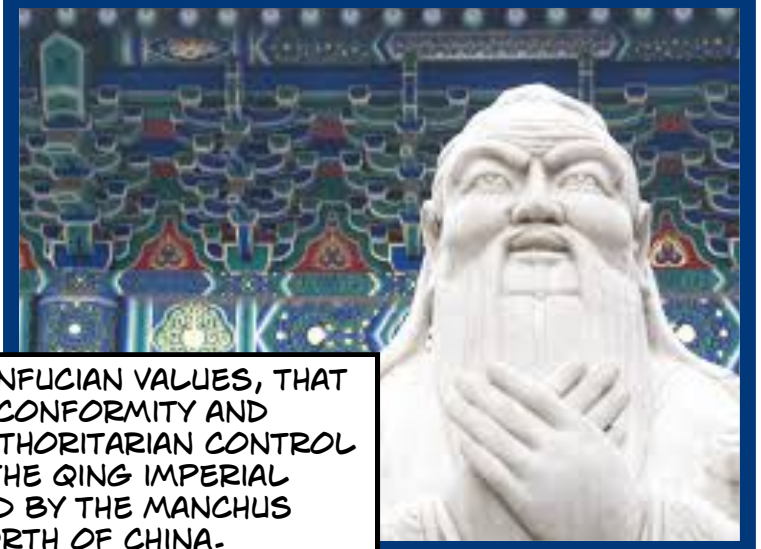
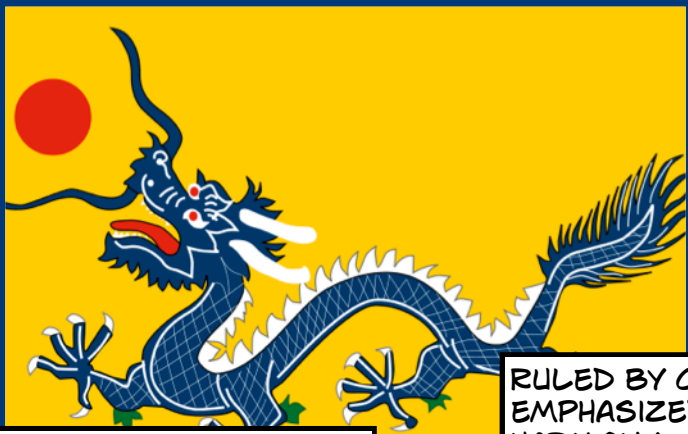


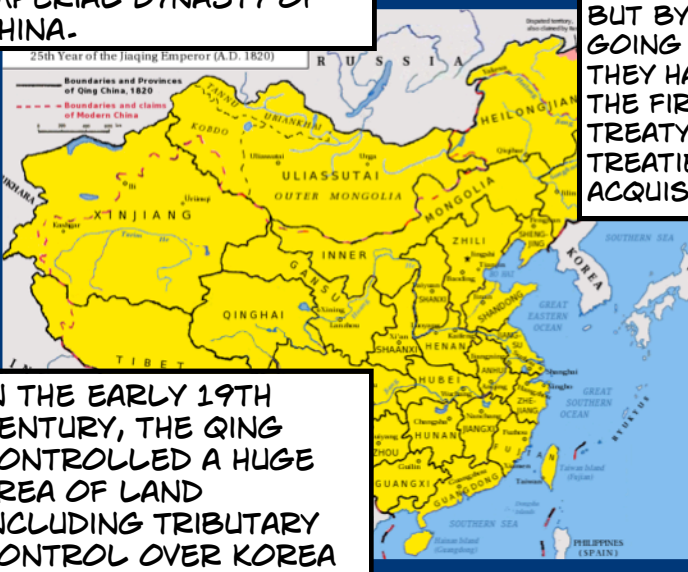
THE DECLINE OF THE QING DYNASTY BY PAUL GRACE



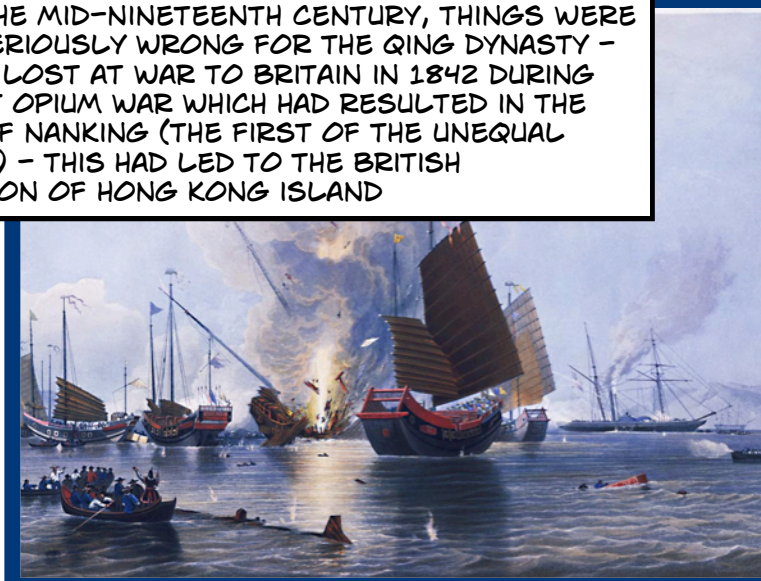
RULED BY CONFUCIAN VALUES, THAT EMPHASIZED CONFORMITY AND HARMONY. AUTHORITARIAN CONTROL CAME FROM THE QING IMPERIAL COURT, RULED BY THE MANCHUS FROM THE NORTH OF CHINA.

QING DYNASTY CHINA, A POWERFUL EMPIRE THAT RULED FROM 1644 TO 1912. THE LAST IMPERIAL DYNASTY OF CHINA.

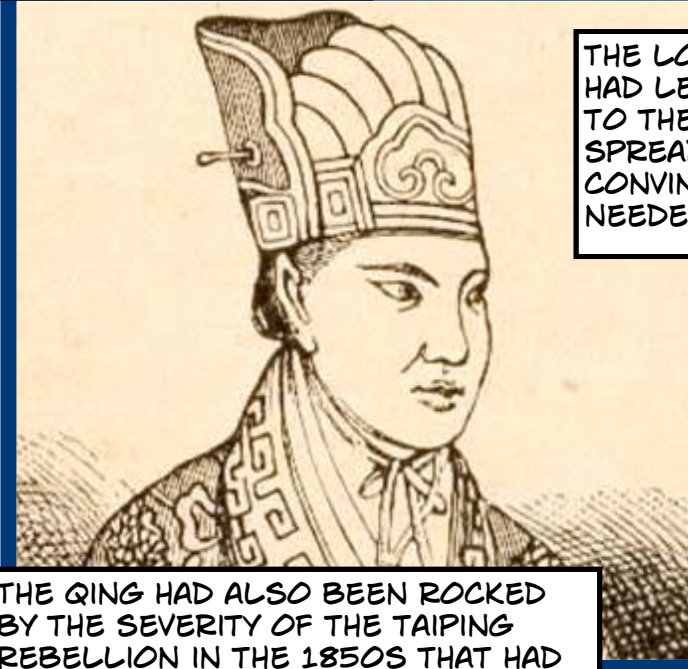
BUT BY THE MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY, THINGS WERE GOING SERIOUSLY WRONG FOR THE QING DYNASTY - THEY HAD LOST AT WAR TO BRITAIN IN 1842 DURING THE FIRST OPIUM WAR WHICH HAD RESULTED IN THE TREATY OF NANKING (THE FIRST OF THE UNEQUAL TREATIES) - THIS HAD LED TO THE BRITISH ACQUISITION OF HONG KONG ISLAND



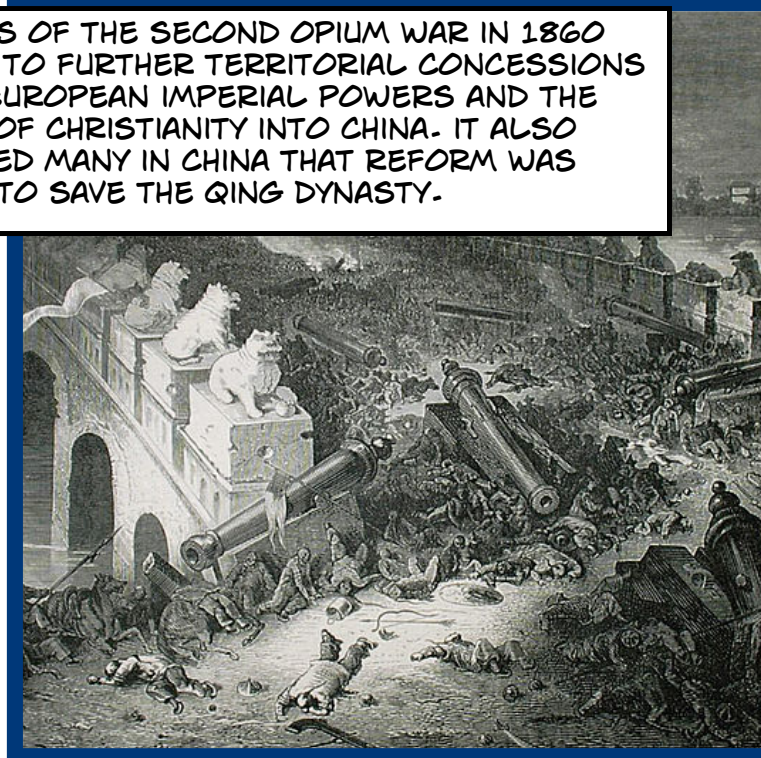
IN THE EARLY 19TH CENTURY, THE QING CONTROLLED A HUGE AREA OF LAND INCLUDING TRIBUTARY CONTROL OVER KOREA AND VIETNAM



THE LOSS OF THE SECOND OPIUM WAR IN 1860 HAD LED TO FURTHER TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS TO THE EUROPEAN IMPERIAL POWERS AND THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY INTO CHINA. IT ALSO CONVINCED MANY IN CHINA THAT REFORM WAS NEEDED TO SAVE THE QING DYNASTY.



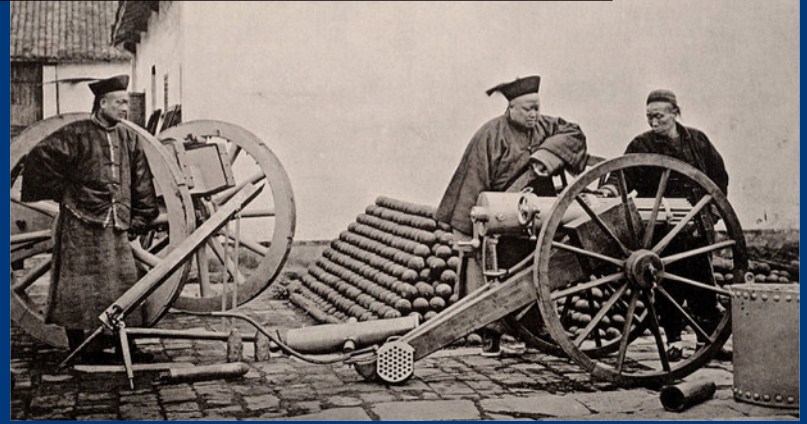
THE QING HAD ALSO BEEN ROCKED BY THE SEVERITY OF THE TAIPING REBELLION IN THE 1850S THAT HAD LEFT MILLIONS DEAD. LED BY THIS MAN, HONG XIUQUAN (WHO CLAIMED HE WAS THE YOUNGER BROTHER OF JESUS CHRIST)



"WHAT WE HAVE TO LEARN FROM THE BARBARIANS IS ONLY THE ONE THING - SOLID SHIPS AND EFFECTIVE GUNS." FENG GUIFEN



THE SELF-STRENGTHENING MOVEMENT LASTED FROM 1861-1895, MANY OF THE REFORMERS SAW THE NEED TO ADOPT NEW MILITARY AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY TO RESIST AND PREVENT FURTHER ENCROACHMENT BY OUTSIDE POWERS



REFORMERS LIKE FENG GUIFEN SAW THE NEED FOR A PROCESS OF 'SELF-STRENGTHENING'



THE QING COURT STILL DOMINATED BY CONFUCIAN AND CONSERVATIVE VALUES BACKED THE 'SELF-STRENGTHENING MOVEMENT' BUT THERE WAS LITTLE MOVE TOWARDS ANY SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CHANGES. SUBSEQUENTLY THE 'SELF-STRENGTHENING MOVEMENT' SAW SOME LOCALIZED EXAMPLES OF SUCCESS BUT FAILED TO BRING ABOUT ANY REAL CHANGE TO THE ISSUES THAT WERE BRINGING THE QING DYNASTY INTO A WEAKENED POSITION IN THE 19TH CENTURY.

IT WAS AROUND THIS TIME THAT EMPRESS DOWAGER CIXI WAS COMING INTO PROMINENCE. CIXI HAD BEEN SELECTED TO BE A CONCUBINE BY THE OLD DOWAGER KANGCI SEEN ABOVE AND BY THE EARLY 1860S HAD BECOME THE NEW EMPRESS DOWAGER AS HER SON BECAME THE TONGZHI EMPEROR.



THE JIANGNAN ARSENAL AT SHANGHAI





PROOF THAT THE SELF-STRENGTHENING MOVEMENT HAD FAILED WAS SEEN IN THE DEFEAT OF CHINA BY JAPAN IN 1895. JAPAN HAD UNDERGONE MORE FAR REACHING CHANGES UNDER THE MEIJI ERA WHILE THE SELF-STRENGTHENING MOVEMENT HAD NOT GONE FAR ENOUGH



THE LOSS OF THE WAR LED TO THE TREATY OF SHIMONOSEKI. CHINA LOST TRIBUTARY CONTROL OVER KOREA, HAD TO PAY HUGE SUMS OF MONEY TO JAPAN. TAIWAN BECAME PART OF JAPAN'S EMPIRE

IT WAS ALSO ONE OF THE TRIGGERS FOR THE SO-CALLED 'SCRAMBLE FOR CONCESSIONS' WHERE EUROPEAN IMPERIAL POWER GAINED FURTHER TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS IN CHINA - THIS INCLUDED THE NEW TERRITORIES TO THE UK AND QINGDAO TO GERMANY



THIS STIMULATED THE FAR MORE REFORM MINDED GUANGXU EMPEROR TO PROPOSE THE '100 DAYS REFORM' - STRONGLY ADVOCATED BY KANG YOUWEI. AFTER THE DEATH OF THE TONGZHI EMPEROR IN 1875, CIXI HAD PLACED HER NEPHEW GUANGXU INTO POWER, THIS HAD BROKEN WITH IMPERIAL TRADITION.



THE '100 DAYS REFORM' MOVEMENT WAS ABRUPTLY STOPPED ON THE ORDERS OF EMPRESS DOWAGER CIXI WHO SUPPOSEDLY PLACED GUANGXU UNDER HOUSE ARREST FROM 1898 UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1908. THE REFORMS WERE TOO FAR REACHING FOR THE CONSERVATIVE NATURE OF THE QING IMPERIAL COURT



ANTI-FOREIGN AND ANTI-CHRISTIAN FEELING HAD BEEN GROWING IN THE LATER HALF OF THE 19TH CENTURY AND IT EXPLODED IN THE FORM OF THE BOXER REBELLION WHICH BEGAN IN 1900 IN SHANDONG PROVINCE. THE BOXERS USED TRADITIONAL MARTIAL ARTS AGAINST CHINESE CHRISTIANS AND FOREIGNERS, LEADING TO MANY DEATHS.

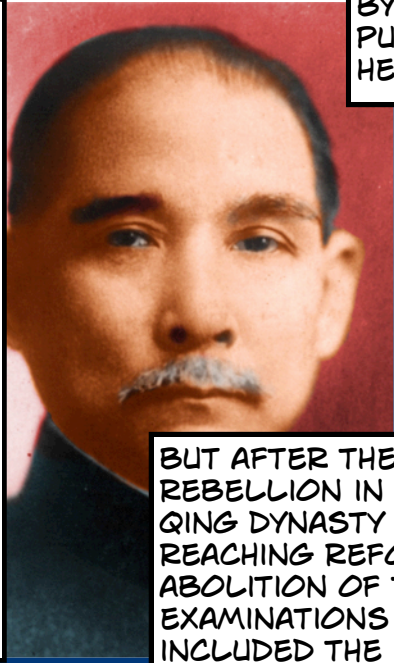
THE INTERNATIONAL REACTION TO THE BOXER REBELLION WAS SWIFT WITH A COMBINED INTERNATIONAL ARMY CALLED THE 8 NATION ALLIANCE THAT WENT INTO CHINA'S HINTERLAND TO DEFEAT THE BOXERS



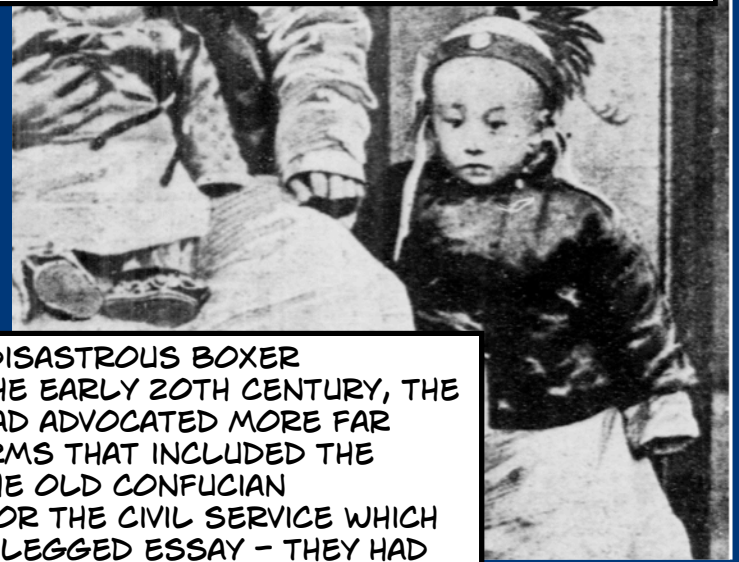
THE BOXER PROTOCOL WAS SIGNED IN 1901 AND LED TO INCREASED CONTROL OF THE FOREIGN POWERS IN CHINA INCLUDING THE ABILITY TO STATION TROOPS IN BEIJING. IT ALSO INCLUDED VERY HIGH FINES TO BE PAID TO THE DIFFERENT NATIONS OF THE ALLIANCE AND WEAKENED CIXI'S POSITION CONSIDERABLY.



IT WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY OBVIOUS TO MANY CHINESE. THAT THE QING DYNASTY NEEDED TO BE REFORMED COMPLETELY. MANY OVERSEAS CHINESE, INCLUDING SUN YATSEN, HAD LEARNT OF NEW POLITICAL SYSTEMS OF GOVERNANCE THAT SEEMED APPEALING AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO IMPERIAL DYNASTIC RULE.



BY 1908, BOTH CIXI AND GUANGXU HAD DIED. PUYI TOOK THE THRONE AS THE LAST EMPEROR HE WAS ONLY A SMALL CHILD AT THE TIME



BUT AFTER THE DISASTROUS BOXER REBELLION IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY, THE QING DYNASTY HAD ADVOCATED MORE FAR REACHING REFORMS THAT INCLUDED THE ABOLITION OF THE OLD CONFUCIAN EXAMINATIONS FOR THE CIVIL SERVICE WHICH INCLUDED THE 8 LEGGED ESSAY - THEY HAD ALSO BANNED SOME OF THE MORE DRACONIAN PUNISHMENTS INCLUDING 'DEATH BY SLOW SLICING'



THE LATE QING REFORMS CAME TOO LATE TO SAVE THE DYNASTY THOUGH. REVOLUTION CAME IN 1911 AS A SERIES OF LOCALIZED PROTESTS WITH THE WUCHANG UPRISING BEING THE PIVOTAL MOMENT OF THE SUCCESS OF THE REVOLUTION. IT WAS A CULMINATION OF MANY OF THE ISSUES FACING THE QING DYNASTY IN ITS SLOW DECLINE THROUGH THE LATE 19TH CENTURY



THE IMPERIAL DYNASTY WAS REPLACED WITH A REPUBLICAN SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WITH MILITARY STRONGMAN YUAN SHIKAI AT THE HEAD. HOWEVER ITS SUCCESS WAS SHORT-LIVED AND BY 1916 CHINA HAD FALLEN INTO REGIONALISM AND WARLORD CONTROL

"OUR GREATEST GLORY IS NOT IN NEVER FALLING, BUT IN RISING EVERY TIME WE FALL." CONFUCIUS