Thinking question

If the Chinese had “discovered” and settled in the United States rather than Europeans how would your life be different? (religiously, culturally) (3 minutes)
Now that you have begun to think a little bit about Chinese culture we are going to elaborate on those initial thoughts you had as we explore the last two Chinese dynasties, the Ming and the Qing.
Fall of Yuan Dynasty (1260-1368)

- 1368- bubonic plague helped end the rule by the Mongols (Genghis Khan and Kublai Khan and the ventures of Marco Polo from Venice)
Ming Dynasty

Ming (brilliant) Dynasty: 1368-1644

• founded by Zhu Yuan Zhang

• Chinese commoner, led huge peasant army and captured Dadu, proclaimed himself emperor Hong Wu

• How common is it for a person from lower classes to rule a country? How many US presidents have been from the lowest class? (one Andrew Johnson)

• (first time leader was peasant in over 1000 years)

• he moved the capital to Nanjing
Ming

- Brought **peace and stability** – enacted new law codes that were harsher, reformed local government, and reorganized the tax system – he also **reintroduced the Civil Service Exam making official posts open to literate Chinese** as he replaced the Mongols who had previously held those positions during the Yuan

- **Confucian ideals also became powerful again** (concerned with the principles of good conduct, practical wisdom, and proper social relationships...has influenced the Chinese attitude toward life, set the patterns of living and standards of social value, and provided the background for Chinese political theories and institutions...spread from China to Korea, Japan, and Vietnam and has aroused interest among Western scholars. it has never existed as an established religion with a church and priesthood, its an ideology)
Government in Ming

• Government became very **centralized** under Hong Wu b/c he was very suspicious and often made decisions in secret with only a few trusted **eunuchs**

• Why did they trust eunuchs? -men could not have children, insuring they wouldn’t try to set their sons up in high government posts or generate families that would be power bases that could challenge the emperor

• In 1380 he suspected chief minister of being involved in a treasonous plot, so he executed the minister and his bureaucratic allies and abolished the minister’s position altogether
Economy Ming

- Also worked to **improve the economy** after nomadic rule and epidemic disease **Irrigation** systems rebuilt

- Gov offered **free land, tools, seeds, and farm animals to encourage farmers to move to the northern region** which had been most

**Draw parallel between US Homestead Act of 1862**

- Increased agricultural production allowed others to become artisans so the production of crafts, silks, tea, porcelain, and cotton cloth also boomed
Ming Exploration

- **Exploration:** Emperor Yong Le sent Zheng He

- **7 expeditions from 1405-1433** in order to establish a Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean basin

- Emperor wanted to impose *imperial control over foreign trade* with China and to impress foreigners with the power and might that the Ming dynasty had brought back to China

- Had an amazing fleet of vessels accompanied by armed forces large enough to overcome any opposition faced at a port (317 ships with 28,000 armed troops) largest marine craft the world had ever seen

- Went to Southeast Asia, India, Ceylon, the Persian Gulf and Arabia, and down the east African coast—gave away Chinese silk, porcelain and in return brought back to China African zebras and giraffes...he always paid respect to local taxes and customs
Exploration Ming

- Brought back envoys from 30 states who traveled to China to pay their respects- mostly used diplomacy but used force when necessary
**Exploration Ming**

- 1421: The Year China Discovered America, book by Gavin Mendies that claims that Zheng He reached American in 1421, 71 years before Columbus...justifies claim by saying after these travels, China withdrew from the world. Domestic troubles caused the Emperor to abandon his lofty goals of expansion and exploration; records of the travels were destroyed, colonies were forgotten. Mendies' hypotheses are based on his own knowledge of sailing, mapmaking, ocean currents and winds.

- Stopped in 1430s because believed expeditions were expensive and money could be better used if devoted to agriculture...reverted to isolation although did continue to trade with Japan and Southeast Asia (maps were destroyed)
Forbidden City

- Yong Le also moved capital to Beijing and had city completely rebuilt including the Forbidden City which is a magnificent complex of palaces, great halls, courtyards, gardens, and moats

- 30 foot high walls surrounded the Imperial City, inside the highest ranking officials lived and then inside of that were red walls and behind the red walls is where the emperor and his family lived...only the emperor’s family and highly trusted eunuchs and officials allowed behind red walls

- Later Ming emperors began to live lavishly hosting huge feasts for 6000 guests so they raised taxes on commoners who had already taken a hit because of the decline in foreign trade causing peasant unrest...also desire to live lavish lives caused some emperors to ignore government affairs for extended periods of time
Fall of the Ming

- Emperor Wanli 1572-1620 refused to meet with government officials and instead drank wine and used opium—this drug later led to war between Great Britain and China in 1839 (China lost, gave up Hong Kong) Eunuchs gained power and corruption and inefficiency led to a weakened state so that the Manchus could easily advance over the northern border

- Eventually the Ming dynasty declined as rebellion broke out against corruption in the leadership.

- Additionally Manchus (from Manchuria) attacked the country.

- The Ming dynasty was not strong enough to defend itself against the internal and external attacks.

- The Manchus successfully took control of the Chinese government and established the Qing dynasty.
Qing

Qing: 1644-1911, means pure (for 2nd time in history foreigners ruled China) Manchus over the decades extended territory to include Tibet, Manchuria, Mongolia, and Taiwan

• Interplay of Manchu and Chinese Culture
• Manchu ruling elites schooled in Chinese language and Confucian thought, received support from scholar-bureaucrats who were frustrated with corrupt Ming eunuchs
Qing

• Important to appease to a certain degree because Chinese outnumbered Manchu 30 to 1 so gave lower military and government jobs to Chinese, but kept top tier jobs for Manchu

• Yet Manchu also wanted to maintain their culture so outlawed marriage between Manchu and Chinese, forbade Chinese from traveling to Manchuria and from learning Manchurian language

• Forced Chinese men to shave their heads leaving a single queue, or braid, at back of head or you’d be executed “Keep your hair and lose your head or lose your hair and keep your head”
Emperor Kangxi (1661-1722) organized flood control and irrigation projects because he was a Confucian scholar so he believed rulers should look after the welfare of their subjects and promote agriculture.

- Also a conqueror...under him expanded to include Taiwan (where Ming loyalists had gone) and parts of Mongolia and central Asia (expanded borders to prevent problems with nomadic people).
Qing

- **Labor-intensive farming**: work performed by human effort (not machines/animals) grew cotton and rice

- Internal trade: specialization: textiles, cotton, porcelain, tea, silk

- **European Demand for goods**: Europeans had come to China during Ming (1514) looking for goods tea, porcelain, silk, Chinese called them ocean devils and refused to trade with them

- **Jesuit missionaries** came and their scientific knowledge was impressive to Chinese. Gained government positions but feared too involved so by 1700s forced them to leave...were largely unsuccessful in converting Chinese to Christianity (even today 3-4% is Christian)
Qing Decline

- **Qing Decline**: Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795) paid less attention to government affairs and delegated responsibilities to eunuchs and his successor continued this practice and devoted themselves to hunting and harems and taxes increased creating peasant unrest
Comparing Ming and Qing

• The Ming and Qing dynasties had a number of things in common.
• The first thing they had in common was the way their empires were organized. Both the Ming and the Qing believed in the supreme authority of the Emperor who was helped by a large number of bureaucrats.
• Both dynasties also expanded their borders far beyond what they had been previously and both dynasties improved the quality of Chinese life for a period of time.
• The Ming and Qing dynasties also took a similar approach to foreign affairs. Both were very successful in battle and defeated many enemies.
• Additionally, both empires believed that they were the most civilized nation in the world and made attempts to exhibit their strength to other nations.
Comparing the Ming and Qing

• Both adopted strict isolationist policies and put heavy regulation on trade. They also scorned the West and did not consider it a major power.
• Both dynasties also declined due to similar negative issues.
• A combination of rebellion, corruption, and war led to their decline.
• With the Ming it was the invasion of the Machu coupled with rebellion.
• With the Qing it was the Opium Wars coupled with the Boxer Rebellion among others.
• Both empires were very powerful but also uncompromising and this led to their downfall.
1. Why did Europeans desire Chinese made goods?

2. Why was exploration undertaken and stopped during the Ming Dynasty?