Chapter 32

Societies at Crossroads
The Ottoman Empire in Decline

- Ottoman empire reaches peak of military expansion in late 17th century
- Defeated by Austrians, Russians, largely due to European advances in technology and strategy
- Elite Janissary corps involved in palace intrigue
- Semi-independent local warlords use mercenaries, slave armies to support Sultan in return for imperial favor
- Massive corruption, misuse of tax revenues
Territorial Losses

- Russia takes territories in Caucasus, central Asia
- Nationalist uprisings drive Ottomans out of Balkans
- Napoleon’s unsuccessful attack on Egypt spurs local revolt against Ottomans under Muhammad Ali (r. 1805-1848)
  - Nominally subordinate to Sultan, but threatened capture of Istanbul
- British support Ottomans only to avoid possible Russian expansion
Map 32.1 – Territorial losses of the Ottoman Empire, 1800 – 1914
Ottoman Economy

- Imports of cheap manufactured goods place stress on local artisans, urban riots result
- Export-dependent Ottoman economy increasingly relies on foreign loans
- By 1882 Ottomans unable to pay even interest on loans, forced to accept foreign administration of debts
- Capitulations: agreements that exempted Europeans from Ottoman law
  - Extraterritoriality gives tax-free status to foreign banks, businesses
Early Reforms

- Attempts to reform taxation, increase agricultural output, and reduce corruption
  - Sultan Selim III (r. 1789-1807) remodeled army on European lines
  - Janissaries revolt, kill new troops, imprison Sultan
- Sultan Mahmud II (r. 1808-1839) attempts same, has Janissaries massacred
  - Also reforms schools, taxation, builds telegraph, postal service
Tanzimat ("Reorganization") Era, 1839-1876

- Pace of reform accelerated
- Drafted new law codes
- Undermined power of traditional religious elite
- Fierce opposition from religious conservatives, bureaucracy
- Also opposition from radical Young Ottomans, who wanted constitutional government
The Young Turk Era

- 1876 radical dissident elements stage a coup, install Abdül Hamid II as Sultan (r. 1876-1909)
  - Constitution, representative government adopted, but suspended within the year, Many liberals exiled, executed

- Principal organization; Ottoman Society for Union and Progress: The Young Turk Party
  - Founded by Ottomans in exile in Paris
  - Called for rapid, secular reforms
  - Forced Abdül Hamid II to restore parliament, then dethroned him in favor of Mehmed V Rashid (r. 1909-1918)
Young Turk Rule

- Attempted to establish Turkish hegemony over far-flung empire
  - Turkish made official language, despite large numbers of Arabic and Slavic language speakers
- Yet could not contain forces of decline
Russia a massive, multi-cultural empire
- Only approximately half speak Russian, observe Russian Orthodox Christianity

Romanov Tsars rule autocratic empire

Powerful class of nobles exempt from taxation, military duty

Exploitative serfdom
The Russian empire, 1801-1914
The Crimean War, 1853-1856

- Russian expansion into Caucasus in larger attempt to establish control over weakening Ottoman empire
- Threatens to upset balance of power, Europeans become involved
- Russia driven back from Crimea in humiliating defeat
- Demonstration of Russian weakness in the face of western technology, strategy
Reform: Emancipation of the Serfs

- Serfdom source of rural instability and peasant revolt
- Tsar Alexander II emancipates serfs in 1861, without alleviating poverty, land hunger
  - Forced to pay for lands they had farmed for generations
- Limited attempts to reform administration, small-scale representative government
  - Network of elected district assemblies called *zemstvos*
Industrialization in Russia

- Count Sergei Witte, minister of finance 1892-1903
- Massive railroad construction
  - Trans-Siberian railroad
- But massive industrial discontent
  - Peasants uprooted from rural lifestyle to work for low wages, long hours
Repression

- Intelligentsia class spreads radical ideas for social change
  - Socialists, anarchists
  - Terror tactics, assassinations
  - Attempt to connect with the mistrustful peasantry in 1870s, denounced and sent into Siberian exile

- Tsarist authorities turn to censorship, secret police

- Nationalist sentiment seething in Baltics, Poland, Ukraine, Georgia, and Central Asia
Radicalization

- 1881 radical People’s Will movement assassinates Tsar Alexander II
  - Prompted widespread *pogrom* attacks on Jews
  - Increased repression
- Nicholas II (r. 1894-1917) enters into war with Japan (1904-1905)
- Humiliating defeat exposes government weaknesses
- Social discontent boils over in Revolution of 1905
- Strikes force government to make concessions
Chinese restrictions on British trade

- Since 1759, European commercial presence limited to port of Guangzhou
- Foreign merchants forced to deal solely with licensed Chinese firms called cohongs, currency of trade: silver bullion
- British East India Company heavily involved in opium trade
  - Opium grown in India, sold in China for silver, silver used to buy other Chinese products
The Opium Trade

- Illegal, but poor enforcement
- Increasing trade and social ills evident by late 1830s
- Chinese move to enforce ban
- British agents engage in military retaliation: the Opium War (1839-1842)
- British naval forces easily defeats Chinese
Opium Factory
Unequal Treaties

- China forced into a series of disadvantageous treaties
- Hong Kong ceded to British in Treaty of Nanjing (1842), ports opened to British traders
- Extraterritorial status to British subject
- Later, other countries conclude similar treaties
East Asia in the nineteenth century
The Taiping Rebellion (1850-1864)

- Large-scale rebellions in later nineteenth century reflect poverty, discontent of Chinese peasantry
- Population rises 50% between 1800-1900, but land under cultivation remains static
- Nian Rebellion (1851-1868), Muslim Rebellion (1855-1873), Tungan Rebellion (1862-1878)
- Taiping Rebellion led by Hong Xiuquan, schoolteacher, called for destruction of Qing dynasty
Taiping Platform

- Abolition of private property
- Creation of communal wealth
- Prohibition of footbinding, concubines
- Free public education, simplification of written Chinese, mass literacy
- Prohibition of sexual relations among followers (including married couples)
  - Yet leaders maintained harems
Taiping Defeat

- Nanjing captured in 1858, made into capital
- Attack on Beijing with force of 1 million, but turned back
- Imperial army unable to contain Taipings, so regional armies created with Manchu soldiers and outfitted with European weaponry
- Hong commits suicide in 1864, Nanjing recaptured
  - 100,000 Taipings massacred
The Self-Strengthening Movement (1860-1895)

- High point in 1860s-1870s
- Slogan “Chinese learning at the base, Western learning for use”
- Blend of Chinese cultural traditions with European industrial technology
  - Shipyards, railroads, academies
- Change to Chinese economy and society superficial
- Empress Dowager Cixi (1835-1908) diverted funds for her own aesthetic purposes
Spheres of Influence

- Qing dynasty loses influence in south-east Asia, losing tributary states to Europeans and Japanese
  - Vietnam: France, 1886
  - Burma: Great Britain, 1885
  - Korea, Taiwan, Liaodong Peninsula: Japan, 1895

- China itself divided into spheres of influence, 1895
Hundred Days Reforms (1898)

- Kang Youwei (1858-1927) and Liang Qichao (1873-1929)
- Interpreted Confucianism to allow for radical changes to system
- Pro-industrialization
- Emperor Guangxu attempts to implement reforms
- Empress Dowager Cixi nullifies reforms, imprisons emperor
The Boxer Rebellion

- Cixi supports Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists (“Boxers”), anti-foreign militia units
- 1899 fight to rid China of “foreign devils”
- Misled to believe European weapons would not harm them, 140,000 Boxers besiege European embassies in 1900
- Crushed by coalition of European forces
- China forced to accept stationing of foreign troops
Boxers

Photographs showing the trial and execution of the Boxers
Death of the Dowager Empress

- Emperor dies a mysterious, sudden death
- Cixi dies one day later, November 1908
- 2-year old Puyi placed on the throne
- Revolution in 1911
- Puyi abdicates, 1912
Transformation of Japan

- Japanese society in turmoil in early 19th century
  - Poor agricultural output, famines, high taxes
  - Daimyo, samurai classes decline, peasants starve

- Tokugawa government attempts reforms, 1841-1843
  - Cancelled daimyo, samurai debts
  - Abolished merchant guilds
  - Compelled peasants to return to cultivating rice
  - Reforms ineffective
Foreign Pressure

- Europeans, Americans attempting to establish relations
- U.S. in particular look for Pacific ports for whalers, merchants
- Japan only allowed Dutch presence in Nagasaki
- 1853 Matthew Perry sails gunship up to Edo (Tokyo), forces Japanese to open port
- Sparks conservative Japanese reaction against Shogun, rally around Emperor in Kyoto
The Meiji Restoration (1868)

- Brief civil war between imperial and Tokugawa forces
- 1868 Emperor Mutusuhito (Meiji, 1852-1912) takes power
- Goals of prosperity and strength: “rich country, strong army”
- Resolved to learn western technology
Meiji Reforms

- Travelers Fukuzawa Yukichi (1835-1901) and Ito Hirobumi (1841-1909) travel to U.S., Europe
  - Argue for adoption of western legal proceedings, technology
- Meiji government removes privileges for daimyo, samurai
  - Conscript army replaces samurai mercenaries
  - Samurai rebellion crushed by national army
- Tax reform: payment in cash, not kind
Constitutional Government

- 1889 constitution promulgated
- Conservative: only 5% of male population allowed to vote in 1890 election
- Economic reforms to promote rapid industrialization
- Dramatic improvement in literacy rates
- Government holdings sold to private investors: zaibatsu, financial cliques develop