

[CHEAT SHEET] Late Qing Reforms

Background:

-1901-1911

-Result of effects of Boxer Rebellion

-Impressed by Japanese victory in Russo-Japanese War (1904)--believed it was due to their system of constitutional monarchy

Political Reforms

- 1) Abolish unnecessary positions
 - a) Abolish governorships of Yunan, Hubei and Guangdong
- 2) Create new offices
 - a) Superintendency of Political Affairs
 - b) Ministry of Foreign Offices (replace Tsung-li Yamen)

HOWEVER

- 1) Superintendency of Political Affairs: Jung-lu, a Manchu, in-charge
- 2) Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Prince Ch'ing in charge

Constitutional Reforms

- 1) 1907: Establish Bureau of Constitutional Compilation
- 2) Sept 1907: 3 officials sent to Germany, Japan and Britain to study constitutionalism
- 3) 1908: court issued an "Outline of Constitution"--a parliamentary law, and prescribed 9 year tutelage period

HOWEVER

- 1) Dowager never specified date of the promulgation of the constitution
- 2) Outline gave throne a lot of power: executive, judiciary and legislative power given to Emperor
- 3) Ultimately a tactic of procrastinating, allow Qing Court to keep power as long as possible

Military Reforms

- 1) Provincial based New Armies created
 - a) European organization: infantry, cavalry, artillery, engineering, medical
 - b) German training, modern weapons
 - c) 175,000 soldiers out of 600,000 in the New Armies

HOWEVER

- 1) Regionalism
- 2) Soldiers politically active; anti-Qing
- 3) New Armies became hotbed for reformist and revolutionary sentiments

Educational Reforms

- 1) 1905: end Confucian examination system
- 2) 1909: 1.5 million students sent to study abroad
- 3) 1907: government supported female education

HOWEVER

- 1) Destroyed future of those already in the Confucian examination system
 - a) Caused Qing to lose more support

Effects:

- 1) inflamed feelings of constitutionalism
- 2) anti-Chinese discrimination in the Qing Court
- 3) revolutionary movement
 - a) South China and overseas Chinese supported revolution and removal of the Qing Court

Reasons for failure

- 1) Anti-Chinese discrimination
 - a) Angered majority Han population
- 2) Failure to implement constitutional monarchy
 - a) Cixi had no real intention of implementing this
 - b) Outline and gestation period merely tools of procrastination
 - c) LQR no longer enough for the people
- 3) Cixi's insincerity
 - a) Openly asked officials for suggestions, but secretly disliked all things foreign
 - b) Officials thus advised against suggesting Westernized reform for fear of antagonising her