Bell Ringer: The Open Door Notes

Instructions: Examine the picture. Read the background information. Answer the questions.

Background: In the early 1900s, many European nations and the USA were practicing imperialism. Imperialism is when a strong nation controls another region around the world. Many of the European nations and the USA wanted to control parts of China. US Secretary of State, John Hay, feared this would lead to war between the various imperial nations. John Hay issued the Open Door Notes to try and prevent war. According to this policy, the USA and the imperial nations of Europe would agree to share China. In other words, all imperial nations would have equal access to trade in China. The nations of Europe agreed. Above, Uncle Sam and other European nations are dividing up China. While this created an uneasy peace between the imperial nations, many Chinese natives were angry about the foreign control. Many in China tried to rebel against the imperial nations and remove them from their region. They did not want to be controlled from outside powers.

1. What is imperialism?

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2. What were the Open Door Notes?

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3. While the Open Door Notes achieved an uneasy peace between imperial nations, how did many of the natives of China respond to the foreign control occurring in their region?

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Answers:

1. What is imperialism?
   Imperialism is when a strong nation tries to control another region in the world.

2. What were the Open Door Notes?
   According to this policy, the USA and the imperial nations of Europe would agree to share China.
   In other words, all imperial nations would have equal access to trade in China.

3. While the Open Door Notes achieved an uneasy peace between imperial nations, how did many of the natives of China respond to the foreign control occurring in their region?
   While the Open Door Notes created cooperation between imperial nations, many in natives rebelled. This was because they did not want to be controlled from an outside, foreign power.