

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Opium Wars: Clash of Empires and the Struggle for Control

### Short Answer Key

1. The opium trade in China during the 19th century resulted in widespread addiction, social unrest, and economic instability. It had devastating consequences on Chinese society.
2. The First Opium War broke out due to the Chinese authorities seizing and destroying British opium shipments. The Treaty of Nanking (1842) imposed unfavorable terms on China, including the cession of Hong Kong to Britain.
3. The Second Opium War (1856-1860) erupted over disputes between British and Chinese authorities. France and the United States joined Britain in the conflict. The Treaty of Tientsin (1856) and the Convention of Peking (1860) expanded foreign access to Chinese ports and granted extraterritorial rights to foreigners.
4. The Opium Wars weakened China's sovereignty by imposing unequal treaties that allowed foreign powers to control key ports and territories. Extraterritorial rights granted to foreigners further eroded China's ability to govern its own affairs.
5. The Opium Wars had long-term consequences for China, including the loss of territories and economic privileges to foreign powers. They weakened the Qing Dynasty and paved the way for further foreign intervention in China's internal affairs.

