

## Chinese Rebellions 1774-1911:

### The White Lotus Rebellion, 1774 – 1820

- Buddhist sect along with Daoist traditions
- Worshipped the Eternal Venerable Mother, Maitreya
- Peaceful at first
- No central organization
- Had millenarian predictions – (end of the world)
- They were persecuted by government
- Joined by bandits and smugglers
- Local gentry asked to raise militia
- Rebellion broke out in 1796
- Took all the strength of the Qing Military to suppress the rebellion
- Broke the “invincible” image of the Qing leading the way for later rebellions

### Secret Societies in general:

- Heterodox in nature
- Heaven and Earth Society
- Triad (Taiwan)
- Red Turbans
- Small Sword Society
- Yellow Turbans

### The Taiping Rebellion – 1851-1864

- Leader, Hong Xiuquan (1814-1864)
- Disaffected member of the elite
- Took civil service exams 3 times and failed
- Had nervous breakdown with visions, used trances to encourage members
- Thought he was younger brother of Jesus
- Called “Taiping Tianguo”, Heavenly Kingdom of Peace
- Had scholars support to make civil service exams Christian-based
- Took Nanjing as capital, killed **2 million people** (1/2 million in US civil war)
- Wanted **land system, equal ownership for women and men**
- Wanted **elections** and **Western model for government**
- Gentry formed local militia, become **Warlords** later
- Supported by Christian Missionaries

## Sino-Japanese War - 1894-1895

- China loses to little Japan, loss of "face"
- Chinese elite are upset
- Loss of Taiwan and Korea to Japan (Formosa)
- Burma, to Britain
- Vietnam, to France
- Carving up of China, "spheres of influence"

## Boxer Rebellion – 1898-1900

- China humiliated due to Japan's victory
- Indemnity paid part of "21 Points"
- Famine and drought in North
- Jade emperor is displeased (Daoist)
- "Spirit Boxers", claim trance-like state makes them impervious to bullets
- Focused on Empress Cixi at first but she turned them against the Missionaries
- They kill 100 Christian missionaries before the US and Britain invade

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