

Ming

After 1450

Ming Foreign Relations

The policy to end the voyages was part of a move in Ming China toward isolation from the outside world.

Ming Foreign Relations

- 1500s, move toward isolation gained full force
- Ming heavily restricted foreign trade and travel
- Foreign merchants allowed to trade only at few ports, during certain times
- Policies impossible to enforce; smugglers carried out brisk trade with foreign merchants

Beginning of Isolation

- Arrival of European traders, Christian missionaries influenced decision to isolate China
- Europeans introduced new goods and ideas
- Ming disliked European influences
- Sought to preserve Chinese traditions

Outside Influences

European Influence

- Some Europeans gained influence in China
- One was **Matteo Ricci**, Italian Jesuit priest; arrived 1583

European Learning

- Ricci learned Chinese, adopted customs to gain acceptance
- Introduced European learning in math, science

Mongol Threat

- Ming also faced renewed Mongol threat to north
- To improve defense, Ming restored China's Great Wall

Great Wall

- Parts of earlier walls repaired, but most construction new
- Much of Great Wall seen today built during Ming period

Ming Collapse

- Military lost its effectiveness – including the navy
- Expanded Great Wall to prevent northern invaders
- Pirates and smugglers operated off coast of China disrupted trade
- Extravagant Ming emperors walled themselves inside the Forbidden City
- 17th century famines
 - peasants forced to eat bark and grass roots
 - led to peasant revolts
- Manchu invaders from the north took opportunities – 1644 took Beijing

Ming Decline

Reasons for Decline

- Late 1500s, Ming Dynasty began to decline
- Weak rulers took throne, corruption increased under their rule
- Defense efforts drained treasury; rulers raised taxes
- 1600s, high taxes, crop failures led to famine, hardship; rebellions broke out

The Manchu

- Ming China weakened; the Manchu, a people to northwest in Manchuria, saw their chance
- 1644, Manchu swept into Beijing, took capital
- Last Ming emperor killed himself to avoid capture
- Manchu formed own dynasty; gave it Chinese name—Qing

Qing

1644-1911

Transition

- Captured government in 1644 and southeast coast by 1683



Qing Government

- Strong leaders – not many revolts
- Scholar-bureaucrats ruled day-to-day
- Expanded territory west into Central Asia



Qing Society

- Preserved their own culture
- Patriarchal society
 - Filial piety
- Women
 - Girls seen as a social and financial liability
 - Infanticide
 - Widows encouraged to remain unmarried
 - Footbinding became more popular
 - Some wealthy families could afford to have daughters tutored

Qing Economy

- New American crops introduced
 - Sweet potato, peanuts, maize, potato
- Trade done by small merchants
 - Exports produced silk, tea, porcelain, lacquerware
 - Compensation for exports was silver bullion from the Americas
 - Imports included spices, exotic products, some woolen textiles from Europe
- Established Canton system

Christianity in China

- Matteo Ricci (1552-1610), Jesuit priest sent to China to make Christian converts



The Qing Dynasty

The Qing Dynasty became the last dynasty in 3,500 years of imperial rule in China. Under the Qing Dynasty's Manchu rulers, China again grew prosperous and expanded to its largest size in history.

Resistance

- As foreigners, Manchu initially faced resistance from Chinese subjects
- To win support, Manchu showed respect for Chinese customs, maintained Confucian traditions

New Government

- Manchu rulers carried over much Ming government structure
- Continued civil service exam system
- Government positions distributed equally among Chinese, Manchu officials

Restrictions

- The Manchu remained separate
 - Manchu not allowed to marry Chinese
 - Women forbidden to bind feet
 - Men had to wear hair in Manchu style

Sinicization of rule

- Institutional practices from the Ming Dynasty were kept
- Creation of a Chinese-staffed bureaucracy
- Took back terminology, forms, and ideas of Confucianism
 - Used to support and maintain political authority

Divisions

- The Manchus took steps to preserve their own identity
 - Manchuria was governed by a Manchu military government
 - Steps to preserve racial purity
 - Banned Manchu-Chinese marriage
 - Supported custom divisions
 - No Chinese immigration to North Manchuria
 - Steps to preserve language

Manchu – social custom

The importance & significance of hair (*political perspective*)

- Qing:
 - a form of submission/loyalty thru taking the queue style
 - Hair growing: a sign of political resistance
 - Punishment even to those who did not shave properly and families were affected
- symbolized: alien conquest + autocratic power
- physically reminded the Han of the new political master
- symbolic standardization of people's political ideology

Qing China

Qing China flourished under two outstanding emperors, **Kangxi** and his grandson **Qianlong**.

Kangxi

- Kangxi ruled from 1662 to 1722; reduced taxes for peasants, expanded empire into parts of Central Asia
- Intellectual, supported arts, entertained Jesuit priests at court
- Enjoyed learning about European advances in science, other areas

Qianlong

- Ruled from 1736 to 1796, brought Qing dynasty to height
- Expanded empire to largest size by conquering Taiwan, Mongolia, Tibet
- Agricultural production continued to rise, population boomed
- Economy thrived, benefiting from improved transportation, foreign and domestic markets

Qing Foreign Relations

- Qianlong continued Ming policy of isolation, restricting foreign trade
- Like Chinese, Manchu saw Chinese civilization, products, as superior, expected foreigners to trade on China's terms
- Accepting terms, Dutch began thriving trade in Chinese goods
- Obtained Chinese porcelain, silk, along with tea—which soon became main Chinese export to Europe

Trade Restrictions

- Other Europeans tried to change China's trade restrictions
- 1793, British **Lord George Macartney** came to China to discuss expanding trade
- Chinese found goods he brought inferior to their own products

Isolation Held China Back

- Chinese demanded Macartney kowtow to Qianlong; he refused to kneel to emperor, was sent away
- China was one of most advanced civilizations, but isolation prevented Chinese from keeping up with European advances

Ming and Qing Culture

Under Ming and Qing rule, the Chinese made many developments in the arts and literature.

Porcelain and Fiction

- Ming artisans produced exquisite blue and white porcelain
- Beauty, superb quality made it valuable trade item, especially in Europe
- During Ming period, rising literacy rates contributed to growth of popular fiction

Short Stories and Novels

- Short stories became more popular; first Chinese novels published
- 1700s, Qing writer Cao Zhan wrote *Dream of the Red Chamber*
- Considered China's greatest novel; examines decline of an upper class Chinese family