In the late 18th century, Britain, one of the _____ powers of Europe, had just walked out of the American Revolutionary War with the expensive _____ of losing not only much of its national _____ but also its 13 American colonies. The empire therefore sought ways to find new _____ of revenue and new trade opportunities, and then it found one possible _____: China.

China, the "Middle Kingdom," as it _____ itself, had been one of the dominant actors in the world for more than _____ millennia. As Emperor Qianlong wrote in a letter to King George _____ in 1793:

"Our Celestial Empire possesses all things in prolific _____ and lacks no product within its own _____."

The wars waged between Britain and China in the _____ changed many things and left indelible scars on China. These wars, as we _____ know, are the Opium Wars.

The Opium Wars in the mid-19th century were two _____ conflicts waged between the Qing Dynasty, noted for its initial _____ and tumultuous final years, and Western countries, namely Britain.

In the 18th century, China enjoyed a _____ trade balance with Great Britain, exporting porcelain, silk, and tea in exchange for _____. This trade, on the contrary, was not balanced on the side of Britain, as millions of _____ of silver were flowing out of the British Empire and into China, forcing Britain to seek ways to counter the _____ imbalance.

Then they found a solution: opium.

In the late 18th century, the _____ of opium in British territories in Bengal was _____, and Britain started exporting opium from British-controlled _____ to China.

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