The Qing Dynasty, 1644-1911
• When the Ming Dynasty fell, non-Han Manchu people moved into China from Manchuria, north of the Great Wall and proceeded to occupy all of China.

• The Manchus proclaimed a new dynasty – the Qing (or ‘Pure’) – which ruled China until the 20th Century (1644-1911).

• The last dynasty to rule China.
Conquest of China

• By 1644 the Manchus had captured Beijing, and then moved to extend their authority throughout China

• Military campaigns against Ming loyalists and other rebels happened all over southern China

• By the early 1680s, the Manchus controlled China
• Manchus careful to preserve their own ethnic and cultural identity

• Manchus outlawed intermarriage between Manchus and Chinese.

• Han Chinese not permitted to travel to Manchuria or learn the Manchurian language
Qing authorities also forced Chinese men to shave the front of their heads and grow a Manchurian-style *queue* as a sign of submission to the dynasty.
Two Great Manchu Emperors: Kangxi and Qianlong

• Kangxi was a Confucian scholar and an enlightened ruler

• He organized flood control and irrigation projects because of the Confucian rule that rulers need to look after the welfare of their subjects
Kangxi the Conqueror

• The Qing constructed a vast empire:

• Conquered the island of Taiwan.

• Brought Chinese influence into Central Asia including Mongolia and turned Tibet into a Chinese protectorate.

Qing Military Led by Kangxi Invade Taiwan
Kangxi’s grandson Qianlong continued expansion:

• Placed soldiers in Turkestan (present-day Xinjiang Province)

• Encouraged Chinese merchants to settle in Central Asia

• Made Vietnam, Burma and Nepal vassal states of the Qing
By the 19th Century the Qing Dynasty faced serious difficulties

Population Growth:

In spite of regular epidemics of the plague, which killed millions, China’s populations rose rapidly:

- In 1500 it was 100 million
- In 1600 it was 160 million
- In 1650 it fell to 140 million (because of war and rebellion)
- In 1700 it had returned to 160 million
- By 1750 it surged to 225 million (a 40% increase in 50 years)
Problems of Rapid Population Growth

Rapid demographic outpaced agricultural growth with resulting food shortages.

By the 19\textsuperscript{th} Century, income was declining as well.
Lack of Technological Innovation

Under the Song Chinese engineers produced a flood of extraordinary inventions.

Under the Ming and Qing, innovation slowed, and ideas were borrowed from the West instead.

EXAMPLE: imperial forces adopted European canons and firearms for their own use.
Governmental Fear of Change

- Emphasis on stability.
- Late Ming and Qing governments favored political and social stability over innovation.
- They feared would lead to unsettling change.
China Loses Technological Ground to Europe

• Abundance and ready (and cheap) availability of skilled workers also discouraged technological innovation.

• It was less expensive to hire more workers rather than make large investments in new technology.

• China lost technological ground to Europeans, who embarked on a round of innovations beginning in the mid-18th Century—the Industrial Revolution.
Opium

• Europeans paid for Chinese silk, porcelain, lacquerware and tea mainly with silver

• British merchants looked for alternatives to silver to exchange for Chinese goods

• They settled on a profitable but illegal drug called opium

• British grew opium in India and shipped it to China, where company officials exchanged it for Chinese silver coin

Chinese Opium Smokers
Opium trade expanded rapidly:

- In the early 19th C trade volume was 4,500 chests, each weighing 60 kgms (133 lbs)

- By 1839, 40,000 chests of opium were entering China per year, satisfying the habits of drug addicts
Impact of Opium Trade on China

Trade was illegal, but the Chinese made little effort to enforce the law (corrupt officials also benefited).

But by the late-1830s the Chinese government was recognized the social and economic results.

Opium trade was draining massive amounts of silver bullion from China.
Chinese Attempts to Halt the Trade

Government officials took steps to stop the trade in 1838. British merchants started losing money.

In 1839 Lin Zexu looked to destroy the opium trade.

Lin destroyed 20,000 chests of opium.

This led to a war that ended in a humiliating defeat for China.
The Opium War (1839-1842)

• British merchants pressed the British government for a military response

• The conflict known as the *Opium War* made it obvious that the British had global military power

• British naval gunboats demonstrated clear superiority
In May 1842, seventy British ships moved up the Yangtze River. The Chinese surrendered.
Unequal Treaties

China was forced to sign several unequal treaties.

• Hong Kong handed over to Britain

• Opened five ports to commerce and residence

• ‘Most favored nation’ status to Britain

• British residents not subject to Chinese law (extraterritoriality)

Treaty of Nanjing (1842)
Internal Strife and Rebellion

• Large-scale rebellions in the 19th C reflected increasing poverty and discontent

• Between 1800 and 1900 China’s population rose from 330 to 475 million, which strained China’s resources

• Best land in the hands of elite families, widespread corruption of government officials, and increasing drug addiction all led to widespread peasant discontent
Taiping Rebellion (1850-1864)

Hong Xiuquan called for the destruction of the Qing and radical change in China. AND:

- Abolition of private property
- Wealth to be shared
- Prohibition of footbinding and concubinage
- Free public education
- Simplification of the written language and literacy for the masses
- The establishment of democratic political institutions
- The building of an industrial society
- The equality of men and women
• With the aid of European military advisors, Qing armies defeated the Taipings.

• The rebellion cost 20-30 million lives and caused a massive decline in agricultural production.
Aggressive foreign powers and domestic rebellion forced Qing rulers to begin reforms.
Self-Strengthening Movement of the 1860s and 70s

Self-Strengthening Movement leaders tried to blend traditional Chinese culture with European industrial technology.

Old and New Qing Army 1860-1870
Failure of the Self-Strengthening Movement

The Movement brought only superficial change

• Limited industrialization
• Limited economic and military advances

Empress Dowager Cixi (1835-1908) – a former concubine who was the effective ruler of China during the last 50 years of the Qing – also diverted funds from the Movement (intended for the navy) to build a magnificent marble boat to grace the lake at the Summer Palace
Foreign powers maintained their hold on Chinese affairs, despite the Movement

By 1898, foreign powers had carved China itself into spheres of economic interest

- Germany in Shandong Province
- France in the southern border provinces
- Britain in the Yangtzi River valley
- Japan in the SE coastal provinces
- Russia in Manchuria
The Boxer Rebellion

A movement headed by groups who called the Society of Righteous and Harmonious Fists (called The Boxers by foreign newspapers).

In 1899 the movement looked to rid China of ‘foreign devils’, killing foreigners, Chinese Christians and any Chinese who had ties to foreigners.
140,000 Boxers besieged foreign embassies in Beijing in the summer of 1900.

A heavily armed force of British, French, Russian, US, German and Japanese troops quickly crushed the Boxer movement.

Chinese government had to pay a punitive indemnity and allow foreign troops to be permanently stationed in China.
US Marines fight the Boxers in the Siege of Beijing
Revolutionary movements soon gained support throughout the country.

Cixi died in November 1908, one day after the mysterious death of the emperor himself.

In her last act, Cixi appointed the two-year old Puyi to the imperial throne.

But revolution broke out in the fall of 1911, and by early 1912 the last Qing emperor had abdicated his throne at the age of six.
He was the Lord of Ten Thousand Years, the absolute monarch of China.

He was born to rule a world of ancient tradition.

Nothing prepared him for our world of change:

THE LAST EMPEROR

A True Story