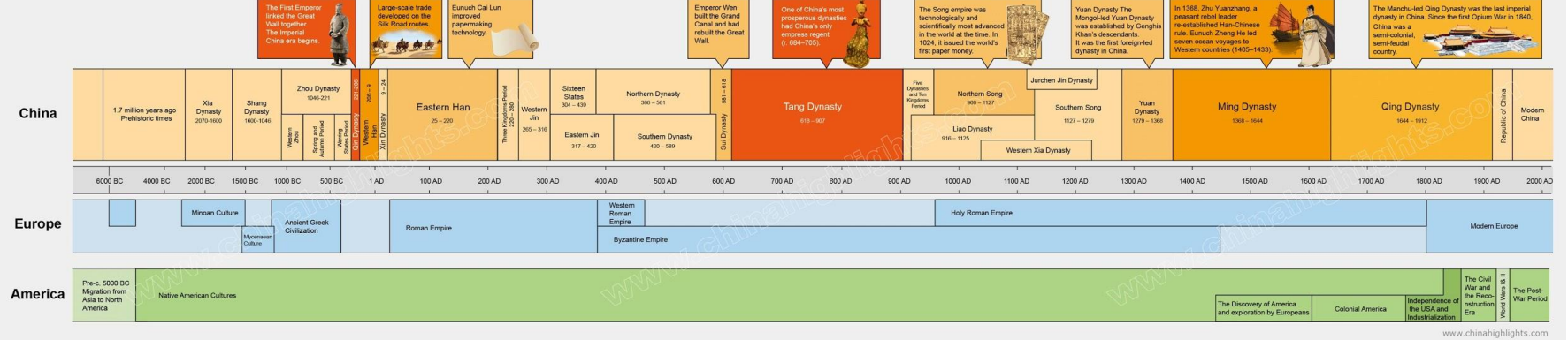


Timeline of World Cultures



China: A “Short” History

Matthew Chun

Disclaimer/Motivation

- I am not Chinese
- Fascinated with Chinese history, especially interplay with other cultures
- Excuse to finally get a sense of Chinese history with this presentation
- Tons of things to cover ... so high level on purpose!

China “versus” Canada

- Scale

- China: 1.389,344,089 -> **18.47% of world population**
- Canada: 36,690,165 -> **0.49% of world population**
- China population density -> 148 people per Km squared
- Canada population density -> 4 people per Km squared
- China country size: **9.597 million km squared**
- Canada country size: **9.985 million km squared**



Age

- Canada: 150 years old
- China: Approximately (written history) -> **Over 3000 years old ...**
- Lots of ground to cover

Appetizer -> Pre-historic Highlights

Paeleolithic

- 2.5 mil to 10,000 years ago
- Matriarchal clan society
- Usage of stone instruments
- Beginnings of farming, stock farming, and hand tools



Appetizer -> Pre-historic Highlights

Neolithic

- 18,000 to 4,000 years ago
- Patriarchal clan society
 - Polygamous marriage to monogamy marriage
- Formation of social divisions of labour -> poverty, property notion
- Refined tools, farming techniques
- Ceramics, silk products
- Different cultures emerged
 - Peiligang (7000 to 5000 BC): Yellow River in Henan Province (Central China), practiced agriculture and livestock, hunting, fishing -> distinct residential and burial areas, earliest to use pottery
 - Cishan (5400 to 5100 BC): North China Hebei Province, agriculture in millet, also pottery
 - Yangshao (5000 to 3000 BC): Gashu to Hainan Province (along Yellow River), rice and millet agriculture, cattles, pigs, horses -> black pottery art using facial and animal designs



Appetizer -> Pre-historic Highlights

The Bronze Age

- 21st century BC to 5th century BC -> beginnings of recorded Chinese civilizations
- Mythological Founding of Chinese Civilization: The Three Wise Kings and Five August Emperors
 - Gave people the knowledge of fire, house building, farming, silk, medicine, calendar, and early script writing ... sounds familiar right?
 - Particularly famous -> The Yellow Emperor (ancestor of Chinese tribes) -> usage of yellow as motif for symbol of emperors
- Led to disputed first dynasty -> Xia Dynasty (“Summer” Dynasty)



Yellow Emperor Mausoleum

Xia Dynasty - Unification of the Clans

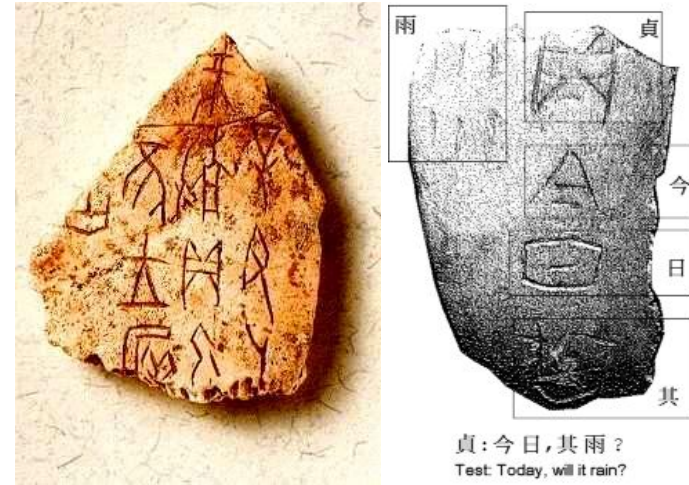
- 2070 - 1600 BC -> while records exist, they are disputed
 - Who were the “Xia”? Maybe the Erlitou located people
 - Artifacts dated via radiocarbon indicates similar timeline (2000 and 1500 BC)
 - Records in form of pottery ... not hard writing -> later accounts of such a dynasty written much later in Chinese history (in 109 and 91 BC)
- Notable for many different clans uniting into an empire, ruled via feudal system
 - Xia clan head, Shun first to pass down rule to his son Yu the Great
 - Yu supposedly united tribes through conquest, and later flood prevention works (Yu’s Doorway)
- Supposed descendents of the Three Wise Kings and Five August Emperors
- Demise (1559 BC)
 - Later heads of Xia switched to worship of supernatural beings, no longer ancestors
 - Last Xia emperor Jie was extravagant, loved to drink, didn’t listen to advisors, etc
 - Other clans stopped supporting Xia, Shang Clan led a rebellion and won (headed by King Tang)



Yu the Great Deified as Water God

Shang Dynasty - First recorded dynasty

- 1600 -1046 BC
 - Historical record via inscriptions on oracle bones and bronze objects
- Initial instances of writing via pictograms
- Peak of slavery trade of the era (Bronze Age Dynasties)
 - Human sacrifice in religion common
- Vassal system of land allocation -> king tribute
- Demise
 - Just like the Xia Emperor
 - Another tribe called the Zhou took over (Zhou Wu)



Oracle Bones

Zhou Dynasty - The Great Thinkers

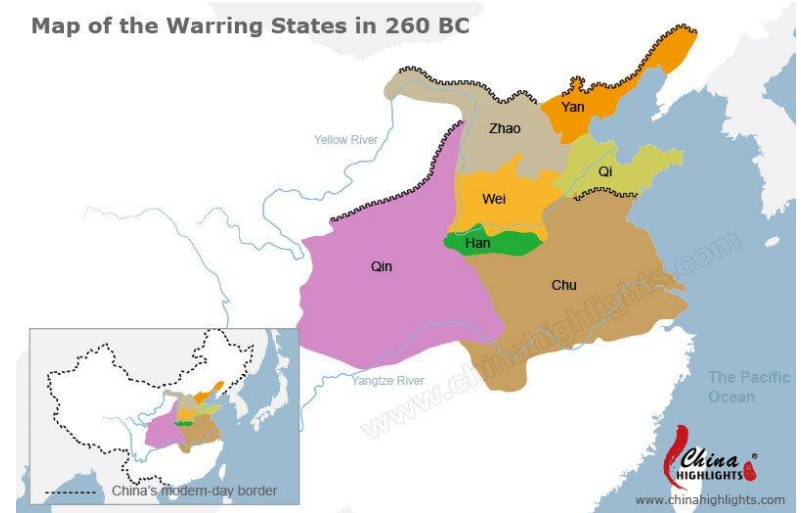
- 1046 BC - 256 BC (longest lasting dynasty)
 - Split into different periods -> due to moving of capitals, alliances, and invasions
 - Western Zhou (1046 BC to 771 BC)
 - Eastern Zhou (770 BC to 256 BC)
- Chinese Philosophy Development During Peaceful times -> diversity of language, thoughts grew -> Hundred Schools of Thought
 - Daoism -> accordance with nature
 - Confucianism -> social order
 - Spring and Autumn Period
- Gradual shift of social position being “earned” rather than inherited
 - Rich merchants, great thinkers competed for court roles, etc.
- Several city-states popped up tied closely with Zhou kings
- Demise
 - Overtime, the expanding city-states grew less associated, more independent
 - Increasing barbarian attacks
 - Qin state, main guardian of Zhou rulers gained great control/influence, other city states grew larger (Jin, Qi, Chu)
-> Warring States Period starting in 256 BC



Laozi - Founder of Daoism

The Warring States Period - No more thinking, just fight!

- 475 - 221 BC
- Caused by city-states from Zhou dynasty declaring independence, then them fighting each other
- At one point, as much as 7 states fighting each other (Qin, Chu, Zhao, Wei, Han, Yan, and Qi)
 - Several smaller city-states arose from ashes of “Jin” mentioned before (Zhao, Wei, Han) after battle of Jinyang
- Qin eventually conquered all other states
 - Ruthless, powerful economically and military -> Irrigated via Zhengguo Canal over 227,000 sq km of fertile land to feed the army and peasants
 - King Zheng of Qin, how did he do it? Get the easy states out of the way , no “battle manners”



Qin Dynasty - The First Imperial Dynasty

- 221 - 206 BC
- First usage of term “emperor” -> no more kings by King Zheng -> Qin Shihuang
- Shortest dynasty in Chinese history
- Highlights
 - Great Wall
 - Terracotta warriors
 - Centralization of power via two-tier admin system -> adherence to the law (legalism)
 - State over individual -> obedience ... see “flavours” of it today
 - Controlled records such as history except Qin curated version
 - Writing system, money, and measurements were standardized, road system
 - But literacy and scholarship was denied -> only for elite, books were banned for the commoners
 - Still brutal in his rule, one time buried alive 460 scholars who displeased him
- Demise
 - “Elixir of Life” killed him ... ironically, died on a trip to find it
 - Emperor wished to live forever, stop gap medicine of mercury pills probably did it
 - Power play among his sons, faked wills, made some sons commit suicide forcibly
 - The long standing heavy taxation, forced labour of projects such as mausoleum and palace ... led to more rebellions



Terracotta Warriors

Han Dynasty - The “Golden Age”

- 206 BC - 220 AD
- Began by rebellion of prior Qin regime by peasant leader, Liu Bang
- Contemporary with Roman Empire at the time in fact ... tons of trade
 - Silk Road
- Introduction of Buddhism, strengthening of Confucianism for courts (exam system)
- Expanded empire to areas in North Vietnam, Inner Mongolia, southern Manchuria, Korea by Emperor Wu
- Lifestyle
 - Rich were ... richer and educated
 - But opening of opportunities eg. unbanning of books
 - High taxes for merchants, lowered for peasants but still tough



Hanfu

Han Dynasty cont.

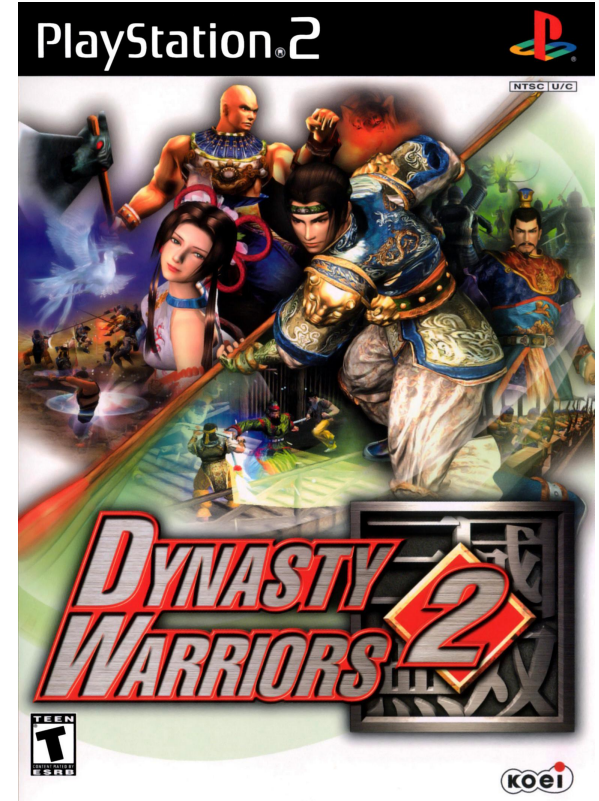
- Progression
 - Death of Emperor Wu left a power gap, government official named Wang Man usurped and made a new sub-dynasty called “Xin” or “new” (9 to 23 AD)
 - Some modern ideas -> abolished slavery
 - More power to the people via redistribution of land (attempted)
 - Xin dynasty still problematic due to natural disasters and subsequent peasant revolts -> led to his decapitation
 - Descendant of Liu Bang re-established Han dynasty (Eastern or Later Han) which lasted from 25 to 220 AD -> Emperor Guangwu -> defeated enemies eg. Xiongnu tribes and Goguryeo Korean Kingdom attacks
- Demise
 - Series of emperors dying young, power control over young relatives
 - Empire plagued with locusts, floods -> sign of the “end”
 - Corruption of court led to more peasant revolts -> “Yellow Turban Rebellion”
 - A general named Cao Cao reigned in last Han emperor’s name, consolidated power and went to war with dissenting regions -> Three Kingdoms Period



Yellow Turban Rebels

Romance of the Three Kingdoms

- 220 - 280 AD
- The players
 - Cao Pi of Wei, Liu Bei of Shu, Sun Quan of Wu
- Formally started after Cao Cao death, Cao Pi the son forced remnants of Han family to concede power, renamed controlled region to Wei
- Shu Kingdom -> “Underdog” Liu Bei, a descendent of King Jing of Han dynasty era, led a poor life selling straw mats and sandals
 - Friendly with famous individuals, in particular general Zhuge Liang, and Quan Yu (later deified)
 - Eventual surrender to Wei kingdom in 263
- Wei was the winner but not for long
 - Internal power struggles , Wei family members sold out to another court related individual Sima Yi who forced Wei family to abdicate



Dark Ages - Jin and Southern/Northern Dynasties

Jin Dynasty

- 265 to 420 AD
- Troublesome ... civil war among Sima family members
- Brought in Xiongnu tribes as slave labourers (Zhou enemies) who rebelled
- No strong army to fight rebellion, forcing population to flee south past Yangtze river (natural barrier)
- Jin dynasty weakened as they tried to obtain land back from tribes
- Same time, fought new Northern state called “Former Qin”
- Exhausted by wars, a Jin allied general called Liu Yu took advantage and took the throne (Southern/Northern Dynasties)



Xiongnu Depiction

Dark Ages - Southern and Northern Dynasties

- 420 - 589 AD
- More war but also some prosperity, in the now divided North and South China
- First Southern Dynasty
 - Liu Song
 - Killed prior Jin emperor (Liu Yu), crowned himself emperor Wu
 - Emperor Wu had little interest in ruling, gave positions of court to family, fearful of being killed, eventually abdicated in favour of his sons to rule
 - Successors killed in various ways by “loyal” men, and family -> Yu family seemed to be “immoral”
 - Eventually other court players took over -> Xiao Daocheng established himself as Emperor Gao of Southern Qi (479 to 502 AD)
 - Southern Qi
 - Made peace with Northern China via a treaty (Yongming Administration)
 - But again ... cruelty of ruling family led to its downfall (rebellions)



Dark Ages - Southern and Northern Dynasties

Liang Dynasty

- 502 - 557 AD
- Emperor Wu (Xiao Yan) was diligent in government affairs, cared for the common folk, devout Buddhist
- Nearly half of population become monks as they were exempt from taxes -> led to poor economy
- War with the north (North Wei) continued
- Poor decisions that angered certain Liang supporter generals, led to rebellions and betrayals (work with the North)
- Eventually ... can you guess it? Another court member took control -> Chen Baxian

Dark Ages - Southern and Northern Dynasties

- Chen Dynasty
 - 557 - 589 AD
 - Basically more internal power struggles
 - Wasteful awful rulers that took over, which allowed northern armies to burn farmlands of Chen dynasty
 - Eventually the North captured the last Chen emperor

Dark Ages - View from the North

- Northern dynasties lasted from 386 to 581 AD
- Established majority by Xianbei tribe (proto-Mongolian language) and other tribes -> North Wei, North Qi, North Zhou
- North Wei
 - 386 - 557 AD
 - The Tuoba family
 - Adopted Sinicization for political reasons eg. adopt Chinese surname, using Han language
 - Improved military
 - Eventually internal strife (again) split this dynasty into East and West Wei
 - West Wei had policy of introducing Fubing (local militia system) that would be adopted by later dynasties as well
 - East Wei eventually won after a political power struggle involving attacking the southern Liang dynasty, consolidated West Wei troops ... but you know betrayals of generals and all ... led to...
- North Qi (successor to East Wei) vs North Zhou
 - Events took place from 557 - 581 AD
 - Qi side conquered other tribes such as the Kumoxi, Qidan, Rouran, Shanhu
 - The Qi favoured Xianbei nobility over Han houses -> strife
 - Old story, terrible rulers causing internal chaos allowed Zhou to conquer North Qi eventually
 - Zhou rule ended when again ... awful emperor killed by a noble (Yang Jian) who established the Sui Dynasty



Xianbei Archer

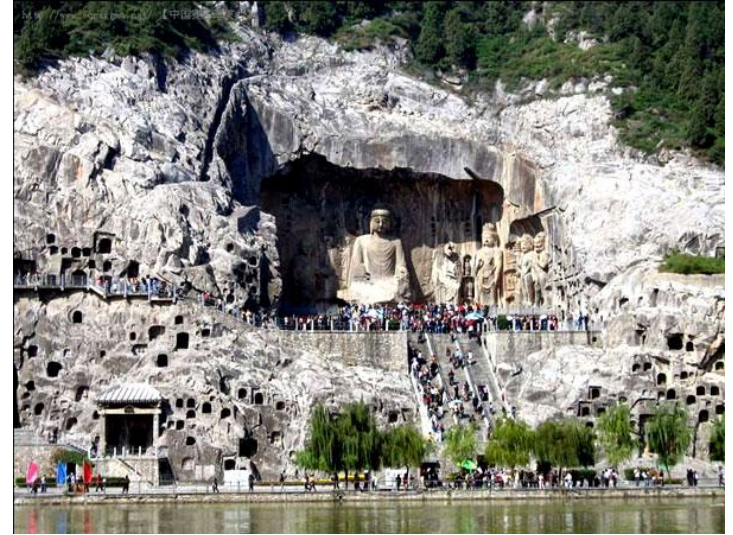
Dark Ages - But some nice things

Religion

- Expansion of Taoism among the elite -> via simplified ritual processes
- Expansion of Buddhism led to development of several statues, murals
 - Thousand Buddha Caves

Art

- Southern focused on paintings, Northern on statues
- Adoption of Greco-Roman Buddhist art styles (western art influence)



Longman Grottoes

Medieval China - The Sui Dynasty

- Period of stability (One China)
- Sui Dynasty (The new “Qin”)
 - 581 - 618 AD
 - China was reunited after Yang Jian (crowned as Emperor Wen) conquered Chen (South China) dynasty in 589
 - Projects
 - Grand Canal -> World’s Longest Canal and Artificial River
 - Important for trade, transport military supplies
 - Rebuilding of the Great Wall
 - War on Vietnam (Captured Hanoi), 3 attempted invasions on Korea (Goguryeo)
 - Further spread of Buddhism
 - Resurgence of Confucian bureaucrats
 - Demise -> heavy taxes, military losses, forced labour led to revolts which allowed northern government official Li Yuan to establish Tang Dynasty



Grand Canal

Medieval China - The Tang Dynasty

- 618 - 907 AD
- Golden Age for Literature and Art
 - Poetry
 - Painting
 - Tricolored glazed pottery
 - Woodblock printing
- Christianity began spread
- Demise
 - External attacks -> Muslim Arab Empire attacked in 751 at Battle of Talas, Nanzhao Empire (West of China) attacked in 751/754, Tibetan Empire attacked in 763
 - Civil war erupted (An Lushan Rebellion) from a general, later peasant rebellion due to famine and drought in 873 (Huang Chao Rebellion)
 - Led to a general Zhu Wen taking control which led to the start of the Five Dynasties and 10 Kingdoms (907 to 960 AD)



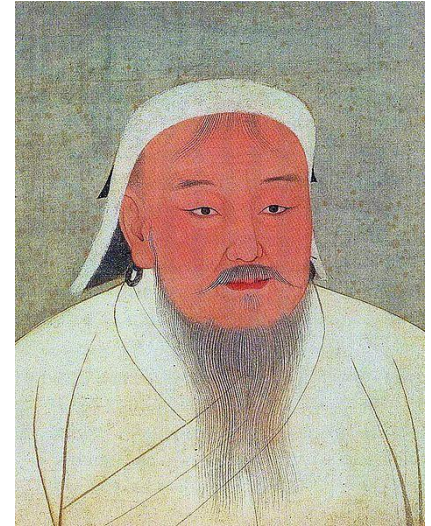
Medieval China - The Song Dynasty

- 960 - 1279 AD
- Origins -> From the Five Dynasties and 10 Kingdoms period, one kingdom (Northern Zhou) had a general that rebelled against his king, took over as Song dynasty which then conquered the other dynasties and kingdoms
- Period of economic and scientific growth
 - Population estimated to be around 100 million
 - Increased foreign trade with India and Arabia
 - Rice became the major food crop of choice after new techniques developed
 - Movable Type Printing -> improve literacy and cultural development
 - Gunpowder -> used as landmines later against Mongol invasions
 - Less emphasis on religion -> Neo-Confucianism
 - Ordinary citizens could more easily become government officials through exam revisions (Keju examination)
- Demise
 - Some rival empires popped up (Jin Empire) from which the Song Empire decided to team up with the Mongols ... they were successful but then the Mongols had 1 enemy left (1279 AD)



“Foreign” Rulers - The Yuan Dynasty

- 1279 - 1368 AD
- Founded by Genghis Khan (Founder of Mongol Empire)
 - Established base of power by defeating peripheral Western Xia people, conquered Central Asia, Mongolia, Hexi Corridor (which contained Silk Road)
 - Died before able to lead campaign against Song
 - His son, Ogedei was the one who started war with Song dynasty
- Grandson, Kublai Khan led to Yuan dynasty's prosperity
 - Ruled from 1260 to 1294 AD
 - Some power struggles with Mongol Khanate -> made Dadu (modern day Beijing) the capital
 - Defeated the Song Dynasty in 1279 AD
- Achievements
 - Switched to paper currency as main currency, world first
 - Marco Polo visited, brought back ideas from China back to the West
 - Major novels and theater used everyday language (mainstream)



“Foreign” Rulers - The Yuan Dynasty

Demise

- Failed Japan Conquests in 1274 AD and 1280 AD
- Government positions favoured Mongols, Muslims and foreigners, ethnic Chinese received lower priority
 - Side effect: Islam established as minority religion
- Debt, inflation due to devaluing of currency (up to 80%)
 - To finance wars of empire
- Natural disasters -> disease (Black Plague from Europe), droughts, floods
 - Red Turban Rebellions from common folk -> Zhu Yuanzhang, a beggar turned monk commanded the rebellion and won, making the Mongol court flee back to Mongolia which established the Ming Dynasty (1368 AD)



Last “ethnic” dynasty - The Ming Dynasty

- 1368 - 1644 AD
- For the people
 - Limitation of Eunuch powers -> they had to be illiterate, could not engage in court affairs
 - Replaced with new officials that passed the Imperial exam, more reliant on court for their needs
 - Pro Peasant policies -> land distribution to peasants, looser taxes
 - Many peasants sold produce to cities for profit
 - Anti-merchant policies -> high taxation for merchants
- Notable achievements
 - Construction of the Forbidden City (1406 to 1420)
 - Capital officially Beijing
 - Further development of Grand Canal towards the North
 - Age of exploration -> Zheng He expeditions, definitely went to Arabia, disputed for Africa, maybe North America ...???? Probably not
 - Increased foreign demand for porcelain and silk
 - Jesuit influence on court, attempted to bring western science



Last “ethnic” dynasty - The Ming Dynasty

Demise

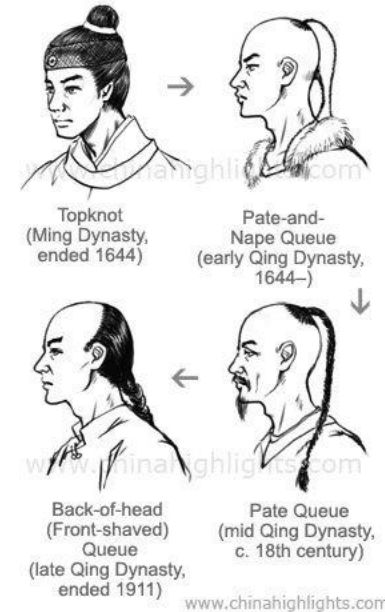
- 1556/1557 Macau Earthquake -> Portuguese Treaty made it a legal trading port
 - Several more earthquakes (1621 to 1627) above 7.0
- Japan repelled from Korea (1592 - 98)
 - Ming assisted Korea in repelling Japanese invasions twice, but at high financial cost (26 million ounces of silver)
- Monetary Crisis
 - Japan reduced foreign imports in 1639 as part of isolationist policy
 - Inflation of silver prices as result meant paying taxes was more difficult for farmers
 - Deficits made soldiers abandon their roles
- Let the Manchu's in
 - Financial strains and epidemics caused another rebellion, where one Ming general decided to let Manchu's in from the Great Wall ... (1644)



The Last Dynasty - Qing Dynasty

- 1644 - 1911 AD
- Who are the Manchu's?
 - Originally Jurchen tribes (ruled China in 265 to 420 AD)
 - Merged with Mongols and former Ming supporters
- Changes
 - “Hairstyle Massacre” -> Men had to adopt traditional shaved hairstyle called the “queue”
 - Used to identify Ming men dissenters (against Confucian ideal not to cut your hair)
 - Those who resisted were killed
 - Eventually become the norm
 - Isolationist and Traditionalists
 - Focus on the ancient studies, not modern knowledge
 - Restricted foreign trade, possibly to limit port cities from accumulating wealth
- Despite rough start, was fairly prosperous
 - 2nd largest empire next to Yuan, Tibet and Mongolia part of it
 - Many literary works made in this time

Qing Dynasty Hair Styles



The Last Dynasty - Qing Dynasty

Demise

- Slow modernization
 - Quality of imports much better due to new tech
 - Loss of jobs as a result
- Growing foreign powers
 - 1800 to 1912 -> Evangelical Christianity converted and taught western medicine
 - Lost trading ports to Europeans -> Opium Wars with British in 1854, Qing lost Hong Kong
 - Modernized Japan took over Taiwan and the original Manchuria homeland
- Rebellions
 - Many many rebellions caused power loss -> ethnicity and religion based
 - Taiping Rebellion (1851-1864) -> quasi-Christian movement caused 25 million deaths, Qing won with assistance from Britain and France
 - Natural disasters (1907 Famine killed 25 million)
 - Boxer Rebellion (1900) -> Empress Cixi secretly supported the Boxers, anti-foreign fighters, but Qing/Boxers lost against foreign military alliances -> carved up China Empress Cixi secretly supported Boxers (a



The Last Dynasty - Qing Dynasty

- The Last Emperor
 - After all of these events, the last emperor, Puyi, was really just a figurehead while China began to become a series of republic states (around 1911)
- Of course ... 20th century history happened
 - WWI and WWII
 - Communism

