The Opium War of 1839 to 1842 was the turning point after which foreign, in particular Western nations, took greater control not only over China’s international trade policy, but important legal and economic institutions. After 1842, Chinese ports that had previously been closed to Western traders were forced open to trade and investment. In these so-called “treaty ports”, tariffs on foreign imports into China were fixed at a low rate. Beyond trade, consular offices and foreign courts were established in China, and foreign nationals were exempt from the jurisdiction of Chinese law. The implications of the semi-colonial treaty port system for China’s long-run development has been the subject of perennial interest.1

<https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w27558/w27558.pdf>

Beihai was opened to [foreign trade](https://www.britannica.com/topic/international-trade) in 1876. Despite its poor harbour—which is badly exposed to northerly winds and impeded by sandbanks—Beihai became a moderately important port and the principal outlet for the trade of southern and western Guangxi. Later, after [Wuzhou](https://www.britannica.com/place/Wuzhou) on the Xi River and Mengzi on the Red River in [Yunnan](https://www.britannica.com/place/Yunnan) province had been opened to trade, Beihai lost much of its importance. It became no more than a minor port, with much of its foreign trade being in the hands of French trading companies. Beihai enjoyed a revival after 1937, when the Sino-Japanese War (1937–45) began, but in 1940 it itself was occupied by the Japanese.

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Beihai>

At that time（~1899-~1930）, due to various reasons, commerce in Beihai was in decline. The main reason was that Guangzhou Bay (now Zhanjiang City) was a French leased land, "the import of goods, to no tax", resulting in the purchase of goods to the Beihai Anpu, Shicheng, Hu Dong and other places of merchants, all to Guangzhou Bay to purchase goods, resulting in the commercial decline of the Beihai.

<https://baike.baidu.com/item/%E5%8C%97%E6%B5%B7%E8%80%81%E8%A1%97>

The May Fourth Movement was an [anti-imperialist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anti-imperialism), cultural, and political movement which grew out of student protests in [Beijing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beijing) on 4 May 1919.

In retaliation to the [Chinese government](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_China_%281912%E2%80%931949%29)'s weak response to the [Treaty of Versailles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treaty_of_Versailles), students protested against the government's decision to allow [Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Empire_of_Japan) to retain territories in [Shandong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shandong) that had been surrendered by [Germany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Empire) after the [Siege of Tsingtao](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Tsingtao) in 1914. The demonstrations sparked nation-wide protests and spurred an upsurge in [Chinese nationalism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_nationalism), a shift towards political mobilization, a shift away from cultural activities, a move towards a [populist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Populist) base and a move away from traditional intellectual and political elites.

### Fight against warlordism and the First United Front

The May Fourth Movement helped to rekindle the then-fading cause of republican revolution. In 1917 Sun Yat-sen had become commander-in-chief of a rival military government in Canton in collaboration with southern warlords. In October 1919 he re-established the [Kuomintang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kuomintang) (KMT) to counter the government in Beijing. The latter, under a succession of warlords, still maintained its facade of legitimacy and its relations with the West.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Republic_of_China>

During World War I（1914-1918）, imperialism temporarily relaxed its economic aggression against China, and together with the influence of the Xinhai Revolution, Chinese national capitalism developed further, and the proletariat subsequently grew, preparing the conditions for the New Democratic Revolution. After World War I, the national economy went downhill when the imperialist economic forces returned. During this period, there were three main economic forms in Chinese society: the original feudal natural economy, the foreign capitalist economy, and the national capitalist economy. The natural economy went through a process of gradual disintegration, but still occupied the main position in Chinese society.

Malcolm(Duncan’s god daughter who was influenced by the student revolution and supports KMT government)

Local traders

<https://old.pep.com.cn/rjwk/bmls/2013/073/bmzc/201303/t20130319_1151365.htm>

Duncan (Western trader)

Macbeth(Local fixer first then kind of inherited Lady Macbeth’s family business)

**Colonial Shophouses**

Fueled by booming trade and the subsequent migration of workers from India and China, rapid population growth in the nineteenth century caused many colonial settlements in Southeast Asia to densify and invent new urban forms. Penang, Batavia and Singapore exemplified the formation of a new building type called the shophouse: an urban terraced house built on a long and narrow site, and which combined residential and commercial uses. Diverse cultural influences shaped the shophouse’s architectural development: European, Malay and Chinese, with the latter being dominant. These shophouses are typically two or three storeys high, with their ground floor used for trading activities while the upper floors operate as residences or accommodate other semi-public functions such as offices. The ground floor is set back and open to a public arcade known as the ‘five-foot way’ (‘kaki lima’). The two examples featured in the images here are from Batavia around the 1870s: one of them demonstrating a strong Chinese influence ([fig. 86.11](https://www-bloomsburyarchitecturelibrary-com.arts.idm.oclc.org/encyclopedia-chapter?docid=b-9781474207775&tocid=b-9781474207775-086#b-9781474207775-086-0000148)), while the other shows a mix of European and Malay elements (colonnades, arched windows and decorated iron arches/enclosed balconies and timber shutters; [fig. 86.12](https://www-bloomsburyarchitecturelibrary-com.arts.idm.oclc.org/encyclopedia-chapter?docid=b-9781474207775&tocid=b-9781474207775-086#b-9781474207775-086-0000154)).

this mixed-use two-storey structure has a setback lower level for its public arcade. The colonnade may feature slender cast-iron pillars or heavier circular composite columns. The design combines a masonry structure with arched windows below, with dark timber panels and louvred windows above.

Achmadi, A. , & Walker, P. (2019). Southeast Asia, Australia and the Pacific, 1780–1914. In M. Fraser (Ed.). Sir Banister Fletcher’s Global History of Architecture. London: © the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) and the University of London. Retrieved March 2, 2021, from http://dx.doi.org/10.5040/9781474207775.0086

The Old Quarter of Hanoi (Figure 12.1) was composed of shophouses, standing one behind another, having a width from 2.5 to 5.5 m, and a depth of sometimes over 60 m. Shophouses, called “Nha Hinh Ong” or “tube-like-houses”, after their narrow proportions, filled the whole of each block (Figure 12.2). In an area where merchandise lines the streets, it was essential that houses face the street to secure shop space. With a façade open to the street and shop space on the ground floor, each individual house had enclosed walls on the other three sides (the back and flanks), so that it had no connection with its next-door neighbours. Thus only on the street could each household communicate with others.
*Tropical Sustainable Architecture : Social and Environmental Dimensions*, edited by Boon Lay Ong, and Joo-Hwa Bay, Taylor & Francis Group, 2006.*ProQuest Ebook Central*, http://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ual/detail.action?docID=286757.
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*Tropical Sustainable Architecture : Social and Environmental Dimensions*, edited by Boon Lay Ong, and Joo-Hwa Bay, Taylor & Francis Group, 2006.*ProQuest Ebook Central*, https://ebookcentral.proquest.com/lib/ual/detail.action?docID=286757.

Pakhoi was plague-ridden, as the handful of foreign inhabitants discovered in the summer of 1877.5 Plague came every two or three years and was a fact of Pakhoi life.6

Foreign goods were purchased in Macao and Hong Kong, and brought to Pakhoi by junk. Rice and sugar were the major exports.

their vessels calling at Pakhoi on their runs between Hong Kong and French Indo-China.

He was forced out of the business as a result of preferential tax arrangements in favour of local traders.

For foreign businessmen Pakhoi had been a failure. There had never been three, and there were seldom two foreign businesses there simultaneously. Hopkins asked whether it would have been better for foreign trade had Pakhoi not been opened.

Now French missionaries concentrated their activity on the mainland, building hospitals, schools and churches. The British also built hospitals in Pakhoi.

A larger French aim was to divert the trade of Yunnan and south-west China to the upper reaches of the Red River, whence it would flow to French ports in the Gulf of Tonkin. The effect of this began to be felt on Pakhoi’s trade in 1890. 30 By 1900 a large proportion of the foreign shipping at Pakhoi had become French.

There were other reasons for Pakhoi’s lack of appeal. Piracy was ever-present, as was inter-provincial rivalry and fighting between Guangdong and Guangxi. Guangxi people saw Pakhoi as a symbol of their lack of access to the coast. (Before the provincial border was moved in 1952, Guangdong stretched all the way to Indo-China.) Foreigners, particularly missionaries in the interior, experienced violence: in November 1905 five American missionaries were killed and their hospital burned down.

Nield, R 2015, China's Foreign Places : The Foreign Presence in China in the Treaty Port Era, 1840-1943, Hong Kong University Press, Hong Kong. Available from: ProQuest Ebook Central. [3 March 2021].

It became a tool of capitalist aggression because its function was mainly to help foreign companies acquire local goods and sell foreign goods.

A ***hong*** ([Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_language): 行) originally designates both a type of building and a type of Chinese merchant intermediary.

KMT in Guangxi

In 1920, [Chen Jiongming](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chen_Jiongming) drove Lu Rongting and the Old Guangxi clique out of Guangdong, in the [First Yue-Gui War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Yue-Gui_War). In 1921 Chen pushed into Guangxi, starting the [Second Yue-Gui war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Yue-Gui_war), forcing Lu Rongting to step down in July 1921. By August, Chen had occupied [Nanning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanning) and the rest of Guangxi. Chen Jiongming and the Cantonese forces occupied Guangxi until April 1922. Their occupation was largely nominal because armed bands of Guangxi loyalists began to gather under local commanders, calling themselves the [Self-government Army](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Self-government_Army). [Sun Yat-sen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sun_Yat-sen) and Chen Jiongming soon split over the continuation of the Northern Expedition. Chen, however, aspired merely to be the warlord of Guangdong and after the [Zhili clique](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhili_clique%22%20%5Co%20%22Zhili%20clique) in [Beijing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beijing) recognized his power in the south, he abandoned Sun Yat-sen. By May 1922 the Cantonese forces had evacuated Guangxi leaving a power vacuum.

Location:

Dunsinane: Pakhoi

Inverness: Weichow island

Battlefield: Chinese-Vietnamese boarder

Character:

Macbeth: 钟庆仁 Chung Ching-jen，Jen，in his early 30s, from a Hakka family that moved around a lot. He has always been a witty child and got along with everything and everyone. His family was well off with the business and he was sent to France to study, where he met Francoise, whose father was a banker in Indo-China (Vietnam). He then came to Indo-China with Francoise hoping to join her wealthy family, but was refused by her father. The couple came back to China, only to witness his family being murdered by the local warlord. Jen was hunted down by the warlord too so they went back down and finally settled in Pakhoi, a poor harbor ran by the French. Jen became the comprador for several French Hongs (merchant intermediary) and helped one of them, Mr. Armand gain most of the business that he almost monopolized the business of the whole area. But the area was still under control of warlord and he feels really insecure and wished to fit in the western social circle more even though comprador already has immunity to the local law. After the prophecy and Francoise’s persuasion that she has contact of all the traders in Indo-China because of her father so they can expand the business, Jen decided to kill Mr. Armand. After that he was caught in even more fear and paranoia that eventually drove Francoise to suicide. He lost all hopes and was killed by Mr. Armand’s foster daughter when the KMT came in and took over Pakhoi.

Lady Macbeth: Francoise, in her late 20s, daughter of a French banker. Like her name which means freedom, she is adventurous and ambitious despite being a woman at that time and with a strict father, often appeared to be too straight forward and even a bit intimidating that people, especially tend to not take her seriously. Jen was one of the first men that actually listened to her and she soon found that with his social ability and her daring ideas, they were able to achieve something great. So she was not really content with Jen working for Mr. Armand, and convince him for the murder. As she thought that they were finally going to be the ones on top, she realized Jen was caught up in the fear of losing their power and position that he started being paranoid and suspicious of everyone and everything. After he murdered more people, she couldn’t bear the guilt and that there’s never going to be freedom for the both of them, so she eventually killed herself.

Duncan: Mr. Armand, 50-60 yo. French trader that came to Pakhoi in late 19th century. Despite bringing in the capitalist aggression, he was actually a decent person that treated the locals well and helped build schools and hospital. He also adopted Wan-jung, a local orphan girl. He likes collecting antiques from everywhere, and has spent years in other countries like Siam and Indo-China, thus his Hong (where he does business and sometimes lives) was decorated in a mix of styles. He has houses elsewhere as well. (But when Jen became the owner of the Hong he was too paranoid to live elsewhere)

Banquo: 黄维相Huang Wei-hsiang，’Lao Huang’, in his late 40s, is one of the local 僮Chuang ethnic people. He is a runner of Mr. Armand’s Hong, who doesn’t talk much but very knowledgeable of the area, the terrain of probably100km radius and every short cut. He is the one who Jen never had to put on a fake smile to, (partly because Chuang people were not in power nor aggressive, and that he is just a very trust-worthy person). He had a son and was raising him alone because his wife died of plague.