

Chapter 26: Tradition and Change in East Asia Reading Questions

The Ming Dynasty – p. 572

1. What did the Chinese mandarins do?
2. The Ming attempted to rebuild Chinese traditions and abandon those introduced by the Mongols. What actions did the Ming take to restore China? (name at least 4 things)
3. In the 1500s, Chinese pirates operated on the coast almost at will (meaning that there was no one to stop them). What was going on in the Ming government that allowed them to do so?
4. The Ming fell for what two reasons?

The Qing Dynasty – p. 574

5. The Manchus could not have seized power from the Ming without the support of many Chinese people. Why did both the generals and the scholar-bureaucrats help the Manchus against the Ming?
6. What steps did the Manchus take to prevent intermixing with the Chinese?
7. Look at the map on p. 575. What regions did the Qing conquer?

The Son of Heaven and the Scholar-Bureaucrats – p. 576

8. From whom did the Qing adopt their system of centralized government?
9. They called the Ming or Qing emperor “The Son of Heaven.” What did this mean?
10. Describe the life of the emperor of China.
11. What was required in order to become a bureaucrat in the Chinese government?

Economic and Social Changes – p. 578

12. How did the Confucian concept of filial piety help maintain order in the empire, not just within the family?
13. Who led the family? When this leader died, who took over responsibility?
14. How could a poor person pay for schooling?
15. Why did Chinese people prefer having male children?

Population Growth and Economic Development – p. 579

16. What led to rapid demographic growth in China?
17. After Emperor Yongle sent Zheng He, what approach did the Chinese government take toward foreign trade?
18. Bentley and Ziegler give two reasons for the slower rate of Chinese innovation. What are those reasons?

Gentry, Commoners, Soldiers, and Mean People – p. 582

19. List the social classes in rank from highest ranking to lowest. (Hint: the classes are soldiers, gentry, emperor (& his family), “mean people,” merchants, scholar-bureaucrats, artisans/workers, and peasants.)

The Confucian Tradition and New Cultural Influences – p. 583

20. What steps did the Ming and Qing courts take to support Chinese cultural traditions?
21. The average Ming or Qing individual knew little about Confucius – nor did they care. What did they read instead?

The Return of Christianity to China – p. 584

22. The greatest Christian missionary in China was the Jesuit Matteo Ricci (1552-1610). What did he do to open the doors of China to the Jesuits?
23. Confucianism was the largest force in China. How did the Christian missionaries attempt to get the Confucius-loving Chinese to embrace Christianity?
24. In spite of all of the efforts the Jesuits made in China, they were largely unsuccessful. Why?
25. What led to an end of Jesuit preaching in China?

The Unification of Japan – p. 585

26. The sixteenth century (1500s) is known as sengoku (“the country at war”) in Japan. Why?
27. The Tokugawa period established bakufu. What does that mean, and why is it called that?
28. What was the principle goal of the Tokugawa dynasty?
29. How much control did the daimyo have within their own territories?
30. How did the Tokugawa reign in the daimyo? (list at least three)
31. How did the Tokugawa government feel about foreign trade and relationships?

Economic and Social Change – p. 587

32. Every other population on earth was increasing in this period, but Japan lacked the land area to support a larger population. What was the *primary* method used to prevent population growth?
33. The Tokugawa were relatively peaceful. What did they do with all of the samurai warriors already in existence?

Neo-Confucianism and Floating Worlds – p. 588

34. Much of Japan’s intellectual and spiritual background came from Chinese sources – a background that scholars of “native learning” despised. How did these scholars view the Japanese?
35. The centers of popular culture were quarters of the city with entertainment venues galore. What were these pop culture centers called (give the name in English)?
36. What was kabuki theater?

Christianity and Dutch Learning – p. 590

37. Why did Japan attempt to limit Christian influences?
38. How did the Japanese authorities attempt to stop Christian missionaries?
39. Some Japanese scholars learned Dutch in order to take advantage of European learning. What European knowledge was popular in Japan?