

### China - the end of the Manchu

In the first half of the 19th century, Western countries sent envoys to China for consultations to normalize their trade. However, the Ching government claimed Mandate of Heaven itself and was unwilling to be on an equal footing with the Western countries. At that time the British Empire had a huge demand on Chinese tea and silk, therefore, the United Kingdom imported a large number of opium into China to improve their economic. People's health was weakened, and economy of the Ching Dynasty underwent inflation which made national strength continued to decline. In 189, Lin Zexu was sent to the foreign trade port in Guangzhou to announce a ban on smoking. Thus, the Opium War happened and the Ching and the United Kingdom signed the first unequal treaties - "Treaty of Nanjing" after the war. After that, the late Ching Dynasty was forced to sign unequal treaties with other countries. In addition to lands, ports, indemnities, foreign troops even stationed in the capital which led to the gradual loss of China's sovereignty.

The Ching Dynasty was not only threatened by Western countries, but also confronted with domestic rebellions. The most overwhelming was the Christian Taiping Rebellion. Although it was being put down eventually, the power of the Ching Dynasty was declined. Take advantage of the occasion of the Chinese civil unrest, Britain and France launched the Anglo-French war in 1858 because of failure of repairing treaty with China. Joint Armies captured Beijing and asked to sign the "Treaty of Tianjin" and "Treaty of Beijing". At the same time Russia forced the Ching government to sign "Ai Hui Treaty" due to the active mediation and removed the northeast territory of China. Being faced with the condition within the internal and external forces, the Ching government reestablished national strength and self-strengthening movement. Empress Dowager Cixi was the real power at that time.

She guided lots of decisions of the Ching government instead of the younger emperors. Some ministers in the Ching government gathered and purposed the Self-Strengthening Movement to improve the condition of the Ching Dynasty.

The leases of Western countries also brought Western ideas into China, which the intellectuals mainly divided into reform and revolutionary two constitutional lines, to promote the development of Chinese. Revolutionaries launched the Wuchang Uprising in Hubei Province and many southern provinces have subsequently declared independence. The Ching government then appointed Yuan Shih-kai as the prime minister of the cabinet to set up the cabinet and command the Ching army. On January 1 of 1912, the Republic of China announced the founding in Nanjing and Sun Yat-sen became the Provisional President. On February 12, Emperor Pu Yi was forced to give the imperial edict bringing about the abdication to the government power of Yuan Shi-kai. The demise of the Ching dynasty marked the formal end of the monarchy in China for more than two thousand years.

Sun Yat-sen then gave the power to Yuan Shi-kai and North-South reunited again. However, they struggled a lot in the after years. After Yuan Shi-kai died, the central government lacked the strength to control the whole country resulting in China entered the warlord period. In 1917, Sun Yat-sen cooperated with the Guangdong warlord, set another separate government of the Republic of China, and launched the movement of law enforcement. However, it failed and the Communist Party of China established. The Communist Party of China started the Nanchang Uprising and the armed seizure of power began, opening a decade of the first civil war prelude. The Chinese Communist Party established bases in various places and resisted the Kuomintang government. The Japanese Empire launched the September 18th Incident to invade northeastern China and establish Manchukuo and later continued to launch hostilities. The Kuomintang adopted the policy of resisting foreign aggression and

internal security. On the one hand, they constantly compromised with Japan, and on the one hand intensify the anti-Communist.

Overall, the end of the Ching Dynasty could not get away with the increasing power of the Western countries and those unequal treaties. The main causes of the demise of the Manchu can be summarized into four main reasons on politics, psychology, military and economics. The influence of the Taiping Rebellion led to a substantial division of the land. The defeat of the Sino - Japanese War totally lost the Mandate of Heaven. Training new army and expanding armed new army wasted time and strength of the Ching Dynasty. The wrong decision of taking back road rights and other squeezing economic policies was also the reason.