

Outline Lecture Thirteen—China's Second Sorrow: Opium

Key Focus:

- 1) How did the British justify using force to protect their opium interests in China?
- 2) How did opium impact the course of Chinese history?

I) The Intrusion of the West

- a) The Macartney Mission 1792-94
 - i) Goodwill mission to the court of Emperor Qianlong
 - ii) Request to remove all barriers to free trade and “cultural” exchange
 - iii) Omens of troubled relationship
- b) The Cohong System
 - i) Monopoly and corruption in the system
 - ii) Debate over legalization vs. prohibition of opium
 - (1) Memorials by Xu Naiji and Zhu Zun in 1836
 - (2) Daoguang's 1836 Edict
 - iii) Increase in opium consumption
- c) China's Porous Borders
 - i) Floating warehouses moored off Lintin
 - ii) Method of distribution
 - (1) Role of new clipper ships
 - (2) “Fast crabs” and “scrambling dragons” in the “Coast Trade”
 - iii) Cloak of deniability
 - (1) Who were the owners?
 - (2) British consulate's position vs. smugglers' position
 - (3) Lord Palmerston's 1840 “Grievances and Demands for Redress”

II) The Inevitable Collision of Interests

- a) The Opium Crisis of 1839
 - i) Rapid drain of silver from Chinese economy
 - ii) Social impact in China
 - (1) Organized crime grew alongside illegal opium trade
 - (2) Proliferation of opium dens
 - iii) Problems within the Qing state itself
- b) Commissioner Lin Zexu
 - i) Ultimatum to all opium merchants
 - ii) Lin's unprecedented recourse
 - iii) Letter to Queen Victoria
- c) The Government “Bail-out” of Opium
 - i) The reassurance of British official negotiator, Charles Elliot, to EIC agents
 - (1) Risks of speculating on opium returns
 - (2) “Too big to fail”?
 - ii) Use of force to “bail out” opium merchants
- d) Humiliation and the Treaty of Nanjing 1842
 - i) Chinese wooden junks vs. British man-of-war
 - ii) Terms of treaty

- (1) Extra-territorial rights
 - (2) Indemnity to be paid
 - (3) Most-favored nation status
- iii) Catalyst for Chinese nationalist sentiments