes at once will have to wait a very long time for responses.

- As for content, I will be looking for detailed notes which slowly build up to a large action, rather than notes that attempt to perform important actions without setting them up first.
- Be creative! The beauty of crisis committees like this one is that they allow for delegates to truly make a position their own.

Crisis Updates

- Crisis updates will be an integral part of this committee, helping to move along debate and inform delegates of the changing situation in China.
- Delegates with crisis arcs which follow the guidelines above can expect to see their crisis notes affect committee through crisis updates.

If anyone has any questions regarding crisis and what I'm looking for, you can email me at liam.nelsoniv@gmail.com. Best of luck preparing, and I can't wait to see what y'all come up with!

Sincerely,

Liam Nelson

Context: China in the 19th Century

The Taiping Rebellion was a pivotal moment in Chinese History during the mid-19th century, with the effects extending well into the 20th century and beyond. It consisted of a radical social, political, and religious upheaval due to a civil war between the Qing government and the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom, a rebel government led by Hong Xiuquan that attempted to overthrow the Qing dynasty. Beginning in 1850, the rebellion lasted around 14 years until 1864 and resulted in the estimated death of 20 million people.

Prior to the rebellion, China was undergoing a rough combination of problems. Chief among these was the first Opium War (1839-42), which was a conflict between China and Great Britain over the opium trade within China. The British and other foreigners had been illegally exporting opium to



China since the 18th century, but trade increased dramatically around 1820. The illegal sale of opium within China caused widespread addiction and tanked the Chinese economy. Due to the overwhelming import of Opium and a decrease in China's traditional exports of porcelain and the like, a large trade imbalance between China and Britain developed. To finance this difference the Chinese government began trading silver; however, this led to a British monopoly on the Chinese supply of silver, further worsening the already dire economic state as deflation began. Ultimately, this led to the inability of the government to tax its citizens adequately and the state of the country declined. Eventually fighting broke out between the two nations due to this conflict, but



the superior British forces won, eventually capturing Nanjing. In the subsequent Treaty of Nanjing, China ceded Hong Kong, several ports (including Shanghai), and other privileges to the British. This conflict began the “Century of Humiliation” for China, characterized by foreign

intervention, subjugation, and struggle for the Qing government.

Adding to the burden caused by the First Opium War, China also experienced natural disasters, famine, and other examples of foreign intervention. This further weakened the Qing government and its hold on the regional authorities and governments. Resulting from this was an increase in banditry and small-scale warfare and the increased prevalence and dominance of local clans in Southern China. Adding to this, China experienced several economic crises, as the population boomed (doubling between 1766 and 1833) and the amount of land cultivated remained stagnant. Reacting to this and the numerous problems it faced, the Qing government opted to raise taxes, leading to rents rising and many other issues.

Beyond external issues, the Qing government also faced many internal problems as well. Corruption ran rampant within the government, specifically with the filling of government positions. Nepotism was widely followed, with many unqualified individuals acquiring important positions in national and local government due to familial connections. Additionally, patronage was also heavily utilized, with higher government officials appointing those loyal to those to lower positions. This often led to many illicit activities being unregulated, as the government

took a blind eye to the crimes of their supporters. Finally, in combination with embezzlement and bribery, to support the dire economic state many government positions were auctioned off to cover the growing expenses. The result of all these actions was an ineffectual government and widespread distrust by the general public.

Establishment of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom

The roots of the rebellion, however, are traced to Hong Xiuquan. In 1837, after failing to become a government official for a third time, he experienced a multi-day delirium which included seeing an old man with a golden beard who gave Hong a sword to eradicate the evil demons and bad spirits that overran the world and a younger, middle-aged man who helped me carry out this objective. Still, it was not until 1843 that Hong re-examined this vision. After

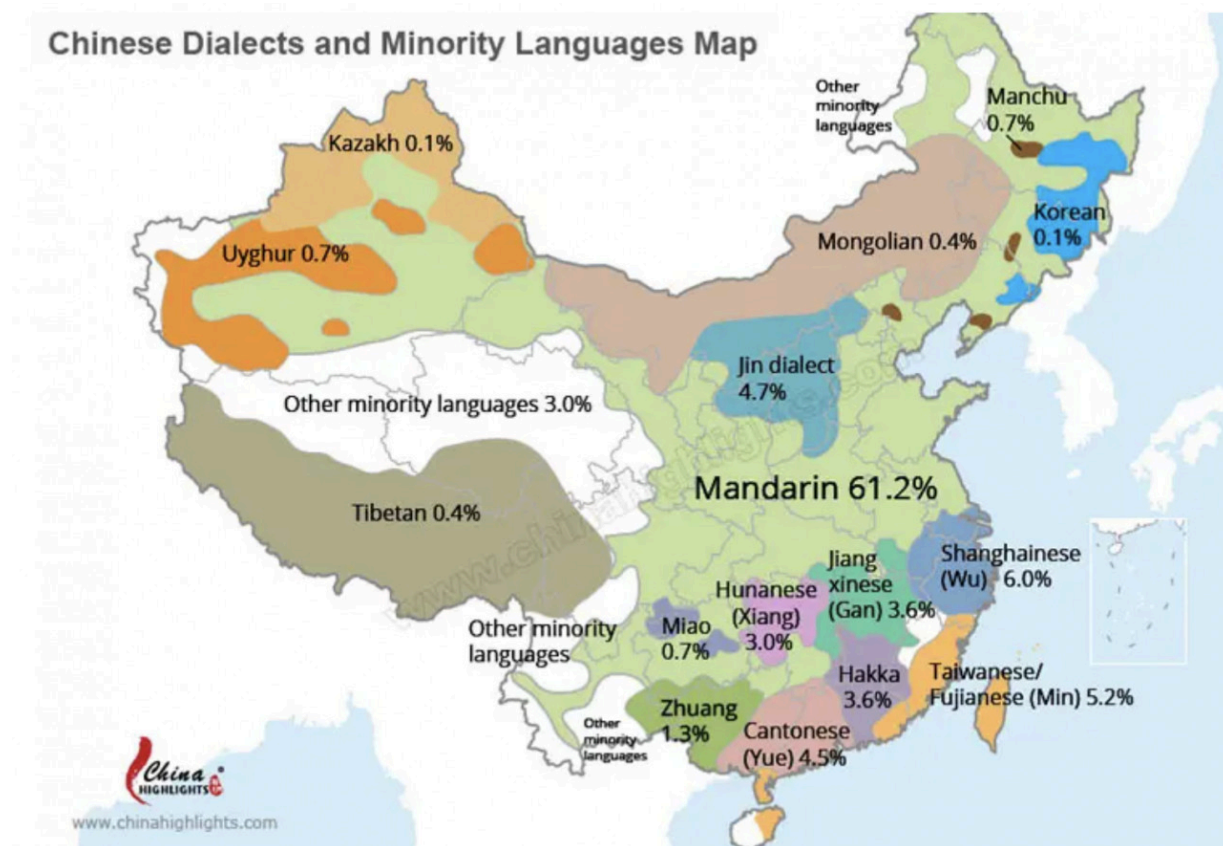


reading a book on the basics of Christianity, Hong believed that during this vision he had been transported to Heaven and the old man had been God with the younger man being Jesus Christ. This realization prompted his conversion to Christianity.

Taking on the objective of spreading Christianity and his vision, he forwarded his ideas to his friends and family. Among these friends was Feng Yunshan, who accompanied him on his

mission trip to the province of Guangxi. Following this trip, Feng established the God Worshippers' Society (Baishangdi Hui), an organization devoted to the teaching of Hong Xiquan.

Hong continued his journey and studied Christianity further in 1847 in Guangzhou. Here, Hong solidified many of the tenets of his teaching. He emphasized the wrathful God of the Old Testament, demanding worship and obedience, ignoring the New Testament's teaching of kindness and forgiveness. He also vilified the practices of gambling, smoking, and other "evil activities." He also labeled much of the culture present in China as evil or demonic in origin. Beyond this, he preached equality between men and women and also ideas of equal distribution of land. Important to note, Hong was ethnically Hakka, a southern population group, as opposed to Manchu, which was a northern ethnic minority that ruled the Qing government.



Following this experience, he rejoined Feng and the God Worshippers, accepting the role of leading the new group. Due to the problems the Qing government was facing, many of those who lived in the Chinese countryside experienced horrible conditions, leading to anti-Qing sentiment. Hoping to utilize this sentiment, Hong and Feng plotted to rebel against the government, beginning in July of 1850. The rebellion gradually grew throughout the remainder of the year and on Jan. 1st, 1851, Hong proclaimed a new dynasty—the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom (Taiping Tianguo). Hong also assumed the role and title of Heavenly King (Tianwang).

The Taiping Rebellion

Following Hong's establishment of the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom and his assumption of the title of Heavenly King, the Taipings continued their advances, pressing north into the Yangtze River valley. During this campaign, many of the towns they entered joined them willingly, growing their ranks from a couple thousand to more than a million. This growth was primarily due to the weakness of the Qing government, especially in the south, the attractability of Hong's movement to the hungry peasants due to its policy of communal property sharing, and a large amount of propaganda.

Under the new government, Hong established a hierarchy of multiple kings, each

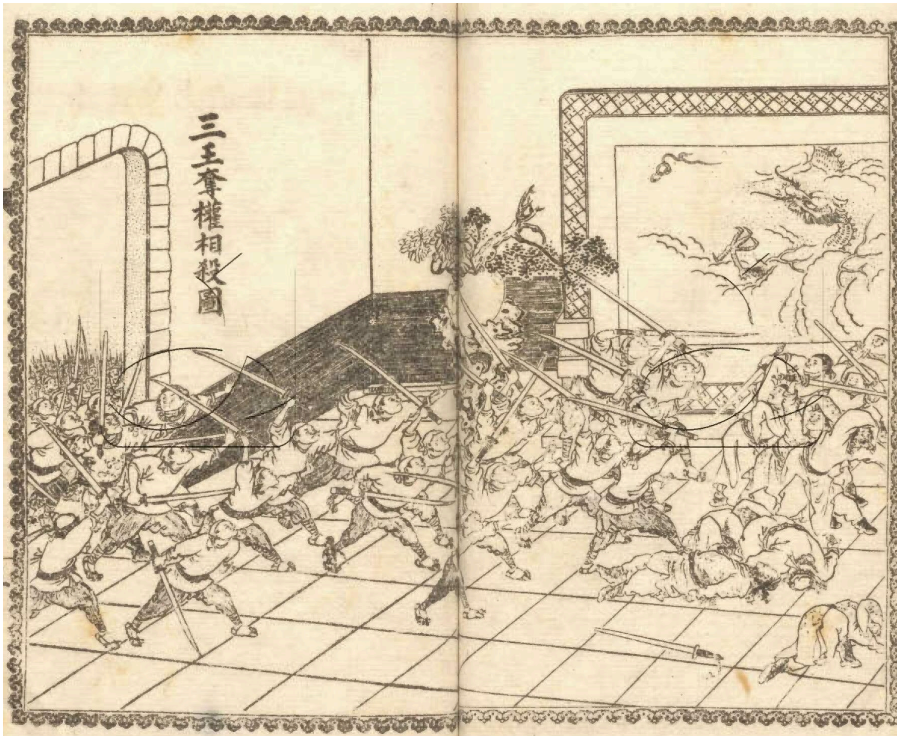


corresponding to a cardinal direction: East King (Yang Xiuqing), South King (Feng Yunshan), West King (Xiao Chaogui), and North King (Wei Changhui). Later, other kings were added such as the Wing/Yi King (Shi Dakai) as well as princes and other royalty titles. These kings served as the primary hierarchy of the new Taiping government, however, they often fought leading to great instability.

Following many smaller movements, the Taiping's advances continued, eventually taking the city of Nanjing on March 10, 1853. The city was renamed to Tianjing, meaning Heavenly Capital, with this becoming the base of operation for the Taiping Government. Yet, they continued further northward, with Hong Xiquan and Yang Xiuqing now aiming to capture the capital city of Beijing. This expedition failed, but the Taipings won greatly in other places, solidifying the movement.

Tianjin Incident, Shanghai, and Defeat

In 1856, the rebel government was shocked by the Tianjin Incident, leading to the death of multiple high-level officials. Specifically, Yang Xiquing (East King) became the defacto military advisor to Hong Xiquan and claimed that like Hong, he too could communicate with God. He abused this supposed power as evidenced by his demotion of Shi Dakai from Wing/Yi King and ordered flogging of him. This culminated with his request for the title "Lord of Ten Thousand Years" which would place him above Hong Xiquan, Hong subsequently labeled this as treason and had Wei Changhui (North King) and Qin Ragang (King of Yen) murder Yang's family and followers. Following this bloodshed, Shi Dakai arrived and blamed Wei for the events that transpired. This led to Wei calling Shi a traitor, who then fled as Wei and Qin killed Shi's



family as well. Finally, to end the instability and infighting, Hong Xiquan had Wei and Qi both executed for their plot to kill Shi. In the end, Yang, Wei, and Qin were killed and Hong's trust in his government officials was shaken, leading to him only relying on his family for military strategy.

Following Tianjin, the

Taiping government tried to continue to expand, eventually attempting to take Shanghai. In this assault, the commanders of the Taiping military allow foreigners into the city believing them not to be a threat, instead hoping to trade. However, the foreigners established militias such as the "Ever-Victorious Army" led by Frederick Townsend Ward and Charles George Gordon which kicked the Taiping out of Shanghai. This was a watershed moment in the conflict, as the Taiping were on the defensive for the rest of the war following Shanghai. Furthermore, finally alienated by Hong's radical anti-Confucius principles, many left the cause, instead joining Zeng Guofan.

In 1862, Zeng surrounded Nanjing, the Taiping capital, and began a siege. After two years, Hong Xiquan committed suicide, leaving control to his 15-year-old son in charge. A month later Nanjing fell and the official rebellion was over. However, sporadic resistance to the imperial government continued until 1868.

Start/Flow of Committee

Committee is set to start on January 11th, 1851 - the day Hong Xiquan declared himself Heavenly King. The Qing government still remains weak, with several rebellions across China chief among them the Taiping and Nian Rebellions. The battleground is set in the province of Guangxi. The God Worshipping Society has converted ~10,000-30,000 and has quickly divided them into military formations with marshalls, divisional marshalls, brigade marshals, infantry chiefs, majors, company leaders, and soldiers. In opposition, the Qing imperial army in Guangxi remains divided with around 30,000 troops, mainly occupied with the Tiandihui's rebellion in the region, allowing the rebels relative freedom to grow their ranks and plan.

To start the war, Qing troops moved to surround one of Hong Xiuquan's residences and eradicate the rebels within. However, reinforcements arrived and alleviated those inside. Soon after, the Qing again attacked, this time on Jintian proper. Yet the rebels had anticipated the attack, they ambushed the troops five miles out, defeating them. This is the start of committee, with one brief skirmish being won by the rebels. Jintian, Guangxi, and China at large are still undecided.

Throughout the day and both committee sessions, we will continue the war as dictated by the flow of committee, so not everything represented by history may come to pass (so don't worry if your character dies early in real life). Instead, some events may take precedence over others due to the directives or crisis notes passed in both committee rooms. Additionally, the outcome of the committee is irrelevant to the actual ending of the war, either side may win or a mutual peace may occur. However, please do utilize actual history as a guideline for what may happen.

Timeline

Late 18th Century - Early 19th Century: Economic and Social Strain

Late 1700s - Early 1800s: China experiences rapid population growth, leading to overpopulation, land scarcity, and increased competition for resources. The Qing government struggles to address the economic needs of its growing population, leading to widespread poverty and social discontent.

1800-1839: Rise of Opium Trade and Social Unrest

Early 1800s: The British East India Company expands the opium trade in China, leading to widespread addiction and a significant outflow of silver from China, destabilizing the economy.

1830s: The effects of opium addiction become more pronounced, leading to social problems, economic decline, and increased corruption within the Qing government. The government's attempts to ban opium are largely ineffective due to widespread corruption and the involvement of foreign powers.

1839-1842: First Opium War

1839: The Qing government, under Commissioner Lin Zexu, takes decisive action against the opium trade by confiscating and destroying large quantities of opium in Canton (Guangzhou). This act triggers the First Opium War between China and Britain.

1842: The First Opium War ends with the Treaty of Nanking. China is forced to cede Hong Kong to Britain, pay a large indemnity, open five treaty ports to foreign trade, and grant extraterritorial rights to British citizens. This defeat humiliates the Qing dynasty and exposes its weaknesses.

1843-1849: Growing Foreign Influence and Internal Strife

1843: The Treaty of the Bogue extends more privileges to British traders, further entrenching foreign influence in China. Other Western powers, including France and the United States, sign similar treaties, leading to increased foreign presence and economic exploitation.

1840s: The Qing dynasty faces mounting internal challenges, including peasant uprisings, banditry, and ethnic tensions. The government struggles to maintain control and address the growing discontent among the population.

1847: Hong Xiuquan, who had failed the imperial examinations multiple times, begins preaching his unique Christian-inspired beliefs, claiming to be the younger brother of Jesus Christ. He starts gaining followers, particularly among the Hakka ethnic group and other disaffected communities.

1850: Outbreak of the Taiping Rebellion January

1850: Hong Xiuquan and his followers, known as the God Worshippers, launch a rebellion in Guangxi province. This marks the beginning of the Taiping Rebellion, a massive civil war that would engulf much of China over the next 14 years.

Topic A: Suppressing the Rebellion

Every revolution throughout history has been led by the working class gaining a consciousness, it is the definition and the heart of a revolution itself. As such, the fastest and most effective way to suppress a rebellion is to withdraw the power from the people.

In order to prevent the Taiping rebellion from expanding any further, it is imperative for the Qing dynasty to identify and target the roots of the growing self-determination in the common folk.

Essential Groups (in order of Most to Least Influential)

1. Religious Minority (Hakka People)

Majority of the leadership in the Taiping Rebellion belonged to the Hakka People, especially noteworthy is Hong Xiuquan, the main leader and self proclaimed “brother of Jesus Christ”. In the late 18th century, land in South China (where the Hakka People had been living) became scarce, this led to frequent land disputes and even fights with the local population. These local fights are sometimes cited as the initial start of the Taiping Rebellion.

Main Role: Early Leadership, ideological cohesion, and large source of manpower.

2. Dispossessed Peasants

Part of the larger group of dissatisfied citizens, peasants affected by the Qing dynasty policies were often displaced from their homes, or if not displaced, they are still struggling to make ends meet.

Main Role: Majority of the fighting forces and key to the expansion of the rebellion

3. Miners

Because of occupational organization and team work skills, miners became a large help in recruitment and strategic operations.

Main Role: Key role in early recruitment and military operations.

4. Urban Poor

As part of major city populations, urban poor helped to maintain and gather more support in urban areas, where support may be lacking due to the presence of government officials.

Main role: Logistical support; helps maintain occupied cities.

5. Bandits and Secret Societies

As a smaller branch from the peasants, most religious societies were formed by a member base of peasants. Feng Yunshan, a close friend of Hong Xiuquan created one such religious group, the God Worshippers' Society (Bai Shangdi Hui), which he formed among the impoverished peasants of Guangxi province.

Main Role: Supported recruitment and helped destabilize Qing control in certain areas

6. Artisans and Craftspeople

Artisans helped to supply the makeshift armies of the rebellion with homemade weapons and other necessary supplies.

Main Role: Provides Supplies.

7. Migrants and Day Laborers

Similar to the urban poor, migrants and day laborers helped to maintain support for the rebellion within the population. Unlike the urban poor, migrants and day laborers secured support along rural trade routes and travel locations.

Main Role: Support in cities and along trade routes.

8. Educated Discontents

Though very small, a select group of educated middle and upper class individuals who agreed with the rebellion philosophy helped to fill in administrative roles.

Main Role: Shaped and articulated the rebellion's policies and ideology.

Utilizing information surrounding these main groups, delegates are expected to collaborate with one another to create logical solutions to help suppress the growing feeling of civilian authority.

Questions to Consider

- How can policies be utilized to inhibit the gathering of civilians?
- What steps, if any, can be taken as preventative measures to protect governmental power?
- What role can your position play in formulating or executing strategies to reallocate civilian power to members of the Qing dynasty?

Topic B: Reforming Governmental Policy

As part of the current dynasty, your main goal will be to regain power over the areas annexed by the rebellion.

However, the best way to cover a weakness is by first knowing your weakness. This is why it's important to look holistically at the abilities of the current Qing Dynasty.

Weaknesses

Economic inequality and corruption

rapid population growth during the Qing era exacerbated land scarcity and poverty, particularly in rural areas. heavy Taxation and widespread corruption further deep in the economic divide between the elite and the peasantry. These conditions fueled dissatisfaction and social unrest among the lower classes. inequality also weakened the change ability to respond effectively to crises.

Ethnic Tensions

The Manchu rulers of the Qing dynasty, a minority group, often faced resentment from the Han Chinese majority. Despite adopting Confucian Traditions to legitimize the rule, deep-seated ethnic divisions persisted. discrimination against their ethnic minorities, such as the Zhuang and Miao, further strained relationships in Frontier regions. These tensions contributed to localized uprisings and distress in the central government.

Military and technological stagnation

By the 19th century, the Qing military was outdated and poorly equipped compared to Western powers. The eight Banner system, once a symbol of strength, had become ceremonial and ineffective. defeats in the Opium Wars exposed the dynasty's military vulnerabilities. This decline weakened the Qing's ability to suppress internal rebellions.

Vulnerability to foreign intervention

The defeat in the Opium Wars and subsequent unequal treaties forced the Qing to cede territory, open ports, and allow extraterritorial privileges to foreigners. These losses highlighted the dynasty's inability to protect China from foreign exploitation. The influx of opium further destabilized the economy and society, creating widespread resentment. This external pressure undermined the Qing's legitimacy and authority.

Isolationism

The Qing dynasty's reluctance to modernize and engage with industrialized nations left China technologically and economically behind. The rejection of foreign innovations stifled progress and made the Empire more susceptible to external threats. This isolationist stance limited the Qing's ability to adapt to a rapidly changing world.

Strengths

Centralized administration

The Qing Dynasty maintained a highly organized and centralized bureaucratic system rooted in Confucian principles. The Civil Service examination system insured a pool of highly educated officials who governed local and provincial areas. The structure allowed for effective tax collection and administrative oversight over China's vast territory. However, this system was vulnerable to corruption and inefficiency over time.

Agricultural stability

China's economy was predominantly agricultural with advanced irrigation systems and farming techniques supporting a growing population. The introduction of New World crops like

sweet potatoes and Maize bolstered food security partially and marginal lands. This agricultural stability underpinned the Ching's ability to govern and sustain its population. Still, Rising population pressures eventually outpaced agricultural productivity.

Cultural and ideological legitimacy

The Qing rulers solidified their legitimacy by adopting Confucian values and practices, appealing to the Han Chinese elite. They initiated Grand cultural projects, such as compiling the complete library of the four treasures, to position themselves as guardians of Chinese heritage. this cultural integration helps to temper initial ethnic tensions between the Manchu rulers and the Han majority

Historical Military strength

Early in its rule, the Ching Dynasty demonstrated formidable military strength through the eight Banner system and the green standard army. These forces were instrumental in consolidating the Empire and suppressing internal rebellions. However, the military's effectiveness waned over time due to outdated strategies and inefficient modernization.

In addition to looking at the strengths and weaknesses of the dynasty itself it's also important to keep in mind the resources available to the Dynasty and the committee while we are in session. You are free to use any resources that are available to your position. That being said, I look forward to seeing the creative solutions that you will come up with in committee!

Questions to Consider

How can known flaws be utilized or reworked to improve the dynasty?

What role does your position play in shaping government efficiency?

What are the best strategies to improve weaknesses using the least amount of resources?

Position Descriptions

Important Note - The dias is aware that not all positions were involved in the conflict from the start date of committee, and that most had evolving roles throughout its twelve years. Thus, please act as if your position is already in their most prominent office/position at the start of committee. The titles held by characters are merely a baseline for delegates to work off of. From there, be creative!

Emperor Wenzong of Qing - The emperor, also known as the Xianfeng Emperor, is the ninth emperor of the Qing Dynasty. He assumed the throne in 1850, inheriting power in a tumultuous time in China. Only a few months after his ascension, the Taiping Rebellion began. He is young and inexperienced, and easily influenced by his advisors whom he trusts. The Xianfeng Emperor is an indulgent man who faces threats from Russia, the Taiping Rebels, and the Nian Rebels, testing his authority on all sides.

Empress Dowager Cixi - The empress began her life in the Qing court as a concubine. Through an exhaustive selection process, she was eventually chosen by Emperor Wenzong an imperial consort around the start of the Taiping Rebellion. She quickly rose through the ranks of the court, even giving birth to a son with the emperor. She was known for her reading and writing abilities, resulting in her having a lot of influence over the emperor. He may be the one running the country on paper, but Dowager Cixi is often the one making decisions behind the scenes. **Although historical accounts vary, Dowager Cixi and Dowager Ci'an will serve as co-empresses for the purposes of this committee.**

Empress Dowager Ci'an - Dowager Cixi's peer, Dowager Ci'an began her time in the Qing court as Lady Niohuru. She quickly became a high-ranking figure, eventually earning the title of empress. Although not without power, Dowager Ci'an had a much different relationship with the emperor. Rather than being one of his closest advisors, she was given the duty of raising his child (whose birth mother was Dowager Cixi). Throughout her time in Beijing, she had a much more behind-the-scenes role, having a large influence on daily life at the court. **Although historical accounts vary, Dowager Cixi and Dowager Ci'an will serve as co-empresses for the purposes of this committee.**

Zeng Guofan - Born in Hunan Province, Zeng Guofan initially gained recognition through his performance on imperial civil service exams and his deep Confucian scholarship. When the Taiping forces posed a serious threat to the Qing government, Zeng led the military response. He formed and commanded the Xiang Army, which became instrumental in defeating the Taiping forces, culminating in the capture of their capital, Nanjing, in 1864. He is very well-respected by most of his peers as a great military mind and leader.

Sengge Rinchen - A member of the Mongol aristocracy, Sengge Rinchen was appointed as the governor-general of Zhejiang and Fujian provinces during the rebellion. He played a crucial role in coordinating Qing military efforts to defend these southern regions from the Taiping forces, who were rapidly advancing. He led campaigns to protect key cities and supported the broader Qing strategy alongside other commanders like Zeng Guofan.

Guanwen - Guanwen (also known as Guan Wen) was an officer in the Qing forces and served under commanders such as Zeng Guofan, contributing to efforts against the Taiping insurgents. He was part of the regional military forces that worked to defend key cities and engage Taiping forces in the southern provinces. While not as widely known as some of the other key figures in the rebellion, his contributions as a military leader helped support the broader Qing efforts to defeat the Taiping rebels.

Li Hongzhang - Although he was not initially involved in the early battles, he became a key figure in the later stages of the war. As the rebellion threatened the stability of the Qing government, Li, a disciple of Zeng Guofan, was tasked with organizing and leading the Huai Army, a regional militia modeled after Zeng's Xiang Army. His forces played a decisive role in recapturing key cities from the Taiping forces, particularly in eastern China. Li's military success not only helped bring an end to the rebellion but also solidified his reputation, leading to his later prominence in Qing politics and diplomacy. He was known for his efficiency as a military leader and his speaking skills.

Luo Bingzhang - As a provincial governor and a key ally of Zeng Guofan, Luo contributed to the organization and leadership of anti-Taiping forces, particularly in Hunan and Jiangxi. He was instrumental in mobilizing local militias and coordinating military campaigns against the Taiping forces, working closely with the Xiang Army to reclaim lost territories. His strategic efforts were crucial in cutting off Taiping supply lines and weakening their strongholds. Beyond his military role, Luo also played a part in the Qing court, serving as a prominent and well-respected official.

Jirhangga - As an experienced commander, Jirhangga was entrusted with leading Qing imperial forces in battles against the Taiping rebels. In 1858, he was appointed as the governor-general of Liangjiang, a critical region in the fight against the rebellion. Jirhangga led several offensives to reclaim cities from Taiping control, but his forces often struggled against the well-entrenched rebels. In 1860, during an attempt to recapture Suzhou, a strategically important city in Jiangsu province, he suffered a significant defeat. That same year, he was killed in battle, marking a major setback for the Qing military.

Zuo Zongtang - Initially a scholar and administrator, Zuo was recruited by Zeng Guofan to assist in the Qing dynasty's efforts to quell the rebellion. He became instrumental in leading military campaigns in Zhejiang and Fujian, where he successfully recaptured key cities from Taiping control. His strategic acumen, emphasis on logistics, and ability to train disciplined troops contributed significantly to the eventual defeat of the Taiping forces. Beyond his military career, Zuo was also a respected statesman.

Zhang Guoliang - Zhang was a Manchu general and one of the leading Qing commanders tasked with defending the dynasty against the Taiping forces. He was heavily involved in military operations in Jiangsu and Zhejiang, where he commanded imperial troops in an effort to contain the rebel expansion. In 1860, he played a major role in the defense of Shanghai and Nanjing, critical strongholds in the war. However, his forces later suffered defeats at the hands of the Taiping army, particularly as the rebels launched aggressive offensives in the region.

He Chun - As a Manchu general, He Chun was responsible for leading Qing imperial forces in key battles against the Taiping rebels. He was particularly active in defending Qing-controlled territories in southern China, where the Taiping army had gained significant ground. However, like many Qing commanders of the time, he struggled against the well-organized and highly motivated Taiping forces. In 1858, during an important battle, He Chun was killed in action, marking a setback for the Qing military.

Xiang Rong - As an experienced military commander, Xiang was tasked with leading Qing forces against the rapidly expanding Taiping army. He participated in several major battles, including efforts to defend key cities in southern China, such as Nanjing and Wuhan. Despite his initial successes in pushing back rebel forces, he faced considerable challenges due to the Taiping army's superior organization and battlefield tactics. In 1856, while engaged in a prolonged siege against the Taiping stronghold of Nanjing, Xiang Rong succumbed to wounds and exhaustion, dying in the field.

Frederick Townsend Ward - Arriving in China as an adventurer, Ward was hired by Qing officials to lead a Western-trained force against the Taiping rebels. In 1860, he formed the "Ever Victorious Army," a disciplined, modernized unit composed of both foreign and Chinese troops. Ward's forces achieved significant successes, using superior weaponry, tactics, and training to reclaim key cities in Jiangsu province, including the strategic port of Shanghai. His military leadership proved crucial in bolstering Qing resistance against the Taiping forces. However, in 1862, during an attack on Cixi, Ward was mortally wounded and later died from his injuries.

Auguste Protet - Protet was a French naval officer who became involved in the defense of Shanghai during the rebellion. As the commander of French forces in China, Protet played a key role in protecting foreign settlements from the advancing Taiping rebels, who threatened European commercial and territorial interests. In 1862, when the Taiping forces launched an offensive toward Shanghai, Protet led French troops alongside British and Qing forces in a coordinated defense of the city. He was instrumental in repelling Taiping attacks and securing foreign-controlled areas. However, during a battle near the city, Protet was killed in action, making him one of the notable foreign casualties in the conflict.

Napoleon III - Concerned about protecting French commercial interests and Catholic missionary activities, Napoleon III authorized French military support for the Qing dynasty against the Taiping rebels, who were known for their anti-Manchu and anti-Catholic stance. Under his leadership, French forces, along with British troops, helped defend Shanghai and other key coastal cities from Taiping advances. Notably, French officers and soldiers participated in joint military operations with the Qing, including the defense of treaty ports and the training of the Ever Victorious Army, a Western-led force that fought against the rebels. Napoleon III's intervention in China was part of his broader imperial strategy, which sought to expand French influence in Asia while ensuring the stability of Qing rule to maintain favorable trade conditions.

Charles George Gordon - Charles George Gordon was a British commander in the "Ever Victorious Army," a force made up of both foreign and Chinese soldiers. After the death of Frederick Townsend Ward in 1862, Gordon took over leadership of the army, which had been established to assist the Qing dynasty in their fight against the Taiping rebels. Under Gordon's command, the Ever Victorious Army achieved significant successes, particularly in campaigns to recapture key cities in Jiangsu and Zhejiang provinces. Gordon's leadership, which combined Western military discipline with local knowledge, helped turn the tide of the rebellion in favor of the Qing forces. His reputation grew not only for his military acumen but also for his strict adherence to moral conduct.

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