

CHINA – The Geography of European Imperialism – Spheres of Influence in China

Purpose:

Students will create a map of China identifying the various spheres of influence carved out by the Imperialist powers of Europe as well as locating geographical features of China and major cities.

Central Questions:

1. What is a sphere of influence and which nations had them in China?
2. How did the carving up of China lead to a loss of sovereignty for China?
3. What problems can this situation develop into?

Ohio Content Standards:

- Explain the global impact of imperialism and political and social reform in China
- Explain how political and economic conditions, resources, geographic locations and cultures have contributed to cooperation and conflict

Grade Level:

- 9th grade Modern World History

Time Period:

- 1 class period

Background:

- Students have been introduced to the concept of imperialism and the actions of the European powers in Africa as well as Britain's actions with the opium trade. The inability of the Chinese government to withstand pressures from Britain encourages other imperial powers to take advantage of China's weaknesses. This lesson will provide a geographical/political picture of China during this period.

Procedures:

1. The PowerPoint provides a basic discussion of western imperialism in China. Use as needed when presenting the lesson.
2. Provide students with a blank outline map of China. A blank outline map of East Asia can be found at <http://www.worldatlas.com/webimage/countrys/asia/asoutl.htm> or go to <http://www.harpercollege.edu/mhealy/mapquiz/easia/eaout.gif>
3. Provide students with a map of China that indicates the spheres of influence carved out by the imperialist countries in China as well as key cities and rivers. Textbooks may have this map. Students will create a map that indicate the following:
 - a. Spheres of influence controlled by Britain, France, Japan, Russia, and Germany.
 - b. Locate the following cities: Port Arthur, Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Zhanjiang, Macao, Qingdao, Chongqing, Weihaiwei
 - c. Locate the following: China, Japan, Russia, Korea, Manchuria, Taiwan,
 - d. Locate the following bodies of water: South China Sea, Yangtze River, Yellow Sea, Sea of Japan, Pacific Ocean, Yellow River

4. Once students have complete the map discuss the terms spheres of influence, extraterritorial rights and sovereignty.
5. With a partner or individually, have students use the three terms in a paragraph explaining how the European spheres of influence eroded Chinese sovereignty by granting foreigners extraterritorial rights. Discuss the paragraphs and have students predict what the response of the Chinese people might be to this growing situation.
6. Following the prediction exercise, have students read from their text or other source regarding the growth of nationalism in China as shown by the Boxer Rebellion. Discuss with students the impact that the Boxer Rebellion had on the Qing Dynasty and its Emperor.

Assessment:

1. Use textbook resource Historymakers: Cixi, Conservative Force. McDougall-Littell Modern World History, In-depth Resources page 69. Students will read the about Cixi and answer the three questions that follow. This selection allows students gain a better background to the Dowager Empress as well as tying together the events of this lesson. Discussion of this reading and questions would follow.