

Examining the merchants' point of view: Close Reading Questions for Sources

The following represent close reading questions I developed for each of the following primary sources.

Source #5

- How is opium described in this document? What is it, and what function did it serve for the writer and the recipient of this letter?
- Where was the opium purchased?
- What was going to be traded in order to obtain the opium? Where did those trade goods come from?

Source #6

- **February 27 Letter**
 - According to Forbes, what was the response of the Chinese government to the trade of opium?
 - What are Forbes' thoughts about his family's involvement in trading opium in China?
- **October 18 Letter**
 - What does Forbes believe to be the reason for why he has had struggles with his business endeavors?
- **1882 Memoir**
 - According to the author, how did the Chinese government respond, in 1839, to the opium trade?
 - What was Forbes' assessment of the social impact of opium on people in China?
 - What moral / ethical assessment does Forbes have of Americans and other foreigners trading opium in China? How does Forbes support his assessment?