

Specific Example of The Cycle of Weakness

Basic problems in China
floods, famine,
corruption,
weak government,
rebellions

British reject Tributary System
1793- Britain establishes Opium Trade
between India and China

China passes anti-opium
laws- hurts British
profits- British
citizens arrested

Opium War 1839

China loses Opium War
forced to sign
Treaty of Nanking

Britain gains trade concessions
including Hong Kong in 1842 and
other "treaty ports"

China weakens as a
result of internal
problems as well as too
much British influence
Taiping Rebellion:
1840s-60s

Europeans get involved in
Rebellion- make new demands
on Chinese gov.- capture Peking
in 1860 - send missionaries

To avoid problems new
Chinese gov. tries to be
more "western"- weakens
Chinese culture

leads to more western demands
2nd Opium War 1856-60

China loses war

new treaty ports opened
full diplomatic relations
low tariffs = western trade benefits

war between China and
Japan (Sino-Japanese War)
1895- China loses

Open Door Policy- 1899
China now divided into
spheres of influence

China weakened as a result
leads to Boxer
Rebellion- 1900

western intervention in Boxer
Rebellion= more demands on China