Strangers at the Gate

Opium and the Opium War

- China has no desire to organize trade on the European model – what was the story after?
- Social life of opium in China: for medical purpose; in 18th century, smoke pure opium sap in a pipe to relieve physical and emotional pain but addictive.
- In India, British invested in the manufacture and distribution of opium seeing its sale as a way to solve the problem of their balance of payments with China. (200 chests in 1729; 1,000 chests in 1767; 4,500 by 1800; 10,000 by 1825; 40,000 in 1828).

Opium Smokers

Calcutta: private merchants smuggling opium Southern China: smuggling and smoking ■ 1800-1818: Chinese private merchants Macao --- "fast boats" --- through Canton --- inland --- along the sea coast --- inland (Suzhou, 100,000 smokers around the time) Smokers: not only nobles, high officials, but also lower gentry class, soldiers Why? After 1819, more opium harvest, competition lowered the cost.

Balance of Trade

- 18th century: tea, porcelain, silk --- first ten years of the 19th century, 26 million income
- 1828-1836, 38 million outflow from China
- In 1830, at least 4 million pounds were transferred from India to England -----
 - Using the rest of profits:
 - A. to buy more opium to sell to Chinese; B. to buy tea back to England to sell

To Suppress Opium

- Chinese officials wanted to control the situation, *i.e.* moralists
- In 1820, Ruan Yuan put 16 Chinese (Cantonese) merchants who smuggled opium trade into jail.
- However, 1822-1830 the trading still reached its peak time 18,760 chests.
- Why? (waterways, opium transportation, bribes)
- 1839 Daoguang Emperor sent an incorrupt Imperial Commissioner, Lin Zexu, to compel foreign traders to stop opium.

- Daoguang Emperor and the debate supported the suppressing movement of opium smoking and trading
 1837, 2000 Chinese merchants who participated the opium smuggling were put into jail
 1838, those who smoked opium will be put into jail.
- Question: how do you know who are smokers?
- 1838, Lin Zexu, a moralist, and his proposal of "moral value" --"moral advice to Queen Victoria" 1839.

Attitude to the war

The British

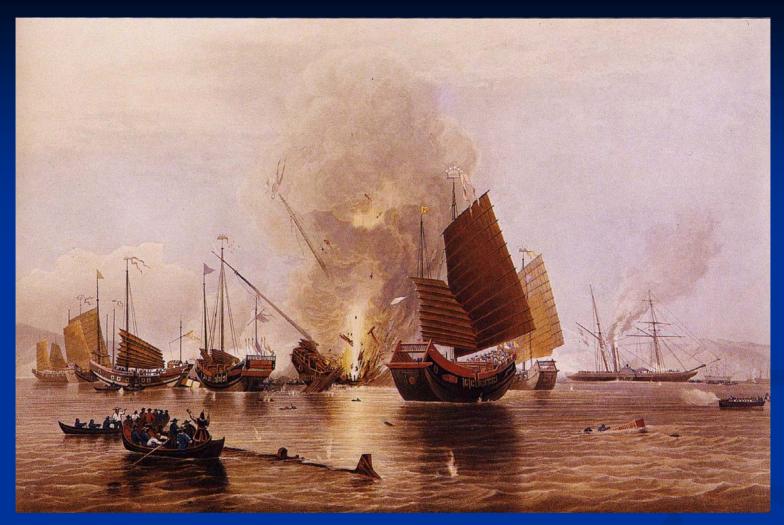
 Before the industry revolution --- to buy something from the east;

After the industry revolution --- to look for a market
 In their own country, a parliament debate whether to abandon EIC monopoly --- "free trading"

The Chinese – what did Lin Zexu do as an Imperial Commissioner at Canton?

- Did the Chinese (high officials) predict that there will be a war? To win or to lose?
- Confidence:
- A. Past experience told them ...
 B. Through a war, they may teach the "barbarians"...
 C. After war, things will be back to "tributary system"
 In fact, what did the so-called "confidence" bring to the Chinese? (Example of Lin Zexu's memorial to Daoguang Emperor)

- In fact, Chinese soldiers' spears, swords, and big knives vs. The Nemesis, gunpowder and cannons.
- Chinese soldiers: Manchus, not even rigidly trained; Han-Chinese, to "sell" their service, not willing to fight (opium smokers)
- 1841, Chuanbi negotiation, a Manchu official Chi-shan replaced Lin Zexu: Hong Kong, treaty ports, indemnity, opium trade (illegal!) --- not a single one is fitted into "tributary system"
- March May 1841, the stage set for the San-yuan-li incident



The English proudly commemorated their victory in the Opium War. (Chinese wooden ships were destroyed by the Nemesis, a paddlewheel iron ship that could operated by steam).

San-yuan-li Incident

- Militia/braves and their social functions?
- Why "the people's righteousness" is considered as essential in Lin and other officials' mindset?
- What was the gentry's role in the San-yuan-li Incident? How did the people get organized during the Incident?
- What the *pao-chia (baojia)* system was? How did it work?
- The first manifestation of modern Chinese nationalism?