

American Imperialism and Relations with East Asia

TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT

Lesson Title - Reacting to Imperialism

From Joseph Lewerk

Grade – 11 - 12

Length of class period – 90 minutes

Inquiry – (What essential question are students answering, what problem are they solving, or what decision are they making?)

How did United States' imperialism affect events in East Asia?

Objectives (What content and skills do you expect students to learn from this lesson?)

Work with a group to read, compare and contrast the views of 4 authors on the positive and negative aspects of U.S. imperialism.

Determine the objectives of the various groups involved in China at the end of the 1800s and beginning of the 1900s.

Explain the effect of U.S. and other imperial powers' policies on China in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Materials (What primary sources or local resources are the basis for this lesson?) – (please attach)

1. Comments by Mark Twain on U.S. imperialism, the poems White Man's Burden by Kipling, Black Man's Burden by Johnson, and The Burden of Profit by Phelps.
2. Graphic organizer to compare and contrast the 4 views.
3. Background information on the Open Door policy.
4. Prologue Magazine, National Archives, article Winter 1999, "U.S. Marines in the Boxer Rebellion".
4. First Open Door Note, September 6, 1899
5. Graphic organizer to collect the objectives of the 3 main groups involved in the Boxer Rebellion.

Activities (What will you and your students do during the lesson to promote learning?)

1. Students in small groups (3-4 heterogeneously grouped) complete the modified Venn diagram noting good and bad aspects of imperialism according to the 4 authors. Groups will individually present specific examples to the class of their findings at teacher discretion.
2. Working in the same small groups students will examine the materials on the Open Door policy and the Boxer Rebellion to complete the graphic organizer on the

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objectives of the 3 groups involved. Following completion groups will compare notes with the other groups.

3. Based on notes taken during the two portions of the group activities, students will individually respond to the question of the effect of U.S. imperialism.

Teacher monitors and assists students as necessary in completing the above tasks.

How will you assess what student learned during this lesson?

1. Student completion of Venn diagram and graphic organizer.
2. Individual student completion of a writing prompt on the effect of U.S. policy toward China.

Connecticut Social Studies Framework Grade Level Expectations (Draft July 2011)

- 1.1.1. Significant events and themes in United States history. Apply chronological thinking to examine relationships among events and explain causes and effects of events.
- 1.1.8. Significant events and themes in United States history. Analyze the influence of nationalism on American society.
- 1.3.19. Significant events and themes in world history/international studies. Explain the significance of globalization on the world's nations and societies.
- 1.3.19. Significant events and themes in world history/international studies. Assess the causes and impacts of imperialism.

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Student Handout 1

NAME _____ DATE _____ PERIOD _____

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PART I

To understand the United States' current relationship with East Asia we have to look back a hundred years or so to see how America interacted with the peoples of the region. Though Rudyard Kipling was British and had lived in India, his poem, "The White Man's Burden" encouraged the United States to join Britain's imperialist adventures and attempt to bring civilization to the so called uncivilized. In this case Kipling, ironically, was specifically talking of the U.S. takeover of the Philippines from the Spanish as a result of the Spanish – American War of 1898 - 1900. It's ironic because, presumably, the European Spanish had delivered some civilization to the Philippines in the nearly 300 years that they controlled the islands.

Voices opposed to the imperialist expansion existed as you will read in "The Black Man's Burden" and in "The Burden of Profit". What you may not also know is that the Connecticut author of such books as the "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" lent his voice to the anti-imperialist cause. Read the excerpts below from Twain. Afterwards, use the provided organizer (Handout 2) to compare and contrast (find the similarities and differences) between the views of Kipling, Johnson, Phelps and Twain on the positives and negatives of imperialism.

Mark Twain Excerpts

From the New York *Herald*, October 15, 1900:

I left these shores, at Vancouver, a red-hot imperialist. I wanted the American eagle to go screaming into the Pacific. It seemed tiresome and tame for it to content itself with the Rockies. Why not spread its wings over the Philippines, I asked myself? And I thought it would be a real good thing to do

I said to myself, here are a people who have suffered for three centuries. We can make them as free as ourselves, give them a government and country of their own, put a miniature of the American constitution afloat in the Pacific, start a brand new republic to take its place among the free nations of the world. It seemed to me a great task to which had addressed ourselves.

But I have thought some more, since then, and I have read carefully the treaty of Paris, and I have seen that we do not intend to free, but to subjugate the people of the Philippines. We have gone there to conquer, not to redeem. . .

It should, it seems to me, be our pleasure and duty to make those people free, and let them deal with their own domestic questions in their own way. And so I am an anti-imperialist. I am opposed to having the eagle put its talons on any other land.

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A Boston *Herald* transcript of a speech he gave in 1900 began thus:

Oh, you have been doing many things in this time that I have been absent; you have done lots of things, some that are well worth remembering, too. Now, we have fought a righteous war since I have been gone, and that is rare in history--a righteous war is so rare that it is almost unknown in history; but by the grace of that war we set Cuba free, and we joined her to those three or four free nations that exist on this earth; and we started out to set those poor Filipinos free too, and why, why, why that most righteous purpose of ours has apparently miscarried I suppose I never shall know.

In a 1906 essay about the Moro massacre in the Philippines, which was not published until after his death, Twain criticized the military:

General Wood was present and looking on. His order had been, "Kill or capture those savages." Apparently our little army considered that the "or" left them authorized to kill or capture according to taste, and that their taste had remained what it had been for eight years in our army out there--the taste of Christian butchers.

In a February 1901 article titled, "To the Person Sitting in Darkness," he continued to criticize the U.S.:

There must be two Americas: one that sets the captive free, and one that takes a once-captive's new freedom away from him, and picks a quarrel with him with nothing to found it on; then kills him to get his land. . .

True, we have crushed a deceived and confiding people; we have turned against the weak and the friendless who trusted us; we have stamped out a just and intelligent and well-ordered republic; we have stabbed an ally in the back and slapped the face of a guest; we have bought a Shadow from an enemy that hadn't it to sell; we have robbed a trusting friend of his land and his liberty; we have invited clean young men to shoulder a discredited musket and do bandit's work under a flag which bandits have been accustomed to fear, not to follow; we have debauched America's honor and blackened her face before the world. . .

And as for a flag for the Philippine Province, it is easily managed. We can have a special one--our States do it: we can have just our usual flag, with the white stripes painted black and the stars replaced by the skull and cross-bones.

And another essay on the American flag, also from 1901:

I am not finding fault with this use of our flag; for in order not to seem eccentric I have swung around, now, and joined the nation in the conviction that nothing can sully a flag. I was not properly reared, and the illusion that a flag was a thing which must be sacredly guarded against shameful uses and unclean contacts, lest it suffer pollution; and so when it was sent out to the Philippines to float over a wanton war and a robbing expedition I supposed it was polluted, and in an ignorant moment I said so. But I stand corrected. I conceded and acknowledge that it was only the government that sent it on such an errand that was polluted. Let us compromise on that. I am glad to have it that way. For our flag could not well stand pollution, never having been used to it, but it is different with the administration.

Source: <http://www.loc.gov/rr/hispanic/1898/twain.html>, May 13, 2012

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Modern History Sourcebook:
Rudyard Kipling, The White Man's Burden, 1899

This famous poem, written by Britain's imperial poet, was a response to the American take over of the Phillipines after the Spanish-American War.

Take up the White Man's burden-- Send forth the best ye breed-- Go bind your sons to exile To serve your captives' need; To wait in heavy harness, On fluttered folk and wild-- Your new-caught, sullen peoples, Half-devil and half-child.	To seek another's profit, And work another's gain. Take up the White Man's burden-- The savage wars of peace-- Fill full the mouth of Famine And bid the sickness cease; And when your goal is nearest The end for others sought, Watch sloth and heathen Folly Bring all your hopes to nought.	The ports ye shall not enter, The roads ye shall not tread, Go mark them with your living, And mark them with your dead. Take up the White Man's burden-- And reap his old reward: The blame of those ye better, The hate of those ye guard-- The cry of hosts ye humour (Ah, slowly!) toward the light-- "Why brought he us from bondage, Our loved Egyptian night?" Take up the White Man's burden-- Ye dare not stoop to less--	Nor call too loud on Freedom To cloke your weariness; By all ye cry or whisper, By all ye leave or do, The silent, sullen peoples Shall weigh your gods and you. Take up the White Man's burden-- Have done with childish days-- The lightly proffered laurel, The easy, ungrudged praise. Comes now, to search your manhood Through all the thankless years Cold, edged with dear-bought wisdom, The judgment of your peers!
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“The Black Man’s Burden”: A Response to Kipling

In February 1899, British novelist and poet Rudyard Kipling wrote a poem entitled “The White Man’s Burden: The United States and The Philippine Islands.” In this poem, Kipling urged the U.S. to take up the “burden” of empire, as had Britain and other European nations. Theodore Roosevelt, soon to become vice-president and then president, described it as “rather poor poetry, but good sense from the expansion point of view.” Not everyone was as favorably impressed as Roosevelt. African Americans, among many others, objected to the notion of the “white man’s burden.” Among the dozens of replies to Kipling’s poem was “The Black Man’s Burden,” written by African-American clergyman and editor H. T. Johnson and published in April 1899. A “Black Man’s Burden Association” was even organized with the goal of demonstrating that mistreatment of brown people in the Philippines was an extension of the mistreatment of black Americans at home.

***Pile on the Black
Man’s Burden.***

'Tis nearest at your door;	Who fight with clubs and arrows	And will take up the Brown,
Why heed long bleeding Cuba,	and brook your rifle’s smoke.	In vain ye seek to end it,
or dark Hawaii’s shore?	Pile on the Black Man’s Burden	With bullets, blood or death
Hail ye your fearless armies,	His wail with laughter drown	Better by far defend it With honor’s holy breath.
Which menace feeble folks	You’ve sealed the Red Man’s problem,	

Source: H.T. Johnson, “The Black Man’s Burden,” *Voice of Missions*, VII (Atlanta: April 1899), 1. Reprinted in Willard B. Gatewood, Jr., *Black Americans and the White Man’s Burden, 1898–1903* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press), 1975, 183–184.

Source: <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5476/>

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The Burden of Profit

By C. E. D. Phelps

Take up "the white man's burden";

The white man is the strong

And glorious Anglo-Saxon

Who feels not others' wrong.

All men are black whose customs

He does not understand.

Take up the white man's burden--

The gold-fields of the Rand!

Take up "the white man's burden,"

The dwellings of the brown

Perchance will yield a profit

When we have swept them down

By treason or by torture,

Mean stealth or open war.

Take up the white man's burden--

Manila and Samar!

Take up "the white man's burden";

When he is wanting land,

The folk who would refuse him

Shall feel his heavy hand;

The folk who bargain with him

Are riding for a fall.

Take up the white man's burden--

The Panama Canal!

--December 12, 1903.

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Kipling

Twain

SIMILARITIES

Johnson

Phelps

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PART II

Like India, China was also subjected to imperialism but not by a single power. Instead, a number of European powers, along with Japan and the United States attempted to influence China in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. While these imperialist adventures may not be in the popular memory of either Europeans or Americans they are certainly humiliations on the minds of the contemporary people of China. Key among these humiliations is the Boxer Rebellion which involved the United States along with the other imperial powers.

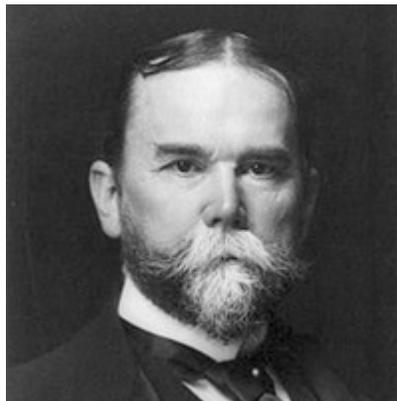
As you read the information below about the United States' policy toward China, to include Hay's Open Door note of September 1899, and the Boxer Rebellion, determine the objectives of each of the three groups involved (Ch'ing Dynasty rulers, Boxers, imperial powers) by completing the organizer at the end. Remember to use the provided maps to understand the relationship between imperial spheres of influence and the events of the late 1800s and early 1900s. Your ultimate goal is to determine whether U.S. policies were in whole or in part responsible for the Boxer Rebellion and ultimately the end of the Ch'ing Dynasty in 1913.

United States Department of State, Office of the Historian

Milestones: 1899-1913

Secretary of State John Hay and the Open Door in China, 1899-1900

Secretary of State John Hay first articulated the concept of the "Open Door" in China in a series of notes in 1899-1900. These Open Door Notes aimed to secure international agreement to the U.S. policy of promoting equal opportunity for international trade and commerce in China, and respect for China's administrative and territorial integrity. British and American policies toward China had long operated under similar principles, but once Hay put them into writing, the "Open Door" became the official U.S. policy towards the Far East in the first half of the 20th century.



Secretary of State John Hay

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The idea behind the Open Door Notes originated with British and American China experts, Alfred E. Hoppisley and [William W. Rockhill](#). Both men believed that their countries' economic interests in China would be best protected and promoted by a formal agreement among the European powers on the principle of maintaining an Open Door for trade and commercial activity. Under their influence, Secretary Hay sent the first of the Open Door Notes on September 6, 1899, to the other great powers that had an interest in China, including Great Britain, France, Russia, Germany, and Japan. These nations maintained significant physical and commercial presences in China, and were protective of their various spheres of influence and trading privileges there, and elsewhere in Asia.

Hay proposed a free, open market and equal trading opportunity for merchants of all nationalities operating in China, based in part on the most favored nation clauses already established in the [Treaties of Wangxia](#) and [Tianjin](#). Hay argued that establishing equal access to commerce would benefit American traders and the U.S. economy, and hoped that the Open Door would also prevent disputes between the powers operating in China. For the United States, which held relatively little political clout and no territory in China, the principle of non-discrimination in commercial activity was particularly important. Hay called for each of the powers active in China to do away with economic advantages for their own citizens within their spheres of influence, and also suggested that the Chinese tariffs apply universally and be collected by the Chinese themselves. Although the other powers may not have agreed fully with these ideas, none openly opposed them.



Empress Dowager Cixi (Tz'u Hsi) of China

First, Hay sought the approval of the British and Japanese Governments, both of which considered the American suggestion to be in their interests, although both conditioned their acceptance of the terms on the agreement of all the powers involved. France followed the British and Japanese example. This British, Japanese, and French endorsement of Hay's suggestion pressured Germany and Russia to adhere to the terms of the note, although Russia did so with so many caveats that it practically negated the Note's central principles. Nevertheless, Hay declared that all the powers had accepted the ideas with responses that were "final and definitive."

In 1900, however, internal events in China threatened the idea of the Open Door. An anti-foreign movement known as the Boxer Rebellion, named for the martial artists that led the movement, gathered strength, and began attacking foreign missionaries and Chinese converts to Christianity. With the backing of Empress Dowager Cixi (Tz'u Hsi) and the imperial army, the Boxer Rebellion turned into a violent conflict that claimed the lives of hundreds of foreign missionaries and thousands of Chinese nationals. As the Boxers

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descended upon Beijing, foreign nationals living in that city--including embassy staff--clustered together in the besieged foreign legations, and called upon their home governments for assistance.



Photograph of Boxer Rebels

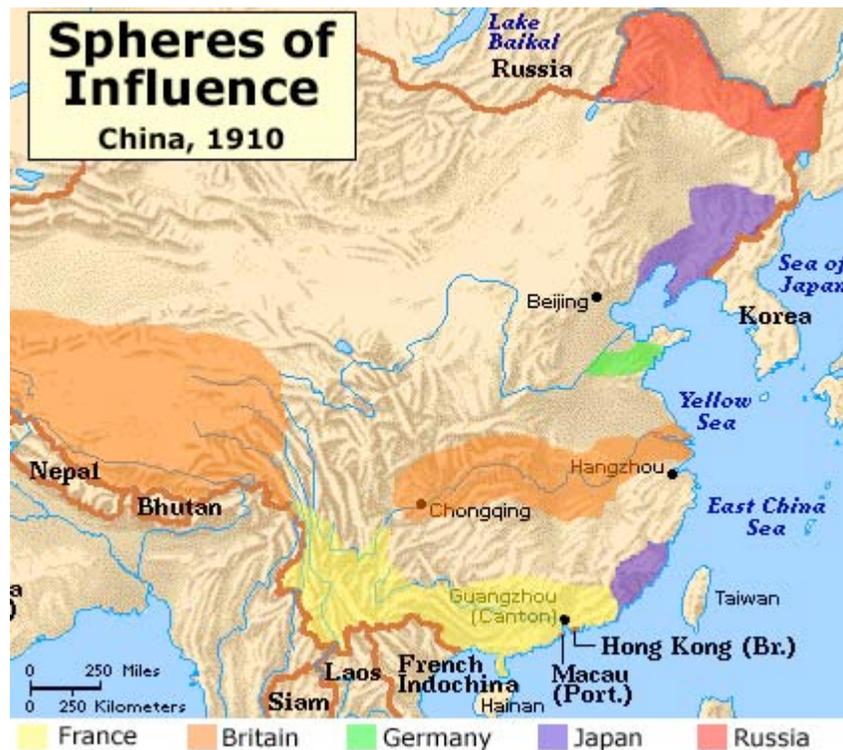
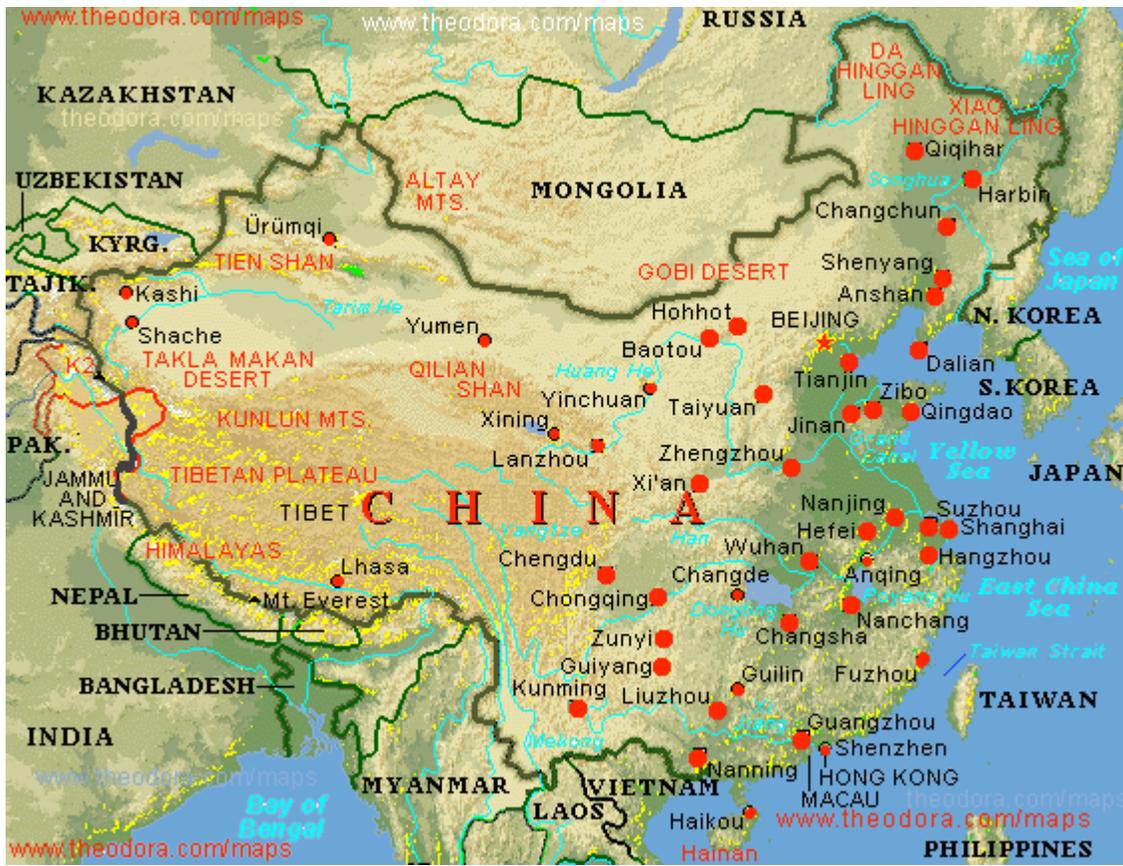
With foreign armies fighting their way from the Chinese coast to rescue their citizens in the capital, in some cases securing their own concessions and areas of special interest along the way, the principle of the Open Door seemed to be in grave danger. On July 3, 1900, Hay circulated another message to the foreign powers involved in China, this time noting the importance of respecting the “territorial and administrative integrity” of China. Although the goal was to prevent the powers from using the Boxer Rebellion as an excuse to carve China into individual colonies, the Open Door Circular requested no formal agreement or assurances from the other powers.

Together, the Open Door Notes served the important purpose of outlining U.S. policy toward China and expressing U.S. hopes for cooperation with the other foreign powers with a stake in the region. They were of lasting importance in U.S.-East Asian relations, and contributed to the idea of a Sino-American “special relationship.” However, because they were non-binding, the Notes did not prevent the United States--or any other power--from one day seeking Chinese territory, or acting in any way that was preferential to their own interests, even at the expense of the Chinese Government. Hay himself even briefly considered a seizure of Chinese territory, although he quickly rejected the idea. Although the Notes were not binding, Hay’s successors nonetheless adhered to the policy of maintaining the Open Door in China. The articulation of the Open Door policy represented the growing American interest and involvement in East Asia at the turn of the century.

Ironically, Hay articulated the Open Door policy at a time when the U.S. Government was doing everything in its power to close the door on Chinese immigration to the United States. This effectively stifled opportunities for Chinese merchants and workers in the United States.

Source: <http://history.state.gov/milestones/1899-1913/HayandChina>

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Prologue Magazine, National Archives, Winter 1999, Vol. 31, No. 4

U.S. Marines in the Boxer Rebellion (Abridged)

By Trevor K. Plante



Boxer "Boxer," 1900. (NARA 111-SC-83087)

In 1900 a crisis erupted in China as the "Boxers" increased their resistance to foreign influence and presence. By the end of the nineteenth century, several countries had already established spheres of influence in China. In the fall of 1899, Secretary of State John Hay wrote that the United States, a late arrival, wanted to maintain an "open door policy" in China. If the Boxers succeeded in pushing the United States and other foreign countries out, this newly opened door could soon be shut.

Discontent with foreigners had been on the rise in China since 1898, when the "I Ho Ch'uan" (Society of "Righteous and Harmonious Fists") began gaining popularity in a province in northwest China. This group commonly referred to as "Boxers" opposed foreign influence and was strongly anti-Christian. The group's numbers swelled with farmers and other workers who were affected by droughts that had come on the heels of devastating floods. Boxers began harassing Chinese Christians and foreign missionaries. As Boxer activity spread to several provinces, provincial leaders and the Chinese imperial court were inconsistent in their stances. Authorities sometimes fought to protect foreigners and Christians and at other times chose to do nothing at all. Tzu Hsi, the empress dowager of the Manchu Dynasty, was publicly "anti-Boxer."¹

The United States and seven other countries - Austria-Hungary, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, and Russia-all had interests in China. These eight foreign powers also maintained legations in the Legation Quarter of Peking.²

The population of Peking started to grow as hundreds of foreign missionaries and Chinese Christians began flocking to the city for protection. On May 28 and 29, Boxers burned several

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railroad stations between Peking and Paotingfu, including the large railroad junction at Fengtai. The legations in Peking, fearing they were being isolated, quickly telegraphed for help. The immediate response was the deployment of sailors and marines from foreign ships off China.³

On May 31, Capt. John T. Myers, USMC, arrived in Peking in overall command of two ship detachments of U.S. Marines. This newly formed Legation Guard consisted of Myers and twenty-five marines from the USS *Oregon* along with Capt. Newt Hall, USMC, twenty-three marines, five sailors, and U.S. Navy Assistant Surgeon T. M. Lippett from the USS *Newark*.⁴ Arriving in Peking the same day were approximately 350 foreign sailors and marines sent to protect their respective legations.⁵

On June 18, foreign ministers in Peking received word from the Chinese government that a state of war would soon be in effect. The declaration came in response to the capture of the Chinese forts at Taku by the foreign powers the day before. The foreign ministers were given twenty-four hours to leave Peking with the promise of safe passage as far south as Tientsin. The ministers met the next day and declined the offer to leave. The empress dowager issued a declaration of war that included praise for "the brave followers of the Boxers." On June 20, Boxers and Chinese soldiers began a siege of the city.⁶

Chinese artillery and small arms fire became constant. There were no organized attacks against the legations. On the twenty-fifth, marines took a critical position on the Tartar Wall. Since the beginning of the siege, Chinese forces had constructed barricades some distance from the front of the marines. On the night of June 28, Pvt. Richard Quinn reconnoitered one of these barricades by crawling on his hands and knees to the Chinese position.⁷ On July 2, Chinese forces managed to advance their barricades dangerously close to the marines' position on the wall; the closest barricade became an immediate threat. Starting around two o'clock the next morning, Captain Myers led U.S. Marines and British and Russian troops in a charge on the Chinese barricade. The attack, carried out during a rainstorm, was successful; the Chinese fell back to another barricade hundreds of yards to the rear. Two marine privates were killed, and Myers was wounded in the leg.⁸ The marines resumed their position on the wall, and the daily artillery blasts and sniper fire from Chinese small arms continued as before.

Captain Hall took command of the Legation Guard after Captain Myers was wounded. Sniper and artillery fire died down to a minimum after an informal truce was made on the sixteenth. This activity continued until the foreign legations were relieved on August 14.

U.S. Marines participated in several actions in China after Myers's force reached Peking. Before the siege began, an allied force moved north from Tientsin toward Peking days after a railroad line was torn up, isolating the capital city. Vice Admiral Sir Edward Seymour of the British Royal Navy led this force with U.S. Navy Capt. Bowman McCalla second in command. Seymour's expedition included 112 American sailors and marines. The allied force traveled north, rebuilding the railroad line as they went. Seymour's expedition came within twenty-five miles of Peking but

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was forced by Boxers and Chinese soldiers to retreat back toward Tientsin. After five days of retreating south, Seymour's force fought its way into a Chinese arsenal six miles north of Tientsin, where they fortified their position and waited for help.

The United States quickly scrambled to send additional troops to help lift the siege of Peking. Two separate detachments of marines left Cavite in the Philippine Islands and joined up near Taku, China. The first detachment consisted of 107 marines from the First Regiment, who left Cavite on USS *Solace*. The second detachment of thirty-two marines sailed from Cavite aboard the USS *Nashville*.⁹ Around June 18, the two marine detachments combined into a battalion under the command of Maj. Littleton W.T. Waller. On the twentieth, this marine battalion and approximately four hundred Russians engaged the Chinese near Tientsin. The marines were the spearhead of the American-Russian attack but had little success against the more substantial Chinese forces. After an overwhelming counterattack, the Americans and Russians retreated. The marines formed the rear guard of the retreat, in which they were pursued for four hours. Ending up where they started, the marines had marched a total of thirty miles after going to Tientsin and back. They suffered three killed and seven wounded.¹⁰ Two days later, Waller's battalion and the Russian force were strengthened to two thousand men with the arrival of British, Russian, German, Italian, and Japanese troops. This enlarged force went on the offensive the next day and took all but the inner walled city of Tientsin. On the twenty-fifth, the international force relieved Seymour's expedition, which had been held up for a month at the Hsi-Ku Arsenal north of Tientsin.¹¹

The Ninth U.S. Infantry arrived on July 6 and joined the allied forces near Tientsin. The number of marines in China increased when Col. Robert L. Meade and 318 marines arrived on July 10 from the Philippines aboard the USS *Brooklyn*.¹² This detachment of marines moved from the coast to Tientsin, where it joined Waller's battalion, and Meade took over command of the American forces. The next day, the allied force launched an attack against Tientsin to rid the walled inner city of the remaining Chinese and Boxer forces. The attacking force, under the command of a British general, included the marines, the Ninth U.S. Infantry, and British, French, German, Japanese, and Russian forces. Fighting took place most of the day with little to show for it. Of the 451 marines engaged in this action, seventeen enlisted men and four officers became casualties.¹³ A Japanese night attack broke through the Chinese defenses, allowing the international force to enter the walled city of Tientsin. This breakthrough triggered widespread looting of the city.

On July 30, U.S. Army Gen. Adna R. Chaffee arrived in Tientsin and took command of all U.S. forces in China.¹⁴ Arriving with Chaffee as part of the "China Relief Expedition" was one battalion of marines under the command of Major Biddle, two battalions of the Fourteenth U.S. Infantry, the Sixth U.S. Cavalry, and one battery from the Fifth U.S. Artillery. The expedition's main goal was to relieve the legations in Peking and protect American interests in China. On August 4, the international expedition of approximately 18,000 left Tientsin for Peking; Chaffee's force of approximately 2,500 Americans included 482 marines.¹⁵ On August 5, Japanese forces

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engaged and defeated the Chinese at Pei-tsang. The next day, part of the international force, including the marines, fought successfully at Yangstun. Many members of the international force suffered from heat exhaustion during the eighty-mile march as a result of the high temperatures and occasional fighting from Tientsin to Peking.¹⁶

On the fourteenth, the international force reached Peking and relieved the legations. Upon reaching Peking, the marine unit stopped near the north gate while a platoon went to the top of the wall to stop sniper fire and set up protection for the artillery. Two privates and Lt. Smedley Butler were wounded.¹⁷ The next day, marines participated in the advance on the Imperial City.¹⁸ After fighting in Peking came to an end, light resistance continued in various parts of China. Most of this activity was combated by German troops until the Boxer Protocol (a formal peace treaty) was signed in September 1901.¹⁹

By the time the siege was lifted, the Legation Guard had suffered eighteen casualties. Seven enlisted men were killed, and eleven members of the Legation Guard were wounded, including Captain Myers and Assistant Surgeon Lippitt.²⁰ In early September, the detachment left Peking for Tientsin and guarded the sick and refugees along the way. The enlisted men of the Legation Guard returned to the ships on which they had served before being detached for service in China. Captain Myers was sent to the Naval Hospital in Yokohama, Japan, and Captain Hall returned to the USS *Newark*.²¹

Additional marines had arrived in China in mid-August but did not participate in relieving Peking. At the end of September, the remaining marines in China were ordered back to the Philippines and shipped out on the *Brooklyn*, *Zafiro*, and *Indiana*.²²

Shortly after Peking was relieved, U.S. Minister to China E. H. Conger wrote the secretary of state, "To our Marines fell the most difficult and dangerous portion of the defense by reason of our proximity to the great city wall, and the main city gates over which the large guns were planted. Our legation, with the position which we held on the wall, was the key to the whole situation."²³ Conger went on to write that "the bravest and most successful event of the whole siege was an attack led by Captain Myers, of our Marines, and fifty-five men, Americans, British, and Russian, which resulted in the capture of a formidable barricade on the wall, defended by several hundred Chinese soldiers, over fifty of whom were killed."²⁴

At a meeting held August 18, a group of American missionaries resolved that, "The Americans who have been besieged in Peking desire to express their hearty appreciation of the courage, fidelity, and patriotism of the American Marines, to whom we so largely owe our salvation." The group further resolved that, "by their bravery in holding an almost untenable position on the city wall in the face of overwhelming numbers, and in cooperating in driving the Chinese from a position of great strength, they made all foreigners in Peking their debtors, and have gained for themselves an honorable name among the heroes of their country."²⁵

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Group of U.S. Marines was part of the international relief expedition sent to lift the siege of Peking (306-ST-505-58-4822)

Individual honors were bestowed on many marines in the wake of the Boxer Rebellion. Thirty-three enlisted men were awarded the Medal of Honor, including the first medal awarded to a marine posthumously. Pvt. Harry Fisher was killed on July 16 while helping erect a barricade near the wall in Peking. Pvt. Dan Daly received his first Medal of Honor for volunteering to stay alone on the bastion of the wall while undergoing constant fire from the enemy on the night of July 15.²⁶ Marine Corps officers were not eligible for Medals of Honor until 1913. Instead, officers noted for bravery in action were usually distinguished by being "advanced in numbers" in their rank or sometimes awarded brevet rank. For example, Capt. John Myers was advanced four numbers and brevetted a major; 1st Lt. Smedley Butler was advanced two numbers and brevetted a captain; and 1st Lt. Henry Leonard was advanced two numbers.²⁷ Butler and Leonard had been singled out in a report to Meade by the British officer in charge of the action against Tientsin on July 13, "Among many instances of personal bravery in the action I propose specially to bring to notice in despatches the conduct of 1st Lieut. Smedley D. Butler, United States Marine Corps, in bringing in a wounded man from the front under heavy and accurate fire; Lieut. Butler was wounded while so doing but I am glad to learn not seriously. The Regimental Adjutant First Lieutenant Henry Leonard, as Lieut. Butler was suffering severely, volunteered to carry him out of the firing line. This gallant feat he successfully accomplished, but I regret to say was very dangerously wounded in so doing."²⁸ In addition, three officers who served in the Boxer Rebellion went on to become Commandants of the Marine Corps.²⁹

Notes

Chinese place names that appear in this article are those used in 1900 and are spelled as they appear in the U.S. military reports.

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1. First Lt. J. R. Lindsey to Maj. Gen. Adna R. Chaffee, *Annual Reports of the War Department, Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1901*, Vol. 1, pt. 6, pp. 454-459. Jonathan D. Spence, (*The Search for Modern China*1991), pp. 231-232.
2. Legations are official residences and offices of diplomatic ministers in a foreign country.
3. Robert D. Heinl, *Soldiers of the Sea: The United States Marine Corps, 1775-1962* (1962), p. 127.
4. Capt. John T. Myers to Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Force on Asiatic Station, Sept. 26, 1900, *Annual Reports of the Navy Department for the Year 1901*, pp. 1266-1270. The sailors from USS *Newark* included three blue jackets, one chief machinist, and one hospital apprentice. Chief Machinist Peterson arrived on June 3.
5. The foreign sailors and marines included: 35 Austrians, 82 British, 48 French, 51 Germans, 25 Japanese, 81 Russians, and 29 Italians. First Lt. J. R. Lindsey to Maj. Gen. Adna R. Chaffee, *Annual Reports of the War Department, Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1901*, Vol. 1, pt. 6, pp. 454-459. Heinl, *Soldiers of the Sea*, p. 130.
6. Capt. John T. Myers to Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Force on Asiatic Station, Sept. 26, 1900, *Annual Reports of the Navy Department for the Year 1901*, pp. 1266-1270. Spence, *Search for Modern China*, pp. 233-234.
7. Capt. John T. Myers to Brigadier-General Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps, Mar. 28, 1901, Reports Relating to Engagements of Marine Corps Personnel in the Philippines and China, 1899-1901, entry 26, Records of the U.S. Marine Corps, Record Group (RG) 127, National Archives Building (NAB), Washington, DC.
8. One Englishman and a Russian were also wounded during the assault. Myers's wound healed, but he soon came down with typhoid fever.
9. Report of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, *Annual Reports of the Navy Department for the Year 1900*, p. 1116.
10. Littleton W. T. Waller to Second in Command, United States Naval Force, Asiatic Station, June 22, 1900, *Annual Reports of the Navy Department for the Year 1900*, pp. 1148- 1149.
11. Littleton W. T. Waller to Brigadier-General Commandant, U.S. Marines, June 28, 1900, *Annual Reports of the Navy Department for the Year 1900*, pp. 1150-1152.
12. Heinl, *Soldiers of the Sea*, p. 133.
13. One officer was killed, and three were wounded.
14. Although General Chaffee was assigned to command American troops in China on June 26, 1900, he did not arrive in China until July 30. See Corbin to MacArthur, June 26, 1900, *Correspondence Relating to the War With Spain* (1902), Vol. 1, p. 419. Maj.-Gen. Adna R. Chaffee to Adjutant-General, USA, Sept. 1, 1900, *Annual Reports of the War Department, For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1900*, Vol. 1, pt. 9, pp. 31- 43.
15. The marines accounted for 453 enlisted men and 29 officers.

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16. W. P. Biddle to Major-General Commanding United States Forces, Aug. 20, 1900, *Annual Reports of the Navy Department, 1901*, pp. 1276-1277. Maj.-Gen. Adna R. Chaffee to Adjutant- General, USA, Sept. 1, 1900, *Annual Reports of the War Department, For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1900*, Vol. 1, pt. 9, pp. 31-43.
17. Biddle to Major-General Commanding United States Forces, Aug. 20, 1900, *Annual Reports of the Navy Department for the Year 1901*, Report "B," p. 1278.
18. Biddle to Major-General Commanding United States Forces, Aug. 20, 1900, *Annual Reports of the Navy Department for the Year 1901*, Report "C," p. 1278.
19. Spence, *Search for Modern China*, p. 235.
20. Report of Wounded and Killed, G. A. Lung, Aug. 26, 1900, File 6320-65, General Correspondence, 1897-1915, entry 19, General Records of the Department of the Navy, 1798-1947, RG 80, NAB.
21. Report of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, *Annual Reports of the Navy Department for the Year 1901*, p. 1232.
22. Report of the Commandant of the Marine Corps, *Annual Reports of the Navy Department for the Year 1901*, p. 1234.
23. *Ibid.*, p. 1232.
24. Extract from Report of Minister Conger to the Secretary of State, Aug. 17, 1900, entry 26, RG 127, NAB.
25. Attached to E. H. Conger to Maj. W. P. Biddle, Aug. 20, 1900, entry 26, RG 127, NAB.
26. N. H. Hall to J. T. Myers, Aug. 30, 1900, *Annual Reports of the Navy Department for the Year 1901*, pp. 1270-1271. Dan Daly was awarded a second Medal of Honor for service in Haiti in 1915.
27. "Awards For Services in China," entry 26, RG 127, NAB.
28. Brig. Gen. A.R.F Dorward to Col. Robert Meade, July 15, 1900, *ibid.*
29. Officers who went on to become Commandants were: William P. Biddle, Wendell C. Neville, and Ben H. Fuller.

Source: <http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1999/winter/boxer-rebellion-1.html>

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FIRST OPEN DOOR NOTE *

[John Hay to Andrew D. White]

Department of State, Washington, September 6, 1899

At the time when the Government of the United States was informed by that of Germany that it had leased from His Majesty the Emperor of China the port of Kiao-chao and the adjacent territory in the province of Shantung, assurances were given to the ambassador of the United States at Berlin by the Imperial German minister for foreign affairs that the rights and privileges insured by treaties with China to citizens of the United States would not thereby suffer or be in anywise impaired within the area over which Germany had thus obtained control.

More recently, however, the British Government recognized by a formal agreement with Germany the exclusive right of the latter country to enjoy in said leased area and the contiguous "sphere of influence or interest" certain privileges, more especially those relating to railroads and mining enterprises; but as the exact nature and extent of the rights thus recognized have not been clearly defined, it is possible that serious conflicts of interest may at any time arise not only between British and German subjects within said area, but that the interests of our citizens may also be jeopardized thereby.

Earnestly desirous to remove any cause of irritation and to insure at the same time to the commerce of all nations in China the undoubted benefits which should accrue from a formal recognition by the various powers claiming "spheres of interest" that they shall enjoy perfect equality of treatment for their commerce and navigation within such "spheres," the Government of the United States would be pleased to see His German Majesty's Government give formal assurances, and lend its cooperation in securing like assurances from the other interested powers, that each, within its respective sphere of whatever influence--

First. Will in no way interfere with any treaty port or any vested interest within any so-called "sphere of interest" or leased territory it may have in China.

Second. That the Chinese treaty tariff of the time being shall apply to all merchandise landed or shipped to all such ports as are within said "sphere of interest" (unless they be "free ports"), no matter to what nationality it may belong, and that duties so leviable shall be collected by the Chinese Government.

Third. That it will levy no higher harbor dues on vessels of another nationality frequenting any port in such "sphere" than shall be levied on vessels of its own nationality, and no higher railroad charges over lines built, controlled, or operated within its "sphere" on merchandise belonging to citizens or subjects of other nationalities

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transported through such "sphere" than shall be levied on similar merchandise belonging to its own nationals transported over equal distances.

The liberal policy pursued by His Imperial German Majesty in declaring Kiao-chao a free port and in aiding the Chinese Government in the establishment there of a customhouse are so clearly in line with the proposition which this Government is anxious to see recognized that it entertains the strongest hope that Germany will give its acceptance and hearty support. The recent ukase of His Majesty the Emperor of Russia declaring the port of Ta-lien-wan open during the whole of the lease under which it is held from China to the merchant ships of all nations, coupled with the categorical assurances made to this Government by His Imperial Majesty's representative at this capital at the time and since repeated to me by the present Russian ambassador, seem to insure the support of the Emperor to the proposed measure. Our ambassador at the Court of St. Petersburg has in consequence, been instructed to submit it to the Russian Government and to request their early consideration of it. A copy of my instruction on the subject to Mr. Tower is herewith inclosed for your confidential information.

The commercial interests of Great Britain and Japan will be so clearly observed by the desired declaration of intentions, and the views of the Governments of these countries as to the desirability of the adoption of measures insuring the benefits of equality of treatment of all foreign trade throughout China are so similar to those entertained by the United States, that their acceptance of the propositions herein outlined and their cooperation in advocating their adoption by the other powers can be confidently expected. I inclose herewith copy of the instruction which I have sent to Mr. Choate on the subject.

In view of the present favorable conditions, you are instructed to submit the above considerations to His Imperial German Majesty's Minister for L Foreign Affairs, and to request his early consideration of the subject.

* *Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States, 1899*, pp. 129-30. Identical notes, with the necessary changes, were sent on the same day to Germany, Russia, and England. Similar notes were sent later to Japan, Italy, and France.

Source: <http://www.vlib.us/amdocs/texts/opendoor.html> May 12, 2012

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OBJECTIVES

BOXERS	CH'ING DYNASTY RULERS	IMPERIAL POWERS

PART III

INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT: Based on what you've learned of United States imperialism and the Boxer Rebellion was the U.S. responsible for the events? In 2 – 3 paragraphs explain in detail why or why not.