

Name _____

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

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. European powers engaged in the opium trade with China primarily for economic gain, as opium was a profitable commodity. However, this trade raised ethical concerns due to its devastating social impact on the Chinese population, as addiction and social unrest escalated.
2. As a Chinese citizen during the Opium Wars, one would experience the horrors of addiction and social decay while witnessing the decline of the Qing Dynasty's authority. The conflict would likely lead to a sense of frustration and disillusionment with the government.
3. Extraterritorial rights granted to foreigners in China after the Opium Wars allowed foreign nationals to be governed by their home countries' laws while residing in China. This undermined China's sovereignty by limiting its legal jurisdiction over foreigners on its soil, contributing to a loss of control over its internal affairs.
4. The Opium Wars serve as a historical lesson on the consequences of unequal treaties, foreign intervention, and the impact of the opium trade on societies. They highlight the importance of diplomacy, conflict resolution, and the need for ethical considerations in international trade and relations.

