

AP WORLD HISTORY

WORLD HISTORY TIME LINES OF SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE & EVENTS

CHINA: MING DYNASTY TO MAO ZEDONG

Year(s)	Event/Person	Significance
1368-1644	Ming Dynasty in China (370)	China recovered from Mongol rule, largely promoting Confucian learning, reestablishing the examination system, creating a centralized government, repairing and renovating cities, recovering the economy, and undertaking huge maritime expeditions.
1405-1433	Zheng He's expeditions to the Indian Ocean (371)	These expeditions sought to enroll distant peoples and states in the Chinese tribute system, bringing many foreign rulers to China to pay tribute, and establishing Chinese power and prestige throughout the Indian Ocean, controlling trade without conquering new territories
1550-1800	Chinese encounter with Jesuit Christianity (470)	No mass conversion occurred, but officials and scholar did convert because of the attractive lives of the missionaries and their interest in Western science. The Jesuit scholars introduced many Western scientific concepts to China. In the end, the Jesuits were discredited and Christianity failed to really take hold in China.
1570s	China makes silver its new currency (443)	The sudden demand for silver caused its value to greatly increase, and ultimately allowed Europeans and others who, until now, could not trade with the Chinese to enter this wealthy market.
~1600~1700	Kaozheng movement (475)	Meaning "research based on evidence", kaozheng emphasized the importance of verification, precision, accuracy, and analysis. This generated agricultural, medicinal, botanical, and many other advances, although it was mostly applied to an examination of historical events than to the study of

1644-1912		the natural world.
	Qing (Manchu) dynasty in China (422)	The Qing dynasty was foreign in origin and created a sharp cultural distinction due to the ruler's desire to stay separate. During this dynasty, China expanded to about the size that it is today, establishing a new Court of Colonial Affairs to deal with these new territories, while not assimilating these new people into Chinese culture. This dynasty added a small but important non-Chinese minority, and also transformed Central Asia, ultimately resulting in the impoverished regions there today. Land commerce was replaced with oceanic commerce. This dynasty also marked the end of nomadic powers.
1685-1853	Massive population growth due to American food crops and robust economy (565)	The lack of increase in magistrate staff members meant that China became increasingly unable to successfully manage its peoples and collect taxes, losing power to local gentry and provincial officials.
1689	Treaty of Nerchinsk between Russia and China (423)	As China expanded, viewing this as a defensive necessity, the threat of the also expanding Russian empire created the need for a treaty to secure the boundary between the two empires. That's what this treaty did.
1773-1832	Massive increase in opium imports (567)	The illegal importation of opium flouted Chinese law, and the bribes required to sneak the drug past officials caused internal corruption. The drug was paid for in silver, causing a reversal in the flow of silver from China, weakening the economy. Finally, millions of citizens became highly addicted to the drug.
1836	China outlaws opium (568)	The British were offended by this, and started the first Opium war.
1839	First Opium War (568)	Not really much to say about this. The British were bold because of their new military power.

1842	Treaty of Nanjing ends first Opium war (568)	Imposing numerous restrictions on the Chinese, this treaty gave the British \$21 million dollars, ceded the island of Hong Kong to England, opened five ports to British trade, fixed tariffs at 5%, and granted foreigners the ability to live in China under their own laws.
1850-1864	Taiping Uprising (565)	Calling for revolutionary change in the form of abolition of private property, redistribution of land, gender equality, and the reorganization of society into sexually segregated military camps, the Taiping Uprising sought to transform Chinese society. In the end, provincial landowners crushed the rebel forces with their own armies and the support of Western nations. The Qing dynasty was weakened as a result, and the Uprising postponed resolutions to China's peasant problems, delayed change for Chinese women, and stopped any real efforts at modernization, and weakened the Chinese economy.
1856-1858	Second Opium War (568)	The loss in the second Opium War resulted in the vandalization of the emperor's summer palace, opened more trading ports, allowed foreigners to buy land in China, opened the country to Christian missionaries, and permitted Western powers to patrol some of China's interior waterways.
1860s-1870s	"self-strengthening" movement to try to rejuvenate a sagging dynasty (570)	China established modern arsenals and shipyards, advanced some educational measures, and established modest industrial facilities like textile and steel factories. Fears of conservative leaders, however, inhibited the success of this movement because they feared that industrialization would erode the power of the landlord class. Therefore, the self-strengthening movement was a general failure.
1885, 1895	China loses Korea, Vietnam, and Taiwan	These defeats and others resulted in many Western nations carving out

	to the French and Japanese (568)	spheres of influence in China, allowing them to install military bases and extract resources. This encounter reduced the Middle Kingdom to dependency on Western powers.
1900	Boxer Rebellion (570)	This rebellion was an anti-foreigner movement in which many Europeans and Chinese Christians were killed. Western powers came to the aid of China but imposed a huge fine as punishment.
1911	Collapse of the Qing dynasty (571)	Opened up rule to revolutionaries, led to the Guomindang party governing China for 20 years.
1921-1949	Growth and triumph of communism in China (665)	Using a decisive opening created by Japan's invasion of China, the CCP reduced rents, taxes, and interest payments, taught literacy, and mobilized women. The CCP addressed both the problems of foreign imperialism and peasant exploitation.
1928-1948	Guomindang party governs China (666)	A measure of modern development, only really impacting urban areas.
1950	Marriage Law gives new rights to women (669)	Gave women free choice in marriage, easy divorce, end of concubinage and child marriage, permission for widows to remarry, and equal property rights.
1950's and 1960's	Disputes over cold war decisions with Russia	China bitterly criticized Khrushchev for backing down in the Cuban missile crisis, and the USSR ended up not providing China with an atomic bomb and withdrew all Soviets from China.
1958-1960	Great Leap Forward movement (671)	Pushed large numbers of rural Chinese into "people's communes" in an effort to mobilize China's enormous population for rapid development. Bad management and weather combined to kill 20 million people.
1966-1969	The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (673)	An attempt to combat capitalism, it involved new policies to bring health care and education to the countryside, and to reinvigorate efforts at industrialization. There was no large - scale success.
1976	Death of Mao Zedong marks the	The CCP gradually abandoned Maoist socialism, while retaining control of the

	decline of Communism (681)	country. Arts were legalized again, political prisoners were released, many economic reforms were enacted, and the results were stunning economic growth and new prosperity for millions.
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