History 11B: History of China, 1000-2000
Terms and Names 2/22

The End of Empire

Qing Dynasty 清: 1644 - 1911

Tongzhi Emperor 同治 (r. 1861-1875)

Empress Dowager Cixi 慈禧太后 (regent and de facto ruler from 1861-1908); born into a family of humble origins the Yehe Nala Manchu clan; becomes consort to the Xianfeng Emperor; mother to the Tongzhi Emperor; aunt to the Guangxu Emperor; after the death of the Xianfeng Emperor she helps to plot a coup with other high-ranking Manchu Princes to take wrest from the regents of the young Tongzhi Emperor; from that time on she wields real power from “behind the curtain”; plays the conservatives off against the reformers to maintain a balance at court and to preserve her own reigns on power.

Guangxu Emperor 光緒 (r. 1875-1908)
Xuangtong Emperor 宣統 (r. 1908-1911)

Tongzhi Restoration, 1862-1874

Hundred Days of Reform 午戌變法, 1898

First Sino-Japanese War: 1894-1895
Boxer Uprising: 1900
Xinhai Revolution 辛亥革命: 1911

Li Hongzhang 李鴻章 (1823-1901): protégé of Zeng Guofan; important leader in the self-strengthening movement; organizes the Huai Army (Huaijun 淮軍) in 1861, which helps to defeat the Taipings and other mid-century rebellions; advocates building modern-style arsenals, shipyards, and railways; wins the confidence of the Empress Dowager Cixi; by the end of the 19th c., becomes the most powerful figure in officialdom, especially in negotiating with foreign powers; often blamed for the devastating military defeats the Qing suffered at the very end of the dynasty; represents the Qing in signing the Boxer Protocol in 1901.

Zhang Zhidong 張之洞 (1837-1909): official and general active in late Qing self-strengthening efforts; appointed to governorship of Hubei and Hunan; builds modern-style factories, arsenals, and railways; advocates the ti-yong models of Chinese learning and development, i.e., retaining Chinese learning as the principle or essence but adapting western learning for practical use; traces of this formula for blending Chinese and western learning can be seen in Chinese state initiatives even to this day.

Kang Youwei 康有為 (1858-1927): Confucian scholar from Guangzhou; deeply involved in late Qing reforms; argues that institutional change and modernization is compatible with Confucian learning; one of the chief architects of the Hundred Days of Reform implemented under the Guangxu Emperor in 1898; hoped to reform China along the lines of the Meiji Restoration in Japan. Kang escapes to Japan after the conservative crackdown on the Hundred Days of Reform.
Liang Qichao 梁啟超 (1873-1929): Student of Kang Youwei; also escapes to Japan in 1898; begins supporting a constitutional monarchy in China; later advocates liberal republicanism; representative of emergence of modern style nationalism in China.

Yuan Shikai 袁世凱 (1859-1916): leader of new style modern army in north China; Qing official loyal to the Empress Dowager Cixi; his reporting on the activities of the reformers during the Hundred Days’
Reforms is partly responsible for the coup against the Guangxu Emperor and the failure of the 1898 reforms; in command of the powerful modern-style Northern Army (Beiyang jun 北洋軍); becomes President of the new Republic in 1912 after Sun Yatsen abdicates in his favor.

Boxer Uprising (Yihetuan 義和團): “Fists United in Righteousness”; anti-Christian, anti-foreign peasants; in 1898 in response to flood, drought, and famine, they begin to attack Chinese and foreign Christians in Shandong Province; by 1900, the Boxers (with the backing of the Qing court) attack the foreign legations quarters in Beijing; an allied army of eight foreign powers marches on Beijing to suppress the Boxers; the Qing court (including Cixi and the Guangxu Emperor) are forced to flee the capital to Xian; leads to the signing of the Boxer Protocol in 1901.

Allied Powers (baguo lianjun 八國聯軍): the allied army of Britain, U.S., France, Germany, Russia, Japan, Italy, Austria-Hungary; lead a punitive expedition against the Boxers and the Qing court in 1900.

Boxer Protocol (1901): signed at the conclusion of the suppression of the Boxers by the Allied Powers; established an indemnity worth nearly half the amount of the total annual Qing budget.

Beiyang Army (北洋軍): western-style army created by self-strengtheners in the late Qing; grows out of Li Hongzhang’s Huai Army; after Li Hongzhang’s death in 1901, command of this army falls to Yuan Shikai; as part of reforms to modernize the military, on the basis of the Beiyang Army, Yuan Shikai establishes the Baoding Military Academy.

Zou Rong 鄒容 (1885-1905): Anti-Manchu radical educated in Japan; author of The Revolutionary Army, a tract advocating the violent overthrow of the Qing; tract published in Shanghai, where Qing could not control anti-Manchu publications; probably the most widely disseminated anti-Manchu screed in the early 20th c.; arrested and died in jail in 1905.

Qiu Jin 秋瑾 (1875-1907): Anti-Manchu revolutionary; considered China’s first feminist; walked out on an arranged marriage to study in Japan; upon her return, established a new style school for girls; the school also served as a front for her revolutionary activities; in 1907, she and a band of revolutionaries are arrested for attempting to assassinate the Governor of Anhui; all the revolutionaries were executed by the Qing state; after the revolution, Qiu Jin is honored as a revolutionary martyr.

Revolutionary Alliance (Tongmenghui 同盟會): Anti-Manchu alliance founded in Japan in 1905 by Sun Yatsen and other Chinese radicals studying in Tokyo; sponsored anti-Manchu propaganda, fundraising, and revolutionary uprisings; indirectly responsible for some of the agitation that leads to the 1911 (Xinhai) Revolution.

Sun Yatsen 孫逸仙 (1866-1925): considered the “father of modern China”; anti-Manchu activist who founded the Revolutionary Alliance; spends much of his time prior to the 1911 Revolution in exile; engages in propaganda work and fundraising among the overseas Chinese communities in SE Asia and the U.S.; becomes the first President of the Republic of China in 1912; in the face of the greater military power of Yuan Shikai, Sun quickly forced to abdicate in favor of the general.