

[CHEAT SHEET] BOXER REBELLION

Background:

-1900

-Boxer Army and the Qing Court tried to drive out Western imperialists

Cause

- 1) Strong anti-foreign sentiment
 - a) Western domination of economy threatened local livelihoods
 - i) Influx of foreign trade increased competition, local businesses went bankrupt e.g price of foreign cloth $\frac{1}{3}$ local cloth
 - ii) 5% ad valorem customs duty ruined China's protective tariff
 - iii) 1899: 69 million taels trade deficit
 - b) Christianity
 - i) Opposed traditional Chinese beliefs e.g Confucianism, Taoism
 - ii) Chinese resented the Christian missionaries who came under Western protection

Change from...

- 1) Anti-Qing sentiment
 - a) Shift in anger at China's situation from the government to the West
 - b) Nationalistic sentiments; preserve culture and heritage, remove foreign contamination

HOWEVER,

- 1) Not a total rebellion
 - a) South ignored orders from the court to rebel against the Westerners
 - i) Southern cities had thrived due to West (HK, Shanghai)
 - ii) Chinese there had good relations with the Westerners

Methods

- 1) Legitimate status
 - a) Pledged loyalty to Qing court under anti-foreign governor Yu-Hsien
 - b) Won Cixi's favour and attained court patronage
 - i) Thus had the direct political support and aid of the Qing court
 - ii) Even more significant considering Boxer Army had previously been anti-Qing
- 2) Scale of Rebellion
 - a) Cixi made attendants learn boxing from the Boxers, nobles hired them as guards
 - b) Half the regular government troops ended up joining Boxers
 - i) Intermingling of people from different social strata (Boxers primarily peasants)
 - ii) Different social groups fighting for the country together

HOWEVER

- 1) Boxers highly superstitious and ignorant
 - a) Used traditional peasant fighting styles; boxing, shadow possession
 - b) Primitive weapons: swords, lances--they shunned guns
 - c) Claimed immunity to bullets, the ability to fly
- 2) Planning and direction
 - a) Peter Zarrow: Boxer Rebellion resembled past peasant armies
 - i) No idea how to rectify China's political and social structure

Impact

- 1) Qing court signed Boxer protocol
 - a) 450 million taels compensation
 - b) Open communications between Beijing and the sea
 - i) Humiliation and loss of sovereignty of the Qing Court
 - ii) West further penetrated China; moved from South to North
 - iii) Western powers involved in China's domestic affairs, not just external affairs, for the first time
- 2) Spurred Late Qing Reforms later on