CONTEXTUALIZATION—OPIUM WARS EVENT CARDS

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Europeans and Americans benefited from new technology created during the Industrial Revolution including steam-powered ships and advanced weapons. | China restricted foreign access to trade to the port city of Guangzhou. | Opium was cultivated in British-controlled India and smuggled into China in an attempt to reverse Britain’s trade imbalance with China. | Industrialized nations practiced economic imperialism and attempted to influence regions economically rather than through direct rule of colonies. |
| Industrialization began in Great Britain in the mid-eighteenth century and quickly spread to other areas of Europe and North America. | British opium flooded China with devastating effects that included addiction and death. | In 1840, a British steam-powered fleet arrived in China with powerful weapons. | Industrialized nations established colonies around the world including areas of Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Australasia using policies of direct and indirect rule. |
| Chinese exports were in demand around the world, which allowed China to dominate trade from its earliest dynasties to the early nineteenth-century Qing Dynasty. | The demand for Chinese goods in Great Britain created a trade imbalance, with the British East India Company spending 17 million pounds on Chinese tea from 1821 to 1830. | Qing official Lin Zexu destroyed 20,000 chests of British opium to halt illegal smuggling of the drug. | China mainly had sail-powered ships and Chinese soldiers carried bows and older muskets. |