Note Outline on “Decline of the Qing Dynasty”

1) What were the origins of the Qing Dynasty? When did it begin and end?

2) How were the Manchus different from the Han Chinese? Why do you think they adopted Han Chinese customs, dress, and language?

3) What style did the Qing rulers impose on their male subjects? Why? What style did they not adopt for their female subjects? Who used this? Why?

4) When was the Qing Dynasty’s “Golden Age”? Who ruled the empire then? What were some of his accomplishments?

5) What were some of the problems that the Qing Dynasty faced in the 19th century?

6) Why did the British decide to sell opium to China? What effect did this have?

7) Which products did the British and other foreigners want to buy from China?

8) What did Commissioner Lin do to try and stop the sale of opium? How did the British react to his actions?

9) Which humiliating conditions was China forced to accept after the first and second Opium Wars?
10) When did the Taiping Rebellion occur? Who led this full-scale revolt against the Qing Dynasty? How did he seek to change Chinese society?

11) Why did the Taiping Rebellion ultimately fail? What was the result of the rebellion for China?

12) When was the reign of the Empress Dowager Cixi? How did she attempt to reform China? Why was she unsuccessful?

13) Why did the Sino-Japanese War begin in 1894? What was the outcome for China?

14) Who were the Boxers? Why did they attack foreigners? Who ultimately sent troops to rescue the foreign legations in major Chinese cities?

15) Why were foreign missionaries and their converts specific targets of the Boxers?

16) What were some of the results of the foreign powers’ defeat of the Boxer Rebellion?

17) Examining the map of “Spheres of Influence” in China, which country appears to have had the largest sphere of influence in the late 19th century?

18) Why did the Qing Dynasty decline?