

[CHEAT SHEET] HUNDRED DAY REFORMS (prob not as good as Josh's soz)

Background:

- 1898
- Institutional reform in China
- Power struggle between the Prince and Cixi

Causes:

- 1) Failure of SSM→ defeat of China in the first Sino-Japanese War
 - a) Post Sino-Jap war: fear at prospect of dismemberment of China
- 2) Dissatisfaction within the Qing Court
 - a) Conservatives
 - b) Prince Guangxu and Kang Youwei
 - c) Empress Dowager Cixi

Reforms:

Educational Reforms

- 1) Replacement of 8-legged essays with essays on current affairs in the civil service exams
- 2) Western style universities established: Imperial University in Beijing
- 3) Publication of an official newspaper
- 4) Encourage the translation of Japanese and Western books

Political Reforms

- 1) Political administration
 - a) Abolish unnecessary offices and sinecures e.g governorships of Hubei, Yunan and Guangdong
 - b) Replace Six Boards with 12 administrative agencies made of trained specialists under the Bureau of Government Institutions (i.e Prince's men)
- 2) Access to the Emperor

Economic Reforms

- 1) Introduce national currency
- 2) Promote invention and development in infrastructure and agriculture

Reasons for Failure:

- 1) Opposition from Conservatives
 - a) All provincial authorities, except the Governor of Hunan, ignored Kang and the Prince's orders for reform
 - i) Aware that Cixi held the real power in court, and she was anti-reform
 - b) Board of Rites objected to new exam system
 - c) High officials believed existing Chinese system was far superior

- 2) Inexperienced reformers + radical nature of reforms
 - a) Kang had no experience in government service
 - b) Superficial and limited knowledge of West
 - i) Had only observed Westernization in the form of port cities like Hong Kong and Shanghai
 - c) Kang an idealist rather than a practical statesman
 - i) Unaware of power politics; won Prince's support as legal source of power, but ignored that Cixi held the real power to implement reforms
- 3) Cixi's coup d'etat
 - a) Cixi alarmed by reforms in education and political administration
 - i) Saw it as Prince's attempt to wrest power away from her (true tho)
 - b) September 21st 1898: raided Prince's palace, intercepted reform documents--officially came out of retirement from her summer palace
 - c) Most reforms reversed
 - i) Governorships restored
 - ii) Eight legged essays reinstated
 - iii) Closed official newspaper (criticised Cixi)
 - d) Some reforms continued
 - i) Imperial University continued
 - ii) Provincial authorities told to abolish sinecure offices

Impacts:

- 1) Cixi's return to power
 - a) Fostered anti-foreign sentiments→ eventually gave rise to Boxer Rebellion
 - b) anti-Chinese policy to punish reformers; more Manchus placed in top positions→ create anti-Qing sentiment, alienated Han Chinese
- 2) Stimulated growth of revolutionary movement
 - a) Failure showed progressive reforms from top-down not possible
 - b) More Chinese began to believe future lay in complete overthrow of the Manchus (e.g Sun Yat Sen)

Historical Arguments:

- 1) Immanuel Hsu
 - a) Reasons for failure of HDR as previously stated
- 2) Jack Gray
 - a) Prince's method of implementation angered Cixi
 - i) Not so much the reforms themselves
 - ii) Method of implementation threatened Cixi's power
 - b) Prince not completely useless; the fact that he managed to bring about the reforms at all
 - c) Empress Dowager was power hungry

- 3) Peter Zarrow
 - a) Power struggle in the court
 - i) Reforms halted because of the power struggle
 - b) Reforms were actually a success
 - i) Fact that the Late Qing Reforms were based off the HDR showed court saw merits of reform