

## #WHY CHINA REJECTED IT

## Opium Wars

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## The Second Opium War (1856-1860)

In the 18th and 19th centuries, Britain's trade with China was centered around two commodities: tea and opium. While tea was highly valued in Britain, opium was introduced by the British East India Company as a way to balance trade. China's rejection of opium and the subsequent conflicts, especially the Opium Wars, had profound consequences for both nations and reshaped the global order.

## The Rise of the Tea Trade

By the 17th century, tea had become an integral part of British culture, with demand skyrocketing. China, during the Qing dynasty, had little need for British goods. The Chinese economy was largely self-sufficient, and British goods, such as textiles and manufactured goods, did not appeal to the Chinese market. As a result, Britain had to pay China in silver to import tea, silk, and porcelain, creating a trade imbalance that Britain was eager to correct.

## The Shift to Opium

In the early 19th century, Britain found a solution to this imbalance through opium. Cultivated in British-occupied India, opium was highly addictive and had been used in China for medicinal purposes. By the 1830s, Britain began exporting large quantities of opium to China, where it became widely consumed. This allowed Britain to pay for tea and other goods with opium, which was in high demand in China.

As opium addiction spread, the Chinese government grew increasingly concerned about its social and economic effects. By 1839, Emperor Daoguang appointed Lin Zexu to curb the opium trade, leading to drastic actions, including the destruction of large quantities of opium in Canton (Guangzhou). Lin Zexu also sent a letter to Queen Victoria, urging her to halt the trade, but Britain refused.

## The First Opium War (1839-1842)

In retaliation for China's crackdown on the opium trade, Britain declared war in 1839, marking the start of the First Opium War. The conflict was fought over Britain's right to continue exporting opium to China with superior military technology. Britain quickly defeated the Qing forces.

The war ended in 1842 with the Treaty of Nanking, which imposed humiliating terms on China.



## • Kshema Jatuharkana

S. Radhakrishnan visited China in May 1944 as a scholar during wartime to lecture on philosophy. This was after a Chinese educational mission came to India in April 1943 to meet many distinguished scholars, but one academic, in particular, left a lasting impression on its members: Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.

## Consequences for China

The Opium Wars had devastating consequences for China. It was a major blow to its economy and society, leading to widespread social instability. This, along with the economic strain, sparked internal uprisings such as the Taiping Rebellion (1850-1864), one of the deadliest conflicts in history.

## 1. Economic Drain:

The wars, combined with the forced trade of opium, drained China's wealth. The indemnities and loss of key territories like Hong Kong significantly weakened the Qing dynasty.

## 2. Social Upheaval:

Opium addiction spread rapidly across Chinese society, contributing to widespread social instability. This, along with the economic strain, sparked internal uprisings such as the Taiping Rebellion (1850-1864), one of the deadliest conflicts in history.

## 3. Loss of Sovereignty:

China's defeat in the Opium Wars and the imposition of unequal treaties resulted in the loss of control over its own territory and sovereignty. Foreign powers gained economic, military, and diplomatic privileges in China, a period often referred to as 'Century of Humiliation.'

## 4. Rise of Anti-Imperialism:

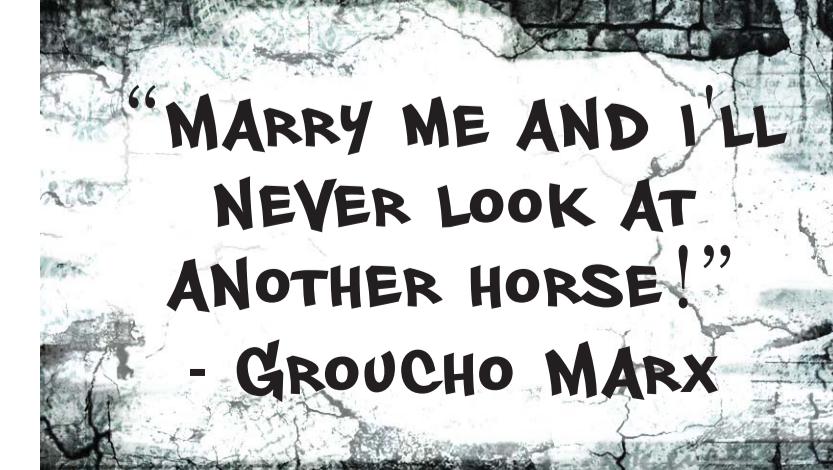
The resentment over the opium trade and foreign domination fueled nationalist movements in China. Many Chinese viewed the foreign imposition of the opium trade as a symbol of Western exploitation.

## The Legacy of the Opium Wars

The Opium Wars fundamentally altered China's relationship with the West. They marked the beginning of a period of imperial domination, during which China was forced to accept foreign economic interests, including the legalization of the opium trade. The wars not only led to China's economic and social decline but also contributed to the rise of anti-imperial sentiment and nationalism that would later play a central role in the fall of the Qing dynasty and the rise of the Republic of China in the early 20th century.



## THE WALL



## Reimagined India-China Ties Through Philosophy

Radhakrishnan's lectures were warmly received in China, where they helped generate renewed interest in Indian philosophical traditions. During his brief visit, the Indian scholar developed a deep fondness for the Chinese people and took careful note of their attitudes towards spirituality. "The Chinese have a certain delicacy of feeling," he wrote, "which makes them unwilling to dispute or discuss about spiritual things." Rather than argue, they adopted a detached but respectful attitude towards religious belief, he added. Radhakrishnan admired how Confucianism, Taoism and Buddhism coexisted in China without rivalry. They are not regarded as 'competitive,' he observed, 'but as complementary,' together meeting the social, ethical and mystical needs of society.

## #SARVEPALLI RADHAKRISHNAN



## Hinduism and Buddhism.

## Confucian beliefs

In a lecture in Chongqing, Radhakrishnan spoke of how India and China had been linked by learning and culture long before the Christian era. "Our civilizations which are of great antiquity and of unbroken continuity possess a common cultural and spiritual background," he said. "They have similar ideals of human life and fellowship."

He described the very existence of such universities as a 'great achievement,' saying they ensured that 'the spirit of China is kept alive.'

It was in these makeshift campuses that Radhakrishnan spoke about the affinities between Chinese philosophical traditions, particularly Confucianism and Taoism, and Indian religious thought, including

## of the Upanishads.

## Taoism and Upanishads

Radhakrishnan was equally familiar with Taoism and with Lao Tzu, the author of *Tao Te Ching*, one of the foundational texts of Taoism. He saw striking parallels between Taoist philosophy and *Advaita Vedanta*.

It was very probable that during the period of the sixth to the fourth century B.C., when Taoism was in a formative condition, the mystic doctrines of the Upanishads and the technique of yoga, including breath-control and spiritual ecstasy, were conveyed to China," Radhakrishnan said. "But we are not in a position to establish that this was so."

The central ideas of Taoism also resembled those of the Upanishads.

Mencius asks us to recapture the intuitive powers, which, in the stress of life, do not get a chance of development. By means of breath regulation, mental concentration, and moral discipline, we rise to the spiritual level."

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for human terms are applicable only to empirical objects."

He described Chuang Tzu, who wrote another foundational text of Taoism, as a practitioner of a discipline comparable to yoga. "Chuang Tzu adopts the method of yoga by which the soul travels back from the outward activities, appetites and emotions, through successive layers of consciousness, until it arrives at pure consciousness, 'the mind within the mind,'" Radhakrishnan said.

"Postures (asanas) and breath-control (pranayama) of the yoga system are acted."

Radhakrishnan was openly sympathetic to China's war of resistance against Imperial Japan. In one lecture, he reminded students: "We must fight to defend and fight against the aggressors in this war and for four and a half years, until the attack on Pearl Harbor brought America and Britain to your side; you fought alone and single-handed against a formidable foe with a toughness that has silenced the sceptics about the future of China."

Despite the devastation around him, he remained optimistic about China's future. "China after the war will have a great opportunity to rebuild her bombed cities and her universities will demonstrate to the world that she still has the imagination and the will-power which built the ancient miracles of art and architecture."

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## By Rick Kirkman &amp; Jerry Scott

## BABY BLUES



## ZITS



## #ARMY DAY PARADE

## Rajputana Pride In lead



Against the backdrop of forts and palaces, today's soldiers will stand as heirs to a code forged in courage, honour, and moral discipline. Rajputana ethos, honour before self, courage under fire, and pride without compromise, continues to inspire the spirit

On January 15th, every year, India celebrates the Indian Army day. On this day, General K M Cariappa took over charge to become the first commander-in-chief of the Indian forces. It was very important, as it was the final moment when India took over from the British in the last bastion. General Cariappa's appointment marked the complete independence of India from Britain. For the first time, army is going to hold celebrations, and bring itself closer to the people of India, and showcase their achievements, especially Operation Sindo.

Smerch and Grad multi-barrel rocket launchers, K-9 Vajra, Dhanush, and the M-77 ultra-light howitzer. Air defence systems like MRSAM, Akash missile system, L-70 and ZU-23 Shilka will also be demonstrated. These systems played a significant role in neutralising Pakistani aerial threats during Operation Sindo which lasted for 88 hours. Apart from Bhairov Battalion, sources said, "Specialized artillery units like Shaktiabaan and Divyastra batteries may also be showcased."

Bhairov Battalions are special units bridging elite forces and regular infantry, focusing on rapid strikes and tactical operations. The Shaktiabaan artillery units are designed to be fully UAS-driven while the Divyastra batteries combine traditional artillery with direct and loitering munitions for precision attacks. Regiments including Assam Regiment, Artillery, Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry, Madras Regiment, Scouts, and NCC cadets will also be the part of the Army Day parade. A major aerial highlight will include flights by Light Helicopter Prachand, Apache attack helicopters, along with Rudra and Chetak helicopters.

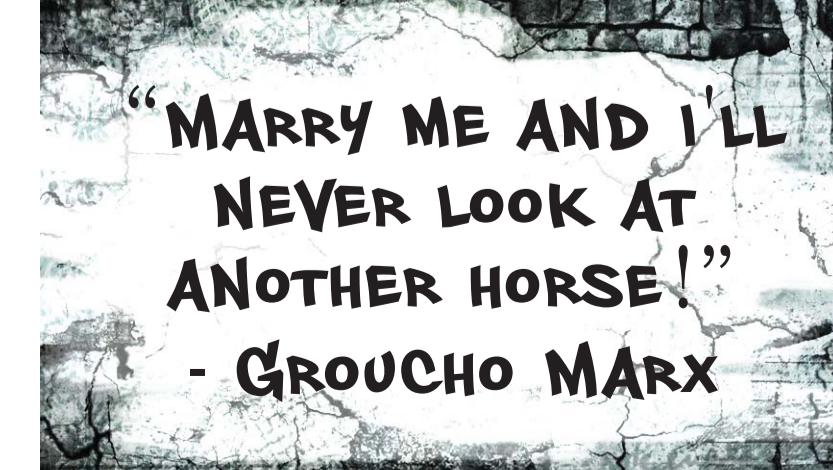
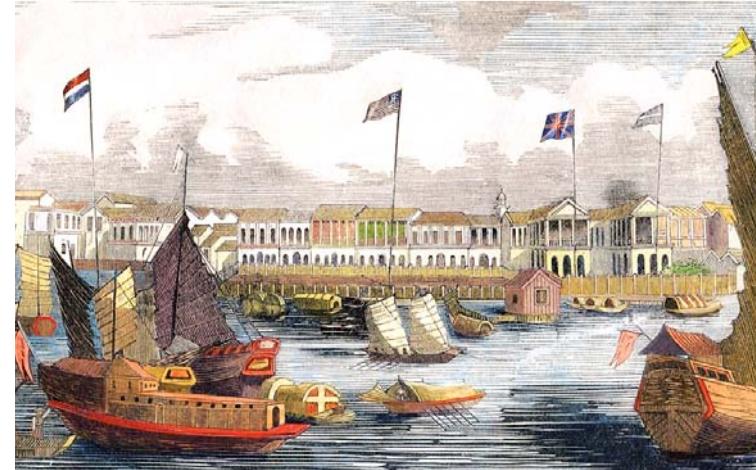
The forts of Amer, Mehrangarh, and Jaisalmer stand as monumental testaments to Rajput valor, their martial traditions immortalised by historians like Colonel James Tod in *The Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan*. Today, that legacy continues to inspire the Indian Army as it meets contemporary challenges across multiple domains of warfare.

## Parade Highlights

- Army Dog Squads: A key feature will be the 'Silent Warriors,' an animal contingent from the Remount and Veterinary Corps (RVC). They will lead a highly trained military dog unit, including military working dogs and Indian breeds like the Mudhol Hound, Rambur Hound, and Kombai, used for tasks such as bomb detection, tracking, and search-and-rescue operations.
- Military Hardware: The parade will showcase a wide array of modern weaponry and equipment, including T-90 tanks, M-777 artillery guns, BrahMos missiles, and advanced infantry combat vehicles.
- Aerial Displays: Eye-catching fly-pasts by fighter aircraft and attack helicopters such as the Apache and Prachand are planned.

- Drone Show: The evening event, 'Shaurya Sandhya,' at the SMS Stadium will feature a spectacular show with 1,000 drones.

## By Jerry Scott &amp; Jim Borgman



## THE WALL

