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)
- 1940 & 1941 - the British Navy took control of the Pearl River Delta and the surrounding territory
- 1942 – British sailed north to Yangtze River, took control of Shanghai, began fighting their way down the Yangtze
- July 1942 – British gained access to the city of Nanking, China sent representatives aboard a British warship to negotiate peace treaty
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

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<td>Total</td>
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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
Work Cited


