



Section 1

PRIMARY SOURCE **British Contract with an African King**

In 1888 Cecil Rhodes sent three agents of his South Africa Company—Charles Rudd, Rochfort Maguire, and Francis Thompson—to see the king of the Ndebele people. The mining company agents persuaded the African king Lo Bengula to sign a contract granting the British mining rights. Later, Lo Bengula said that he had been tricked into signing the agreement, and he wrote a letter of protest to Queen Victoria of Great Britain. What were the terms of this contract?

Know all men by these presents, that whereas Charles Dunell Rudd, of Kimberley; Rochfort Maguire, of London; and Francis Robert Thompson, of Kimberley, hereinafter called the grantees, have covenanted and agreed, and do hereby covenant and agree, to pay to me, my heirs and successors, the sum of one hundred pounds sterling, British currency, on the first day of every lunar month; and, further, to deliver at my royal kraal one thousand Martini-Henry breech-loading rifles, together with one hundred thousand rounds of suitable ball cartridge, five hundred of the said rifles and fifty thousand of the said cartridges to be ordered from England forthwith and delivered with reasonable dispatch, and the remainder of the said rifles and cartridges to be delivered as soon as the said grantees shall have commenced to work mining machinery within my territory; and further, to deliver on the Zambesi River a steamboat with guns suitable for defensive purposes upon the said river, or in lieu of the said steamboat, should I so elect to pay to me the sum of five hundred pounds sterling, British currency. On the execution of these presents, I, Lo Bengula, King of Matabeleland, Mashonaland, and other adjoining territories, in exercise of my council of indunas, do hereby grant and assign unto the said grantees, their heirs, representatives, and assigns, jointly and severally, the complete and exclusive charge over all metals and minerals situated and contained in my kingdoms, principalities, and dominions, together with full power to do all things that they may deem necessary to win and procure the same, and to hold, collect, and enjoy the profits and revenues, if any, derivable

from the said metals and minerals, subject to the aforesaid payment; and whereas I have been much molested [of] late by diverse persons seeking and desiring to obtain grants and concessions of land and mining rights in my territories, I do hereby authorise the said grantees, their heirs, representatives, and assigns, to take all necessary and lawful steps to exclude from my kingdom, principalities, and dominions all persons seeking land, metals, minerals, or mining rights therein, and I do hereby undertake to render them all such needful assistance as they may from time to time require for the exclusion of such persons, and to grant no concessions of land or mining rights from and after this date without their consent and concurrence; provided that, if at any time the said monthly payment of one hundred pounds shall cease [the agreement's end dates from] the last-made payment.

*from Sir Lewis Mitchell, *The Life of the Right Honorable Cecil John Rhodes*, Vol. 1 (London: 1910), 244–245.
Reprinted in Peter N. Stearns, ed., *Documents in World History*, Vol. II (New York: Harper Collins, 1988), 102–103.*

Discussion Questions

Recognizing Facts and Details

1. What was the king to receive from the British mining company?
2. What did the king agree to give the British mining company?
3. **Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think the British mining company agents wanted to obtain mining rights through a contract rather than taking them by force?

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Section 5

PRIMARY SOURCE **In Favor of Imperialism**
Speech by Albert Beveridge

While running for the Senate in 1898, Indiana's Albert Beveridge gave a campaign speech in which he explained why the United States should keep the Philippines. As you read this excerpt, consider his arguments in favor of U.S. imperialism.

It is a noble land that God has given us; a land that can feed and clothe the world; a land whose coastlines would enclose half the countries of Europe; a land set like a sentinel between the two imperial oceans of the globe, a greater England with a nobler destiny. It is a mighty people that He has planted on this soil; a people sprung from the most masterful blood of history; . . . a people imperial by virtue of their power, by right of their institutions, by authority of their heaven-directed purposes—the propagandists and not the misers of liberty.

It is a glorious history our God has bestowed upon His chosen people; a history whose keynote was struck by the Liberty Bell; a history heroic with faith in our mission and our future; a history of statesmen who flung the boundaries of the republic out into unexplored lands and savage wildernesses; a history of soldiers who carried the flag across the blazing deserts and through the ranks of hostile mountains, even to the gates of sunset; a history of a multiplying people who overran a continent in half a century. . . .

Therefore, in this campaign, the question is larger than a party question. It is an American question. It is a world question. Shall the American people continue in their restless march toward the commercial supremacy of the world? Shall free institutions broaden their blessed reign as the children of liberty wax in strength, until the empire of our principles is established over the hearts of all mankind? . . .

God bless the soldiers of 1898, children of the heroes of 1861, descendants of the heroes of 1776! In the halls of history they will stand side by side with those elder sons of glory, and the opposition to the government at Washington shall not deny them. No! They shall not be robbed of the honor due them, nor shall the republic be robbed of what they won for their country. . . .

Hawaii is ours; Puerto Rico is to be ours; at the prayer of the people, Cuba will finally be ours; . . . at the very least the flag of a liberal government is to float over the Philippines, and I pray God it may be the banner that Taylor unfurled in Texas and Frémont carried to the coast—the stars and stripes of glory.

The march of the flag! . . .

Think of the thousands of Americans who will pour into Hawaii and Puerto Rico when the republic's laws cover those islands with justice and safety! Think of the tens of thousands of Americans who will invade mine and field and forest in the Philippines when a liberal government . . . shall establish order and equity there! Think of the hundreds of thousands of Americans who will build a soap-and-water, common-school civilization of energy and industry in Cuba when a government of law replaced the double reign of anarchy and tyranny. Think of the prosperous millions that empress of islands will support when, obedient to the law of political gravitation, her people ask for the highest honor liberty can bestow, the sacred Order of the Stars and Stripes, the citizenship of the Great Republic!

from Thomas B. Reed, ed., Modern Eloquence, Vol. XI (Philadelphia, 1903), 224–243.

Discussion Questions

Clarifying

1. Whose hand did Beveridge see in America's destiny?
2. According to Beveridge, what would Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, and Cuba gain from their association with the United States?
3. **Drawing Conclusions** Which arguments for the expansion of the American empire do you find most persuasive?

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Section 1

GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: MOVEMENT

The Opium Wars

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

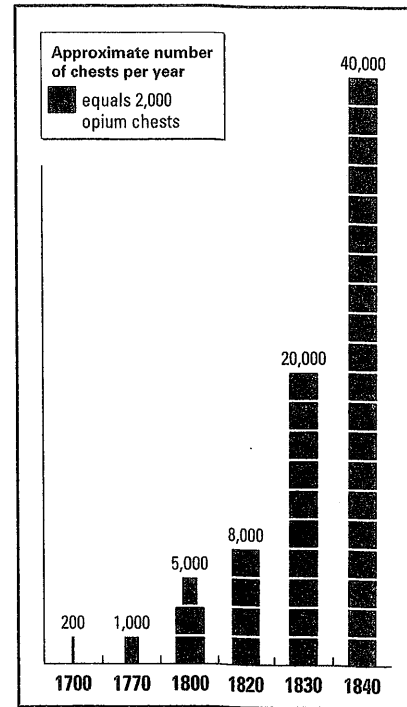
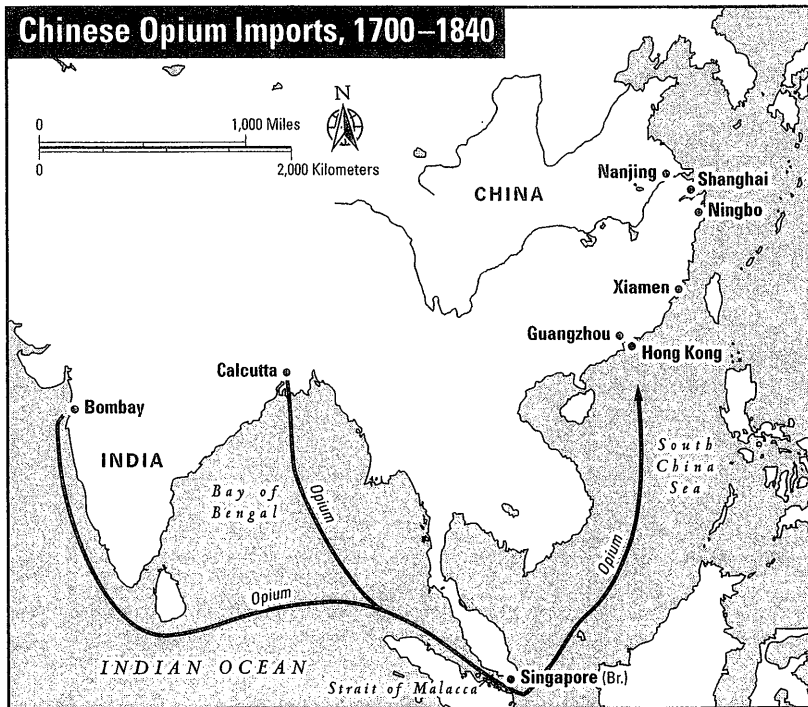
In the 1700s, Britain began smuggling from India into China a narcotic known as opium in order to open Chinese trade markets. The English had been desperate to find a product the Chinese would buy. Opium became that product.

The East India Company, the English company chartered to trade in Asia, opened Chinese trade markets by addicting the Chinese to opium. In the beginning, the Company kept the distribution of the narcotic to a small amount in order to increase the price. At that time, opium was a drug used only by wealthy Chinese—it was not yet a drug of the common people. However, in 1819, the British began distributing massive amounts of opium in order to eliminate the competition. Though flooding the market temporarily dropped the price, the cheaper price of the drug increased the amount of

users. Opium became a recreational drug and created a vast market of opium addicts.

The British government had a vested interest in not only maintaining, but increasing the amount of opium sold in China. Silver gained from the sale of opium helped purchase Chinese tea, which the English drank by the millions-of-gallons every year. The tax on this tea provided the British government with ten percent of its revenue.

Britain's expanding sales of opium to China caused the Opium War of 1839. China wanted sales stopped and destroyed an opium shipment at Guangzhou. The British responded by attacking the port cities shown on the map. The war ended in 1842 with a treaty favorable for the victorious British.



Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. In the graph what does each box represent? _____

2. How many chests were imported by China in 1820? _____

3. By how many chests did the annual opium imports increase between 1770 and 1800? between 1830 and 1840? _____

4. Describe the route by which opium reached China. _____

5. What is the approximate sailing distance from Bombay to Guangzhou? _____

6. How do you think British control over India and Singapore supported and protected its opium trade? _____

7. Why did the British government encourage the opium trade? _____

8. Describe the cycle of silver from Britain to China and back to Britain again. _____

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Section 1

PRIMARY SOURCE *from Letter to Queen Victoria*
by Lin Zexu

In 1839 the Qing emperor instructed Lin Zexu, an important Chinese official, to end the opium trade with Britain. Lin ordered a large amount of opium seized and publicly destroyed and sent a letter to Queen Victoria about the problems caused by opium. Britain refused to stop trading opium, however, and British warships based in Hong Kong harbor initiated the Opium War by attacking cities along the Chinese coast. As you read this excerpt from Lin's letter, think about why he opposed the opium trade.

Lin, high imperial commissioner, a president of the Board of War, viceroy of the two Kiang provinces, &c., Tang, a president of the Board of War, viceroy of the two Kwang provinces, &c., and E, a vice-president of the Board of War, lieut.-governor of Kwang-tung, &c., hereby conjointly address this public dispatch to the queen of England. . . .

We find that your country is distant from us about sixty or seventy thousand [Chinese] miles, that your foreign ships come hither striving the one with the other for our trade, and for the simple reason of their strong desire to reap a profit. By what principle of reason then, should these foreigners send in return a poisonous drug, which involves in destruction those very natives of China? Without meaning to say that the foreigners harbor such destructive intentions in their hearts, we yet positively assert that from their inordinate thirst after gain, they are perfectly careless about the injuries they inflict upon us! And such being the case, we should like to ask what has become of that conscience which heaven has implanted in the breasts of all men?

We have heard that in your own country opium is prohibited with the utmost strictness and severity:—this is a strong proof that you know full well how hurtful it is to mankind. Since then you do not permit it to injure your own country, you ought not to have the injurious drug transferred to another country, and above all others, how much less to the Inner Land! Of the products which China exports to your foreign countries, there is not one which is not beneficial to mankind in some shape or other. . . . On the other hand, the things that come from your foreign countries are only calculated to make presents of, or serve for mere amusement. It is quite the same to us if we have them, or if we have them

not. If then these are of no material consequence to us of the Inner Land, what difficulty would there be in prohibiting and shutting our market against them? . . .

Our celestial empire rules over ten thousand kingdoms! Most surely do we possess a measure of godlike majesty which ye cannot fathom! Still we cannot bear to slay or exterminate without previous warning, and it is for this reason that we now clearly make known to you the fixed laws of our land. If the foreign merchants of your said honorable nation desire to continue their commercial intercourse, they then must tremblingly obey our recorded statutes, they must cut off for ever the source from which the opium flows, and on no account make an experiment of our laws in their own persons! . . .

Let your highness immediately, upon the receipt of this communication, inform us promptly of the state of matters, and of the measure you are pursuing utterly to put a stop to the opium evil. Please let your reply be speedy. Do not on any account make excuses or procrastinate. A most important communication.

from The Chinese Repository, Vol. 8 (February 1840), 497–503. Reprinted in Peter N. Stearns, ed., Documents in World History, Vol. II (New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 1988), 55–58.

Discussion Questions

Clarifying

1. According to Lin, what was Britain's motivation for trading opium?
2. Why did Lin oppose the opium trade with Britain?
3. **Making Inferences** What does Lin's letter reveal about China's attitudes toward foreigners and Western influence?

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Section 4

SKILLBUILDER PRACTICE *Analyzing Political Cartoons*

Political cartoons use humor to make a serious point. They usually address political matters and other issues of interest. Cartoonists often use symbols and other visual clues to get their message across. The cartoon below concerns the response of the United States to "Pancho" Villa's attack on the town of Columbus, New Mexico, in 1916. Examine the cartoon and then answer the questions that follow. (See Skillbuilder Handbook.)



1. Who is the character on the right in the cartoon? Who or what does this character represent?

2. Who is the character on the left in the cartoon?

3. How do you think the cartoonist feels about the actions of the United States? Support your answer with details from the cartoon.

