



General Assembly

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Special Committee on Effects of Imperialism in China

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Organization of work

Current Positive and Negative Aspects of China

Current Issues in China

- (a) Pollution
- (b) Overpopulation
- (c) Questionable Education
- (d) Abuse of Workers
- (e) Tremendous amounts of academic stress

Current Advantages of China

- (a) Economic Superiority
- (b) Incredibly High production rates
- (c) Government Efficiency

Opium Wars

After trying to find a new way to generate revenue for purchasing tea, the British began dealing opium to Chinese in exchange for silver. In retaliation to the drug's effect on the Chinese people, the Chinese destroyed a sample of Britain's opium supply. This led to the British to retaliating with their immense military prowess. Due to the superiority of British weaponry, the Chinese suffered crippling defeats. The English then made a series of treaties that opened the land and ports of China to other European countries for trading and inhabiting.

* [A/AC.121/2015/L.1](#).



Effects of Imperialism

Negative:

- (a) Because of European imperialism, the Chinese entered the industrialized era. This led to China becoming sickly polluted state that it is in now, where people are reduced to wearing masks in an effort to prevent their lungs from falling victim to local toxins.
- (b) As China advanced in industry, it required a greater number of people to work in its factories. Today, the factory workers have live with atrocious conditions and are forced into borderline slavery.
- (c) Through industrialization brought by foreign imperialists, China enhanced living conditions and lengthened life expectancy. While that initially appears beneficial, this led to overpopulation among the citizens. Overpopulation is one of China's most prominent internal issues now that China has a population of over 1 billion.
- (d) When the British came to China, they brought new ideas with them. They halted the teachings of Confucianism and encouraged the instruction of more modern, less religious based education. However, this education may not be what it seems as it appears that a large percentage of students do not possess advanced critical thinking skills.

Positive:

- (a) With their many treaties, the British as well as other European countries were able to open many of China's ports for trading with other nations, in an attempt to exploit them. However, while China had numerous exports that Europeans desired, they sought few European imports. China was therefore able to make a trading profit despite British intentions. This is perhaps the most significant cause of China become world's largest economy.
- (b) When industrialization hit China, they took off, and their factories became the head source of American good. Due to the fact that over half of America's goods have "Made in China" stickers all over them, it is no wonder that China does so well in terms of production.
- (c) After the Europeans began to take over their lands, the Chinese had many series of rebellions. These ranged from simple uprisings in cities to full scale revolutions. One of these was a revolution in 1949 that led to China becoming a communist nation, which helped the government run better and more efficiently.

Questions for Committee Consideration

How did the Opium War and the Treaty of Nanjing positively and negatively affect China short term?
In the long term?

How did the Boxer rebellion change China?

How did British imperialism positively and negatively affect China short and long term?

How can these effects be seen today through China's current issues and positive features?