Essential Question:
– How was China affected by global changes during the Qing Dynasty?
A Review of Chinese History

From ancient times to 1900, China was the most dominant & influential society in Asia.

— Chinese culture spread to surrounding neighbors, including Korea & Japan.
— China was one of the most innovative cultures in world history by developing technologies such as, compass, printing, silk, paper, & gunpowder.
— Chinese civilization is unique in world history because of its continuity over 4,000 years of history.
Quick Class Discussion:
What elements of Chinese culture remained constant over the course of Chinese history (from 3000 B.C. to 1900 A.D.)?
Core Ideas Across Chinese History

China was isolated from outsiders by deserts & the Himalayan Mountains

This isolation led the Chinese to refer to themselves as the “Middle Kingdom”, thought of outsiders as barbarians, & rarely traded with foreign merchants.
China was ruled by emperors who claimed the Mandate of Heaven (approval of the gods).
Core Ideas Across Chinese History

Dynasties could be overthrown if they lost the mandate of heaven, called the dynastic cycle.
Since the Classical Era of the Han Dynasty, Chinese government was run effectively by educated bureaucrats because of the examination system.
China was influenced by the ethical system of Confucianism.
Buddhism was introduced & spread through China during the Han Dynasty.
Chinese luxury goods spread through Asia & Europe across the Silk Road

China was a reluctant trade nation, but it was the trend setter as other Asian nations adopted Chinese writing, gov’t, & artistic styles.
Eras in Chinese history are named after the dynasties that were in power; Each of these dynasties added unique contributions in Chinese history.
China began along the unpredictable Yellow & Yangtze Rivers but only 10% of China is suitable for farming.
China’s first emperor (Qin Shi Huang-di) came to power, gave “China” its name, & built the Great Wall to protect from northern invasions.
Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-220 A.D.)

- China became an empire for the first time & entered the Classical Era during the Han Dynasty.
- Chinese artisans mastered silk & paper making.
- The Silk Road began.
- Buddhism was first introduced & began to spread.
- The Confucian Examination System began.
- The Han dynasty controlled a larger Chinese empire and opened China to trade with foreigners. Compare the sizes of the Qin and Han territories.
China experienced a “golden age” was the most powerful & advanced country in the world during the Tang & Song Dynasties of the post-classical era.

For the first time, foreign trade was encouraged.
A series of advanced inventions were developed, like gunpowder, compass, printing press, vaccines
In 1279, Genghis’ grandson Kublai Khan became the first foreign leader to rule China; The Mongols created the Yuan Dynasty.

During the Pax Mongolica, the Silk Road was protected & trade with China increased.

Marco Polo’s visit during the Yuan Dynasty increased European demand for Chinese goods.
Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)
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In 1644, northern invaders from Manchuria conquered China & created the second foreign dynasty in Chinese history, the Qing Dynasty. During this era of Manchu rule, China grew to its largest size by claiming Taiwan, central Asia, Mongolia, & Tibet.
Like the era of Mongol rule, Chinese rejected & led rebellions against their Manchu rulers. But, Emperor Kangxi earned Chinese respect by keeping Confucian beliefs, lowering taxes, & restoring peace and prosperity to China.
Kangxi was the first emperor to tour China & visit peasant villages.

Kangxi & later Manchu rulers returned China to isolationism by restoring strict adherence to the “Middle Kingdom”
But, Qing China faced 2 important challenges that would threaten China’s future strength.

The introduction of new American crops like corn & sweet potatoes led to a dramatic increase in the Chinese population.

The sharp rise in the number of Chinese peasants would lead to competition for land & peasant uprisings.
But, Qing China faced 2 important challenges that would threaten China’s future strength.

European missionaries & merchants arrived in Asia eager to gain access into China.
Europeans arrived with superior military technology, demanded that China trade with them, & refused to accept Chinese customs