
The Imperial Edict of the Qianlong Emperor and the Second Occupation (British occupation) of Macao in 1808

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The Canton system was a mechanism that sought to control multiple complex functions using the territory of Canton. The second occupation (British occupation) of Macao in 1808—a military operation that also included the *Phaeton* incident in Nagasaki that same year—aimed to subjugate Macao, a coastal Chinese region contiguous with Tianjin, Ningbo, and Zhoushan, and push the HMS *Phaeton* further into the East Asian Sea to reach Nagasaki, thus deviating from the Canton system from outside its territory. Simultaneously, Adm. William Drury, the leader of the British troops, entered the hongs of Canton from Macao and demanded a meeting with the governor-general of Guangdong and Guangxi provinces, thus violating the Canton system from within its territory. When the incident took place, the governor-general of Guangdong and Guangxi provinces, Wu Xiongguang, initially failed to consult the Qianlong emperor's imperial edict, rejecting a similar demand from the Macartney Mission and, as the British occupation of the fort of Macao continued, allowed Drury to enter Huangpu and the hongs of Canton—a decision for which he, Wu Xiongguang, would be dismissed and criminally charged. However, Wu Xiongguang did consult and follow the Qianlong emperor's imperial edict when he denied Drury's request to enter Canton to engage in a meeting as equals and instead granted him an audience based on Chinese tributary rituals.

After the 1816 incident involving the HMS *Alceste*, which belonged to the Amherst Mission, deviations from the Canton system from outside its territory and violations of it from within its territory, proceeded in parallel: On the one hand, there was the English ship *Lord Amherst*, which landed in Xiamen, Fuzhou, Ningbo, Shanghai, Shandong, Korea, and Ryukyu in 1832; the American ship *Huron*, which landed in Fujian, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, and Shandong in 1835; and the American ship *Morrison*, which landed in Kagoshima and Uruga, Japan, in 1837. On the other hand, there was the Baynes incident, when William Baynes, with no authorization, reorganized the hongs of Canton and brought women there in 1830, and the Napier incident, when William John Napier, chief superintendent of the British trade in China, entered the hongs of Canton and demanded equal communication with the Chinese side and a meeting with the governor-general of Guangdong and Guangxi provinces in 1834. Afterward, the first of a series of events led to the opening of five treaty ports following the Treaty of Nanjing after the Opium War, which was later linked to the opening of Japanese ports as well. The second event continued with a question of entry into the city of Canton and led to appointing foreign ministers to the court of Beijing at the 1860 Beijing Convention after the

Arrow War.

Key words: the Canton System, Macartney's Mission, imperial edict of the Qianlong Emperor,
the British occupation of Macao in 1808, the *Phaeton* incident in Nagasaki