The Opium War (1839-1842)

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The Canton System

- trade only allowed in Canton
- 13 factories
- Limited residence in Canton
- Monopoly on both sides
Enforcing an end of the opium trade

Surrendering and destroying opium

Lin Zexu
Treaty of Nanjing (1842): The first unequal treaty

- Hong Kong given to British
- Opened new ports to trade
- Reduced Tariffs
- Direct diplomatic relations
- Large indemnities
The illegal opium trade was “a mere incident to the dispute; no more the cause of war than the throwing overboard of the tea in the Boston Harbor was the cause of the North American revolution. The cause of the war is the kow-tow!—the arrogant and insupportable pretensions of China, that she will hold commercial intercourse with mankind not upon terms of equal reciprocity, but upon insulting and degrading forms of relation between lord and vassal.”

-- John Quincy Adams, 1841.
Potosí lies in the Province of Peru, in Lat. 14° 15' Dep. 15th. Its above a Spanish League in Circumference and 1654 Rods high, of the Form of a Sugar-loaf and a Sandy Colour. It has four extraordinary rich Veins of silver ore, discovered A.D. 1545. They run N & S steeply in East side of S Hill in 1587, the Rich Vein contained 8 or 9 times, some of wth were above 200 fathom deep. Here are kept employed by turns above 50000 Miners. It is generally reported that here are refined annually, for 3 King's fifth per about 1,866,000 lb. of fine Silver, besides what he is deprived of, wth is thought to equal almost the said Sum.
East India Company (1600 to 1874)
Triangle Trade and Opium

- English sold textiles to India
- India sold raw cotton and opium to China
- China sold tea and silk to Britain
- Most interchanges carried out by British traders
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