

Ever since their conquest of China, the Manchu rulers did not prove themselves to be the best—all through the nineteenth century the dynasty was in a state of decline. The first Opium War (1839-42), the Anglo-French War (1856-58), the Sino-Japanese War (1894-95) and the Boxer Rebellion (1900) all resulted in defeats for China and the granting o concessions to Western powers. The image of the Emperor in these sketches is well introduced—arrogant but weak vis-à-vis Western powers. With his head down and his right hand holding a crutch instead of a sword and rifle, his capitulation following Fuchou's bombardment in August 1884, is self evident.

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