Re-Re-Re-Reunification of China

1. China Dynasty Review
2. Yuan Dynasty (1279-1368)
   1. The Mongols under Genghis Khan took over the the Jin territory in northern China (they took over this territory from the Song)
   2. Under Kublai Khan (GK’s grandson), the Mongols took over the Song Dynasty and ruled China themselves
      1. Called this government the Yuan Dynasty
   3. Made an effort to remain apart from their new Chinese subjects
      1. Brought in foreign administrators and dismantled the Confucian education system
         1. Allowed Confucianism to simply fade away, didn’t persecute it
      2. Did not allow Chinese to learn Mongol language or intermarriage
      3. Just wanted to extract wealth from new Chinese subjects
   4. Allowed for religious tolerance, though
   5. Collapsed due to paper money without the appropriate backing of gold and Bubonic Plague (what happened in Europe also happened to China)
      1. After this, the Mongols retreated back to Central Asia and left China in chaos
3. Establishment of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)
   1. Founded by Hongwu - led the forces against the Mongols
   2. Hongwu built a very centralized state - different from the hands-off Mongols
      1. Extensive use of Mandarins (those that passed the Confucian civil service exam) and Eunuchs
         1. There were 9 ranks of Mandarins - Field Marshall of the Army all the way to provincial tax collector
         2. Eunuchs were trusted because they could not have families and create an alternative base of power (much the same way the absolute monarchs took away the power of nobles in Europe)
   3. Highlights of the Ming Dynasty
      1. The (Actual) Great Wall - Chinese built a lot of walls, but this is the one that we know of as the Great Wall
         1. Designed to keep nomadic raiders out, root out Mongol stuff and reassert Chinese traditions (Confucianism, dress, civil service)
      2. Naval Expeditions led by Zheng He (1403-1423)
         1. Meant to reassert Chinese economic dominance throughout IO
         2. Sent giant treasure ships, each several times larger than Columbus’ ships, around to various ports in the region to trade and extract Kowtows from local leaders again
         3. Sent by Ming Emperor Yong Le and the voyages ended after Yong Le died - might have seen more Chinese influence in the region, but China turned towards inward at this point and spent money at home
            1. Also famous for the encyclopedia that bears his name
   4. Ming Decline
      1. A series of problems starting in the 16th century began the process of Ming Decline
         1. Extremely dangerous pirates and smugglers began disrupting trade and local politics along the coast - the government was ineffective in getting this in check - called Japanese, although they were Chinese
      2. Ineffective leaders that never left their palace, called the Forbidden City
         1. Began ruling through the Eunuchs, who handled the actual business of government, while the Emperor lived a life of luxury away from the people
         2. Eunuchs became corrupt and inefficient
      3. Famines in the early 17th century was the last straw - riots over lack of food and opportunistic invaders toppled the Ming Dynasty
   5. Ming Collapse
      1. Manchu people were one of the groups that invaded China during the chaos the famines brought.
      2. They allied with a Ming army to rid the capital of rebel groups and once they were successful, they never left the capital and took over - beginning of final Chinese dynasty Qing
   6. Qing Dynasty (1644-1911)
      1. Qing came to power for two reasons
         1. Military strength
         2. Ming officials supported them
            1. Ming military hated the ineffective Ming leadership
            2. Mandarins hated their rivals, the eunuchs - favored by the Ming emperors
      2. Manchurians were careful to remain separate from the Chinese people, but not the same way as the Mongols
         1. No intermarriage, no learning Manchurian language, no travel to Manchuria and men had to grow the queue
      3. Two important Qing Emperors (1661-1722) (1736-1795)
         1. Kongxi and Qianlong - both Confucian scholars, that wrote poetry and patronized artists
            1. Focused on the well-being of their subjects and ruled over a very prosperous China
            2. Also oversaw military conquest - took over large pieces of Central Asia (like the Han did to the Xiongnu) and reasserted Chinese dominance over Vietnam, Burma and Nepal - Tibet, too
         2. Towards the end of Qianlong’s reign, he began delegating his government duties to his eunuchs (like the Ming did) and his successors did the same
      4. Chinese Imperial Life
         1. Emperor did not leave Forbidden City - attended to by concubines, eunuchs and bureaucrats
            1. Designed to express awesome authority (like Versailles)
         2. Mandarins ran the day-to-day governance (Scholar-bureaucrats)
            1. Had to pass rigorous examination
            2. Open to all males, but the rich had an advantage because they could afford schools and tutors
            3. Created a class of bureaucrats, but also a class of Confucians and Neo-Confucians.
4. Ming and Qing Society and Economy
   1. Both dynasties were more interested in the stability that tradition offered - filial piety, patriarchy, etc
      1. The new ideas and crops from elsewhere undermined this stability
      2. Chinese leaders refused to innovate while the rest of the world was changing
   2. Traditional ideas
      1. Filial piety - the idea that one should obey and support one’s elders or superiors
      2. Manifested in the clan - patrilineal descent groups (large extended families)
         1. This maintained local order and economies
         2. Also sponsored the poor members to take civil service exam
            1. This ensured prestige for the clan
            2. Spread Confucian values across economic groups and generations
      3. Patriarchy
         1. Female infanticide increased, widows were encouraged to commit suicide
         2. Footbinding increased
         3. Marriage to produce male children
            1. No divorce, but men could “put aside” their wives when there were no children or when the wife was disobedient
   3. New ideas
      1. New food crops from Americas (corn, potatoes, sweet potatoes) could grow in soil the Chinese were not able to cultivate
         1. Population growth
      2. Rapid population growth occurred despite epidemic disease - population outpaced food production
         1. Per capita income dropped
         2. Made it more cost effective to hire more cheap labor than it was to invest in technology or innovation
            1. Government wanted stability over change, which leaders believed led to instability
         3. Spanish silver (though the purchase of Chinese manufactured goods) kept money flowing in without having to innovate
            1. Lost ground to Europe which was innovating like crazy
      3. Ming Emperors after Yong Le actively discouraged foreign trade
         1. The pirates they fought were trying to trade with other countries
            1. Led to evacuations of entire provinces in the battles with these pirates
         2. Qing Emperors reverse the strictest measures, but only allowed the Portuguese to trade in Macao and the British in Guangzhou (Canton)
   4. Ming and Qing Social Hierarchy
      1. Nobility (Gentry) and Mandarins at top - intermediaries between Emperor and society
         1. Gentry owned land and made money off of it
         2. Mandarins were wealthy due to their government service
         3. Tended to legal, political and economic affairs and were heads of clans
      2. Working classes
         1. Peasants - highest below gentry - believed to do noble work
         2. Other workers, not seen as highly as peasants but made good money and had a good spot in society
            1. Tailors, barbers, doctors, manufacturers
      3. Merchants near bottom
         1. Unsavory work, but they made a lot of money (similar to role in India; upsetting traditional social hierarchy)
         2. Could afford to hire tutors for their children, who often became Mandarins
         3. Much different from merchant’s position in Europe; had close relationships with governments, especially in constitutional monarchies
      4. Mean people and military at bottom
         1. Soldiers were not liked in Confucian society, seen as a necessary evil and only the desperate joined
            1. Led by Mandarins, not military leaders
         2. Below the military were the mean people - the fringes of society
            1. slaves, servants, entertainers, beggars, prostitutes
5. Ming and Qing popular culture
   1. Official culture (religion) was neo-Confucianism - combination of Buddhism and Confucianism
      1. Government promoted this through education exam, among other ways
   2. Alternatives arose, as people did not want to unwind with Confucius after a long day of Confucius
      1. Popular culture and novels - some of which had no cultural or literary value
         1. War, horror, sex, excitement
      2. Others might ask questions about contemporary life that Confucian texts didn’t or wouldn’t discuss
         1. Dream of the Red Chamber - love between two young people that families wouldn’t allow
         2. Journey to the West - actual travels of a monk made more interesting with magic
   3. Christianity was interesting to many Chinese, because of the technological innovations the missionaries brought with them from Europe
      1. Squabbles between Franciscans/Dominicans and the Jesuits
      2. Jesuits were popular and held positions within the Emperor’s inner circle
      3. F/D were jealous and tattled to the pope that the J were not following Catholic rituals exactly
         1. Pope went on to tell all missionaries to follow teachings exactly and not tolerate Chinese language services or ancestor veneration
      4. In response, Emperor Kong Xi banned all missionaries
      5. This brought a detailed description of Chinese government and society back to Europe
6. Unification of Japan
   1. Prior to this period, Japan was feudal and unstable
   2. Run by shoguns - military leaders, a stand-in for the Emperor of Japan - and their retainers (knights) called samurai
      1. In fact, the Emperor was a figurehead and all power was held by this military leader
      2. Starting in the 14th century, Japan saw constant conflict between the Shoguns and their knights - this period called sengoku - the country at war
   3. One of the last shoguns, Tokugawa Ieyasu, managed to unify all the other shoguns under his rule and “temporarily” replace the Emperor’s rule
      1. Called a “bakufu” or tent government, because it was temporary
      2. Lasted from 1600 to 1867 - that’s one sturdy tent!
   4. Aimed to control the daimyo, or feudal lords
      1. Did this through a process we’ve seen before - forcing the daimyo and their families to move to Edo (Japan’s capital)
         1. Spend money on residences there instead of on military might
      2. Prevented daimyo to visit each other, form marriage alliances without approval or interact with foreigners
         1. Again, the purpose of these policies was to maintain stability - contact with Europeans could create alliances which could upset the balance the Bakufu provided
         2. Very carefully controlled European contact - only with the Dutch
            1. European technology or information called Dutch Learning
            2. Rejected Christianity because it could be a bridge between Europeans and Japanese - ordered missionaries out and executed those that did not
            3. This violent rejection of Christianity effectively killed the religion in Japan
      3. Once Japan was stable, the government pushed daimyos and samurai to become bureaucrats
   5. Japan was land poor, but an increasing population caused actions directed at population control - late marriage, contraception, abortion
      1. Infanticide most common - “thinning out the rice shoots”
   6. Native learning - opposition to Confucianism and promotion of Japanese thought
      1. Xenophobic rejection of Confucianism, Buddhism or anything not Japanese
   7. Urban culture focused on Floating Worlds - a place for people to unwind from strict official culture - similar to popular culture in China