

Date	Event	Significance
1898	<b>Hundred Days reform</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic and political reforms introduced by Kang Youwei and supported by Emperor Gangxu.</li> <li>Their main aim was to modernise the military so that China could expel the foreign forces.</li> <li>The reforms were rejected by Cixi and her conservative allies in court.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disunity within the court was revealed.</li> <li>The authority of Cixi was made clear to revolutionaries.</li> <li>Many pro-reformers became disillusioned with the Qing.</li> <li>Cixi's new alliance with the court's most conservative officials led to her support of the Boxers.</li> </ul>
1900	<b>Boxer Rebellion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rebels were anti-Western and particularly anti-Christian.</li> <li>On 21 June 1900 Cixi formally declared war on the foreign powers and sided with the Boxers.</li> <li>Fighting was limited to the north, as central governors refused to follow Cixi's orders and protected foreigners in their regions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The decision to join the Boxers demonstrated the main dilemma facing the Qing: their popularity would increase in the short-term if they supported the Boxers, although inevitable defeat would see them lose support again. On the other hand, suppression of the Boxers would seem as though they were protecting the foreign powers.</li> <li>The decision of governors in central China to side with the Boxers revealed the decreasing support base of the Qing.</li> </ul>
Sept. 1901	<b>Boxer Protocol</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This peace treaty forced the Qing to agree to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The execution of 10 officials</li> <li>The suspension of the examination system in 45 cities for five years</li> <li>The enlargement of the legation quarter in Beijing</li> <li>The destruction of 25 Qing forts</li> <li>\$333 million in reparations' payments</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This was arguably the most humiliating treaty signed by the Qing.</li> <li>Missionaries were freer to move within the Chinese interior and could provide Western medicine and education on a broader scale.</li> <li>Cixi, devastated by the defeat, issued a statement on 29 January 1901 calling for advice on the reforms needed to modernise China.</li> </ul>
1901–1911	<b>Post-Boxer Rebellion reforms</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1901–05: reforms were focused largely on foreign affairs, education and the military.</li> <li>1906–1911: reforms addressed government administration.</li> <li>In 1908 elected Provincial Assemblies were created.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ironically these reforms contributed to the Qing collapse. Students sent abroad for their education often adopted radical beliefs as a result. Secondly, new administrative bodies established were rarely loyal to the Qing. The better Provincial Assemblies decentralised power away from Beijing.</li> </ul>
1905	<b>Tongmenghui – the Revolutionary Alliance established by Sun Yat-sen</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sun's Three Principles of the People (Sanminzhuyi) were established: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nationalism</li> <li>Democracy</li> <li>People's Livelihood.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This unity became a powerful force and, although the Revolution was triggered by an accident, they were the strongest political force in China at the time capable of forming a government.</li> </ul>
1908	<b>Cixi and Guangxu died</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pu Yi became the last emperor when still an infant. He ruled under the regency of Prince Chun.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Another child emperor contributed further to China's political instability.</li> <li>Prince Chun was not a decisive, charismatic or strong leader.</li> </ul>
May 1911	<b>Edict nationalising railways issued</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There were four Chinese-owned railway lines, which ran through the provinces, including Guangdong and Sichuan.</li> <li>Nationalisation was to be achieved with foreign capital, which effectively meant foreign ownership of the national railways.</li> <li>Widespread protests were supported by the Provincial Assemblies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This issue of foreign ownership of the national railways unified many classes against the Qing.</li> <li>Nationalist sentiment spread further than the usually affected port cities.</li> <li>The railway issue became a focal point of criticism of the Qing.</li> </ul>
Oct. 1911	<b>Wuhan uprising began</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In June 1911 the Revolutionary Alliance joined forces with two other revolutionary groups, including members of the New Army.</li> <li>They focused their activities in Wuhan where they accidentally exploded a bomb on 9 October 1911.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The revolutionary momentum that had built up over the nationalisation of the railways ensured that the New Army members involved received wide-scale support.</li> <li>As many provincial governor-generals began to flee, Assemblies declared their independence from the Qing.</li> </ul>
Dec. 1911	<b>Sun Yat-sen returned from abroad</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sun had been campaigning for election funds in Dallas when the Qing collapsed.</li> <li>He travelled to Europe to secure diplomatic support before returning to China to be declared Provisional President.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The revolution had been spontaneous and occurred without leadership or planning.</li> <li>Sun's leadership was so widely accepted in Southern China that his leadership was unquestioned upon his return.</li> </ul>
Feb. 1912	<b>Yuan Shikai became the new Provisional President</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A lack of military support for Sun meant that he had to hand the Provisional Presidency over to Yuan, who was expected to rule in accordance with the constitution of the provisional government.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disunity within China was revealed.</li> <li>Limited influence of the Revolutionary Alliance in the north was revealed.</li> <li>Sun's naivety was revealed – it was clear to many at the time that Yuan was not committed to democracy.</li> </ul>