Imperialism in China

- Opium Wars
- Boxer Rebellion
The First Opium War

- In British trade with China centered around opium. The **British imported opium from India to China in exchange for silk.**
Chinese silver was used to buy opium, and the Chinese government was fearful of a trade imbalance. China demanded that opium sales stop.
European traders ignored the Qing (rulers of China at the time) government’s laws and increased trade of silk and tea.

This caused severe social problems in China because many became addicted to opium.
Great Britain went to war against the Chinese to defend its right to sell opium.
In 1842, China was forced to sign the Treaty of Nanjing which gave Hong Kong to Britain and allowed European traders in several port cities.
The **Second Opium War, 1856-1860**

Began in 1856 when the Chinese allegedly conducted an illegal search of the British ship, the *Arrow*, at Guangzhou.

British and French troops took Guangzhou and Tianjin in 1858.

China was forced to open 11 more ports, allow foreign commerce in Beijing, sanction Christian missionary work, and legalize British importation of opium in the Treaty of Tianjin.

However, China attempted to block the entry of diplomats into Beijing in 1859 to prevent enforcement of the new treaty terms.

In response, the British and French occupied Beijing and burned the imperial summer palace.

After the war China was forced to accept the Treaty of Tianjin.
Results of Opium Wars

- England annexed Hong Kong and Kowloon
- France took over Indochina (Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos)
- Russia moved into Chinese Turkistan and Manchuria
- Japan grabbed Taiwan and won dominance over Korea

This cartoon depicts England, Germany, Russia, France, and Japan at the table, ready to cut up China after the Opium Wars. Asia was carved up after the Opium Wars. It is reminiscent of the Berlin Conference when the African continent was divided between the European powers.
The Boxer Rebellion

The Boxer Rebellion was a popular Chinese revolt against foreign imperialism. It lasted from November 1899 to September 7, 1901. The Europeans called the Chinese fighters “boxers” because martial arts looked to them like boxing. The rebels called themselves The Righteous Harmony Society, which was sometimes translated as “The Righteous and Harmonious Fists.”
Initially the Boxers fought against foreign involvement in China. However, by August 1900, the Boxers turned against Christian missionaries and Chinese converts. The Boxers killed hundreds of foreigners and tens of thousands of Chinese Christians.
In June of 1900, the Boxers, aided by the Imperial Army, attacked foreign embassies in Tianjin and Beijing.

The embassies of Belgium, France, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States were all under siege.
In response, eight nations sent troops: Japan, Russia, France, Germany, the United States, Great Britain, Italy and Austria-Hungary.

The alliance eventually numbered 54,000:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nation</th>
<th>Troops</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>20,840</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U. S.</td>
<td>3,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Austro-Hungarian</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>British</td>
<td>12,020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>3,520</td>
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<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>13,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and anti-Boxer Chinese</td>
<td>troops</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
For two months the ambassadors and their families defended themselves in Beijing with only a single cannon and personal firearms. They were rescued by the 54,000 foreign troops of the Eight-Nation Alliance. On September 7, 1901, the Qing emperor signed the Boxer Protocol and ended the fighting.
This political cartoon shows the winners celebrating the fall of Peking, 1900 at the end of the Boxer Rebellion. What countries are represented? Which country lies on the ground? *(Describe the cartoon in your notes)*