The Boxer Rebellion

In 1800, European nations governed two places in Southeast Asia: the Spanish Philippines and the Dutch East Indies. By 1900, Western powers would rule nearly all of Southeast Asia. Europeans began to see Asia as a place to get raw materials, like oil and rubber. They also saw it as a place to sell the goods they made in their factories.

Great Britain founded a colony in Singapore, an island at the end of the Malay Peninsula, in 1819. A colony is an area ruled by a foreign power. Singapore soon became a busy port for steamships traveling to and from China. France took over the Vietnamese Empire and made it a protectorate. This means it had its own government but depended on the French government to protect it. The United States fought Spain and took over the Philippines.

In some places, foreign nations created spheres of influence instead of colonies or protectorates. For example, in China, warlords who owned areas made deals with foreign nations. A warlord would give a certain nation the right to be the only one to trade, build railroads, or mine in his province. This type of deal gave the foreign power a sphere of influence over the warlord’s area. Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and Japan set up spheres of influence in China.

Influenced by Europeans, some Chinese people changed their religions to Christianity and gave up many of their traditions. Others became angry that their governments, religions, and traditions were being changed because of Westerners. A group of Chinese activists rose up against the foreigners. This group, called the Boxers, was angry about the foreign takeover of Chinese lands and culture.

The Boxers were members of a secret group called the Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists. Westerners saw members practicing martial arts and began calling them Boxers. The Boxers thought foreign influence was ruining China. They wanted to destroy everything foreign, including churches, mines, and railroads. In 1900, bands of Boxers killed foreign missionaries and businessmen. They also killed Chinese Christians.

Countries around the world were outraged by the killings. An army of 20,000 British, French, German, Russian, American, and Japanese troops got together and attacked Beijing, China. They stopped the Boxer Rebellion and forced China’s government to pay for damages. With China’s government weaker than ever, Western powers continued to fight each other for power.
Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. By 1900, ___________ powers ruled nearly all of Southeast Asia.
   A. Northern
   B. Southern
   C. Eastern
   D. Western

2. Great Britain founded a colony in ___________.
   A. Singapore
   B. China
   C. the Philippines
   D. the Vietnamese Empire

3. Chinese warlords allowed foreign powers to set up ____________ in their provinces.
   A. colonies
   B. protectorates
   C. spheres of influence
   D. secret groups

4. The Boxers were angry that Westerners were changing Chinese ___________.
   A. government
   B. religion
   C. traditions
   D. all of the above

5. The Boxer Rebellion took place in ____________.
   A. China
   B. the Vietnamese Empire
   C. the Philippines
   D. Singapore
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Crossword Puzzle

Write the best answer in each blank, and complete the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS
2. A/an __________ __________ __________ is an area that a foreign power has exclusive rights to trade with.
4. The Boxers blamed __________ for the changes happening in China.
5. Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and Japan set up spheres of influence in __________.
7. After the __________ __________ was stopped, China’s government was weaker than ever.
8. A group of Chinese __________ rose up against the foreigners.
10. A group of international troops attacked __________, China, and stopped the Boxer Rebellion.

DOWN
1. The Boxers wanted to __________ everything foreign, including churches, mines, and railroads.
3. A/an __________ is an area that has its own government but depends on a foreign power to protect it.
6. A/an __________ is an area ruled by a foreign power.
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Map – Raw Materials in Southeast Asia, 1900

Use the map to answer the following questions. Write the answers in complete sentences.

1. Name five raw materials produced on the island of Java.

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________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

2. Which area(s) produced spices?

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. Name four places that produced coffee.

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________________________________________________________________________
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Extension Activities
Choose one of the following activities to complete. Write the answer in complete sentences.

1. Resistance movements were often led by people who had lived and been educated in the West. Why do you think these people were inspired to lead resistance movements against Western powers?

2. The Chinese government gave Great Britain the island of Hong Kong. What country is Hong Kong a part of now? When did the change happen? Look on the Internet or at the library to find out.

3. Look on the Internet or at the library to find out three facts about the Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists.

_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
Quiz: The Boxer Rebellion

True/False

Decide if each statement is true or false, and write “true” or “false” in the blank.

1. By 1900, Asian powers ruled nearly all of Europe.  
2. The Boxers were a group of French activists.  
3. The Boxers killed Chinese Christians and foreigners.  
4. A group of international troops attacked Beijing, China, to stop the Boxer Rebellion.  
5. Britain, France, Germany, Russia, and China set up spheres of influence in Japan.

Multiple Choice

Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

6. The Boxers wanted to destroy everything foreign, including _________.
   A. churches  
   B. mines  
   C. railroads  
   D. all of the above

7. A _________ is an area that a foreign power has exclusive rights to trade with.
   A. colony  
   B. protectorate  
   C. sphere of influence  
   D. foreign state

Short Answer

Answer the following question in complete sentences.

8. What was the cause of the Boxer Rebellion?