



◀ Sun Yat-sen was a patriot and visionary dedicated to bringing China and its ancient traditions into the modern world. His political program was founded on principles of national self-determination, democracy, and equality. This photograph, taken around 1910, features Sun in European-influenced clothing. His knowledge of the Western world helped make him a symbol of modernization.

1800–1914

Challenge and Transition in East Asia

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THE STORY MATTERS ...

In the nineteenth century, the Qing dynasty's growing weakness led to civil war, rebellion, and Western intervention. Followers of reformer Sun Yat-sen began an uprising in 1911 that ended the Qing dynasty and more than two thousand years of imperial rule. However, the new Chinese republic was not strong enough to maintain control, and China slipped into civil disorder and the rule of warlords. Throughout this period, Western economic and cultural influence on China continued to grow.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How can new ideas accelerate economic and political change?
- How do cultures influence each other?

LESSON 1

The Decline of the Qing Dynasty

LESSON 2

Revolution in China

LESSON 3

The Rise of Modern Japan