
History of the economic sanctions

FROM THE ANCIENT TIMES UNTIL THE WORLD WAR I

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Athenian economic sanctions (432 B.C.)



Athens prohibited the merchants of the city-state Megara (the ally of Sparta) to enter its markets and harbors



The Peloponnesian War
(431–404 BC)



The results of the Peloponnesian War

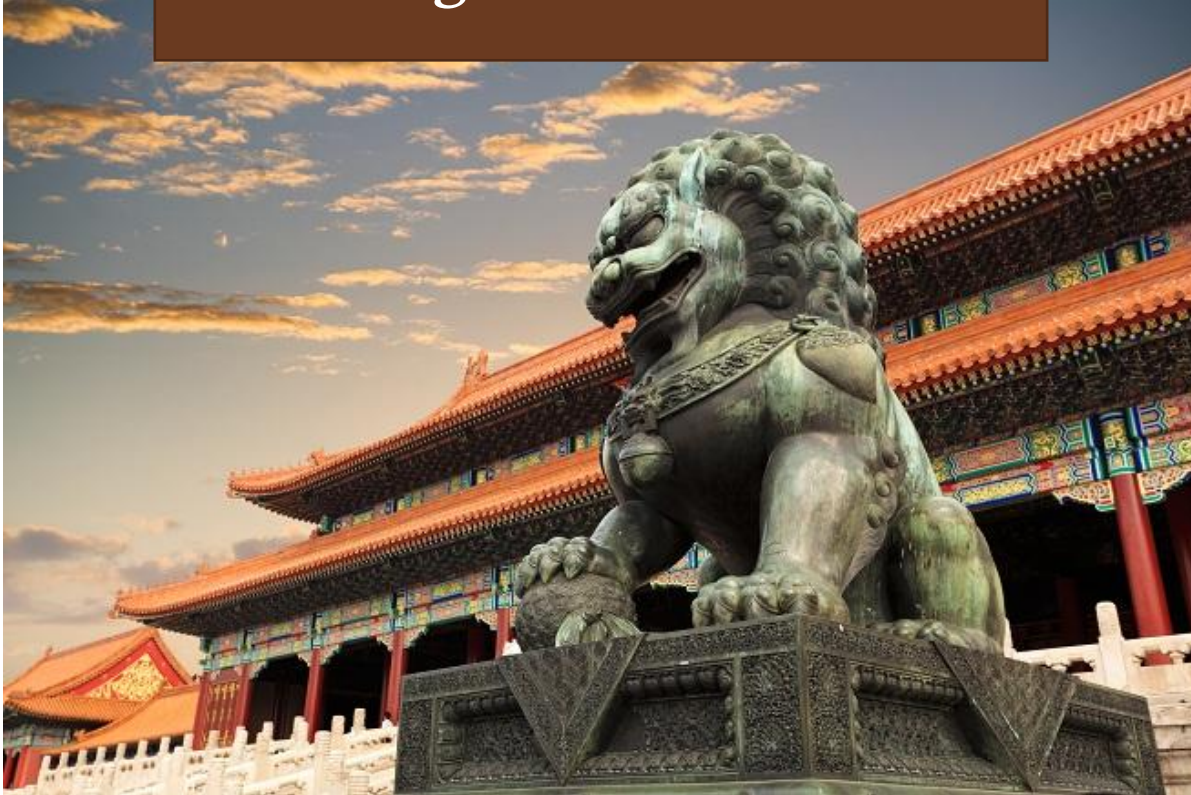


Athens was defeated

The Athenian alliance was
ruined

The main cause for sanctions during the age of empires was the desire of governments to save money in its own treasuries

Against China

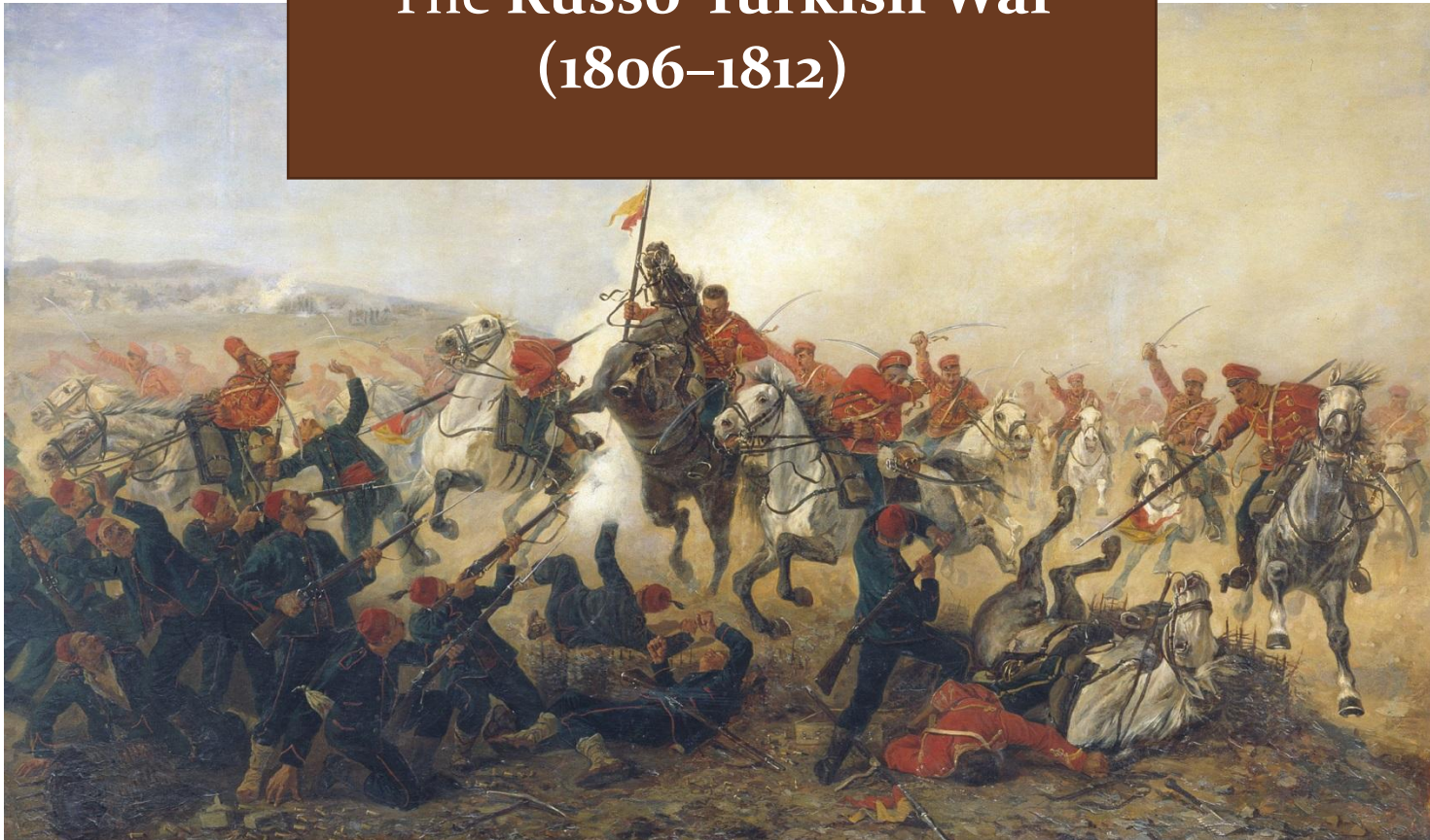


Some countries prohibited import of silk clothes from Ancient China

The main goal was to weaken Chinese economy

But still economic sanctions were rare until the 20th century, the conflicts were usually solved by means of wars

The Russo-Turkish War
(1806–1812)



Despite the ongoing war, 391 Turkish merchant vessels came into the harbors of the Black Sea in Russia

The Continental System (Blockade) of Napoleon Bonaparte



16 May 1806,
Berlin Decree

results

... forbade the import of British goods into European countries allied with or dependent upon France, and installed the Continental System in Europe. All connections were to be cut, even the mail.

1. There was some damage to Britain's trade, especially in 1808 and 1811, but its control of the oceans helped mitigate the effects.
2. The loss of Britain as a trading partner also hit the economies of France and its allies.
3. Angry governments gained an incentive to ignore the Continental System, which led to the weakening of Napoleon's coalition

Conclusions

- Trade sanctions were imposed very often by different countries (Great Britain particularly) for affecting other governments.
- In 1888 the population of Britain accounted for only 2% of the world population, but share of this country in the overall world trade of manufactured goods was about 54% (absolute record in history).
- American analyst John Smith said that one of the reasons of the World War I and the World War II was wide usage of the trade sanctions
- For example, Britain and France entered the war against Germany in 1914, explaining it as a “necessity to protect the national trade interests against the German expansion”

Thank you for your attention!
