

The Treaty of Nanking (1842)

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Reason for Treaty

- The treaty was between Great Britain and the Qing Dynasty of China to resolve the First Opium War.



Canton System

- Established in 1756
- Method for Qing to control foreign trade in China
- British traders could only trade in 1 port (Canton)
- British could not trade with Chinese citizens directly
- Initially, China only allowed foreigners to trade silver



● The Thirteen Factories in Canton



Canton is now called Guangzhou ●

Silver Trade

- There was a huge demand for Chinese tea in Britain
- British silver supply couldn't pay for the amount of luxury goods from China that British citizens wanted
- Resulted in continuous trade deficits and a trade imbalance that was unfavorable to the British
- Qing hoarded silver – Inflated value of silver even higher



Opium Trade

- In 1817, China started allowing British to trade opium
- Initially good for China - allowed Britain to double tea exports, increasing Chinese tax revenue
- From 1820s through 1830s, opium trade explodes
- Reversed trade balance, silver began flowing out of China



Ending Opium Trade

- Outflow of silver was hurting Chinese economy
- In 1839, Qing Emperor appointed Lin Zexu as governor of Canton
- Lin Zexu banned sale of opium and demanded that all opium be surrendered to Chinese authorities
- Also forbid British from trading in China unless they signed a bond, under penalty of death, promising not to smuggle opium.



Start of First Opium War

- Charles Elliot, the British Superintendent of Trade in China, ordered the British community to withdraw from Canton and not sign the bond.
- Elliot wanted to uphold British free trade ideals
- 1840 – Elliot asked the governor of the Portuguese colony of Macau to allow British merchants to dock and unload goods there.
- China ordered foreigners in China not to assist British

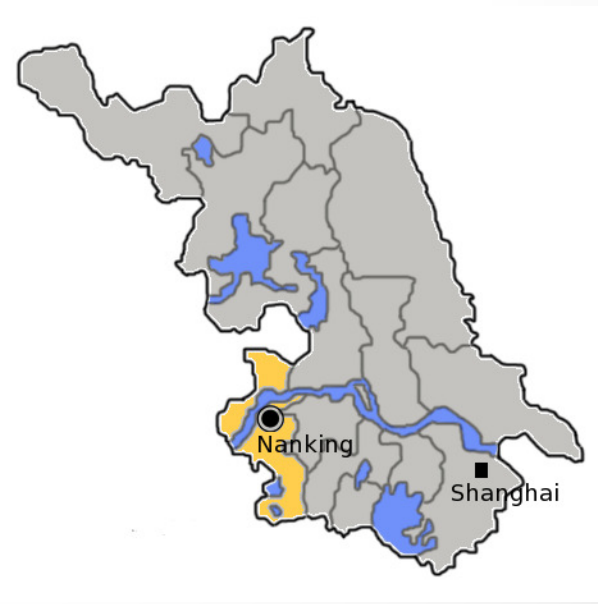


Start of First Opium War

- British Government decided to attack Guangdong (province which contained Canton)
- 1840 & 1841 - the British Navy took control of the Pearl River Delta and the surrounding territory
- 1842 – British sailed north to Yangtze River, took control of Shanghai, began fighting their way down the Yangtze
- July 1842 – British gained access to the city of Nanking, China sent representatives aboard a British warship to negotiate peace treaty



Pearl River Delta



Yangtze River

Summary at End of War

- Britain's superior Navy/weapons dominated Chinese
- Chinese casualties: 18,000 – 20,000 killed
- British casualties: 620 killed/wounded
- British warships were harbored in Nanking, prepared to attack the city
- China was also fighting wars on other fronts, protecting their vast Empire
- British had extreme leverage going into negotiations



Issues

- Peace / Withdrawal of British Troops
- Hong Kong
- Opening Ports for Trade
- Tariffs
- Money for War Reparations
- Freeing British Prisoners of War
- Punishment of Chinese who had helped British



Peace/Withdrawal of Troops

- Britain was dominating, but they would rather be making money trading with China than be at war
- China was fighting wars on other fronts, and was being crushed by Britain
- China Wanted End to War

China: 45; Britain: 10



Hong Kong

Strategically Located near Chinese Trading Ports and Portuguese colony of Macau



Britain

- Would serve as a trade base for Britain in the East
- Would provide location for British traders and their families to live

China

- China saw significance of Hong Kong's location
- Would rather concede Hong Kong than open ports

China: 15; Britain: 30



Opening Ports for Trade

- Britain had only been allowed to trade in Canton
- Britain wanted more ports opened so that they could trade more freely
- China wanted to keep ports closed because British still had not signed the anti-opium bond
- Also wanted to limit British Influence in China

China: 25; Britain: 30



Tariffs

- Britain wanted fixed tariffs
- Feared local officials would tax trade at high rates to skim profits for themselves
- China didn't really care about having fixed tariffs, but didn't want to have to enforce them

China: 3; Britain 5



Money for War Reparations

- Britain wanted 21 million silver dollars in war reparations
- They had spent a lot funding the war
- China cared more about trade issues

China: 5; Britain 10



Release of British Prisoners of War

- China had taken many traders and soldiers captive
- Did not want to give them up for free

China: 3, Britain: 10



Punishment of Chinese who had aided Britain

- Britain wanted to protect the Chinese citizens that had cooperated with them
- Britain wanted these people to continue trading with them and possibly aid them again later
- China wanted to make an example of them to discourage others from disobeying

China: 4; Britain: 5



Final Breakdown

Issue	China	Britain
Peace/ British Withdrawal	45	10
Hong Kong	15	30
Opening Ports for Trade	25	30
Tariffs	3	5
Money	5	10
Release of British Prisoners of War	3	10
Punishment of Chinese who had aided Britain	4	5
Total	45	90

After AW

- Split Open Ports
- China gets Peace and the Withdrawal of British Troops as well as 81% of Opening of Ports
- Britain gets Hong Kong, Tariffs, Money, Release of British POWs, Amnesty for Chinese Subjects who aided them, and 19% of Opening of Ports
- Essentially, 81% of the ports that Britain wanted open would not be opened

Results

- Very similar to what actually happened
- Britain got everything they wanted
- 5 ports of the 14 Britain wanted were opened
- Should have been only 3 by Adjusted Winner

Conclusions

- Not fair
- Britain imposes will on China by leveraging superior military
- Treaty was known as the “Unequal Treaty” in China



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