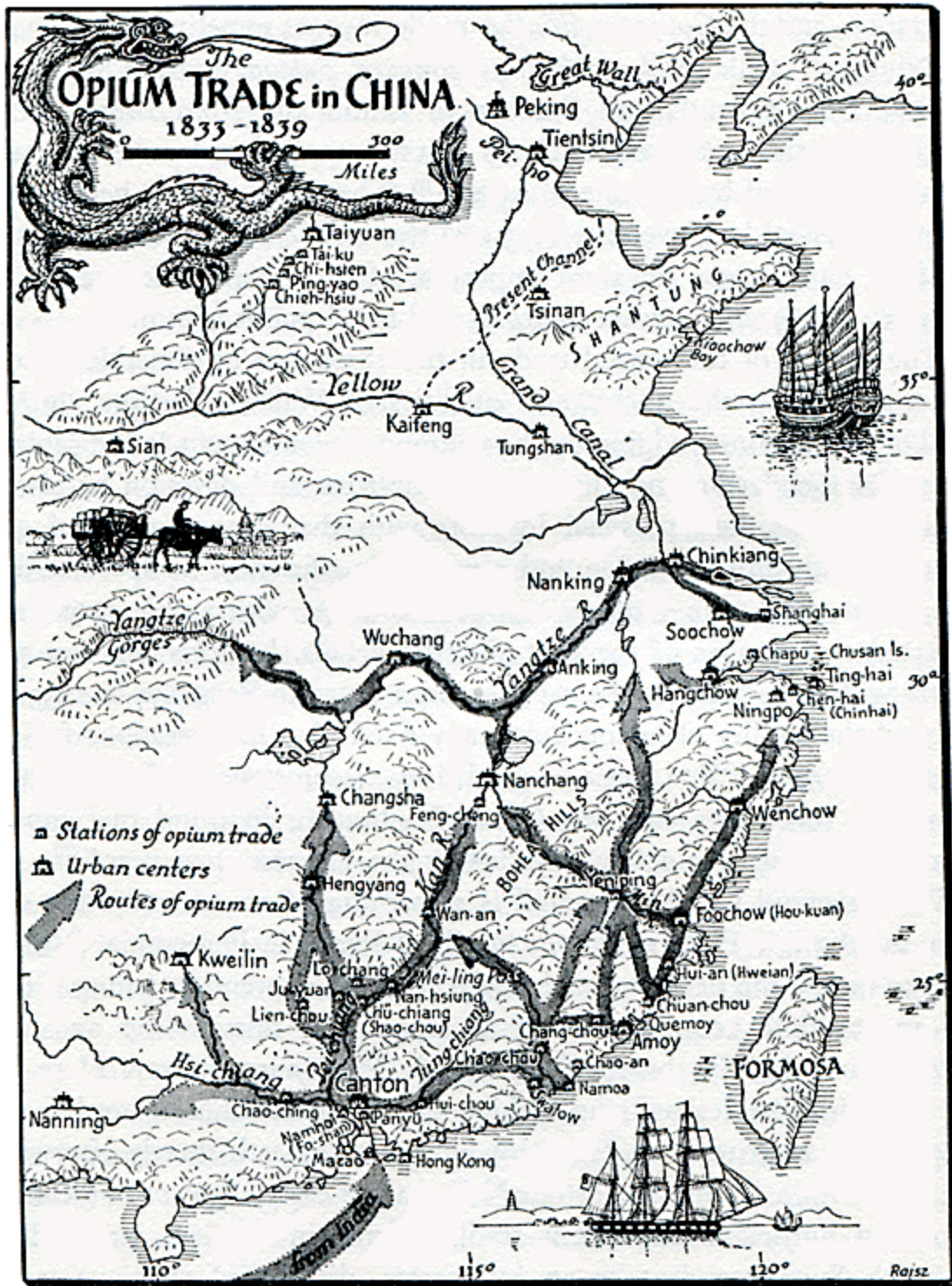
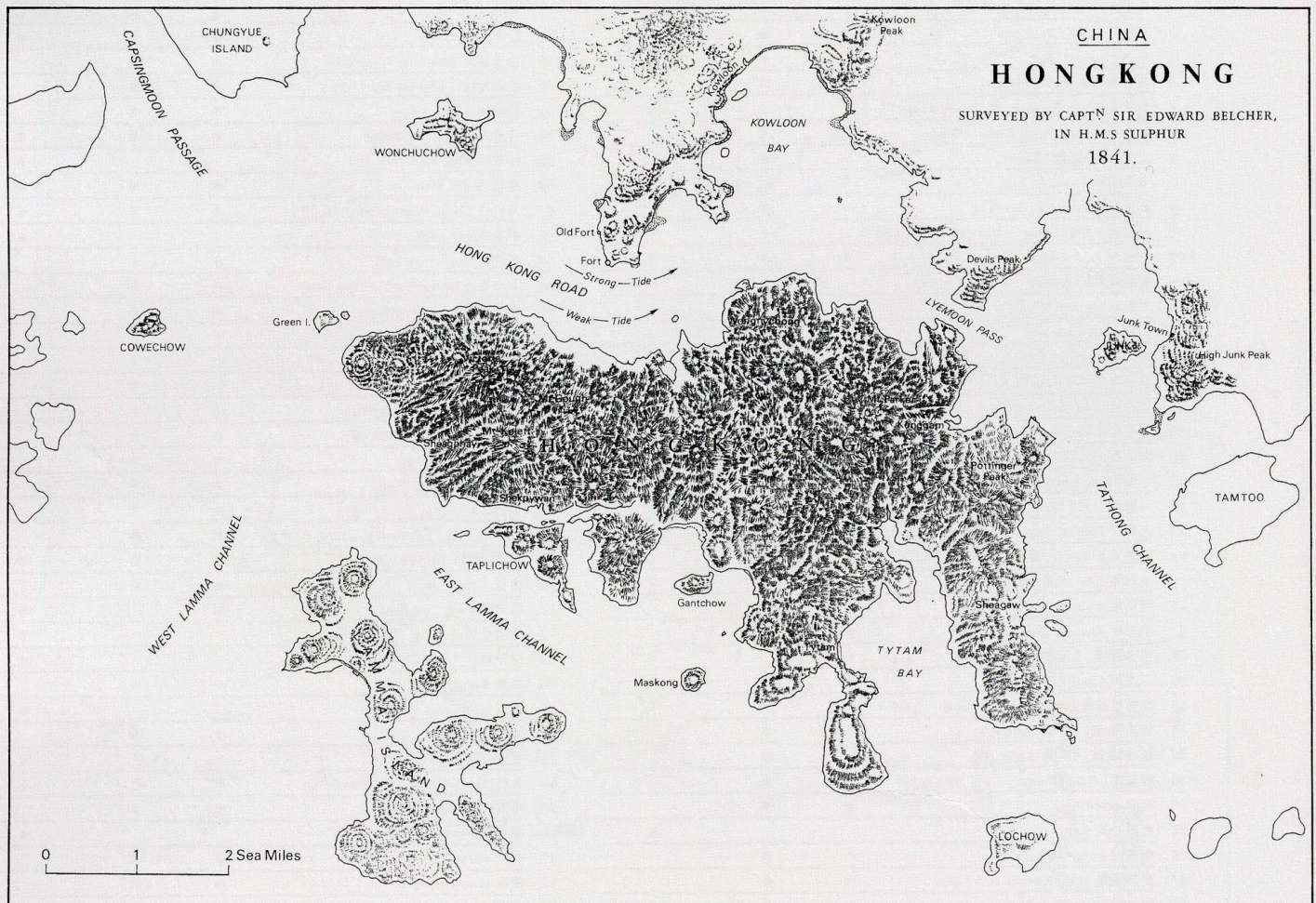


The Opium Wars and their Impact



- In 1839 the Qing Emperor of China, rejecting proposals to legalise and tax opium, appointed viceroy Lin Zexu to solve the problem by completely banning the opium trade. Lin confiscated and destroyed 20,000 chests of opium without offering compensation and ordered a blockade of foreign trade in Canton.

- The British government, although not officially denying China's right to control imports of the drug, objected to this unexpected seizure and dispatched a military force to China. In the ensuing conflict the Royal Navy used its naval and gunnery power to inflict a series of decisive defeats on the Chinese Empire, a tactic later referred to as gunboat diplomacy. These military exercises are now known as the **First Opium War** (3 November 1839 – 29 August 1842).
- The Chinese were forced to sign the Treaty of Nanking in 1842, agreeing to the following British demands:
 1. Four additional "treaty ports" opened for foreign trade alongside Canton where foreign merchants were to be allowed to trade with anyone they wished.
 2. Britain also gained the right to send consuls to the treaty ports, which were given the right to communicate directly with local Chinese officials
 3. The Qing government was obliged to pay the British government six million silver dollars for the opium that had been confiscated by Lin Zexu in 1839, 3 million dollars in compensation for debts that the Hong merchants in Canton owed British merchants, and a further 12 million dollars in war reparations for the cost of the war.
 4. The Qing government agreed to make Hong Kong Island a crown colony, ceding it to the British Queen "in perpetuity."

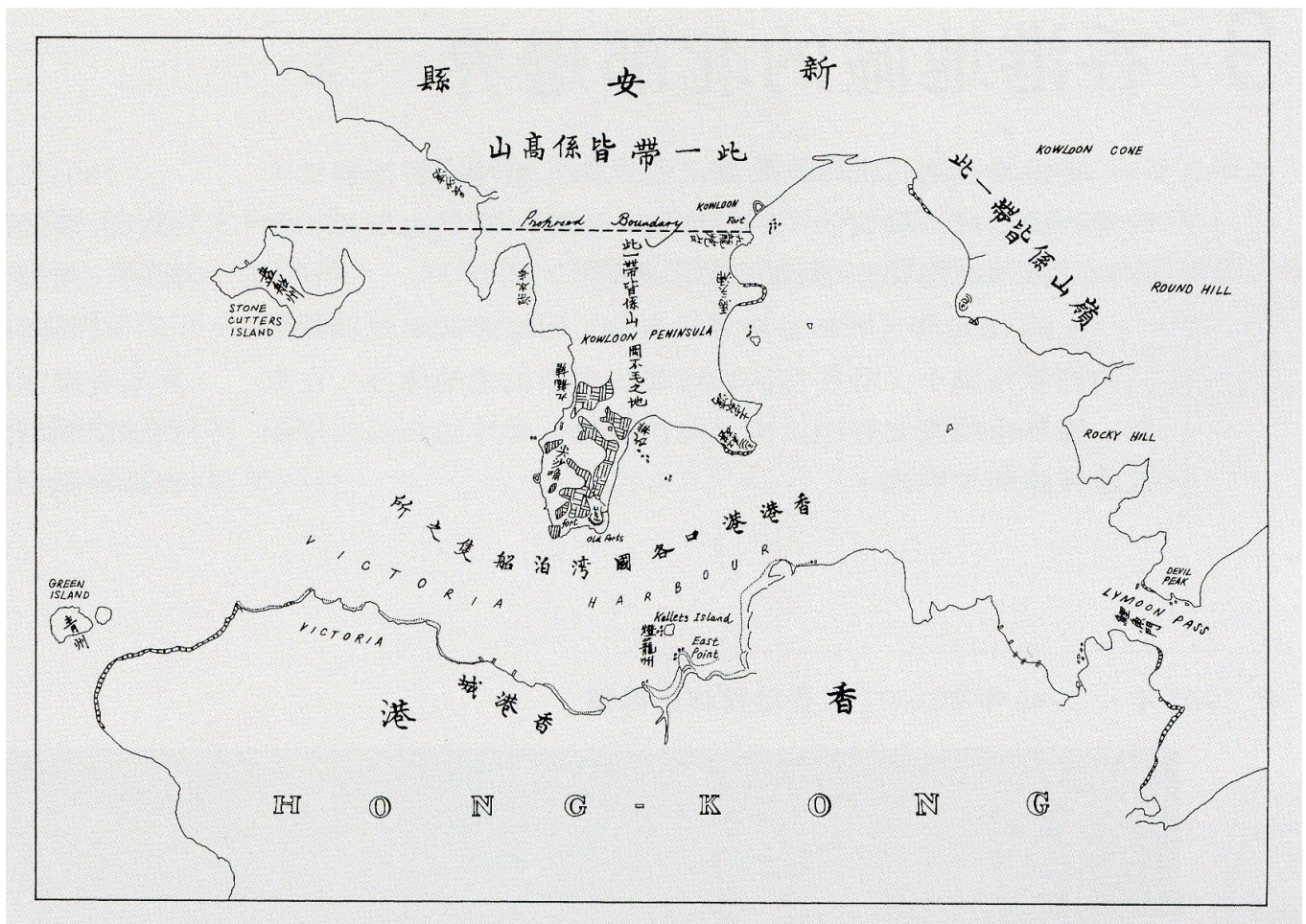


- For China, the Treaty of Nanking is considered the first of the “unequal treaties” signed with Europeans.
 - For the British, the Treaty of Nanking failed to satisfy their goals for improved trade and diplomatic relations.
 - In the 1850s Britain demanded the Qing authorities renegotiate the Treaty of Nanking. The new demands of the British included:
 1. Opening all of China to British merchant companies.
 2. Legalising the opium trade.
 3. Exempting foreign imports from internal transit duties.
 4. Suppression of piracy.
 5. Permission for a British ambassador to reside in Beijing.
 6. English-language version of all treaties to take precedence over Chinese Indigenous languages.
- The image shows the Qing Dynasty dragon flag, which was the flag of the Manchu-led Qing Dynasty. It features a blue dragon with red and yellow scales on a yellow background, with a red sun in the upper left corner.
- In October 1856, Chinese marines in Canton seized a cargo ship called the Arrow on suspicion of piracy, arresting twelve of its fourteen Chinese crew members. The Arrow had previously been used by pirates, captured by the Chinese government, and subsequently resold. It was then registered as a British ship and still flew the British flag at the time of its detainment, though its registration had expired. The British consul in Canton, Harry Parkes, contacted Ye Mingchen, imperial commissioner and Viceroy of Liangguang, to demand the immediate release of the crew, and an apology for the alleged insult to the flag. Ye released nine of the crew members, but refused to release the last three. This act triggered the **Second Opium War** (8 October 1856 – 24 October 1860).
 - France joined the British action against China, prompted by complaints from their envoy, Baron Jean-Baptiste Louis Gros, over the execution of a French missionary, Father Auguste Chapdelaine, by Chinese local authorities in Guangxi province, which at that time was not open to foreigners.
 - Americans and Russians sent envoys to Hong Kong to offer assistance to the British.
 - In June 1858, the first part of the war ended with the four Treaties of Tientsin, to which Britain, France, Russia, and the U.S. were parties. These treaties opened 11 more ports to Western trade. The major points of the treaty were:
 1. Great Britain, France, Russia, and the United States would have the right to station legations in Beijing (Peking, a closed city at the time).
 2. Eleven more Chinese ports would be opened for foreign trade, including Newchwang, Tamsui (Taiwan), Hankou and Nanjing.
 3. The right of foreign vessels including warships to navigate freely on the Yangtze River.
 4. The right of foreigners to travel in the internal regions of China for the purpose of travel, trade or missionary activities.

5. Religious liberty to all Christians in China.
6. China was to pay an indemnity of 6 million taels of silver: 2 for France, 2 for Britain military expenses and 2 for compensating British merchants.
7. Official letters and other documents exchanged between China and Britain are to be banned from referring to British Officials and Subjects of the Crown by the character "夷" (yí), meaning "barbarian".

Initially, the Chinese refused to ratify the treaties.

- Anglo-French forces marched inland toward Beijing, devastating the Qing military and looting the Emperor's summer palaces. There was even a discussion amongst the British to destroy the Forbidden City – after discussing the issue with the Russian and French representatives the British Commander, Lord Elgin¹, instead settled on burning the summer palaces to the ground.
 - The result was the Emperor agreeing to the Convention of Peking (Beijing):
 1. The ratification of the Treaties of Tientsin
 2. China was to cede the part of Kowloon Peninsula south of present-day Boundary Street, Kowloon, and Hong Kong (including Stonecutters Island) in perpetuity to Britain.

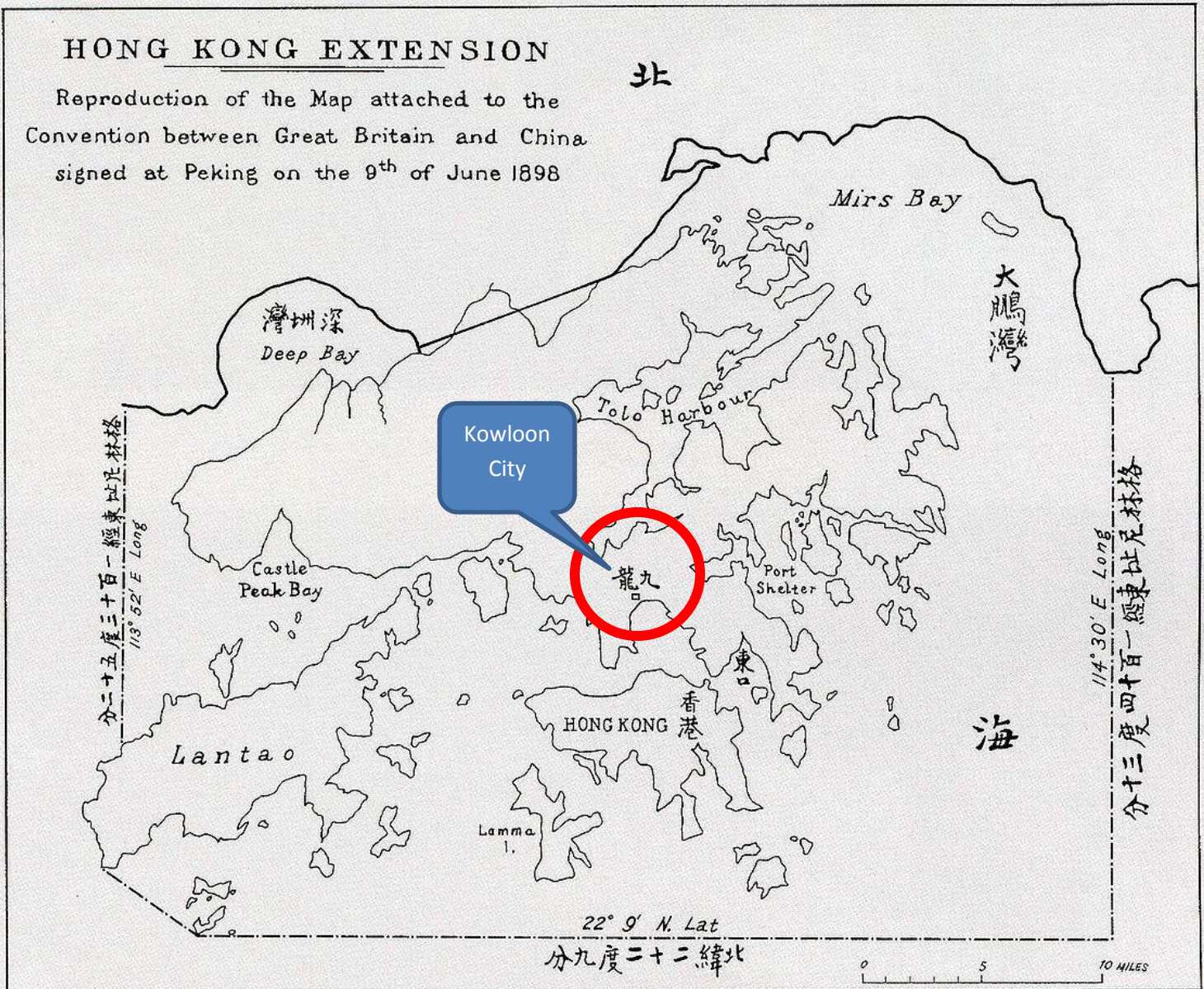


¹ Governor General of the Province of Canada from 1847–1854.

3. Parts of Outer Manchuria were granted to the Russian Empire.








Expansion of the British colony of Hong Kong (1898):

- In 1898 the British Government negotiated a 99-year lease of the “New Territories.” Encompassing the large peninsula to the north, the New Territories dramatically expanded the colony. Chinese officials stayed in the walled “Kowloon City” which remained as enclaves of the Middle Kingdom surrounded by British territory.



Scale 1:12500 or 5.07 inches = 1 Mile



		Japan	1888-1945
		France	1860-1946
		Great Britain	1860-1943
		Germany	1899-1917
		Belgium	1902-1931
		Russia	1903-1920
		Italy	1901-1947
		Austria-Hungary	1901-1917

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Represented under the
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Administrative Region

The girder girders on this steel have been extensively repaired to the extent that the Union Pier Bridge is

and thousands. Take your car to the nearest car wash or **ZONE D** car wash. I want you to go to a car wash company and have fun.

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Journal of Internal Medicine 247: 395–401

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