

**SSWH11: Examine political and social changes in Japan and China from the fourteenth century CE/AD to mid-nineteenth century CE/AD**



**Element B: Describe the impact of the Qing and Ming Dynasty policies on the social structure of China.**

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**Ming Imperial China**

- ❑ Together the Ming and Qing dynasties ruled China for over 500 years.
- ❑ The Ming dynasty, established in 1368 after kicking out the Mongols, aimed to restore China to its former greatness.
  - Early emperors financed sea-faring missions to India, Arabia, and Africa demonstrating the prowess of the Chinese sea power in the early 15th century.
    - This naval power was abandoned by later emperors who instead focused their resources on strengthening the northern frontier.
      - This included work on the Great Wall of China, encouraging soldiers to migrate to the north, and relocating the capital to Beijing.
- ❑ Ming emperors restored Confucianism and the civil service system.
  - Social classes were set with the scholar-gentry at the top.
    - These were landed nobles who filled positions in the government.
  - Farmers were next in the social order followed by artisans and merchants at the bottom.
- ❑ The Ming emperors repaired the canal system, and oversaw a period of growth in arts and literature as well as the economy including both agriculture and specialized manufacturing.
- ❑ They also limited trade with the Europeans to a single trading post near Canton under imperial supervision.



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**Qing Imperial China**

- ❑ In the early 1600s, the Manchu people captured part of Mongolia and Korea, and then in 1644 conquered Beijing, beginning the Qing dynasty, which lasted until 1912.
- ❑ The Qing emperors were Manchu, not Chinese, but ruled in the traditional Confucian style, continuing many of the Ming policies.
  - They kept Manchu and Chinese people separate, however.
  - Qing emperors required Manchu people to learn Manchu language and culture, and prohibited Chinese people from migrating to Manchuria.
  - They also required Chinese men to wear their hair in a queue as symbol of their submission to the Manchu.
- ❑ In the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the Qing government struggled to meet the demands of its booming population.
  - Corruption increased, and the canal system deteriorated leading to floods and famines.
  - The Qing emperors also faced increasing pressure from the West to open to foreign trade.
  - In 1796, peasants rebelled, led by the Buddhist White Lotus Society.
    - The government restored order, but was severely weakened.
    - Frequent rebellions followed throughout the next century, including the Taiping Rebellion which lasted from 1850-1864.



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