



The Ming and Qing Dynasties

The Ming and Qing Dynasties



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

The Ming and Qing Dynasties



- **Kublai Khan** died in 1294.
- A series of weak rulers followed him, which caused the Mongol power to decline severely.

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- 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.



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



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

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- 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.

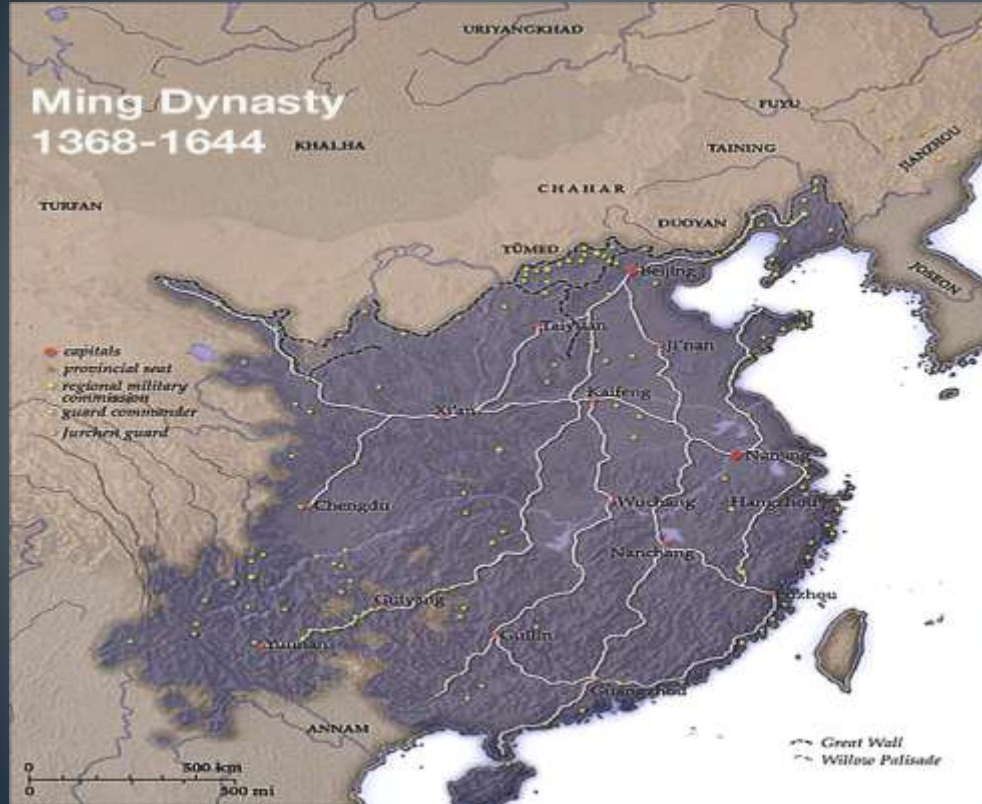
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- In his new capital, Zhu was able to found the **Ming Dynasty**, or “**Brilliant Dynasty**”.

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- 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 routinely killed any official that he suspected of **treason**.

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- 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????

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

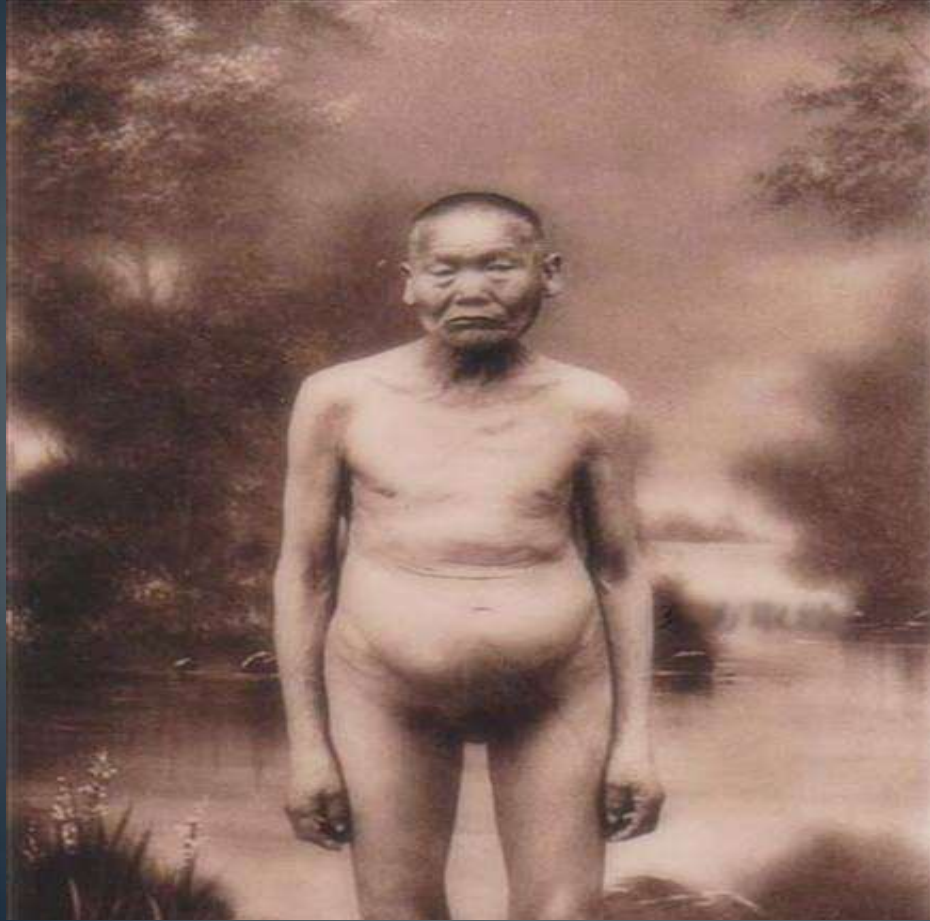


- Some **Eunuchs** were used as chamberlain's (Managed Emperors Households) or in some cases were boys castrated to retain soprano or alto voice

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- Warning Graphic Imagery Ahead!

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- 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.”**

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- 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.

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- 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**.



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- 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.

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- 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**.

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

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

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- 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.

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



- In 1420, Yong Le selected his burial site and created his own mausoleum which would then house the tombs of 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.

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- 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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- 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.

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- 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.

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

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- 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.

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- 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.

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- 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!

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- You probably have learned about Christopher Columbus and his voyage to the “**New World**”...imagine if China had sent ships to North America first...because that’s what really happened!!!

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- Early Ming Emperors were curious about the world outside of China and wanted to increase China's influence abroad.



- **Abroad** – Going in or to other countries.

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- To reach these goals abroad, Ming Emperors built a large fleet of ships.



- These ships usually sailed along China's coast, however they were so well built that they could sail in the open sea.

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- From 1405 to 1433, Emperor **Yong Le** sent the fleet on seven overseas voyages.



- The emperor wanted to trade with other kingdoms, show off China's power and demand that weaker realms pay tribute to China.

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- The of these journeys was a Chinese Muslim, court official and Admiral named **Zheng He (Jung-Huh)**.



- **Zheng He's** voyages were extremely impressive and are still very important to China's long history.

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- Zheng He's first fleet had **62** large ships, **250** smaller ships and over **28,000** men.



- These ships would later be called “**China's Treasure Ships**” or “**Junk Ships**”.

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- The largest ship of Zheng He's fleet was over **440** feet long, which was more than five times as long as Christopher Columbus's flag ship, the **Santa Maria**.



- The Santa Maria was built almost after 90 years after the Chinese treasure ships had already sailed completely around the world.

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- Think about this...if Zheng He was here, in North America between 1405 – 1433...what does that say about Columbus and what you have previously been taught in school about the discovery of North America?

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- Lets look at the facts!!!

• **1409 - 1421:** Chinese fleets set off to complete voyages throughout the entire world

• **1423:** Chinese cartographers create an accurate world map complete with latitude and longitude.

• **1424:** a Venetian **Niccolo dei Conti**, arrived in Italy with this map and gave it to a Portuguese Prince in Venice.

• **1428:** From this map the Portuguese produced a complete world map...explorers from Columbus to Cook relied on this 1428 map.



Columbus Arrives in America



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- Part of the Fra Mauro Map, greatest surviving medieval map, relating the travels of a junk ship into the Atlantic Ocean in 1420.

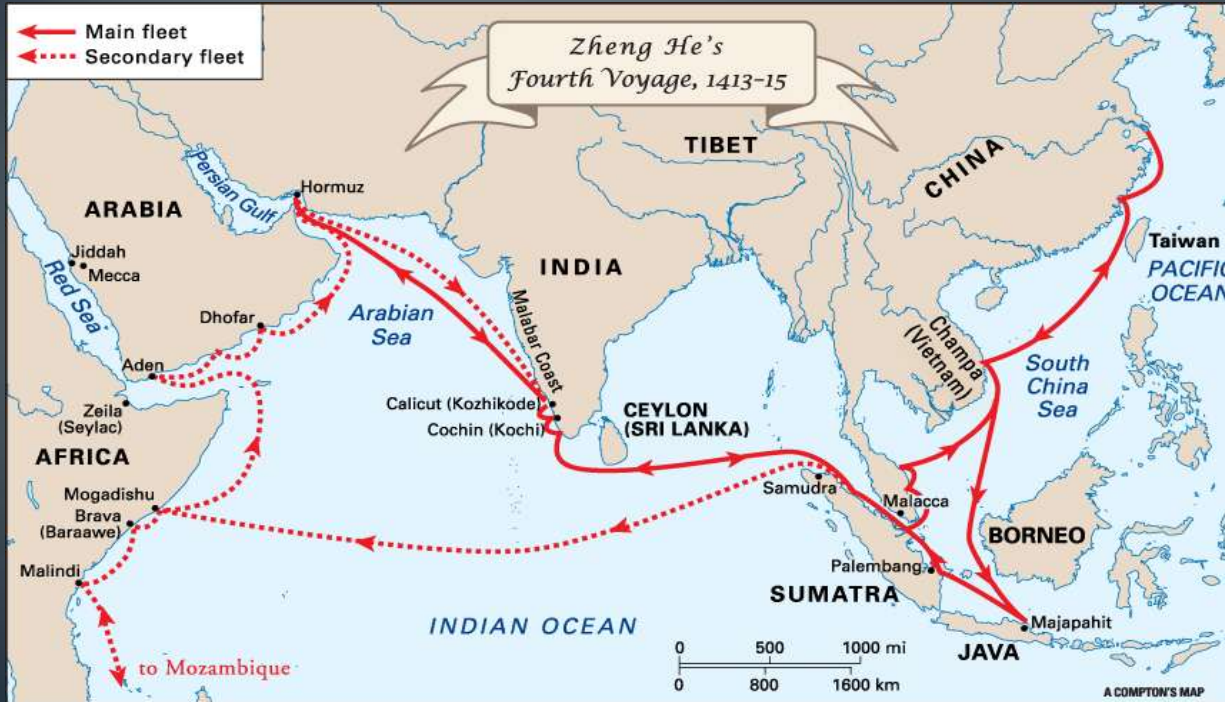
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- Ming porcelain found in a Muslim tomb column in Kenya

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- Zheng He took his first fleet to southeast Asia, eventually reaching India and moving into the Persian Gulf of Arabia.



- From Africa, Zheng He returned home with giraffes and other foreign animals for the emperor's personal zoo.

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- In these areas, Zheng he traded Chinese goods, such as silk, paper and porcelain for foreign goods such as silver, spices, wood and other goods.

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- As a result of Zheng He's voyages, Chinese merchants settled in Southeast Asia and India.



- There, they not only traded goods but also spread Chinese culture.

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- Chinese merchants at home and abroad grew rich from the trade created by the Zheng He voyages and added much to China's wealth.

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- Despite these benefits, Chinese officials complained that the trips cost too much money.



- They also said the voyages were bad for China's way of life because they brought in new ideas from the outside world that were not Chinese...also merchants were becoming extremely rich and gaining much power.

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- When Zheng He dies in 1433 C.E. he leaves China a very different place than when he started his voyages.
- One theory about his death is simply that Admiral Zheng He died in 1433...it may have happened during or shortly after the seventh voyage.
- Although, another theory is that Zheng He continued being the defender of Nanjing, ultimately dying in 1435 in battle.
- In 1985, a Muslim-style tomb was built in Nanjing containing his clothes and headgear as his body was buried at sea. (**Zheng He Tomb**)



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- As a result, China's trade with other countries sharply declined.



- Within fifty years, the ship building technology was forgotten and simply became legend.

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- China created a replica of the treasure ships for the 2008 Olympics

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- Chinese officials were not able to cut off all of China's contacts with the outside world completely.



- In 1514 fleet from the of European country of **Portugal** arrived off the coast of China.

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- It was the first time Europeans had ever sailed to China and really the first direct contact between China and Europe since the journeys of Marco Polo.

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- The Portuguese wanted China to trade with their country.



- They were also on a mission to bring Christianity to China as well.

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- At the time, the Ming government was not impressed with the Portuguese.



- China was at the height of its power and did not feel threatened by the outsiders...in fact the Ming looked at Europeans as nothing more than **Barbarians**.

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- At first China refused to trade with the Portuguese, but in 1600, they had allowed Portugal to set up a trading post at the port of **Macao (Muh-Kow)** in southern China.

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- Goods were carried on European ships between Macao and Japan.



- Despite this agreement, trade between China and Europe remained very limited.

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- Despite restrictions, ideas from Europe did reach China.



- Christian missionaries traveled to China on European ships, many of which were **Jesuits**, a special group of Roman Catholic Priest.

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- These **Jesuits** were highly educated and their scientific knowledge impressed the Chinese.



- To get China to accept European ideas, the Jesuits brought with them clocks, eyeglasses and other scientific instruments. (Completed World Map by the Jesuits... 17th Century)

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- After a long era of prosperity and growth, the Ming Dynasty began to decline.



- Ming emperors had gathered too much power into their own hands and with all of this control government officials had little desires to make improvements.

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- There is always room for improvements in a government and as time passed, Ming rulers became weak.



- Greedy officials who lived in luxury took over the country...as they did this they placed heavy taxes on peasants who began to revolt.

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- As law and order disappeared, a people called the **Manchus** attacked China's northern border.



- The Manchus lived to the north east of the Great Wall of China in an area known today as **Manchuria**.

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- The Manchus defeated the Chinese armies and captured Beijing.



- In 1644 they set up a new dynasty called the **Qin Dynasty** which lasted until the 1900's.

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- Qing authorities also forced Chinese men to shave the front of their heads and grow a Manchu-style queue as a sign of submission to their dynasty.

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- The emperors during the Qing Dynasties were not quite gods... but they were certainly much more than a mere mortal.



- Chinese traditions held that they were the “**Son of Heaven**”, a human being designated by heavenly powers in order to maintain control on earth.

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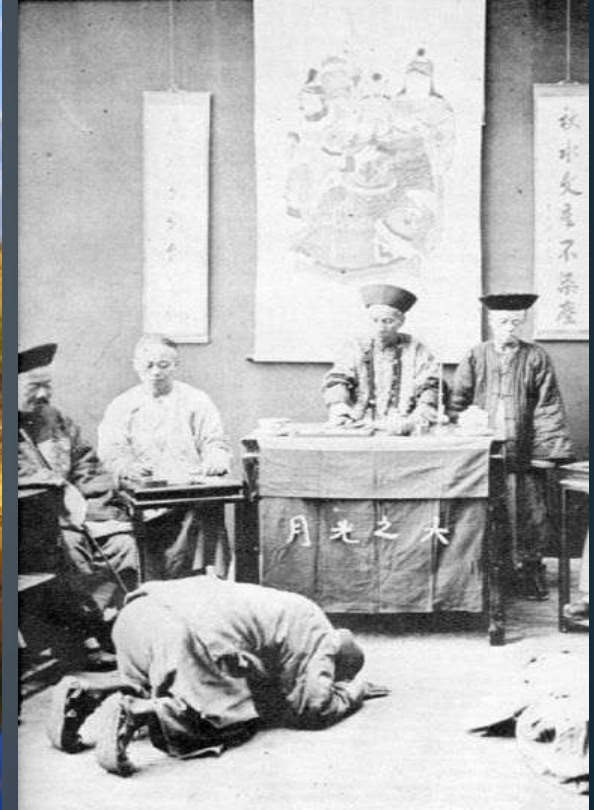
- They lived a privileged life within the walls of the forbidden city, with hundreds of concubines and eunuchs looking after their every desire.



- Everything about them and the institution of their position conveyed a sense of awesome authority.

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- At the end of the 18th century, the Qing's economical situation worsen substantially



- Salaries for state officials were cut back, corruption and bribery entered within the government.

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- The most serious problem however proved to be the influence of the Europeans, who increasingly began pursuing economical interests in China.



- With help of the intensive exchange of goods, which originally developed as a result of trading with the Silk Road, **Opium** arrived by the way of British influence in China...forcefully

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- The economic consequences of the import of Opium soon came to the surface, and it was eventually forbidden by the emperor.



- It was this trade embargo that finally led to the **Opium War** in 1839, from which the British emerged victorious.

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- There were actually two **Opium Wars** (A second in 1842) both of which were struggles about trade rights in China and the high tariff placed on imported opium by the Chinese Government.



- Following the both Opium Wars and the 1842 **Treaty of Nanking** Britain was able to obtain trading abilities, ownership of Chinese ports and the city of **Hong Kong**...which lasted until 1997

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- The British also allowed missionaries into China and allowed these religious groups to hold and own property within the country.



- Most missionaries favored the trading agreements to sell drugs, property rights, and the desire to spread your own beliefs to others.

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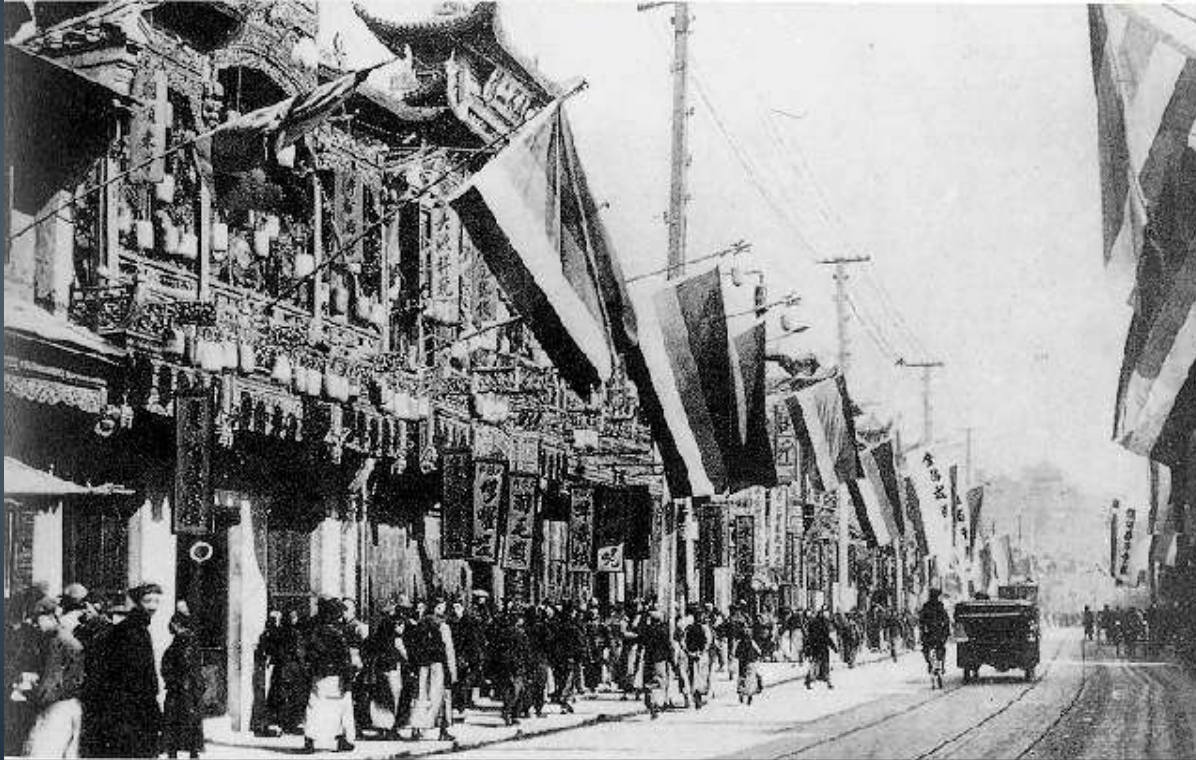
- Towards the end of the 19th century, the Chinese people vented their anger on the European occupying forces with the **Boxer Rebellion**, which was primarily directed against Christianity.



- After these rebellions were finally ended by the **Qing**, it was no longer possible to restore inner stability, and the dynasty's decline became inevitably sealed. (French Political Cartoon depicting the carving of China)

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- Finally, the Revolution of 1911 led by **Sun Yat-sen** broke out and overthrew the Qing Dynasty, bringing two thousand years of Chinese feudal monarchy to an end.



- China moved towards a “Republic” and later became a dictatorship which still remains to this day.

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