

Ways of the World: A Global History with Sources for the AP® Course
AP® Skills Workshop Activity Handout: Continuity and Change Arguments
Chapter 19: Empires in Collision

Name _____
Date _____ Class _____

1. Activity: Revising Continuity and Change Thesis Statements. Look at the prompt and thesis statements below. Determine whether you think each of the thesis statements encompasses all components of a continuity and change argument. If not, decide how to fix each one. Remember that a good thesis needs to: answer the prompt, be evaluative, provide a roadmap for the essay, and address the counterargument.

You can use evidence from the section “The Crisis Within,” which starts on page 830, to help shape your thesis.

Prompt: *Evaluate the extent to which the Taiping Uprising altered Chinese society during the Qing dynasty.*

Thesis A: *Although the Qing dynasty exam system continued after the Taiping Uprising, women were allowed to sit for the exams.*

Thesis B: *Although the Taiping Uprising attempted to change Chinese civilization, the Qing dynasty, with the help of foreign influence, continued traditional Chinese dynastic functions.*

Thesis C: *Although the Taiping Uprising did not lead to much change in Chinese civilization, Qing governmental policies caused massive changes to the dynasty’s global stature.*

2. Activity: Building a Continuity and Change Argument Paragraph. Based on the thesis statement addressing the prompt that follows, create one body paragraph of a continuity and change argument essay. You will need to decide whether you want to create a paragraph of continuities, a paragraph of changes, or a paragraph centered on a topic that encompasses both continuities and changes. Begin by filling in the template below using the information in the section called “The Crisis Within” that begins on page 830 for your evidence. Then write the paragraph, being sure to analyze every piece of evidence to show how it connects back to the thesis.

Prompt: *Create an argument that analyzes the extent to which the Opium Wars changed China’s relationship with Europe.*

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Thesis: *Although the Qing dynasty continued to maintain a veneer of control, the Opium Wars changed the balance of power between China and global powers.*

Topic sentence:

Evidence A:

Evidence B:

Evidence C:

Analysis:

Paragraph: _____

3. Activity: Creating a Source-Based Continuity and Change Argument. Based on the prompt below, use the Working with Evidence section of this chapter (pages 857–864) to create a contextualizing intro, a thesis, and two topic sentences for paragraphs that include at least three points of evidence and an analysis that shows how the evidence supports the thesis. Then, select the evidence in the documents you would use to support your argument.

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Prompt: *Using the documents provided, evaluate the extent to which China changed as a result of pressures from within and without in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.*

Intro/Context:

Thesis:

Topic sentence 1:

Evidence A:

Evidence B:

Evidence C:

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Analysis:

Topic sentence 2:

Evidence A:

Evidence B:

Evidence C:

Analysis:
