

Ming and Qing China

I. Politics

A. Ming (= Bright) Dynasty (1368–1644)

1. Hongwu (Hung-wu) (1368–1398)
 - a. overthrow of Yuan dynasty (1368)
 - b. contempt of Confucian scholar-administrators
2. Yongle (Yung-le) (1402–1424)
 - a. journeys of Zhenghe (Cheng Ho) (1405–1433)
 - b. opening of Grand Canal (1415)
3. successors
 - a. ended foreign exploration (1433)
 - b. Japanese pirates (*wako*)/Ming imperial edict (1456)
 - c. forbade Chinese to travel abroad (early 16th century)
 - d. loss of vassal states of Annam, Tibet, and Mongolia
 - e. loss of northern Manchuria (1599)
 - f. defense of Korea (1592–1597)

B. Qing (Ch'ing) (= Pure) (1644–1911)

1. Nurhachu declared dynasty in Manchuria (1616)
2. Abahai (Tai tsung) (r. 1627–1643)
 - a. Conquered Korea (1627)
 - b. Beseiged Beijing (1643)
3. Kangxi (K'ang Hsi) (r. 1661–1722)
 - a. San-fan War (1673–1681)
 - b. last Ming general defeated (1683)
 - c. Treaty of Nerchinsk (1689)
 - d. forbade teaching of Christianity (1715)

Emperor of China: Self-Portrait of Kang-Hsi, ed. Jonathan D. Spence

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|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| – relationship between hunting and war | – view of Western mathematics |
| – philosophy of education | – assessment of Galdan |
| – opinion of Westerners | – assessment of his own reign |

4. Qianlong (Ch'ien-lung) (r. 1736–1796 [1799])
 - a. “We have no need of anyone. Go home! Take back your gifts.”
 - b. Letter to King George III (1793)

II. Cultural/Intellectual

A. Confucianism (civil or religious?)

1. Harmony and moral order
2. Confucian relationships

B. Buddhism

C. Jesuit influence

1. Francis Xavier (1506–1552)
2. Matteo Ricci (1552–1610) [Li Madou] — *Journals*
3. Adam Schall (1591–1666) — dynastic calendar reform
4. Ferdinand Verbiest (1623–1688) — almanac, instruments, and perpetual calendar

III. Society

A. Ranking of Social Classes

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Scholar-administrators (<i>shenshi</i>) | 3. Artisans and craftsmen |
| 2. Peasants | 4. Merchants |

B. Status of Women

C. Population

IV. Economics

A. Porcelain

1. Blue-and-white (cobalt from Persia)
2. Sweet white (*tian bai*)
3. European imitations: Delftware and Soft-paste

B. Silk

V. China and the West

Lynda Norene Shaffer, “China, Technology and Change,” *World History Bulletin* 4, no. 1 (1986–87): 1-6.

- Francis Bacon attributed Western Europe’s take-off to printing, compass, and gunpowder
- Joseph Needham asks why these inventions did not change China too
- Shaffer says they did, but in a different way from Western Europe
 - gunpowder contributed to fall of aristocrats 750–960 and to success of Mongols
 - printing contributed to emergence of Neo-Confucian philosophy (12th century on) and to examination system as alternative to aristocratic rule
 - compass helped China develop the world’s largest and most sophisticated navy

Names of Emperors

Personal names
(forbidden use)

Zhu Yuanzhang
Zhudi (Chu-ti)

Reign title
(adopted at start of reign)

Hongwu (1368-1398)
Yongle (=Perpetual Happiness)

Posthumous title
(glorifying adjective + *di* or *zu*)

(Ming) Taizu (=Grand Ancestor)
(Ming) Chengzu (=Successful Ancestor)