









Big Ideas:

This week, we'll read about what happened when China and Europe met. As you'll see from your reading, China was technologically on par with or ahead of Europe throughout most of its history. During the early part of the Ming Dynasty, as the first Portuguese sailors were learning to navigate the western coast of Africa, Chinese sailors were sending giant expeditions to the east coast of Africa in their own efforts to explore the wider world. Imagine if these two civilizations had met at the southern tip of Africa! But the Ming Dynasty recalled the expeditions and turned inward, facing their own deep financial crises. China stopped making technological strides just as Europe began to make big leaps. By the time European traders arrived in force, China had become an insular nation, unprepared for a new modern world. This week you'll also tackle Chinese poetry from a variety of different periods. Chinese poetry can be very abstract and evocative. Give yourself time to appreciate it and try to keep an open mind.



DAY ONE

-  Read *The Making of Modern China*
-  Watch "The Opium Wars" by Feature History via YouTube
-  Watch "The Taiping Rebellion" by the Dragon Historian via YouTube



DAY TWO

-  Do the history questions
-  Do Writing Tools #16
-  Watch The Story of China, Part 4 by PBS (optional)

DAY THREE

-  Watch "The History of Tea" from TED-Ed
-  Do the Poetry and Tea assignment

DAY FOUR

-  Do the Primary Sources: Opium DBQ
-  Do the map work review

Scheduling Notes:

Note that the Poetry and Tea assignment not only requires some special equipment (tea!) but also may take longer than you realize because it asks you to read all the Chinese poetry in *World Masterpieces*. The opium DBQ is also a lengthy one, so don't underestimate the time needed to get it done. If you have time to watch the PBS series, it's excellent and focuses more on the Ming Dynasty, while our other short videos speed ahead to when European nations got more involved in China.

Terms to Know:

- Ming Dynasty
- Manchu
- Qing Dynasty
- Emperor Kangxi
- Canton System
- Opium War
- Western Concessions
- Taiping Rebellion
- Boxer Rebellion
- Self-Strengthening Movement
- Sino-Japanese War



IN YOUR NOTEBOOK

Poetry and Tea

Part One:

Tea is such a key part of Chinese society that we'd like you to sit down and have a cup of tea while you read your poetry. Choose an Asian style green or black tea. If you're not a fan of tea, just give it a try. You're not required to drink the whole cup. You can do this alone and be quietly contemplative as many of the great Chinese poets would have liked. Or you can read poetry with friends or family. Reading poetry aloud with others is a good way to make it come alive. In Chinese culture, in order to be contemplative, you would also have something worth contemplating on hand, such as a volcanic rock or a stem of bamboo. To Confucians and Taoists, such objects are useful for thinking about the essence of the world. If you have a pretty rock or plant on hand, set it on the table for your tea and poetry or even go have your tea and poetry on a porch or in a garden if you can. Read through all the poems in World Masterpieces in the section Chinese Literature (1000 BC - AD 1890). If you're reading with others, you can take time to discuss the poems, or not. If you're reading alone, you can read the various questions to focus your attention or just read.

Part Two:

Choose one poet you enjoyed and go back to his poems. This time, read his biography and the Guide for Interpreting in World Masterpieces. Answer the "Thinking About the Selection" and "Analyzing Literature" questions for one poem or set of poems by the poet of your choice.

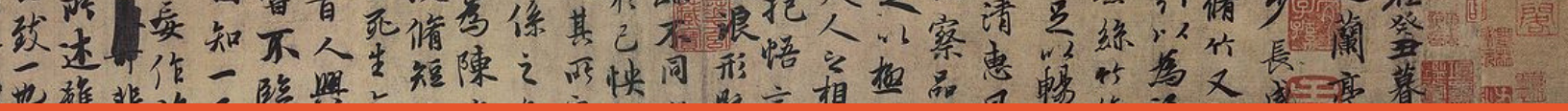
Writing Tools #16

For this tool, read about cliches and how to avoid them. Then do the following:

1. Do Workshop #1. If you don't get a newspaper, use the front web page of your local paper online or a nationally recognized news site like CNN or the Washington Post. If you go online, write down the phrases that you're used to seeing. Whether online or in print, how many can you find in 20 minutes of reading?
2. Pick one story that you read or looked at in the paper that had multiple cliches or phrases that you're used to seeing over and over. Rewrite them.
3. Do Workshop #3. Come up with at least two phrases to replace each of those cliches.

Mapwork Review

It's time to review your mapwork. Look back at the assignment from Week One and repeat it. This time, add in all the countries that border China. There are a lot of them! Remember that during the final week, you'll have to label a blank map. Now that you've studied the history of China for awhile, do you recognize any of the various historical capital cities of China?



PRIMARY SOURCES DBQ: OPIUM IN CHINA

As you'll learn from your history reading, China refused to allow European merchants to trade inside China for centuries, relegating them to a single trade fair once a year. The demand for Chinese goods such as tea and porcelain continued to rise in Europe while the Chinese found little use for European exports. The British were unhappy with this trade imbalance. When they saw that Chinese demand for the drug opium began to rise, they started growing it in their Indian colonies and using smugglers to export it to China. Rampant opium use had negative effects on Chinese families and societies, especially in coastal cities where it was widely available. The government tried repeatedly to ban its use. When they decided to confiscate and destroy British shiploads of the drug, it started the first Opium War in 1839. After that, the Chinese were forced to give massive concessions to the European nations. Opium use continued heavily throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries in China.

For this assignment, examine or read the documents and then respond with a mini-essay to the question: What were the effects of opium on China?

At this point in the year, you've had several Document Based Question assignments, including mini-essays. Hopefully, your writing reflects your learning. Remember to use a thesis statement to answer the question. Use quotes and specific facts from the documents. Remember to consider the different perspectives and biases of each document.

Excerpt from *A Daughter of Han* by Ning Lao T'ai-t'ai (as told to Ida Pruitt)

Mrs. Ning was a working class woman from coastal China. She told her story to oral historian Ida Pruitt and it was published in 1945. These events take place around 1887.

The old uncle and aunt were so grateful to me that they left me a house.

It was also smoked away by my husband.

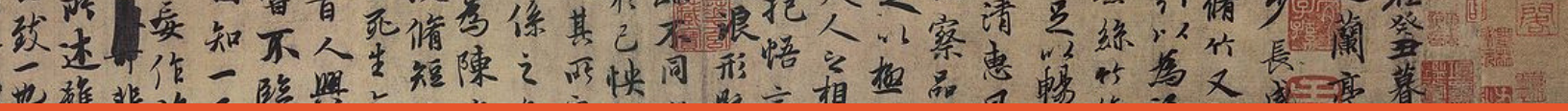
My husband was twenty-nine when I married him, and he had been an opium eater since he was nineteen. He took everything and sold it for opium. He could not help it. He took everything. I dared not wash a garment and put it out to dry without staying by to watch it. If I hid a copper coin under the matting of the k'ang he found it. The land had gradually gone. He had sold it.

I asked my husband, "Why do you smoke opium?"

"Oh," he answered, "you don't know. All the Immortal maidens of the ninth heaven come trooping to me."

He was a fisherman. Our village was on the seashore. There are two lives that a man with a family must now lead. One is to be a soldier and the other to be a fisherman. Fishermen go out with the tide. They may sleep all day and go out in the night watches. They learn to be idle and irregular. In the early morning, if the fishing has been successful, they take their catch, great or small, to the city, five li away. They wait outside the city in the dawn and go in with the gates are first opened. They sell their fish at the market and go to the counting house for their cash. The counting house is in the court of an inn. There they smoke and drink all day. What is there left to bring home? How could they escape the opium habit? And my husband was good natured and friendly. My sister's husband beat her. Mine never lifted his hand to me, but he brought me no food. Half of each month, I lived at home with my mother and ate. My brother brought me grain and flour when I lived the other half in the house of my husband.

When Mantze was born my mother came to my husband's house and took care of me. I stayed in bed four days while she was with me. That is the most I have ever stayed in bed except when I had smallpox. My child was a girl.



When Mantze was two and I was big with another child I left my husband and the village. This was the first time I left him and I went on foot. It was the first time I had walked from my husband's home to my mother's. Respectable women did not walk in the streets of P'englai. We rode on horses and squares of black cloth covered our faces. But I was angry. For three days had we quarreled. He had sold everything I possessed. I had left, of the things my mother had given me at my marriage, only a pair of silver hairpins. I liked those hairpins. He wanted to sell them. I would not let him have them. We fought for three days. These three days the four people in our house had took the hairpins and sold them for a hundred coppers and smoked his opium. We had nothing to eat. Leading my child, and heavy with the other in me, I started out. I said that we would beg.

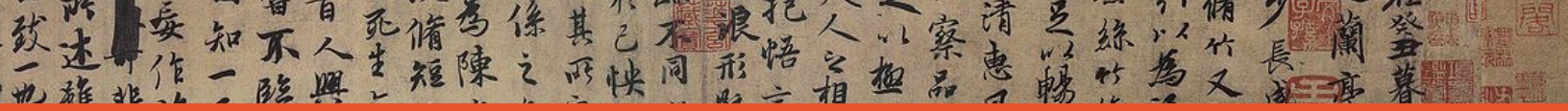
His relatives stood in their gateways and watched us pass. His uncle, the old man whose wife I had nursed and mourned, followed me down the street begging me to return. The tears ran down his face, he was so sorry for me. But I was angry and my anger was great. I went to my mother's house and they took me in. It was in my anger that I said I would beg, but I knew not how. I went back to my husband and when my child was born it was another girl.

Excerpt from Chinese Account of the Opium War by Wei Yuan

This account was translated into English by E.H. Parker and published in 1888.

[A memorialist (official) said]... that the growing consumption of foreign opium was at the root of all China's troubles. Silver,—and coined dollars proportionately, —was becoming scarce and relatively dear, the tael having advanced from 1,000 to 1,600 cash in price; the revenue was in confusion, speculation rife, and trade disorganized. Opium, he said, came from England; but, though those foreigners were ready enough to weaken China and absorb her wealth by encouraging its use, so severely did they forbid smoking amongst themselves that offending ships were sunk by heavy guns. They had possessed themselves of Java by this means, and had endeavoured to seduce Annam, which state however, had firmly discouraged any relations with them. They were now ruining the bodies and the fortunes of the Chinese with their abominable poison; and the memorialist proposed that the penalty of death should be decreed against all offenders...

A hundred and fifty years or so earlier, opium had been admitted into China and taxed as an ordinary drug; but, previous to the year 1765, the annual import had never exceeded 200 chests. In consequence of the rapidly increasing number of smokers, the import was first forbidden in 1796. Notwithstanding this prohibition, the annual clandestine sales had, by the year 1820, reached nearly 4,000 chests... The foreign ships used to deposit their opium here, and then proceed to the ports with the rest of their cargoes. The Foochow, Ningpo, and Shanghai junks imported their opium from the high seas, whilst the Canton merchants used to arrange the price in Canton, and then bring it from the hulks. At first there were only five of these hulks, and the maximum quantity of opium on board did not exceed from 4,000 to 5,000 chests, so that the whole might easily have been set on fire; but, as the Viceroy Juan Yuan had asked for some delay, in order to devise a plan for driving the hulks away, time went on until there were as many as twenty-five hulks, and 20,000 chests of opium... These junks, for a monthly bribe of 36,000 taels allowed the opium to pass freely into port.



Excerpt from a letter from Commissioner Lin Zexu to Queen Victoria

Commissioner Lin wrote this letter in 1839, on the eve of the war. It appears Queen Victoria never received it.

After a long period of commercial intercourse, there appear among the crowd of barbarians both good persons and bad, unevenly. Consequently there are those who smuggle opium to seduce the Chinese people and so cause the spread of the poison to all provinces. Such persons who only care to profit themselves, and disregard their harm to others, are not tolerated by the laws of heaven and are unanimously hated by human beings. His Majesty the Emperor, upon hearing of this, is in a towering rage. He has especially sent me, his commissioner, to come to Kwangtung, and together with the governor-general and governor jointly to investigate and settle this matter.

All those people in China who sell opium or smoke opium should receive the death penalty. If we trace the crime of those barbarians who through the years have been selling opium, then the deep harm they have wrought and the great profit they have usurped should fundamentally justify their execution according to law. We take into consideration, however, the fact that the various barbarians have still known how to repent their crimes and return to their allegiance to us by taking the 20,183 chests of opium from their storeships and petitioning us, through their consular officer [superintendent of trade], Elliot, to receive it. It has been entirely destroyed and this has been faithfully reported to the Throne in several memorials by this commissioner and his colleagues.

Fortunately we have received a specially extended favor from his Majesty the Emperor, who considers that for those who voluntarily surrender there are still some circumstances to palliate their crime, and so for the time being he has magnanimously excused them from punishment. But as for those who again violate the opium prohibition, it is difficult for the law to pardon them repeatedly. Having established new regulations, we presume that the ruler of your honorable country, who takes delight in our culture and whose disposition is inclined towards us, must be able to instruct the various barbarians to observe the law with care. It is only necessary to explain to them the advantages and disadvantages and then they will know that the legal code of the Celestial Court must be absolutely obeyed with awe.

We find that your country is sixty or seventy thousand li from China. Yet there are barbarian ships that strive to come here for trade for the purpose of making a great profit. The wealth of China is used to profit the barbarians. That is to say, the great profit made by barbarians is all taken from the rightful share of China. By what right do they then in return use the poisonous drug to injure the Chinese people? Even though the barbarians may not necessarily intend to do us harm, yet in coveting profit to an extreme, they have no regard for injuring others. Let us ask, where is your conscience? I have heard that the smoking of opium is very strictly forbidden by your country; that is because the harm caused by opium is clearly understood. Since it is not permitted to do harm to your own country, then even less should you let it be passed on to the harm of other countries - how much less to China!

Table

This table comes from *Chinese Roundabout* by Jonathan Spece (1992)

Opium Imports to China from India	
OPIUM IMPORTS TO CHINA FROM INDIA	(1 chest = approximately 140 pounds)
1773	1,000 chests
1790	4,000 chests
1828	18,000 chests
1839	40,000 chests
1865	76,000 chests
1884	81,000 chests (peak)

PRIMARY SOURCES: OPIUM IN CHINA

Excerpts from the Treaty of Nanjing (1842)

This treaty ended the first Opium War between the British and the Chinese. Remember that before the war, all Europeans were restricted from living or traveling in China and could only trade in China once a year in the city of Guangzhou (Canton).

Article II

His Majesty the Emperor of China agrees that British Subjects, with their families and establishments, shall be allowed to reside, for the purpose of carrying on their commercial pursuits, without molestation or restraint at the Cities and Towns of Canton, Amoy, Foochow-fu, Ningpo, and Shanghai, and Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, etc., will appoint Superintendents or Consular Officers, to reside at each of the above-named Cities or Towns, to be the medium of communication between the Chinese Authorities and the said Merchants, and to see that the just Duties and other Dues of the Chinese Government as hereafter provided for, are duly discharged by Her Britannic Majesty's Subjects.

Article III

It being obviously necessary and desirable, that British Subjects should have some Port whereat they may careen and refit their Ships, when required, and keep Stores for that purpose, His Majesty the Emperor of China cedes to Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, etc., the Island of Hong-Kong, to be possessed in perpetuity by her Britannic Majesty, Her Heirs and Successors, and to be governed by such Laws and Regulations as Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, etc., shall see fit to direct.

Article V

The Government of China having compelled the British Merchants trading at Canton to deal exclusively with certain Chinese Merchants called Hong merchants (or Cohong) who had been licensed by the Chinese Government for that purpose, the Emperor of China agrees to abolish that practice in future at all Ports where British Merchants may reside, and to permit them to carry on their mercantile transactions with whatever persons they please, and His Imperial Majesty further agrees to pay to the British Government the sum of Three Millions of Dollars, on account of Debts due to British Subjects by some of the said Hong Merchants (or Cohong) who have become insolvent, and who owe very large sums of money to Subjects of Her Britannic Majesty.

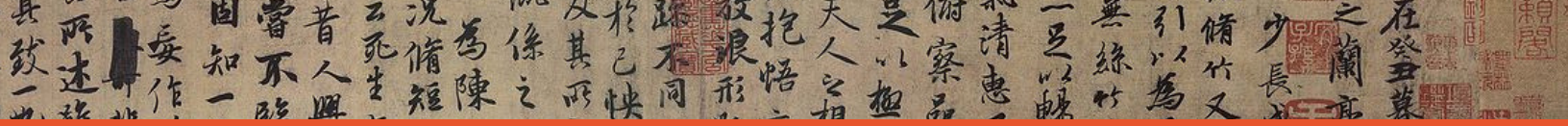
Article VII

It is agreed that the Total amount of Twenty-one Millions of Dollars, described in the three preceding Articles, shall be paid as follows: Six Millions immediately. Six Millions in 1843 ... Five Millions in 1844 ... Four Millions in 1845 ...

Image

This image shows opium smokers in China around 1942.





HISTORY QUESTIONS

These questions cover the Ming and Qing Dynasties. You need to read *Understanding China Through Comics*, vol. 4. You may also refer to a textbook, encyclopedia, or world history resource of your choosing.

1. Who was the founder of the Ming Dynasty? What was his background? How did his background shape his policies once he founded the empire?

2. What financial problems did the Ming Dynasty face? How did they address them?

3. How did the Manchus structure their government?

4. Why did Great Britain feel they needed to sell the Chinese opium? How did the opium trade work?



5. What happened in the First Opium War?

6. In many ways, Hong Xiuquan's story encapsulates many of the problems facing China in the 1800's. Why was he angry? Where did he get his inspiration? What problems did he cause for the Qing Dynasty?

7. What are some of the ways that China tried to modernize after their defeat in the Second Opium War? Were they successful?

8. Why were the Chinese defeated so badly in the First Sino-Japanese War? What happened to the Western military advisors as a result?



9. What made the Boxer movement so attractive to the Chinese? How did it hurt China even more in the end?
