

# The Ming Dynasty

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Main Idea (Objective) :



• Ming rulers strengthened China's government and brought back peace and prosperity to the wavering country.

• Lecture Focus (Essential Question):



Think about all the different things the government does for us. Imagine if you were running the government and had to rebuilt a country after a massive war. What would you do? Lets look at how the Ming rulers rebuilt their country after the Mongols left.



#### • Kublai Khan died in 1294.

 A series of weak rulers followed him, which caused the Mongol power to decline severely.

- During the 1300's, problems mounted for the Yuan Dynasty, with Mongol groups in Mongolia beginning to break away from the empire.
- At the same time, many Chinese resented Mongol controls and wanted their own dynasty.





A series of rebellions finally drove out the Mongols from China.



In 1368 a rebel leader named **Zhu Yuanzhang** became emperor.

• Zhu reunited the country and set up his capital city in **Nanjing**, which is in southern China.

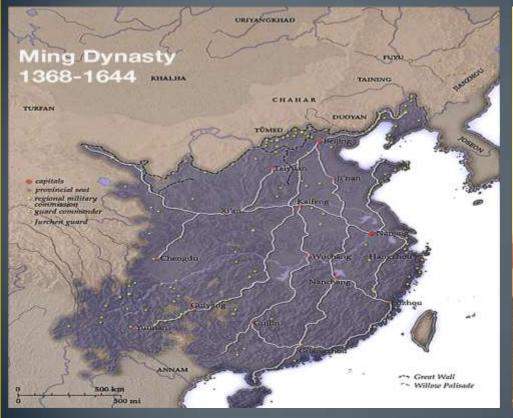


• The city still stands today as a modern metropolis of Chinese wealth.





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In his new capital, Zhu was able to found the Ming Dynasty, or "Brilliant Dynasty".

• As emperor, Zhu took the name Hong Wu, or the "Military Emperor".



• He was able to bring back order, but he also proved to be a cruel and violent leader.

• Hong Wu trusted no one and killed any official that he suspected of treason.



• **Treason** – Disloyalty to ones government and country

# The Ming Dynasty



 To control the highest officials at the court, he installed the so called Brocade Guards, a kind of secret service staffed with the only kind of people he trusted...Eunuchs...What is this????

# The Ming Dynasty

• **Eunuchs** - Castrated males who were trusted to be in charge of the imperial affairs and to carry out administrative functions.



 Some Eunuchs were used as chamberlain's (Managed Emperors Households) or in some cases were boys castrated to retain soprano or alto voice

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# The Ming Dynasty

• Why were they so trusted...and not just in the Ming Dynasty, **Eunuchs** were used in other Chinese Dynasties and with certain Roman Emperors.



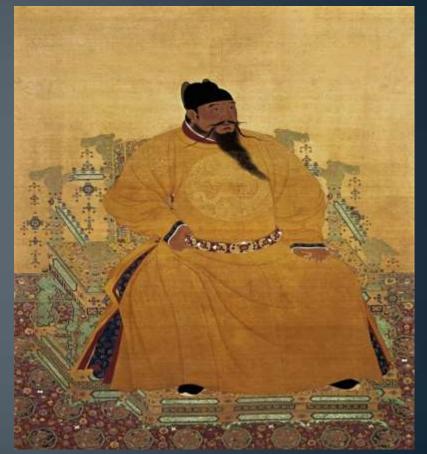
Many eunuchs chose their way of life..."It seemed a little thing to give up one pleasure for so many. My
parents were poor, yet suffering that small change, I could be sure of an easy life in surroundings of great
beauty and magnificence, I could even hope for power and wealth of my own."

# The Ming Dynasty



During the whole course of **Ming Dynasty**, there was always a common deep mistrust between the average government workers in the capital and the central government, that was often deeply influenced by some high ranking eunuchs.

 The Hong Wu Emperor died on June 24, 1398 after reigning for 30 years at the age of 69, his son became emperor and took the name Yong Le.



• After the Hung Wu's death, his physicians were penalized and were executed.



• He was buried at Ming Xiaoling Mausoleum on the Purple Mountain, east of Nanjing.

Yong Le worked hard to show that he was a strong and powerful emperor.



• In 1421 he moved the capital city north to **Beijing** where it still remains to this day.



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• In Beijing Yong Le built a large area of palaces and government buildings known as the Imperial City.



• The very center of the Imperial City was known as the Forbidden City.



• Only top officials could enter the Forbidden City because it was home to China's Emperors and immediate family.

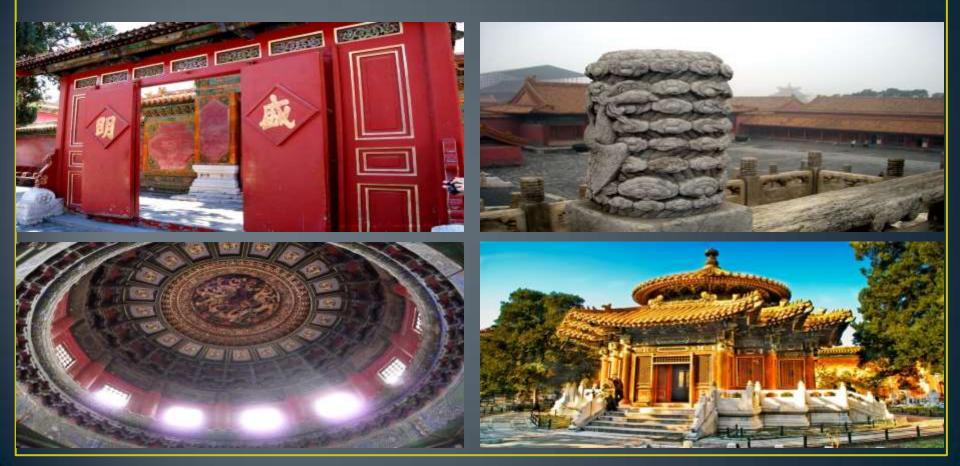


• The city saw the reign of fourteen Ming Dynasty Emperors and ten Qing Dynasty Emperors.

The complex consists of 980 buildings with 8,707 bays of rooms and covers 7,800,000 sq ft.

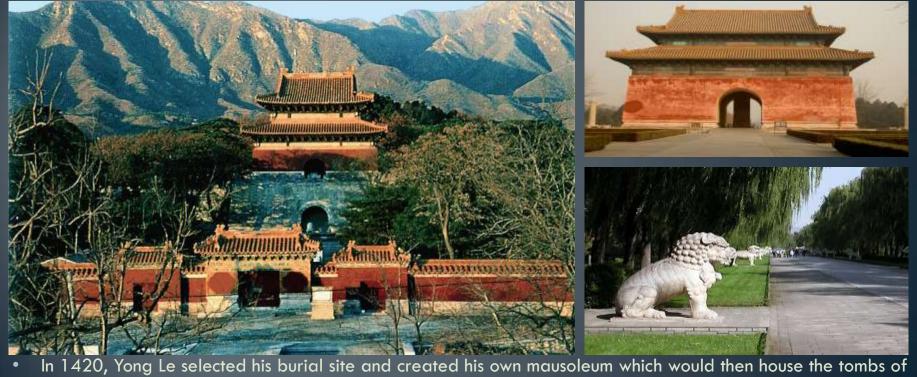


The construction of the city was massive, consisting of about one million workers and one hundred thousand artist.





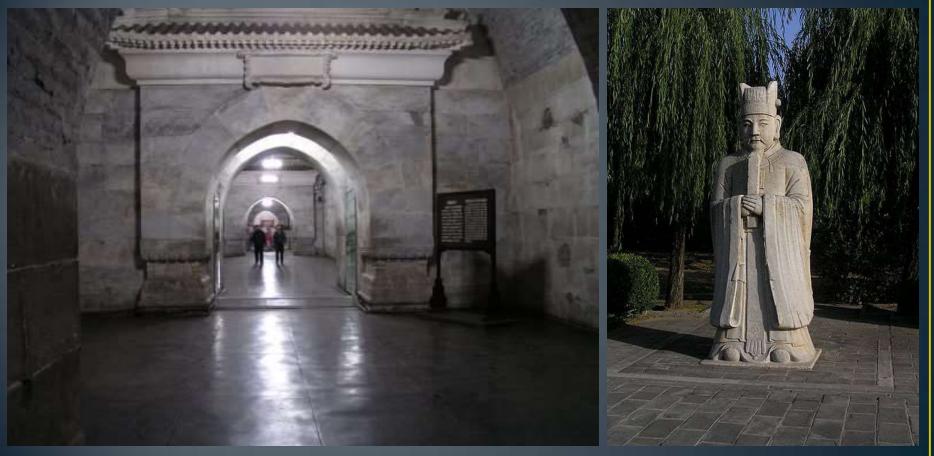
 Yong Le also created a burial site now know as the Ming Tombs, that would act as an enclave for all Ming Emperors upon death.

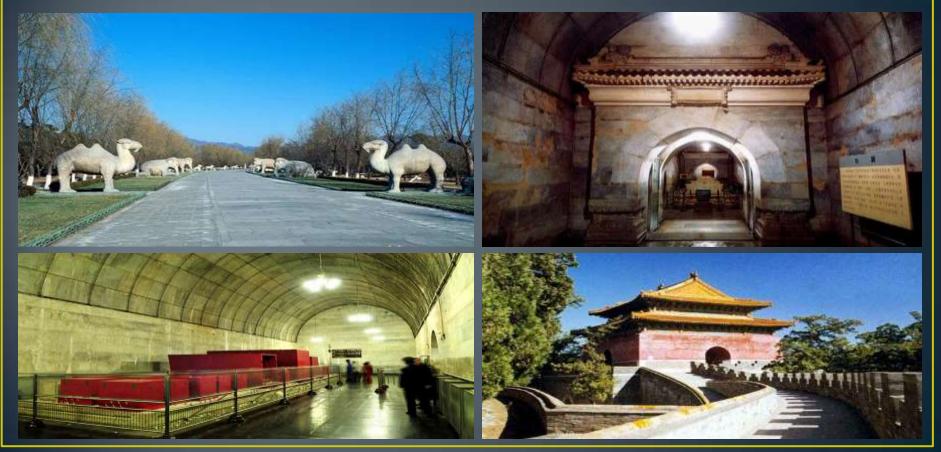


the next 13 Ming Emperors.

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• The Ming Emperors were also determined to prevent new invasions into China, and really began to keep a closer watch on the Mongols and other nomadic tribes to the north.



They began creating a new variation of the Great Wall of China in the north.

• The Ming Wall was constructed by workers in the hundreds of thousands throughout the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries in order to protect China.



The Ming Wall was built about 49 feet high and featured watch towers, signal towers and accommodations for troops that could be deployed along the Chinese borders against invaders.



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# The Ming Dynasty



#### • Questions:

• 1) What does the term "Ming Dynasty" mean?

• 2) What is a Eunuch and why were they trusted?

3) What was the new capital of the Ming Dynasty?

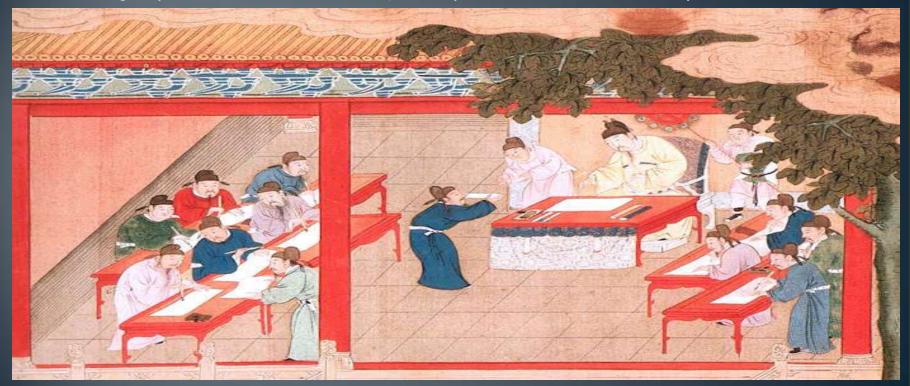
4) What was the large area of palaces and government buildings known as?

5) What was the very center of this city called?

- 1) What does the term "Ming Dynasty" mean?
  - Brilliant Dynasty
- 2) What is a Eunuch and why were they trusted?
  - Castrated males who were trusted advisors to the emperor
- 3) What was the new capital of the Ming Dynasty?
  - Beijing
- 4) What was the large area of palaces and government buildings known as?
  - Imperial City
- 5) What was the very center of this city called?
  - Forbidden City

Ming emperors made all the decisions, but they still needed officials to carry out their orders.

C



 They restored the civil service examinations, the same ones from Neo-Confucianism, however, they made the tests even harder.

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 From time to time, Ming officials carried out a census, or a count of the number of people and other information from China.

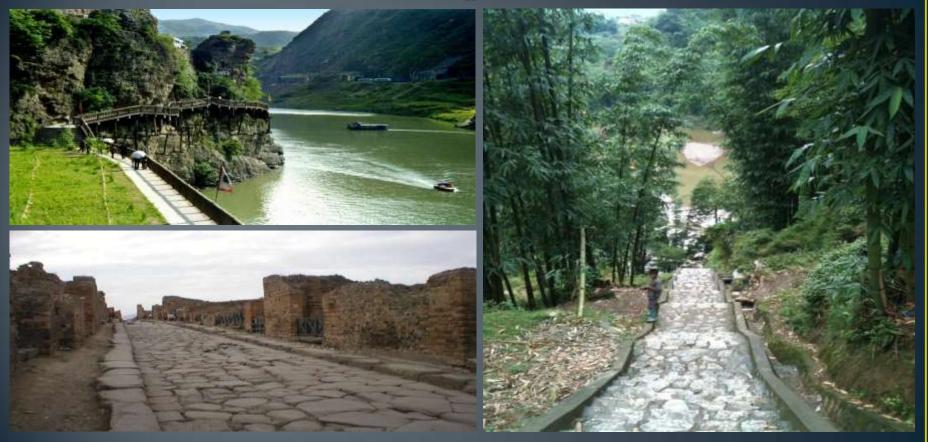


This helped the Ming government collect taxes more accurately.

• With the strong government of the early Ming Emperors providing peace and security, China's economy grew.



Prior to his death Hong Wu ordered many of the canals and farms destroyed that the Mongols created...ordering them to be rebuilt and for Ming citizens to operate them.



• Hong Wu also ordered new forest to be planted and new roads to be built.

• Agriculture thrived as farmers worked on the new lands and grew more crops, making life easier in China.









• Ming rulers also repaired and expanded the **Grand Canal** so that rice and other goods could again be shipped from southern to northern China.

• They imported new types of rice from southeast Asia that actually grew faster.



• This helped feed the growing number of people living in the growing cities of the Ming Dynasty.

• The Ming also supported the silk industry and encouraged farmers to start growing cotton and weaving cloth.



• For the first time, cotton became the cloth worn by most Chinese...actually overtaking silk!

#### • Questions:

• 1) What did the Ming Dynasty restore from Neo-Confucianism?

• 2) What did the Hong Wu Emperor order to be destroyed?

• 3) What did the Ming expand in order to ship more good north?

• 4) What became the most important fabric during the Ming period?

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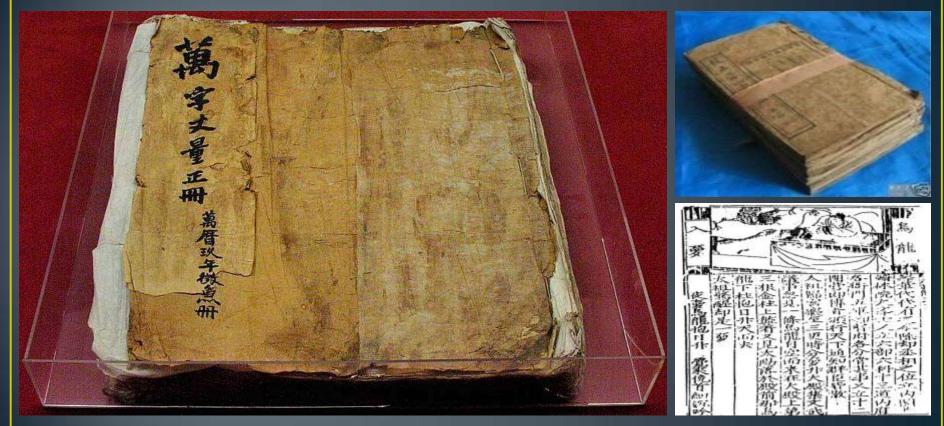
- 1) What did the Ming Dynasty restore from Neo-Confucianism?
  - Civil service examinations
- 2) What did the Hong Wu Emperor order to be destroyed?
  - Mongol canals and farms
- 3) What did the Ming expand in order to ship more good north?
  - The Grand Canal
- 4) What became the most important fabric during the Ming period?

Cotton

• Chinese culture also advanced under the Ming rule.



• As merchants and artisans grew wealthier, they wanted to learn more and be entertained.



• During the Ming period, Chinese writers produced many **novels**...these fictional stories became extremely popular.

The Chinese also enjoyed seeing dramas on stage.



• These works combined spoken words and songs with dances, costumes and symbolic gestures.

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 In China, there are four famous books of Chinese literature, known collectively as the Four Great Classical Novels.



The influence of these four stories has spawned countless plays, movies, legends, and permeated the culture in so many ways.

To better understand Chinese civilization, a good grasp of the stories in these novels is essential.



• All of the novels are based on historical events, or take place during periods of China's dynastic history.

Romance of the Three Kingdoms, was written by Luo Guanzhong and the story takes place during the fall
of the Han, when heroes arose to take control of the fate of the empire.

COMPLETE AND UNABRIDGED THREE KINGDOMS A HISTORICAL NOVEL LUO GUANZHONG Translated from the Chinese with Notes and an Afterword but MOSS ROBERTS "The Illad of China."-Anthony C.M., University of Chicago

• The story has come to epitomize all that was the best and worst of life in China.

 The Water Margin, also known as Outlaws of the Marsh, was written in the 14th century by Shi Nai'an.

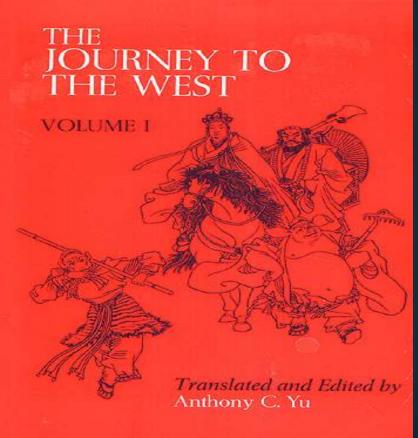
- It is a loose account of the exploits of righteous fugitives living during the Song Dynasty.
- The story explores how fate brought them together, and the moral challenges that confront bandits with values.





• Journey to the West was written by Wu Cheng'en in the 16th century.

- It is a mythological novel that is based on the true journey taken by a monk during the Tang Dynasty to retrieve Buddhist scriptures from India and bring them back to China.
- But this is no ordinary journey. Along the way, he is joined by an invincible monkey king, a lovably naive pig-man, a marsh dwelling sand monster, and a dragon-horse.
  - The story of how these five memorable creatures manage to complete an impossible journey has led to one of the most beloved novels in Chinese history.





• Dream of the Red Chamber also known as The Story of the Stone, was written by Cao Xueqin in the middle of the 18th century.



 It is a masterpiece of realism, the story explores the romances, fates, and fortunes of dynastic life in painstaking detail...no other book describes so vividly the daily way of life of people at various levels of society during ancient times.

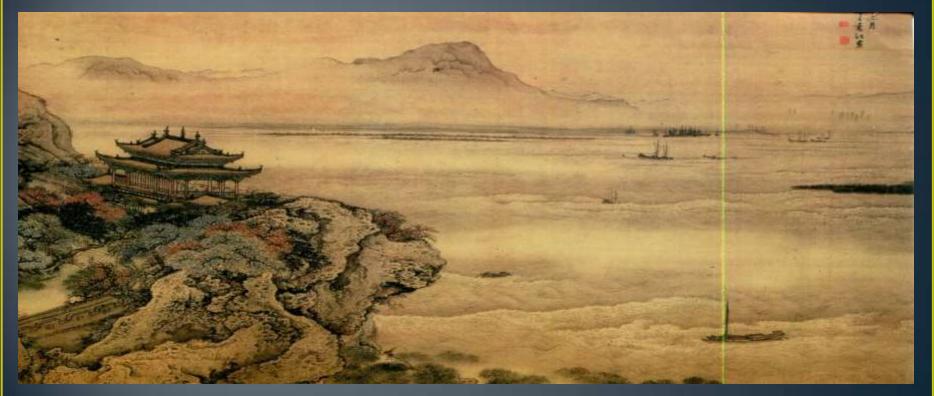
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• What has led to the enduring love for the "Four Classics" throughout the ages is that these stories are still used as the basis of countless other works of Chinese art.



• They act as a source of cultural transmission for a Chinese outlook on life.

These novels also provide concrete illustrations of the Chinese moral system.



• The books contain characters who think and act with Buddhist, Daoist, and Confucian principles to solve their dilemmas.

#### • Questions:

#### I) What did Chinese writers produce during the Ming period?

#### • 2) What are the four famous books of Chinese literature, known as?

• Questions:

- 1) What did Chinese writers produce during the Ming period?
  - Novels and Dramas

• 2) What are the four famous books of Chinese literature, known as?

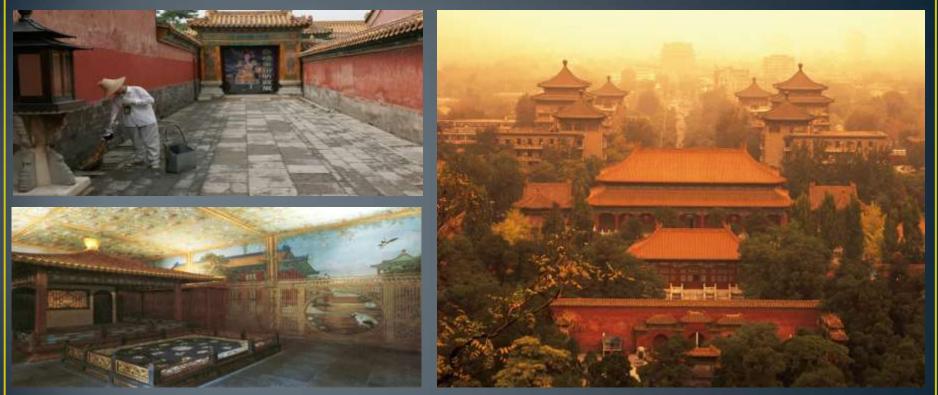
• Four Great Classical Novels



• Time Travel Time!!!!



Today the Forbidden City is open to the public as a palace museum.



• There, visitors can see traditional palace architecture, enjoy the treasures displayed in the palace and learn about the history and legends of imperial family and its court.



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• Reading Check:

 Answer the following questions in a 1 paragraph open ended response. Draw upon the information that we have just learned about the Ming Dynasty to complete you open ended response.

 What was the forbidden city and what made it so spectacular during the Ming Period?