

# The Asian Dynasties

*The Emergence of the First  
Global Age (1450–1750)*



The Ming Dynasty

The Qing Dynasty

Tokugawa Japan

## Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

**Icons:** For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about the Qing Dynasty in China, and be able to answer the following key questions:

- How and why did the Ming Dynasty fall?
- What were the major accomplishments of the Qing emperors?
- How did the Qing interact with Europeans?
- What were society, culture and religion like in Qing China?



# Ming Dynasty collapses



By the 1600s, the Ming Dynasty was struggling with political corruption, a failing economy and revolts against rising taxes.

In 1644, the Ming faced an invasion from Manchuria. At the same time, massive peasant revolts and military mutinies caused the Chinese army to collapse.

In May, a rebel military faction captured Beijing and the last Ming emperor committed suicide. When this news reached soldiers at the Great Wall, a border general allowed the Manchu into China, hoping they would defeat the rebels.

The **Manchu** were able to take Beijing. Their leader became the first emperor of the **Qing Dynasty**.

Why were the Chinese dissatisfied with the Ming?



# The Qing Dynasty

The Qing Dynasty would last for over 260 years, expanding China with the conquest of Taiwan, Mongolia, Tibet and parts of Central Asia.



At first, many Chinese rebelled against foreign rule.

Yet the Qing brought peace and prosperity to China and upheld Chinese traditions. Over time, the Chinese came to accept the Qing rulers.





Qing success was largely due to the work of two emperors.

**Kangxi** became emperor in 1661. During his 60 year reign, he managed to reduce the government's budget and lower taxes.

Kangxi was a scholar and a patron of the arts. He believed in granting government positions based on personal merit.



China grew to its greatest size under Kangxi's grandson, **Qian-long**, who ruled from 1736 to 1795.







# Trade with Europe



Toward the end of their reign, the Ming had tried to stimulate the economy by reopening foreign trade routes. The Qing continued this trend. The Chinese believed that China was the center of civilization. They expected foreign traders to follow their rules.

Press the tabs to learn more about trade between China and Europe under the Qing.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**



Why weren't the emperors more interested in trade?



Increased stability raised the standard of living for many. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, improved farming techniques and new crops from the Americas caused a population boom.

Most Chinese families preferred male children. Only men could perform certain religious rituals. Men remained in their childhood homes after marriage to care for their aging parents.

Because daughters would live with their in-laws after marriage, many parents felt they were too expensive to raise. This led to female infanticide, the murder of female babies.

Despite their low place in society, Chinese women had many responsibilities. They worked in the fields, managed family finances and oversaw their children's education.

How might female infanticide affect a society?





Even as trade and innovation brought changes to China, Chinese culture mostly remained the same.

Chinese paintings showed traditional scenes of everyday life. Artists valued technique over creativity. Drama told familiar stories of Chinese heroes and myths.



What effects do you think this traditional emphasis had on the Chinese people?





Several religions flourished in China at different times: **Confucianism**, **Daoism** and **Buddhism**. As time went on, different aspects of each religion were carried over into the others as each belief system developed and changed.

Can you match each religion to its description?

Press **start** to begin.

**start**



What effect might these religions have on a culture?



# Ming or Qing?



Although the Ming and Qing emperors came from different regions, their dynasties had many things in common. Drag each phrase to the correct place, depending on whether it describes the Ming Dynasty, the Qing Dynasty, or both.

Press **start** to begin.

start

