

The (Manchu) Qing Dynasty

*Notes taken from Jerry H. Bentley and Herbert F. Ziegler's *Traditions & Encounters: A Global Perspective on the Past* (Toronto: McGraw Hill, 2006)



The Qing Empire, 1644-1911

- Founded by the Manchus, the Qing (sounds like *Ching*) Dynasty ruled China from 1644 until the early 20th century.
- By 1680 the Manchus had put down any meaningful resistance and consolidated their power in mainland China.

- The Manchus were careful to preserve their own ethnic and cultural identity. They outlawed intermarriage with the Chinese, and forbade them from travelling to Manchuria or even learning that Manchurian language.
- Qing authorities forced Chinese men to shave the front of their heads and grow a Manchu-style queue as a sign of submission.
- Strong imperial leadership marked the 17th and 18th centuries – the emperors were heavily involved in the running of their empires as human beings designated by heavenly powers to maintain order on the earth.
- Power of the emperor peaked under Qianlong (pronounced *chee · an · laang*) – the emperor even cancelled tax collection four times because the treasury was so full! Emperor Qianlong was a sophisticated and learned man – he is credited with composing one hundred thousand poems.
 - However, toward the end of his reign Qianlong paid less attention to imperial affairs and delegated many responsibilities to his favourite eunuchs. His successors continued this practice, devoting themselves to earthly pleasures rather than government, and by the 19th century the Qing dynasty faced real problems.

Manchu-style Queue



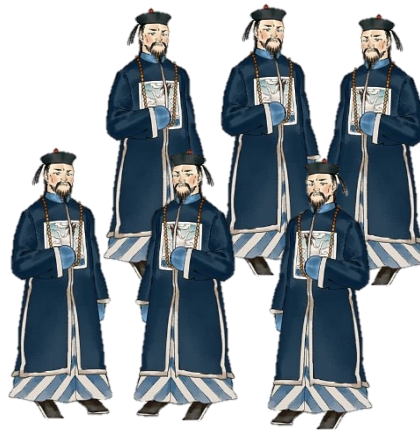
Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795)

Eunuchs



Son of Heaven

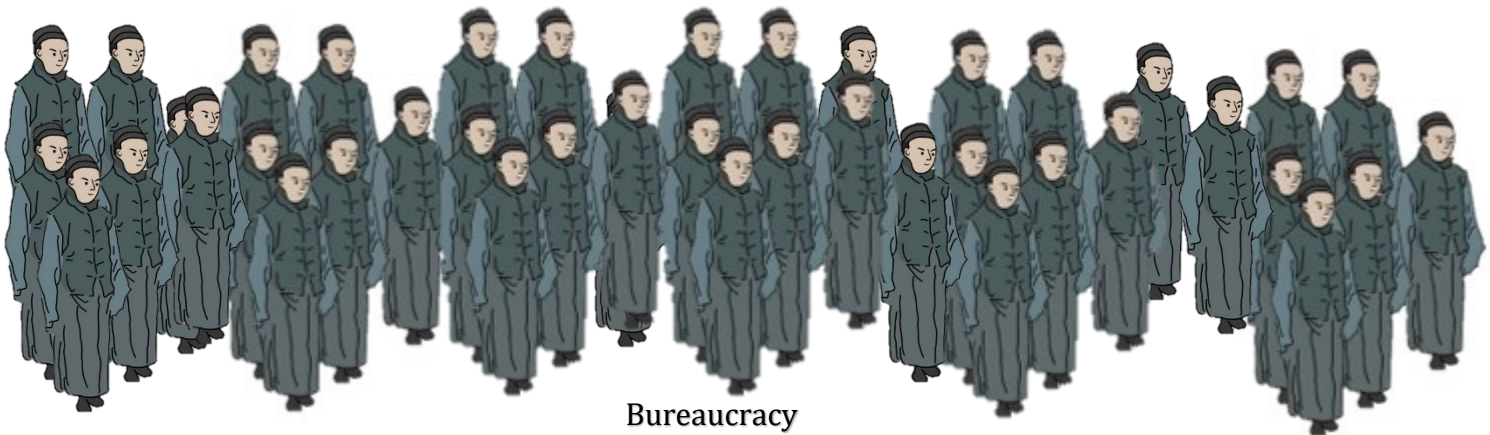
Please keep in mind
that the Imperial Court
was MUCH more
complex than depicted
here.



Grand Council



Various Officials



Bureaucracy