



# Nantou Village: The Relationship Between Central Government and Local Towns

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**Abstract.** Nantou village, a renowned historical site in today's Shenzhen, had long been the centre of economic, political and social in the area it ruled, including the southeast Guangdong, Hongkong and Macao, up to Yunxiao areas in today's Fujian. In addition, its location at the Southern boarder of the empire had caused both opportunities and challenges for this small village. This essay will explore the relationship between the central government and local towns through an insight into the histories of Nantou village in each Dynasty in imperial China .

**Keywords:** Nantou village · history · politics · international relations

## 1 Introduction

Nantou Village was a long-preserved political centre for its jurisdiction of today's South Eastern Guangdong, including Hongkong and Macau, reaching Yunxiao in Fujian Province. As a local citizen in Shenzhen, Nantou village is a place of interest that I visit periodically to study the history of Shenzhen. Two years ago, I became an official commentator at Nantou Museum, which brought me more opportunities and passion for discovering the history revealed by Nantou.

Back in the Han Dynasty, the Nantou area had been under the control of central plain government. Though desolate, it connected itself with central China by sea salt industry. Yet, the few citizens caused the lack of focus from the central government. Up until the Qing Dynasty, which was the end of dynasties, Nantou was in increasingly firm control under the central government as a vital link in the chain of national defence. How did Nantou change from a salt-producing city to a base of national defence? How did the attitude over it change with dynasties? How did the policies from the central government affect it? And how did these changes and alternations reflect the relationship between the central government and local towns in the feudal system in imperial China?

## 2 Body Paragraphs

### 2.1 Han Dynasty

To begin with, the actual start of the feudalistic relationship between the central government and local areas was the Han Dynasty. The main connection between the Nantou area and the central government was the economic linkage created by salt. Thus, the

firmer the control of salt production, the more secure the control of Nantou. Because of the immediate requirement of reestablishing the economy after the building of the Dynasty, emperor Gaozu decided to “lift the ban on environment extracted goods and services” [1], which includes salt. People who had long suffered from years of war, especially those who lived beside the ocean, could gain extra income by making and selling salt, which also stimulated the development of the salt industry. However, the private ownership of the salt industry did cause troubles for this newly built Dynasty. For instance, some farmers, accumulated unbelievable wealth through extracting and selling salt, only cared about earning their own profit while neglecting the need of the society and the difficulty of people [1]. For the government, this is unacceptable. Therefore, during the reign of Emperor Wen, personal actions of boiling and selling salt were banned, and harsh punishments towards whom still conducted it illegally were issued, like “to give ankle bracelet” and “to confiscate equipment of boiling salt” [1], the government has largely gained back the salt industry. Simultaneously, to ensure government control of the salt industry, salt officers have been created [1]. Total of 35 officers were set, starting with the salt officer was set in Panyu [2]. In the government’s record, “salt officers in each place can collect wealth up to taels of gold” [1], which contributes hugely towards the taxation revenue of the government. However, the struggle between state monopoly and private ownership remained and would reappear whenever the actual might of the government had signs of decline. During the reign of Emperor Zhao, poverty and starvation issues became urgent with the prompt of frequent floods. Under multiple pressures, the Emperor dismissed salt and iron officers to support private ownership. Yet, soon reinstated to confront the financial deficit [1].

To sum up, in the 426 years of the Han Dynasty’s rule, the policy of the government-owned salt industry was implemented for less than 200 years and even less than 40 years that the government had actually controlled most of the benefits of salt production and transport. As a beginner, the control of power from the government still appears to be problematic and immature, as seen by the fact that the actual strength of the government in controlling local towns was mainly decided by the Emperor’s might instead of occurring naturally as a result of nuanced system and policies.

Focusing on the policies imposed during the Han Dynasty, we can spot the problem more directly. Tracing back to the Grand Unification of Emperor Qingshihuang, under Enfeoffment, Lingnan areas have been divided into Guilin, Xiang, and Nanhai Commandery. Among them, the capital of Nanhai Commandery was in Panyu County [2], or Nantou. Later, with the decline of the Qing Dynasty, these commanderies were seized by Zhaotuo, which is also known as the “Lord of Nanyue” [2]. Regained by the Han Dynasty, it highlighted the ineffectiveness of Enfeoffment used by the Qing Dynasty. To deal with it, a system of prefectures and counties was introduced, and the central government’s right to control central areas was in direct hands. But due to the lack of transportation, desolate areas were still under the system of Enfeoffment, or being the jurisdiction of the Emperor’s kinsman and officers given the title “lord” [3].

The combination of the two ruling methods still hasn’t slashed all the problems. Understandably, lords, being granted huge power and privileges, still remained the motivation and possibility to start revolts. Eventually, the second “Lord of Nanhai” has actually raised in rebellion. Crashed before substantive achievements, his jurisdiction and this

system was removed. Still, the salt officer has maintained and served to connect Panyu County with other counties in the commandery. During the reign of Emperor Wu, the establishment of the Provincial Inspector, had further enforced the connection between the central government and counties. The Han Dynasty, which started the relationship structure between the central government and local towns under the feudal system, was further revised and modified by later dynasties, strengthening the relationship between the central government and the local areas.

## 2.2 The Period of Three Kingdoms

To the period of the Three Kingdoms, the salt industry remained the main linkage between Nantou and the central government of Wu. A new officer, the “salt commissioner”, was appointed to manage salt-related issues [4], with Nantou being the pioneer [2]. In the Wu kingdom, the public ownership of salt was protected quite well because of the government’s attention in order to supporting the constant war among the three kingdoms. Sometimes, salt in the Wu kingdom can be equivalent to the value of gold [5]. The control of local towns in the Wu Kingdom is stronger than Han Dynasty, yet the several rebellions of local people can also present imperfections in its system and regulations.

The policy regarding desolate areas can be separated into several techniques, such as establishing a governmental organization, improving transportation, pacifying the public, conducting census registration, and constructing cities. Southern areas had been separated into Guangzhou and Jiaozhou, containing seven and eight commanderies, respectively [6]. In the transportation aspect, Wu had chisel through the mountains of Yuechen, Qitian, Dupang, and Dageng to build road connections between the capital of Wu kingdom, Jianye, and Panyu county [6]. Cities were constructed in Wu’s territories, including the city’s rampart and impounding reservoir built to win the heart of the public [6]. In Nantou, Salt Commissioner Headquarters was built together with the city’s rampart of Panyu [7].

However, rebellions also occurred in this period. The central government reacted accordingly with a mixture of sticks and carrots. After dispatching the army to crush them violently, some beneficial treatments were introduced to appease them. For instance, the rebellion led by Huang Wu. After dispatching Li Yin to crush the rebelling forces, Lu Yin showed the tolerance and humanism of the central government by cancelling the punishment of soldiers who were misled by the organizer. Thus, over three thousand local tribes and villages, including the supporters of Huang Wu, had all surrendered and showed their loyalty to the government by guiding them to the far South [6]. Later, these surrendered tribes were included in the census registration, marking them the official public of the empire [6]. The measure of sticks and carrots was used to maintain the country’s control over desolated areas in this period, which shows some effectiveness. Yet, the requirement for modification in regulations can also be seen in the lack of valid regulations in preventing local rebellion.

### 2.3 Jin Dynasty

Up to the Jin Dynasty, the connection in salt has largely remained. In Xijin Dynasty, the relatively powerful government tightened its policies by stating that “all the mountains, rivers, natural resources (typically salt), houses and places belong to the Dynasty” [9] in order to fight the Xiongnu [8], an ancient ethnic of Chinese yet a foe of central plains government. Harsh punishments of four-year prison were introduced for those who illegally conducted salt [10], which did decrease the number of illegal salt traders to a large extent by the terror created. Besides, more officers were appointed to deal with salt. In the central government, a special minister was created to manage salt and iron. In local places, the “salt commissioner” position was inherited [8]. The salt commissioner title also remained [11].

Until the Dongjin Dynasty, the decline in the central government’s power was proved by lessened policy over private ownership. In 317, Emperor Yuan lifted the ban on natural resources [12] and legalized private ownership after imposing special taxation [8]. From the salt policy of the Jin Dynasty, the might of the central government still was a major determinant of the control of the salt industry, which led to a decrease in the firmness of the relationship between the central government and the local areas.

For policies aspect, a revised version of Enfeoffment was introduced. The lord now had no power in actual operations or appointments. Instead, their power lied in privileges like fewer taxes [13]. In this period, the Nanhai commandery had been split into two, and Baoan, the name of Nantou at that time, belonged to the new commandery named Dongguan. Baoan was the commandery capital as well as the county’s political centre [11]. Revolutions couldn’t be slashed in total. Issues with the clan were the most significant one. After the collapse of the Han Dynasty, the loss of grand unification in the country caused by frequent alternation of nominal local rulers due to the change of governments resulted in the transfer of actual power in the hand of clans, or big landowner families that lived in the local place for tens of decades. Their past activities of assisting the public, for example, by providing food during the famine, gained them enormous respect and admiration. Together with their authority built by the long history and large interpersonal relationships among officers around the country, they successfully gain control of the local. After that, they may cooperate with other landowners and officers to expand their power, for instance, through purchasing military equipment and forming private armies. The strong power of the clans was carried towards the Northern and Southern dynasties period, causing a fragile relationship between the central government and local areas.

### 2.4 Sui Dynasty

Coming to the Sui Dynasty, the role of Nantou as a site of salt started to decrease in importance. This is partly because of the low tax and even no tax policy on salt conducted by the Sui Dynasty. At the very first, Emperor Wen did wish to establish a monopoly by setting up governmental organizations [14]. Yet, the government only controlled several sources of salt. According to Shuishu, salts have been separated into four types in the Sui Dynasty. One being extracted from drying salt on the sand, the main method used in Nantou. The second is what was extracted from salt lakes. The third is produced out of saline-alkali soil, and the last is from rock in the West. Among all four different

types of salt, only the major contributor of national salt production, salt lakes and the saline-alkali ground, is being controlled by the government and taxed. [2] The low or no tax policy over salt extracted from boiling seawater could show the country's decrease in dependency on this type of salt and the loss of focus on sea-extracted salt.

Local policies conducted in Sui Dynasty did help to reinforce the relationship between the central government and local areas. Previous to the government's intervention, Lingnan areas were separated in power between chiefs of different local tribes. Understandably, these chiefs would become too powerful without careful regulation or supervision from the central government and eventually emerge disloyal and ambition. For instance, Wang Zhongxuan is a typical one. Due to the little interference of the central government, he successfully organized a rebellion in 590 AD. While defeating Wang's army by force, Pei Ju took an action to prevent a similar rebellion from Lingnan areas in the future: to appoint local tribes as County Magistrate [15]. By still giving them the actual power to rule in their place while including them in the Dynasty's government structure, he helped Emperor Wen to restrict these chefs. As a result, local tribe leaders were appeased since their anger was smartly defused. This action had created the normal routine of inducing to capitulate.

Yet such a method couldn't work forever. Once the local chief believed their power was strong enough to defeat the government, they would start the rebellion immediately, no matter what title they had been given. This is what happened in 600 AD when Li Guangshi started another rebellion by his power accumulated in local tribes granted by the government [15]. In 591 AD, due to the separation of tribes, Dongguan commandery with its capital Baoan, where approximately today's Nantou, had been abolished. Nantou had stopped its function as a local political centre or capital but started to act as a military city in defending the invasion from the sea. [16].

## 2.5 Tang Dynasty

It was followed by Tang Dynasty. Differently, it conducted loose control when the power of the central government was strong. During the first stage of the Dynasty, taxation was relatively low or non-existent [18]. It was not until 755 that the rebellion of An Lushan caused this heyday Dynasty into trouble with strained finance. In 758, inspired by Yan Zhenqing, who nationalized the salt industry in the City of Jing for the money urgently required by the military, Diwu Qi revolutionary created the law regarding salt for this Dynasty. [14] Diwu Qi has set up a state-owned routine from extracting to transporting salt, which has been concluded as state-made, state-collected, state-transported, and state-sold [17].

To achieve this routine, he set up supervising organizations at places rich in natural resources like salt to supervise the public use of salt [18]. Their main responsibility is to collect economic data, to sell and transport salt, and "to capture illegal salt producers and merchants to eliminate illegal trade of salt" [17]. Compared to the huge profit, Diwu Qi knew that more officers had to be involved in order to make effects [19]. Jiedushi, the highest officer in regions, was required in the process. If there is more than one Dan of illegal salt being discovered in a Jiedushi's jurisdiction, he was to be punished by a fascination of salaries [17]. Later, he designed policies to eliminate people's incentive to trade illegal salt. The government granted privileges, namely, not to levy heavy taxes, not

to conduct forced work, and a special title other than peasants to merchants who hand in taxations on time [19]. However, “for those who sold more than one Dan of salt illegally, the punishment is up to flogged by a cudgel for 20 times and fine” [17]. As time went by, due to the further decline in government’s strength, more harsh punishments were used for illegal salt traders to offset the bearish economy. In 830, the heaviest punishment was the death penalty for those who had traded more than two Dans. Also, assisters at any stage were seen as accomplices and would also be punished [20]. Later, the punishment expanded to cover the criminal’s family, “several families had to be implicated either by confiscated property or death penalty,” “without the chance to be absolved” [21].

Conversely to the declining trend in the significance of Nantou in salt producing, it was of considerable role again. Regardless of the increase in productivity of other types of salt, Baoan and salt extracted from the sea were still in focus in the Tang Dynasty mainly because of the huge population in this Dynasty compared to the last.

In the policy aspect, the continuous victory of the Tang Dynasty in fighting for territory and resources in the North indicated the loss of focus in the South. Dongguan Commandery was abolished, followed by the merger of Baoan County into Dongguan County [11]. Nantou region was renamed the Tunmen Town, focusing on its military function. The reason for the local government to turn Nantou into a military-focused place is the ever-increasing popularity of internal and international seaborne trade. Guangzhou, because of its special location on the Maritime Silk Road, has attracted hundreds of millions of ships transporting commodities in and out. Tunmen Town, the only rest place that all ships have to pass and land in order to get to Guangzhou [11], was in huge urgent in taking the role of protector for the trading routine and commodities.

## 2.6 Song and Yuan Dynasty

Nantou in the Song Dynasty still lack any form of governmental organization, it belongs to Dongguan county, Guangzhou, and is counted only as a normal county [25]. And it is in this Dynasty that the dual focus including military and economic inherited from the Tang Dynasty was further developed and prospered.

Militarily, Song Dynasty changed the Tunmen Town into Tunmen stockade, resettled the centre of stockage in the Nantou area [22]. By only looking at its name, the reinforced military function is apparent. In addition, the local government has also set up other two stockades at the old location of Baoan county in Dong Jin Dynasty and a small island facing the Pearl River, respectively [23].

Economically, salt production hasn’t totally disappeared. The occurrence of Dongguan, Huangtian, and Guide saltern located in today’s Shenzhen and Guanfu saltern located in Hongkong region nowadays clarify the last phase of the salt industry in Tunmen stockade [23].

Till the Yuan Dynasty, the focus of Nantou had been decreased to one—military. Two main reasons for it might be the irrational standard set upon salt production by the ruling family and the increase in military settlements. The ruling family of the Yuan Dynasty grew and thrived in the very north of China, leaving them to have less understanding of the south of China. They imposed an implausible quantity requirement of salt production [23]. Lacking direct governmental organizations, producers have no way to express their disagreement. Resentment had emerged among the public. Armed uprisings had finally

broken out in 1197. Salt producers at the Daxishan salt pan in Huangtian saltern had protested against the government's impossible standard issued but being crushed before being heard by the central government. Loss of techniques since turmoils and resentment all decreased the yield of salt. Another reason for the alternation is the change in a national strategy. Tunmen stockade was changed to Xunjiansi, as an organization helped strengthen the central government's control over the local area while reinforcing the military power of the local [29]. Totally, three Xunjiansi was set respectively in the area of Nantou, giving a very strong defensive power to Nantou against threats to seaborne trading.

## 2.7 Ming Dynasty

Starting in the fourteen century, coastal regions have always suffered from invading by Japanese pirates under the instructions of their local federal lords in order to gain more resources. This continued harassment highlighted Nantou's function as a critical spot in the national coastal defence. Specifically, military forts were set after realizing the function of being a doorstep of the whole Guangfu, namely Dapeng military fort and Dongguan military fort [24]. The office of command of Dongguan military fort had been set in Nantou.

As time went by, the corruption problem became ever-increasing significant, together with the invading and harassing of alien colonists, for example, the Portuguese, the Spanish in the late 1510s to the early 1520s, and the Dutch in the 1600s [25]. The central government required more organization and military forces to defend themselves, building military headquarters on the previous location of Dongguan military fort and altering its name to Nantou Stockade in 1565 [26]. These several changes in organization showed the increasingly large in size and significance of the army garrison in Nantou, as well as indicating the increasing importance of Nantou in the national defence system.

The increasing focus on national defence, the patriotism provoked by foreign invasion, and the considerably harsh and strict policy of the Ming Dynasty contributed to the central government's extremely strong control over local areas, building an ever-strong relationship. The coastal defence strategies of the Ming Dynasty can be separated into three main aspects: to defeat on the sea, to consolidate coastal areas, and to strengthen the defence power of cities [11]. For the first strategy, private sailing for any purposes was banned [26], naval forces received substantial improvements: the central government had ordered coastal areas like Zhejiang, Fujian, and Guangzhou to build hundreds of ships for naval battles, established and dispatched experienced commanders, as well as setting up sentry posts on offshore islands and requiring regular patrols [27]. To consolidate coastal areas mainly stress the significance of cooperation between the coast and inland [28]. Military forts had been built for almost every important place as a local naval force [29]. Later, organizations with more military power and armies were built, for instance, the military headquarters in Nantou. The last strategy stressed the significant function of cities as the last line of defence. Emperors had ordered every city and military fort to build and repair the city's wall [30]. Through all of these measures, the attention of the central government over coastal defence had been increased.

However, by granting the occurrence of local armies, as well as giving orders to build more tools like ships in local areas, there is certainly a threat of rebellion. The

thoughtful Ming government certainly thought about this question long ago. After 1380, the Hongwu Emperor revolutionary altered the military structure inherited from the Yuan Dynasty by removing the Headquarters of the Military Commander, who used to control the full power in the military. Instead, five separate Headquarters of Commanders had been established to control five of the main army respectively, each acting as the controller of the military power together with the Ministry of War. Headquarters of Commanders and its fellow military forts have the right and responsibility to recruit, train, and lead the army when fighting a battle. However, the right to dispatch the troops, or in other words, the right to command whether the army can leave their bases, is in the hand of the Ministry of War [28]. What's more, in the Ming Dynasty, the punishment for government officers was considerably harsh. Those who had corrupted sixty taels of silver could be sentenced to death, whose corpse would be hung on the city's wall warning the public [28]. Furthermore, the Local Magistrate must not be born and breaded in the place he served [31]. This measure can prevent the local officers from colluding with the local landowners, which can cause a risky situation, for instance, corruption and rebellion. All these measures were effective in protecting the control of the local areas, as in the Ming Dynasty regime, hardly any local rebellions occurred.

## 2.8 Qing Dynasty

In the Qing Dynasty, the general linkage was still military defence. To strengthen the central control, the central government changed the Nantou Stockage and Dapeng military fort into Xinan and Dapeng military camp, followed by an increase in the number of artillery [25]. However, this linkage eventually collapsed from 1661, when the central government ordered all the citizens to retreat thirty to fifty Li because of the unfavourable situation of rebelling against the Qing Dynasty and rebuilding the Ming Dynasty as well as the threat of foreign powers. Namely, Japan, Dutch and Portugal [32].

In Xinan, people were led to a retreat in Dongguan [34]. Understandably, these policies caused huge difficulties for the public as people couldn't carry their houses, fields, and wealth with them. The inland areas, where they were now located, had not enough fields for these migrated farmers, causing their poverty, starvation and death [34]. Just in the first retreating, hundreds of thousands of people died, causing a severe decrease in population as well as a huge impact on the market of salt since all the salt industry in Xinan county was shut outside the boundary drawn for retreating [35]. People who secretly sneaked out obeying the regulation were immediately killed. In total, up to tens of millions of people were killed [33]. Consequently, salt production has totally gone out of Xinan's history due to loss of method and practice.

Unfortunately, things only became even worse. In 1664, people were coerced to retreat again [34]. Increasing difficulties hit people's lives. In one case, a whole family suicided through drinking poisoned water and then jumping into the river [35]. In this situation, Wang Laien and Zhou Youde, who came to Xinan on a regular patrol, wrote several reports to the central government, asking for people's return to their previous county witnessed miserable conditions. Finally, in 1670, the retreating policy had been abolished, people were finally allowed to back to their home [35], alternatively, the threat on the sea was tackled with an increase in attention on defending power [34].

Rulers decided to inherit policies and regulations from the Ming Dynasty and preserve the old relationship without making changes. In the early era of the Qing Dynasty, the major focus of the government was to consolidate their power and defeat the Anti-Qing forces. The majority of the population belonged to the Han ethnic, whereas the emperor and rulers were Manchu. People felt ashamed to be governed by “foreigners” yet, wanted the previous Dynasty, Ming Dynasty, to be back, merely because they were coming from the Han nationality. To deal with it, the Qing Dynasty did inadvertently strengthened the power of the ground force, yet, these ground fighting artillery and soldiers eclipse under advanced Western weapons. What's more, the lack of revolution compared to the change of the outside situation caused huge backwardness and incompetence of armies and weapons. The country's door was coerced to open, marking the control over local had been gradually collapsed.

Not until the regain of Taiwan did the Qing Dynasty start to pay attention to building naval forces. They started to build batteries, city walls and camps, increase patrol places, and train more naval soldiers. But these naval forces were mainly served to threat, used to protect the trading routes. It was not until the great failure of Opium War that the Qing Dynasty finally realized their underdevelopment in naval forces.

In the Opium Wars, the very first battle, the battle of Kowloon, was fought between Dapeng military camp and the British army. The reason for the battle is the death of a Qing man in a conflict with a British sailor. Qing government demanded Britain to hand in the sailor for trial, while the British coordinator in Kowloon refused and insisted to trail him privately [37]. This led to the resentment of the Qing government, feeling their sovereignty was challenged. They introduced a policy forbidding the purchase of food from the British army [38], which eventually provoke the war. In the battle, the fixed artillery in Chiwan, owned by the Dapeng military camp, did show its power by hurting one British schooner [11]. This event indicates the clear participation of Nantou and Xinan in the Opium War, remarking the function of Nantou as an important spot on the military defence system. Yet after the Treaty of Nanking, the Treaty of Beijing, and The Convention Between Britain and China Respecting an Extension of Hong Kong Territory, Hongkong, which used to be in the jurisdiction of Nantou, had been lost by the Qing Dynasty [39]. Witnessed their futility, Qing government purchased several ships and weapons from the British to built up the famous Beiyang, Nanyang, Fujian, and Guangdong fleet [36]. Unfortunately, these efforts could't catch up with a gap of hundreds of years of development. Qing's control in Nantou was totally collapsed.

### 3 Conclusion

In conclusion, Nantou could powerfully represent profound questions that are still within our academic intention, including the change in the trend of the imperial system in China and the maintenance and alterations of the relationship between the central government and local towns. In the first stage of Nantou, from Han Dynasty to Tang Dynasty, the economic linkage built up by the salt industry was a significant factor connecting this small village to the central government far away in terms of physical distance. The gradual process of maturing in the feudalistic system in imperial China can be viewed by the trend of increase in firmness of the control in the salt industry and the proliferation

of policies and regulations combating the illegal trafficking of salt. The whole country was in rapid development and definite improvement. Till the second stage of Nantou, the entire phase of world history gradually unveils in front of this East Asian empire. It was the very first time in history that this empire sensed the signal of threat from its outside world. To encounter this situation, coastal regions, with the example of Nantou, changed their primary function to focus on the national defence attributed to their unique location as the boundary. In the early time of this stage, still, improvement and advancement in the feudalistic system were observed through the proliferation of maturity in the national defence system, referring to defence on the ocean and coast as an active reply to changes in the outside world.

However, it is also safe to conclude that after this empire experienced its heyday in the Ming Dynasty, an unstoppable decline was seen as time passed. At the start of the Qing Dynasty, the central government sensed the smell of danger again, experiencing foreign invaders and colonists. Yet, maybe because of the overconfidence gained from the heyday or maybe the indecisiveness of the governors, Qing Dynasty had decided to neglect the urgent requirement to integrate with the outside world. Instead, they reacted passively by imposing policies like coercing the public to retreat from the coast. In the turtle's shell created by the rulers, there were hardly any improvements or alternations in any aspect. The outside world was rapidly changing and developing in technologies, military, and thoughts, with a typical example of the Industrial Revolution. Differences and distance between them were secretly widened. It was not until the unexpectedly huge failure witnessed in the first Opium War with Great Britain that the country finally realized its futility caused by hundred years of standing still. Understandably, the distance created was hardly matched by several years of efforts from small minorities, leading to the loss of sovereignty in places like Hongkong, Nantou's jurisdiction.

From viewing the history of Nantou, a holistic picture of imperial China, the world, and history was represented directly in front of us.

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