

CHAPTER
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CHAPTERS IN BRIEF

Transformations Around the Globe, 1800–1914

Summary

CHAPTER OVERVIEW *In China, a weak government could not resist European power. In Japan, a reforming emperor modernized the country and launched imperialist expansion. The Latin American economies fell prey to European businesses, and the United States became the dominant power in the region. A revolution freed Mexico from France, but civil war raged for decades.*

1 China Resists Outside Influence

KEY IDEA *Western economic pressure forced China to open to foreign trade and influence.*

In the late 1700s, China was self-sufficient. It had a strong farming economy based on growing rice. Other crops, introduced from the Americas, helped to feed its large population. Industry made silk, cotton, and ceramics. Mines produced salt, tin, silver, and iron. China needed nothing from the outside world.

China allowed only limited trade with European powers, and it all had to come through one port. Also, the trade at this port was in China's favor. In other words, the Chinese sold more than they bought. Europeans, especially the British, were eager to find something that the Chinese would want in large quantities. In the early 1800s, they found it—the drug opium, shipped mostly from India. Soon millions of Chinese were addicted to opium, and the Chinese government complained. When the British refused to stop the trade, war broke out. Because British ships had more powerful guns, China lost the war. As a result, in 1842 the British took possession of Hong Kong. Later, the United States and European nations won the right to trade in five ports. The Chinese resented these treaties but could not stop them.

China had internal problems as well. The population had grown quickly. Yet food production had barely increased, so millions starved. The Chinese began to rebel against their government. A leader arose in southern China who hoped to save China. He launched a rebellion that won control of large parts of the south, including the city of Nanjing. The government needed 14 years to put down the Taiping Rebellion. The fighting resulted in the death of millions.

In the late 1800s, European powers and Japan each won a foothold in China—a “sphere of

influence.” This is a region in which a foreign nation controls trade and investment. The United States opposed these steps. It urged an Open Door Policy, in which all powers had equal access to Chinese markets. While the Europeans agreed, the result had little benefit for China. Though it was not formally carved into colonies, it was clearly dominated by foreign powers.

The Empress Cixi ruled China in fact, even though younger emperors ruled in name. She supported some reforms. She backed the self-strengthening movement, which produced new ships for China. The program was not a complete success, though. In 1898, the young Emperor Guangxu tried to put in place broader reforms. Conservatives didn't like this. The retired Cixi had him arrested and took back control of the government. China had lost a chance to change.

Many Chinese grew increasingly resentful of foreign influence. They formed the Society of Harmonious Fists, known as the Boxers. They wanted to get rid of all Western influence—including any Chinese who had accepted Western culture or the Christian religion. In early 1900, an army of Boxers surrounded Beijing's European section. After many weeks, they were finally driven out by a multinational army of soldiers.

Finally Cixi began to allow major reforms. Change came slowly, though. In 1908, the court said that China would become a constitutional monarchy by 1917. However, unrest would soon return.

2 Modernization in Japan

KEY IDEA *Japan followed the model of Western powers by expanding its foreign influence.*

From the early 1600s to the mid-1800s, Japan was virtually isolated. It did have relations with China and Korea and had limited contact with Dutch traders. That changed in 1853 when American steamships, with cannons, entered Japanese waters.

The next year, Japan agreed to open up trade to the United States. Soon after, it made similar deals with European nations.

Many Japanese were upset with the shogun, the military dictator, who had agreed to these new treaties. The Emperor Mutsuhito rallied their support and managed to overthrow the shogun. For the first time in centuries, the emperor ruled Japan directly. He reigned for 45 years, from 1867 to 1912, in what is called the Meiji era. The name Meiji, which he chose for his reign, means “enlightened rule.”

The emperor was determined to modernize his country. He sent government officials to Europe and the United States. From what they saw, they shaped a new Japan. They modeled the government after the strong central government of Germany. They patterned the army after Germany’s and a new navy after Britain’s. They adapted the American system of schooling for all children. The emperor also supported changes to Japan’s economy. The country built railroads, mined coal, and constructed factories.

These steps had results. In just a few years, Japan’s industrial economy equaled almost any in the world. By 1890, it was the strongest military power in Asia. It asked foreigners to give up their special rights in Japan. The countries agreed, and a proud Japan felt equal to them. Now, it wanted to demonstrate its power.

Japan began to expand its influence like the European powers. When China broke an agreement not to send armies into Korea, Japan went to war. It drove China out of Korea and gained Taiwan and some other islands as new colonies. In 1904, Japan and Russia fought a war over China’s Manchurian territory. Japan surprised the world by defeating a larger power that was supposed to be stronger.

The next year, Japan attacked Korea, and by 1910 it had won complete control. The Japanese proved to be harsh rulers. They shut down Korean newspapers and changed schools so that only Japanese language and history were taught. They took away land from Korean farmers and gave it to Japanese settlers. They built factories to be run by Japanese only. Koreans were not allowed to start new businesses. Koreans bitterly resented these actions. They began a nationalist movement and protested against Japanese rule.

3 U.S. Economic Imperialism

KEY IDEA *The United States put increasing economic and political pressure on Latin America in the 1800s.*

In the early 1800s, the new nations of Latin America had serious problems. Most people were poor. They worked on farms for large landowners who took advantage of them. Another problem was political unrest. Local leaders rivaled one another for power. Military dictators, or caudillos, generally held power with the backing of the landowners, because the dictators refused to give power to the mass of poor people. Only people with property could vote. Sometimes reformers did take office and lead their countries. They never lasted long, though. When their reforms upset the power of the wealthy too much, a caudillo would rise and remove them from office.

With Spain no longer ruling the lands, old trade laws were gone. The new countries could now trade with any nation. Britain and the United States became the chief trading partners. Soon businesses in these nations dominated Latin American economies.

The economies of Latin America depended on exporting goods. They shipped goods such as coffee, beef, fruits, and vegetables. Each country focused on producing and exporting one or two goods. The volume of exports rose rapidly during the 1800s. The coming of railroads and steamships helped. The invention of refrigerated cars helped also, allowing producers to increase food exports.

This trade mainly went to benefit other countries, though. Latin America did not develop industries of its own. It had to import manufactured goods, which cost more than what was earned from exports. Also, Latin American countries often borrowed money to expand the facilities used to increase those exports. They had to borrow the money from foreign banks. When they could not repay the loans, lenders took control of the businesses. In this way, much of Latin American business fell into foreign hands.

In the 1890s, the United States began to take a more active role in Latin American affairs. The people of Cuba were fighting for their independence from Spain. American businesses had important interests on the island. Also, Spain had placed Cuban citizens in concentration camps, which out-

raged many Americans. For these reasons, the United States joined the war. The Spanish quickly gave up, and the United States gained several new territories. After the war, though, the United States put a military government in place in Cuba. This step and others helped promote anger among many Cubans against the United States.

The United States next set its sights on Panama. Ships traveling from the east to the west coast had to go around the southern tip of South America, which took many weeks. Americans hoped to build a canal across Panama. President Roosevelt offered \$10 million to Colombia—to which Panama belonged—for the right to build this canal. When Colombia asked for more money, the United States helped the people of Panama revolt for independence. In return, the United States won a ten-mile-wide zone in Panama in which to build a canal. The canal opened in 1914.

In 1904, Roosevelt said that the United States had the right to act as “an international police power” in the western hemisphere. Over the next decades, it acted on that belief many times. When trouble arose in various countries, the United States sent its troops. Sometimes they stayed for many years.

4 Turmoil and Change in Mexico

KEY IDEA *Political, economic, and social inequalities in Mexico triggered a period of revolution and reform.*

Antonio López de Santa Anna was a leading figure in the early history of independent Mexico. He fought to win independence from Spain and led in another war when Spain tried to recapture Mexico. He served as president four times, shrewdly changing his positions in order to retain power.

In the 1830s, though, he was unable to prevent people in Texas from winning their freedom from Mexico. In the 1840s, the United States annexed Texas, which angered many Mexicans. When a border dispute broke out, the United States invaded Mexico. Santa Anna led his nation’s army and was defeated. Mexico had to surrender huge amounts of land.

Another important leader of the middle 1800s was Benito Juárez. A Zapotec Indian, Juárez wanted to improve conditions for the poor in

Mexico. He led a movement called *La Reforma*—the reform—that aimed at breaking the power of the large landowners and giving more schooling to the poor. He and his liberal supporters won control of the government in the late 1850s. The conservatives who opposed them did not give up, however. They plotted with France to retake Mexico. In 1862, Napoleon III of France sent an army that captured the country in 18 months. He named a European noble as emperor. But, Juárez and his followers kept fighting. In 1867, they drove the French from Mexican soil and killed the emperor.

Juárez once again pressed for his reforms. He made some progress but died in office in 1872. Soon after, a new leader emerged. Porfirio Díaz dominated Mexican politics for more than 30 years. Díaz brought order to the country and encouraged economic growth. However, he sharply limited political freedom.

In the early 1900s, calls for reform got louder. Leaders “Pancho” Villa and Emiliano Zapata gathered support with their demand for better lives for the poor. They raised small armies and forced Díaz to step down. Fighting continued, however, for many years as several leaders struggled for power. In the midst of this turmoil, Mexico adopted a new constitution in 1917. It called for breaking up large landholdings and for limits on foreign ownership of business. It promoted the right to strike for workers and promised some rights for women. Conflict continued until a new political party gained control of Mexico in 1929. The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) brought peace and political stability to a troubled land.

Review

1. **Summarizing** Describe China’s two major attempts to remain isolated from the outside world.
2. **Recognizing Effects** What was the result of Japan’s feelings of pride and strength in the late 1800s?
3. **Evaluating Courses of Action** Through what method did the Japanese modernize during the Meiji era?
4. **Drawing Conclusions** Why did the Latin American nations not benefit from growing trade?
5. **Comparing** What did Juárez, Villa, and Zapata have in common?