

Ming/Qing China Factors to Consider

Student Name _____ Date _____

- 1) 16th century Ming China saw a dramatic increase in commercialization and urbanization with the growth of major industrial cities. Jingdezhen, for example, became a center for porcelain production and had a population of about one million people. Huangchow also had a population near one million and led China in silk production.
- 2) During the late Ming Dynasty, inflation led to the devaluation of paper and copper money and the reliance on European silver. Ming leaders began to collect taxes in silver.
- 3) Qing leaders were wary about contact with foreigners and preferred to deal with tribute states such as Korea, Vietnam, Burma, and Nepal, but also recognized the need for foreign trade to grow the economy. Chinese leaders demanded strict control of any foreign trade.
- 4) The urban, commercialized cities in China contrasted with the poor countryside facing epidemics and famine.
- 5) A poor peasant population, high taxes, and autocratic rule that included the use of secret police led to peasant revolts in the late Ming Dynasty. This combined with consistent attacks from the frontier meant that the Ming eventually lost the Mandate of Heaven.
- 6) Manchu raiders from north of China established the Qing Dynasty in 1645. China faced civil war over a 20-year period as the Qing consolidates power. After consolidating power, leaders of the Qing Empire needed to rebuild the economy of China.
- 7) There was high demand for Chinese goods, particularly porcelain, the designs of which the Chinese began to adapt to reflect European styles, and their use on silk cloth.
- 8) There was little formal diplomatic relationship between China and European states until the late 17th century.
- 9) Qing leaders maintained a friendly relationship with Jesuit missionaries, such as Mateo Ricci, taking and adapting European technological innovations. They also used Jesuits as translators during interactions with European and Russian diplomats.