

CHAPTER 19 Section 2 (pages 536–541)

China Limits European Contacts

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about European exploration in the East.

In this section, you will read about China's reactions to the world around it.

AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to show important developments in the Ming Dynasty and the Qing Dynasty.

TERMS AND NAMES

Hongwu Commander of the rebel army that drove the Mongols out of China in 1368

Ming Dynasty Chinese dynasty that ruled from 1368 to 1644

Yonglo Ming ruler; son of Hongwu

Zheng He Muslim admiral who led seven voyages of exploration during the Ming Dynasty

Manchus People from Manchuria

Qing Dynasty Chinese dynasty that followed the Ming Dynasty and was begun by the Manchus

Kangxi Powerful Manchu emperor of the Qing Dynasty

MING DYNASTY	QING DYNASTY
<i>Hongwu becomes the first emperor.</i>	

China Under the Powerful Ming Dynasty

(pages 536–539)

What occurred during the Ming Dynasty?

Mongol rule in China ended in 1368 when **Hongwu** led a *rebel* army that took control of the country. He declared himself the first emperor of the **Ming Dynasty**, which was to last for almost 300 years. Hongwu began his rule by increasing the amount of food produced and improving the government. Later he grew suspicious and untrusting. He caused the deaths of many people whom he suspected of plotting against him.

His son **Yonglo** continued his better policies. He also launched a major effort at making contact with other Asian peoples. Beginning in 1405, an admiral named **Zheng He** led several voyages to Southeast Asia, India, Arabia, and Africa. Wherever he went, he gave away gifts to show Chinese superiority.

Eventually the Chinese changed their position on foreign trade. They began to isolate themselves. China allowed Europeans to trade officially at only three ports, but illegal trade took place all along the coast. Europeans wanted Chinese silk and ceramics, and they paid silver for them. Manufacturing never grew very large in China, however. The

Confucian ideas that shaped Chinese thinking said that farming was a better way of life, so manufacturing was heavily taxed. *Missionaries* entered China at this time, bringing both Christianity and technology.

1. How was China influenced by foreigners during the Ming Dynasty?

Manchus Found the Qing Dynasty (pages 539–540)

How did China change during the Qing Dynasty?

The Ming Dynasty lost power because the government could not solve several problems. **Manchus**, people who came from a land north of China called Manchuria, took control of the country in 1644. They started the **Qing Dynasty**. Two important emperors were **Kangxi** and his grandson Qian-long. They brought China to its largest size, increased its wealth, and sponsored an increase in artistic production.

The Chinese insisted that Europeans had to follow certain rules in order to continue trading with them. These rules include trading only at special ports and paying fees. The Dutch were willing to do so, and they carried on the largest share of trade with China. The British, though, did not agree to following these rules.

At the same time, a feeling of national pride was rising in Korea, which had long been *dominated* by China.

2. Why was trade a problem during the Qing Dynasty?

Life in Ming and Qing China

(page 541)

What was life like in China under the Ming and Qing?

In China, the production of rice and the long period of peace gave the people better lives. In the 1600s and 1700s, the number of people in China almost doubled. The huge majority of these people were farmers. Because of the use of fertilizer and better *irrigation*, they could grow more food. The level of nutrition improved. This caused the population to grow.

In Chinese families, sons were valued over daughters. It was believed that only sons could carry out family religious duties and tend to the family farm. For that reason, many infant girls were killed, and adult women had few rights.

The invasions by the foreigners from Manchuria and the pressure from European traders bothered the Chinese. They tried to preserve their traditions and their isolation. Artists created books and paintings that showed traditional Chinese values and ideas. Plays about Chinese history and heroes were popular. They helped to unify the Chinese people.

3. Which parts of society improved during this time, and which continued to be the same?
