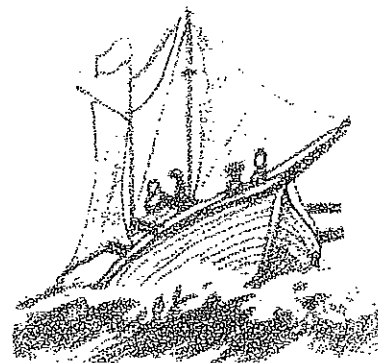


IMPERIALISM IN ASIA

Europeans first became interested in the riches of Asia during the 1500's. Portugal, Spain, Great Britain, and The Netherlands established colonies and ports of trade in the centuries which followed. By the 1800's, most of Asia had fallen under Western control. Asian nations were no match for the economic and military power of Europe. At this time, the United States also became interested in trade with the Far East. American merchants began trading with China in 1844. Ten years later, Matthew C. Perry, commanding a U.S. naval squadron, convinced Japan to open its ports to ships from the United States.



Competition among Western nations for colonies intensified during the 1800's and 1900's. In time, Russia, France, and Japan joined the race for raw materials, markets, and wealth. The governments and economies of most Asian countries fell under the influence of the imperialist nations. Eastern cultures, which had long been cut off from the outside world, came in contact with Western civilization. Sections of Asian cities were patterned after modern European cities. Western art also spread to the East.

The people of Asia eventually grew dissatisfied with colonial rule. Imperialist nations had made huge profits while the majority of Asians suffered in poverty. Asians wanted to regain control of their homelands. A spirit of nationalism swept the continent during the 1900's, especially after World War II. When Japan surrendered in 1945, it had to give its huge empire in the Far East to the Western powers that formerly controlled the region. But the return of colonialism was short-lived. In the 1940's, Burma, India, Pakistan, Lebanon, The Philippines, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Indonesia, and Jordan became independent countries. The nation of Israel was created as a homeland for the Jews. Later, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam won independence.

With the Western powers gone, Asians took over their own governments. But many problems remained. The Industrial Revolution in the West had put Asia at a great disadvantage economically. It was primarily an agricultural region with little industry. Most countries were underdeveloped and lagged behind militarily. New rulers in some cases were unable to meet their countries' needs and could not establish firm control over all of the people. This opened the way for revolutions and communist expansion into several parts of the continent.

Game Rules

The class will be divided into groups of 3 or 4 people. Each person will be a European country competing for colonies and port cities in Asia during the Age of Imperialism. One player will be Portugal, one France, one Great Britain, and the other The Netherlands. Asian countries and port cities that can be won by the colonial powers are listed on the next page.

Play begins with group members rolling a die. High roller wins control of India and gets 5 points. Each group member will then write that player's country in the space before India in the list. Competition continues in the same way for the Malay States and other countries and cities of Asia.

When rolling the die, follow these rules: (1) If two or more players tie for high roller, they will shake again with the highest number deciding who gets the territory in question. (2) If nobody rolls a 4, 5, or 6, the territory remains independent, and players will write "independent" in the space.