

The Pacific Imperial

Boxer Uprising Brings New Questions

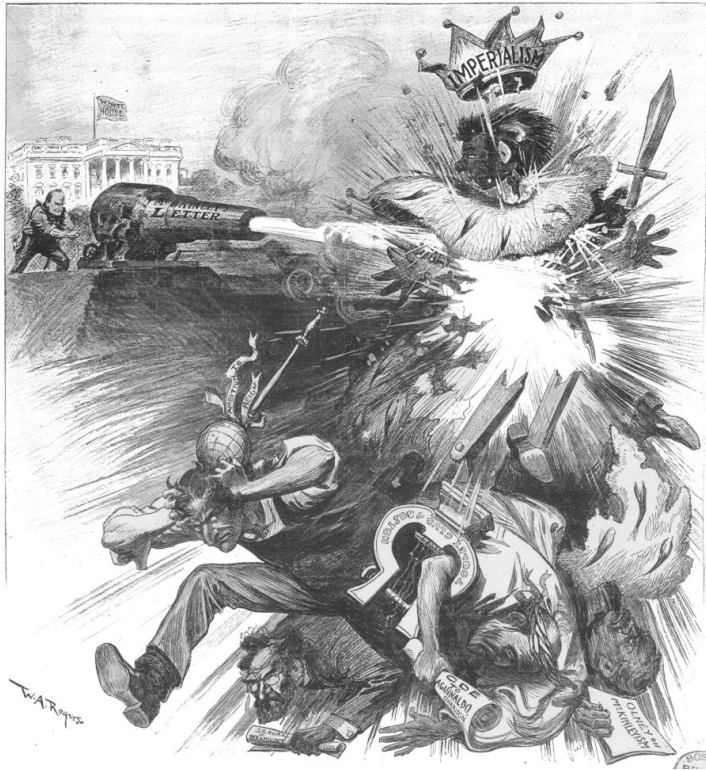


Beijing- "Support the Qing, exterminate the foreigners" were the words being chanted throughout the streets of Northern China in June. The Yihetuan (known in English as the Boxers), a group opposed to foreign imperialism and Christianity, are leading this rebellion against western influence. After years of being forced to trade with America, Japan, France, Britain and Russia, Prince Qing and his army are repelling the imperialists. They began attacking traders and missionaries throughout the city on June 21. Diplomats, merchants, and Christians found refuge in the Legation Quarter; however Qing's men sieged the quarter for 55 days until America and other European powers sent in 20,000 troops to put down the rebellion. Yesterday, the boxers were officially subdued as they negotiated peace with the foreign officials. The terms of their agreement stated that China was to pay 67 million pounds, and Secretary of State, John Hay, is currently debating with European leaders on what to do next. One option is for them to take China under their own control: Setup a new government, influence a new culture, and benefit from the country's vast resources. Option two is to leave China alone, continue to trade with them, but be aloof from any turmoil or violence that would be present if America remained. The main question is what should America do?

America falling behind?

We Americans have pushed for an Open Door Policy in the great opportunity that is China. Has our flame for success and progress gone out? Are we to lay down as European powers push ahead? France, Britain, Russia and Japan have all progressed through annexation and spheres of influence, and have reaped the benefits. Have the American people forgotten their role, have they forgotten their duty? We wield such great power, but are too timid to use it. We have made great strides and it is our duty to spread our culture and ways to the unfortunate. The Chinese people streamed into our nation with great force, admiring the ideals that our nation beholds. We must not forget our place! We must push for the prosperity of America and the enlightenment of China!





Have we enough problems?

Have we enough problems? Time and time again we've seen the destructive effects of allowing the chinamen into our beloved country. Undermining the working man by depriving him of proper wages and being the eyesores of our neighborhoods, the dirty chinamen do us no great justice. Deliberations are in order to ensure we "enlighten" them, to what avail? We have no duty to them. The duty we have is to our country. We are obligated, in the name of all that is American to address the issues at home, rather than involving ourselves with the dirt abroad.

Following our scrap with the Spanish, our boys have returned home -- should we see them off again to see to issues we have no reason entangling ourselves with in the first place? We had good reason to involve ourselves in the conflict with the Spanish, but now we seek to snatch up China in order to access their resources? As a world power, we have no need for what the savages have to offer. They are unstable, as we've seen with the Boxer Rebellion, and we should sever any ties we have to the sinking ship that is china. We have recently found it in our interests to sort those who come to this country, so I say we act on it and

uphold our sentiments towards the foreign-born, instead of taking it upon ourselves to enter their lands where we are unwanted.