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| **Event/figure** | **Positive** | **Negative** |
| **Cixi** |  | “This half century of the rule of an autocratic woman … was the main reason why no modernization of the monarchy on Japanese lines could be effected, and a prime cause of the reform movement turning to revolutionary policies.” C.P Fitzgerald"To a large degree she (Cixi) must be held responsible for the failure to regenerate the dynasty and modernise the country.” |
| **Self Strengthening** |  | “Self Strengthening was making progress but at an inadequate pace.”Patricia Buckley Ebrey |
| **Guangxu** |  | “His mother had abused him terribly when he was young and he suffered from a speech impediment, panic attacks and health problems throughout his life.”Sterling Seagrave |
| **Boxers** | “The Court appears to be in a dilemma: if the Boxers are not suppressed, the Legations threaten to take action – if the attempt to suppress them is made, this intensely patriotic organization will be converted into an anti-dynastic movement.”Robert Hart (Inspector General to Cixi)“The Boxer Uprising revealed an emerging sense of nationalism amongst common people.” Victor Purcell | “Cixi’s support of the Boxers had proved as unwise as it had been ineffective.”Michael Lynch |
| **New government reforms** |  | “According to many, the measures were largely superficial.”Immanuel Hsu“On the whole, the Qing reforms fulfilled the hopes of very few.”Patricia Buckley Ebrey |
| **Railways** |  | “It was not so much he financial loss that infuriated [the people] … but the railways were entirely in foreign hands.”Trevor Sowden |
| **Sun yat-sen** | The final collapse of the Qing dynasty was to a considerable extent inspired by a revolutionary situation from Guangdong named Sun Yat-Sen.”Edwin Moise |  |
| **Tongmenghui** | “The Society called for the overthrow of the Manchus, the restoration of China to the Chinese, and the establishment of a republican government.”John King Fairbank“Three of the four major anti-manchu rebellions between 1908 and 1911 were sponsored by the Tongmenghui.”Dorothy Perkins |  |