| Lack of Motivation | – Participants of the S-S. were not rewarded as much as the traditional Confucian scholars and therefore many sought to find their fortune doing the Confucian exams instead | – Admiral Tung’ officers lead double careers – one in the S-S. fleet, one on the shore. |

The fact that Self-Strengthening failed was exposed in the French War (1884-85): 20 years in the modernization programme China was unable to defend its tributary state Annam (Vietnam). And then a decade later in the defeat in the First Sino-Japanese War (1894-95).

However, Self-Strengthening was important as it sowed the seeds of modern capitalism in China. It contributed to the development of Shanghai, Canton and Nanking. It has also drawn peasants to the urban areas, creating a new prominent class – the proletariat. It has also created new professions, including engineers, managers, entrepreneurs, army officers, teachers and diplomats; these contributed to the future modernization of China.

However, the S-S undermined the Qing because anti-Manchus could blame them for collaborating with the barbarians – a reflection of their failure to stand up for China.