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DEENS' MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2024

BACKGROUND GUIDE

IMPERIAL WAR ROOM

AGENDA:

“Fall of the Qing Empire”

Freeze Date:

10th October, 1911

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Letter From the Executive Board

Greetings Delegates.

We are delighted to have you here at the 2024 Edition of Deens Model United Nations (DMUN). We, as your Executive Board, would like to welcome you to a thrilling, unconventional historical semi crisis committee, the Imperial War Room. MUN, by nature, is bound to put one's diplomacy, negotiation skills, critical thinking, and knowledge of geopolitical relations as a delegate, deliberator, and debater, to the ultimate test. From lively general discussions to crucial moderated caucuses that dive deep into every key element of your agenda, there is frankly, a lot on your plate. What will determine your level of skill, and eventually, your placement, will be how efficiently you face such challenges. Furthermore, our committee has a twist – a crisis.

Considering that this committee's agenda is based on a historical precedent that existed before the formation of the United Nations, we understand that many of you could be unfamiliar with the legislation and structural dynamics of a committee such as this, let alone a semi crisis committee. However, we assure you that we will do our level best to ensure that this committee, regardless of your experience, is one worth remembering. This background guide briefs you on the primary facets of semi crisis debate that will be necessary to leverage in committee sessions, so that your level of preparation is quintessential. We therefore strongly encourage you to go through this guide thoroughly to have the best level of understanding of committee proceedings, and to further your research.

The agenda, "The Fall of the Qing Empire", marking the commencement of the Wuchang Rebellion is one that in a nutshell, screams chaos, conflict, and utter internal pandemonium. You will be facing the intense challenge of representing a myriad of Heads of State of multiple key stakeholders in the War, regardless of the status of your Empire/feudal/external membership at this juncture in the historical timeline.

You are expected to imagine as if you're planted into the agenda's virtual period – October 1911 onwards. Unlike committees in the General Assembly which follow set Rules of Procedure, in a semi crisis committee, you will be the writers of history, and you need not adhere to the historical timeline observed in real life, since the qualities, backgrounds, and spontaneous roles/perspectives of these portfolios will be imbibed in you. You will gather knowledge of the different kinds of documentation you can leverage in semi-crisis committees to push your individual and joint agendas forward. Another unique characteristic of semi crisis committees is that you need not reach a consensus. In essence, anything is possible, but the aftermath and outcomes of these events are decided by you and your portfolios. Hence, we advise you to gain

extensive knowledge of the roles of your portfolios in the context of their geopolitical relations, and what incentives they would have been trying to succeed in manifesting, in the previously mentioned period.

As we guide you through this journey, we couldn't stress this more: Activity is key. Voicing out your perspectives without hesitation, contradiction, or pushing yourself into a corner amidst the chaos that crisis brings to the table, will be what gives you an upper hand over your fellow delegates. Do not fear the size and/or calibre of the committee. You need to learn how to use the tools given to you to emerge as frontrunners of this agenda – from directives, crisis arcs, communiques, and press releases, to the content of these documentations and how it will determine the course of the committee. All in all, enjoy your time on the committee, be creative and intuitive, and try to steer this covert meeting hall in Shaanxi, Han/Qing China in the direction you want it to, to your level best. Beyond this, we hope you take an invaluable learning experience away from this conference.

We await your presence.

Rishikesh Madhuvairy - Head Chairperson

Amogh Upadhyay - Vice Chairperson

Freya Khona - Moderator

Introduction to the Agenda:

The fall of the Qing Dynasty was a critical juncture in Modern Chinese history, the Empire was faced with an unprecedented array of challenges. Foreign encroachment, Economic stagnation, and Military defeat are a few, but the focus of this committee is the Revolutionary fervor. The spread of radical ideas, including republicanism, nationalism, and socialism, has inspired a new generation of Chinese intellectuals and activists to challenge the imperial system.

It was just 221 BCE when Qin Shi Huangdi first united China, making it the sole, undisputed superpower in Southeast Asia. The reign of the Manchu rulers of the Qing dynasty started in 1644 CE, following the successful disposal of the last Ming rulers. After more than 250 years of steady rule and a few suppressed uprisings later the Qing dynasty faced its biggest threat yet, the Wuchang uprising.

Revolutionary fervour in the Qing dynasty started with the white lotus Rebellion in 1796. Since then radical ideas of socialism have been prevalent in the people of China. In the 1850's the Qing rulers experienced a civil war, also known as the Taiping Rebellion. The movement aimed to rid China of demons and the Manchu rulers, but it quickly gained popularity amongst the poor due to rising taxation and natural disasters. Even though the rebellion was widespread it was eventually defeated by the Qing, but at a large loss of millions of lives and the destruction of southern China.

The growth of European imperialism in the world and the neglect of the British crown by the Qing leaders also had a massive impact on the relationship between the rulers of the dynasty and the common people. The refusal of the Qing emperors to continue the opium trade with Britain led to opium wars in 1839, the devastating invasion of the Chinese mainland and failure to retaliate revealed That the once mighty China was now both weak and vulnerable. As China faced external threats, the peripheral regions of China fell prey to European Colonialism and Japan took both Taiwan and Korea in the first Sino-Japanese War (1895). By the early 1900's the coastal regions of China had been encroached upon by Eurasian powers, these powers fundamentally had control over Chinese trade and military even though these ports were technically under the Qing.

The empire began to crumble internally due to growing dissent from the people. It was popularly believed that the "Alien" Qing rulers had lost the Mandate of Heaven after witnessing the catastrophic results of the opium wars. In 1899, there was a mass movement against foreign powers such as the Qing rulers and also European and Japanese dominance, this was known as the Boxer Rebellion. Through the course of this Rebellion, the imperial armies and the citizens

joined forces to defeat the foreign powers but suffered a crushing defeat. This defeat proved to the people that the rulers were no longer capable of upholding the Chinese empire. This was the beginning of the end of the Qing dynasty.

As the Qing Empire tethers on the edge of collapse, the committee must consider the far-reaching implications of this momentous event. The fall of the Qing will not only mark the end of imperial rule but also set a chain reaction of political, social, and economic changes that will shape modern Chinese history. This background guide provides an essential framework for understanding the complex factors contributing to the Qing collapse and its profound consequences. Will the Qing dynasty persevere or will the Wuchang rebellion be the final nail in the coffin, the decision lies in the hands of The Imperial War Room.

Key Terms and Definitions:

- Tongmenghui - An amalgamation of covert coalitions formed by revolutionary groups in Tokyo, Japan, under the oversight of Han and Manchu opposition leaders to overthrow the incumbent Qing Regime
- Kuomintang - A deemed-to-be faction of the Chinese political diaspora, led by Nationalists supporting the Democratic Republic and opposing royalism.
- Eight Banners - Noble divisions of the Manchu upper class, occupied in wartime scenarios by prominent military and administrative leaders, served as the baseline for systematic ranking and categorization of households in the late Qing era.
- Insurrection - [In context] A civilian uprising brought on by supporting leaders of an anti-nationalist cause, primarily feudal/warlords and the middle-lower Han and Manchu classes.
- Monarchical Constitutionalism - Administrative/political system in which a monarch shares jurisdiction over a nation-state along with a constitutionally organised Government, in this case, the Qing Dynasty under Emperor Puyi, where executive decisions were made by his regents.
- Royalism - Explicit adherence and loyalty to a monarchical party through societal stance.
- Anarchism - A political philosophy advocating the abolishment and eradication of monarchical systemic impositions of law, force, and compulsion, instead resorting to independent governments that are mutually symbiotic and without recourse to a higher structural authority.
- Beiyang Army - A Modern restructured Chinese Army in the late Qing Government, formed to reconstruct the Empire's fragmented military in the face of external adversity.

Timeline

This agenda is set in the 20th century, a period of political instability and uncertainty for the Chinese Mainland.

This instability was long in the making, being the direct result of a complex interplay of long-term internal and external factors. Corruption, Food shortages, Inefficiency, and Cultural Stagnation were the primary factors. Even the Opium wars with Britain and other Western Powers; and the First Sino-Japanese War seemed to dismantle the dynasty's power.

The downfall was marked by several key events, with which the Qing dynasty became progressively less powerful.

The beginning of the end, however, was the infamous Lotus Rebellion.

(1796-1804)

The White Lotus Rebellion:

An uprising against the Qing Dynasty, led by the White Lotus Society, stemmed from widespread economic hardships, government corruption, and religious persecution. The rebellion utilised guerrilla tactics and spread across central China, proving difficult for the Qing military to suppress. The prolonged conflict exposed the Qing government's military and administrative weaknesses, placing a severe financial strain on the state.

(1839-1842)

First Opium War:

A Conflict between the Qing Dynasty and Britain over trade disputes, particularly the opium trade. It ended with the Treaty of Nanking, which imposed harsh terms on China, including giving control of Hong Kong to Britain.

(1850-1864)

Taiping Rebellion:

A massive civil war led by Hong Xiuquan. The rebellion caused widespread devastation and weakened the empire significantly, resulting in millions of deaths and extensive destruction.

(1856-1860)

Second Opium War:

Further conflicts with Britain and France, led to more unequal treaties and further erosion of Qing sovereignty. A second foreign military defeat in recent times made people question the might of the Qing dynasty.

(1861-1895)

Self-Strengthening Movement:

It was an attempt by the Qing government to modernise China's military and industrial capabilities by adopting Western technology and methods. Despite some successes, the movement ultimately failed to prevent further decline. This brought to light the severe cultural stagnation the dynasty could not break through.

(1894-1895)

First Sino-Japanese War:

This was a conflict between China and Japan over control of Korea, resulting in a humiliating defeat for China. The Treaty of Shimonoseki forced China to cede Taiwan and recognize Korea's independence.

The court established the New Army under Yuan Shikai and many concluded that Chinese society also needed to be modernised if technological and commercial advancements were to succeed.

(1894)

Formation of the Revive China Society:

The Revive China Society Founded by Sun Yat-sen, aimed at overthrowing the Qing Dynasty and establishing a republic. The society's first major attempt to overthrow the Qing government was the Guangzhou Uprising in October 1895. The plan was to seize the city of Guangzhou and incite a nationwide revolution. However, the uprising was quickly suppressed by Qing forces, and many of the society's members were arrested or killed. Despite its failure, the uprising gained significant attention and support for the revolutionary cause.

(1898)

Hundred Days' Reform:

A short-lived series of political, administrative, and educational reforms initiated by the Guangxu Emperor. The reforms aimed at modernising China's institutions but were quickly halted by conservative forces led by Empress Dowager Cixi.

(1899-1901)

Boxer Rebellion:

The Boxers, known officially as the Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists, launched an anti-foreign, anti-Christian uprising, which was eventually suppressed by an international coalition of foreign powers. The Boxer Protocol imposed severe penalties on China, weakening the Qing government.

(1905)

Formation of the Tongmenghui:

This revolutionary alliance was formed by Sun Yat-sen and other revolutionaries, uniting various anti-Qing groups. The Tongmenghui actively recruited members from different sectors, including students, intellectuals, overseas Chinese, and disaffected military officers. They also produced revolutionary literature and propaganda to spread their ideas and garner support for the cause.

A series of minor and unsuccessful localised uprisings occurred in regions like Huizhou, Pingxiang, and Chaozhou among many more; between 1900 and 1911. However, the final spark that lit the fire was the Railway Protection Movement.

(1911)

The Railway Crisis:

Faced with increasing demands for modern infrastructure, the Qing government began to invest in railway construction to modernise the country and enhance economic development. The Qing government often granted foreign concessions for railway construction, sparking nationalist concerns about foreign encroachment and exploitation. The Railway Crisis became a focal point for anti-Qing sentiment.

Freeze Date: 10th October 1911

Recent Events Leading to the Wuchang Uprising:

CRISIS UPDATE 1

6th October, 1911

Tension ran amok in the Hubei Province as a feudal faction of a supposed affiliation with the Tongmenghui launched infantry offensives from Southern Tongliao, Inner Mongolia. Recently defeated in a skirmish by Members of the Royalist Party in whatever strongholds remaining in the liberated mainland, the Mongolian Anti-Jasagh had reportedly solicited connections with Sun Yat Sen's Resistance Forces, currently residing in Tokyo for a diplomatic rendezvous with Manchurian Rebel Forces. In the offensive, around 170 soldiers belonging to the Eight Banners were killed, with a division of 20 escaping to safety, many of whom were gravely wounded. Of these men was Feng Guozhang, the military and artillery right-hand man of Yuan Shikai, the self-proclaimed commander-in-chief of the Qing Empire. Despite warding off the revolt to the extent of preventing it from reaching civilian militias in Shaanxi – one of the Empire's greatest military and political centres now under the supervision of Duan Qirui, Guozhang reportedly lost four fingers and is being nursed back to health in Beijing.

The situation worsens from the standpoint of internal affairs as well, as Emperor Puyi, now merely a young boy, has been diagnosed by the Imperial Medical Guard with spinal Tuberculosis. His post is now completely represented by Emperor Regent Zaifeng, who has drafted an appeal along with consorts of late Emperor Qianlong, to end Yuan Shikai's brutal conquest against neighbouring warlords to make a scathing attempt at establishing control over the quasi-dynasty. With this appeal, local ancestries contributing to the Empire's subsistence society have expressed growing dissent towards Yuan Shikai and his Beiyang Army, calling aggressively for the withdrawal of troops from Shaanxi.

8th October, 1911

A farmer from Hunan is publicly executed by the Imperial Guard for an attempt to smuggle opium into Han borders and thereby instigate a false flag drug war between states. His dead body is taken to Tianjin for an autopsy officiation, where to their surprise, members of the Royalist Intelligence, recruited by politician Liangbi under the approval of Shikai himself, found a tattoo on his neck similar to that of the Black Dragon Society, an ultra-nationalist Manchurian Japanese faction known for their express support for Sun Yat Sen's continuous struggle against the Qing authority. Afraid of external intrusion, the Armed Forces have staged a crackdown on civil authorities, reaching the Han borders and subsequently encompassing Wuchang – ironically happening to be the location of the harshest of civil lockdowns placed by the military since the

Xinhai era despite speculations of drug trade being eastbound, where Japanese associations with the Kuomintang are stronger. Trade of goods is excessively stifled both in and out of village borders, and poor families who had received no essential aid from the Empire's welfare program are deprived of basic facilities for their children, ranging from primitive healthcare to access to village watering holes. The public is beginning to see through the Empire's acts of political interest and are rallying in support of the Tongmenghui. The people of Wuchang's latest act of defiance revolved around burning propagandised leaflets of Duan Qirui. The distributor of these leaflets was later frisked by Bannermen, after which the inscribed information was circulated through the clergy and finally, to Shikai and Qirui themselves, upon consultation with the Eight Banners.

To say the least, Qirui's position as Shikai's closest ally as well as his spoonfed security as Second Army Commander is now wearing thin, and that does the opposite of helping the Dynasty's cause for unity against outward threats. The situation within the Cabinet could *not* have been more volatile. Text open to interpretation.



9th October - 2011

A bomb blast ravages a student centre in Eastern Gansu. The Third Army, led by Ma Qi, a subordinate of Beijing Commander Zaitao, was alerted to send reinforcements to the active site before unprevented escalations in response. The reinforcements, however, were intercepted by bandits in Shanxi, whose outfits resembled the white gowns of the Revive China Society, who

had already become a dominating force in the Malay Peninsula, Indochina, and the Korea. Speculations have also arisen that the transport of the bomb was not internally sourced by the Tongmenghui in China, and was instead colluded to be independently endorsed by Sun Yat Sen and his Manchurian Allies overseas. The same night, Tongmenghui co-founder and President Song Jiaoren delivered a speech to underground rebel forces, the contents of which were transcribed by an unidentified whistleblower and circulated to higher-ranking officials of the First and Second Army Corps. Before the heralding of the gruesome Wuchang uprising the next morning, this information had already become public domain...

“我們正站在新黎明的懸崖邊，站在一場革命的邊緣，這場革命將粉碎暴政的鎖鏈，在我們心愛的土地上點燃自由之火！長期以來，我們的人民在腐敗腐朽的清朝君主的枷鎖下受苦受難。太久以來，我們一直被那些不顧人民意志的暴君踐踏，他們榨乾我們國家的命脈來維持他們腐朽的生存。

是時候起來了，奪回我們的命運，擺脫壓迫的枷鎖，開創民主、正義、民族復興的新時代！我們是同盟會，革命的結拜兄弟，帶領人民走向勝利是我們的神聖職責！

我們的心中燃燒著義憤！看看你的周圍——看看我們同胞的苦難、貧窮、絕望，以及我們曾經偉大的文明的退化。這不是我們老祖宗想像中的中國！這不是我們留給子孫的中國！

我們不只是叛逆者；我們是新秩序的先驅！在這樣的秩序中，權力屬於人民，統治者對其所統治的人負責，每個公民的聲音都被傾聽和尊重。清朝君主的時代已經結束了——它的時代結束了！我們不會停下來，直到這個腐敗政權的所有殘餘都被摧毀，直到皇帝和他的親信成為遙遠的記憶，成為統治者背叛人民時會發生什麼的警示故事。

同志們，我們的鬥爭不會一帆風順。通往自由的道路是用犧牲、血和辛勞鋪成的。但我們不怕！我們將以勇氣和反抗面對大砲、步槍和鎖鏈。我們將衝進宮殿，推倒城牆，宣告新中國的曙光，一個民享、民享的中國！

我們在精神上是無政府主義者，因為我們相信這個腐敗制度的毀滅。我們內心都是極端民族主義者，因為我們以比一千個太陽更明亮的熱情熱愛我們的國家。我們的願景是民主主義者，因為我們知道，只有透過民主，才能實現真正的正義和平等。

讓暴君們在他們的宮殿裡顫抖吧，讓他們聽到我們反抗的咆哮吧！我們不會被壓制，我們不會被阻止！清朝將會垮台，鳳凰將會從它的灰燼中重生——一個新的中國，一個自由的中國，一個民主的中國！

兄弟姊妹們，現在就是時候了！團結在同盟會的旗幟下！為你的自由而戰，為你的未來而戰，為我們民族的靈魂而戰！我們將共同創造歷史。齊心協力，我們一定會勝利！

革命萬歲！人民萬歲！自由民主的中國萬歲！”

Legal Information and Paraphernalia:

The Qing Legal Code was heavily influenced by the earlier Ming Dynasty's legal code, which had roots in the Tang and Song legal systems. It was deeply rooted in Confucian principles. Legal decisions often reflected Confucian values such as filial piety, loyalty, and respect for authority.

Divisions: The code was divided into six main sections, each corresponding to one of the Six Ministries of the central government:

1. **Personnel** (吏部, Lì Bù)
2. **Revenue** (户部, Hù Bù)
3. **Rites** (礼部, Lǐ Bù)
4. **War** (兵部, Bīng Bù)
5. **Justice** (刑部, Xíng Bù)
6. **Public Works** (工部, Gōng Bù)

Revision of the Legal Code:

1. **Abolition of Certain Punishments:**
One of the significant changes was the abolition of some of the more severe and archaic punishments, such as lingchi (death by a thousand cuts) and the practice of collective responsibility, which punished families or communities for the crimes of individuals.
2. **Introduction of New Legal Concepts:**
The late Qing legal reforms introduced new legal concepts and procedures influenced by Western legal systems. These included clearer definitions of criminal offences, the introduction of legal representation, and more formalised court procedures.
3. **Drafting of the New Criminal Code:**
In 1907, the Qing government began drafting a new criminal code completed in 1910. This new code was heavily influenced by Japanese and European legal systems and aimed to create a more modern and systematic legal framework. It included more detailed provisions on criminal offences and penalties, as well as procedures for trials and appeals.

Laws of treason under the Qing Legal Code were violated as revolutionary forces actively rebelled against the Qing government. Acts of sedition, insurrection, and attempts to overthrow the dynasty constituted treason. Revolutionary leaders and participants defied the authority of the Qing state, engaging in activities such as organising uprisings, attacking government installations, and declaring independence in various regions, all of which directly contravened

the strict anti-treason provisions of the Qing Legal Code.

The Qing Legal Code prescribed severe punishments for acts of treason and sedition, including:

1. **Death Penalty:**

The primary punishment for treason was execution, often by beheading.

2. **Lingchi (Death by a Thousand Cuts):**

For particularly egregious cases, the punishment could include lingchi, an especially brutal form of execution. This practice was later (officially) abolished.

3. **Confiscation of Property:**

The property of the traitor would be confiscated and be considered royal property, without any compensation for the offender.

4. **Exile:**

In some cases, offenders could be sentenced to exile, often to remote regions or frontiers, which was considered a severe punishment but less severe than execution.

5. **Collective Punishment:**

Family members or associates of those convicted of sedition could also face punishment, including death or exile, reflecting the Confucian principle of collective responsibility.

The code underwent several revisions and updates throughout the Qing Dynasty to adapt to changing circumstances and needs. These revisions helped maintain the code's relevance and effectiveness. However, these efforts by the dynasty were not good enough to maintain civil order. Even if the law saw some improvement, it was too late in the eyes of the people.

Stakeholders:

- Qing Empire and representatives:

Empress Dowager Longyu, the regent for Emperor Puyi, was the key decision-maker for the imperial coalition. Prince Chun also served as a co-regent for the young emperor. They were assisted by ministers in her cabinet. Minister of War and Defense (Yinchang) and Minister of the Navy (Sa Zhenbing) controlled the empire's powerful forces and so the Empress frequently consulted them on logistical and tactical plans. However, even soldiers in senior positions of the Imperial Army could support the Cabinet. Liangbi, Duan Qirui, and Feng Guozhanhg were a few of the pivotal figures under this category. Yuan Shikai, who was the Prime Minister of the

Cabinet, also acted as the Commander in Chief of the Beiyang Army; and perhaps held the most influence over the actions of the empire.

The Qing coalition will try to engage in extensive modernization and reform efforts, including political, military, economic, social, and educational changes. They aim to suppress the revolting public as soon as possible, using whatever means necessary.

- Primary Opposition:

Various Revolutionary groups sought to overthrow the Qing dynasty and lead China into a new future. However, the primary group spearheading the revolution was the Tongmenghui (Chinese Revolutionary Alliance). The most important figure in the revolution was Sun Yat Sen. He was the primary ideological and organisational leader of the revolution. He provided the vision for a republic and rallied support from Chinese communities worldwide. Sun Yat Sen had built an elaborate network through which he had garnered immense support from many revolutionaries across the empire.

Huang Xing was another founder of the Tongmenghui who played a crucial role in organising and leading revolutionary uprisings, including the Wuchang Uprising.

Song Jiaroen was the political strategist of the Tongmenghui, who even helped unify various factions and drive them towards a common goal.

The infamous crime syndicate, the Green Gang, often provided financial and logistical support to revolutionary groups. This made Chen Qimei, the leader of the Green Gang, a close associate of the Tongmenghui leaders.

From a general perspective, the revolution was supported by former soldiers of the Qing army. Many local intellectuals, scholars, and elites supported the uprising. Their involvement provided ideological support and helped to rally local support for the revolution.

The revolting coalition will try to exploit the weaknesses in the empire and dismantle it once and for all. It will try to brew chaos across the region to make the administrative and peacekeeping tasks difficult for the Imperial forces. In the eyes of the coalition, this is the right time to strike, using whatever means necessary.

Important provinces:

1. Hubei: Initially a part of the Huguang province split by the Manchu rulers. Hubei was a prosperous centre of trade due to reforms brought in by the Qing dynasty. Hubei was

occupied by Japan during World War II and was an important centre of the Wuchang uprising.

2. Shaanxi: due to its geographical position it was the most common entry point to China and hence also very heavily fortified.
3. Wuchang: the capital of Hubei where the uprising was born. Wuchang was the headquarters of the new army.
4. Sichuan: during the Qing dynasty it was merged with Shaanxi as the Qing planned to increase the population of China.

- External Influences: Manchu Interventionism - Japan study

In the late 19th century, the northeastern tip of China's vast territory was known in the West as Manchuria and in Japan as Manshuo.

For the Qing court in Beijing, this was their ancestral homeland and was therefore administratively separated from mainland China west of the Willow Barrier. It was intentionally sparsely populated by a ban on the migration of the Biman Zhu people into the area in 1653.

In the competition among the Western powers to divide China after the Opium Wars, Manchuria occupied a prime position. Japan was eager to join the ranks of the world superpowers, the powers sought to establish a foothold in the region, gain access to Manchuria's rich natural resources, and take advantage of its strategic location at the crossroads of the eastern empires.

When the Imperial Japanese Army defeated the Qing in the First Sino-Japanese War in 1895, Tokyo moved quickly to negotiate a peace treaty giving it some territories on the continent. The Treaty of Shimonoseki, signed in mid-April 1895, formalised the Qing's agreement to hand over the Liaodong Peninsula in southern Manchuria to Japanese control.

However, Russian concerns about growing imperialist ambitions in China (and Korea) led to the Triple Intervention of 23 April 1895, in which Russia, France, and Germany intervened in the postwar settlement between Beijing and Korea. Tokyo recommended that Japan return its newly acquired land leases to the Qing.

Several months of hasty Russian negotiations followed to organise the construction of a Russian-run "Eastern China Railway" east-west, following a 5 million tare (38 million British pounds) lease.

The ports of Dalniy and Port Arthur, located at the southern tip of the Liaodong Peninsula, were ideally suited to this purpose, so in 1898 representatives of the Tsar Nicholas government

concluded a 25-year agreement with Qing officials. It is a land route of about 435 miles from the northern city of Changchun to Port Arthur.

Just 37 miles north of Port Arthur is Dalny, a city designed by the Tsar's architects and engineers to embody the wealth of the Eastern Empire. In early 1904, the Japanese took over Dalny from Russia after a joint naval and army attack on the Tsar's naval installations at Port Arthur in early February. The Treaty of Beijing was signed on 22 December, and Japan ceded its rights to the north-south railway line to Russia.

Japan had regained territory that had been forcibly taken from it ten years earlier and had inherited the environment created by railway imperialism.

Establishing Japanese banks and trading companies in Japanese-occupied Manchuria coincided with the end of the war and the conclusion of peace.

The Yokohama Specie Bank opened a branch in Darien (the new Japanese name for Far) in August 1904, and in Fengtian (also known by its Manchurian name Mukden) in May 1905, the regional Chinese administrative and commercial centre. By December, the trading giant Mitsui Bussan had opened a branch in Fengtian, replacing Japanese products in the Manchurian market with British and American ones, leading to the first of many accusations by the great powers that Japan had violated the Open Door Policy and was profiting unfairly from the region.

In October 1905, the Japanese provisional government (Manshu Soshirikan) was handed over to the Kwantung Governor-General, a formal military government organisation that carried out the orders of General Oshima Yoshimasa and was responsible for all railway administration and for maintaining public order in the newly acquired area, where hundreds of Japanese carpet merchants and would-be rich people arrived daily.

Reference Links

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APPENDIX A1: Visual Aids

Provinces:



Ports:



Neighbouring countries

