

Paper :- DSE - I (History of South East Asia)

Topic :- popular agitation in South East Asia.

Chapter :- Unit - II

Paper title :- Boxer movement in China

Introduction :-

The Boxer Rebellion, also known as the Boxer uprising or Boxer insurrection, was an anti-foreign, anti-imperialist, and anti-Christian uprising in North China between 1899 and 1901 towards the end of the Qing dynasty, by the Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists, known as the 'Boxers' in English due to many of its members having practised Chinese martial arts which at the time were referred to as 'Chinese boxing'. It was defeated by the Eight Nations Alliance of foreign powers.

The Boxer Rebellion was a violent uprising in China in the late 19th century that was fueled by a variety of factors including

① Economic hardship :- The ruling Qing dynasty's decades of trade and political concessions to foreign powers left Chinese people struggling economically.

② Western influence :- The Boxers believed that Western religions, especially Christianity and economic ties with the West weakened

chinese or china's power

③ Natural disasters: - The Boxers believed that natural disasters like the 1887 flood of the yellow river, were evidence that the Qing dynasty had lost the mandate of Heaven.

④ Foreigners: - The Boxers wanted to drive out all foreigners and chinese people who helped them.

⑤ Western infrastructure: - The Boxers destroyed western built infrastructure like railroad and telegraph lines to make it harder for western forces to invade.

These were main reasons for the Boxer uprising. It is to be noted that the Boxers were a resistance group of chinese people who trained in fighting techniques and claimed to have special powers. The rebellion began in the countryside and spread to the cities eventually reaching Peking (now Beijing). However, the uprising was initiated by a chinese ~~secret~~ secret society called the Yihetuan (Righteous and Harmonious Fists). This group practiced a form of martial arts that resembled boxing, at least to western eyes. The 'Boxers' as they became known, embarked on an armed campaign to drive all foreigners out of china.

However, the Eight-Nation Alliance, a military coalition of foreign powers, finally defeated the Boxers in the Boxer Rebellion.