<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ming and Qing Dynasties</th>
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<td><strong>Ming Dynasty (1368–1644)</strong></td>
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| **Origin** | • Founded by Zhu Yuanzhang in 1368.  
• Chinese. |
| | • Established in 1636 by Manchus from Manchuria.  
• Manchus overtook the capital of Beijing in 1644 and replaced the Ming dynasty. |
| **Government** | • Used a centralized bureaucracy employing officials chosen by civil service examinations.  
• Constantly fought off invasions by the Mongols and Japanese raiders on the coastal cities. |
| | • Retained the Ming style of government and employed Chinese officials, but placed Manchus in half of the top positions.  
• Adopted a policy of pacification toward the Mongols. |
| **Accomplishments** | • Developed a nationwide school system.  
• Increased its manufactured goods.  
• Renovated the Grand Canal.  
• Extended the Great Wall.  
• Built the Forbidden City (the imperial palace Complex). |
| | • Increased territory to three times that of Ming China.  
• Traded with Russia.  
• Developed the Peking opera.  
• Saw the flourishing of vernacular novels of adventure and romance. |
| **Decline** | • High taxes, corruption within the government, and an epidemic led to a peasant revolt.  
• Manchus conquered Beijing and replaced the Ming dynasty with the Qing dynasty in 1644. |
| | • Corrupt officials and higher taxes led to rural unrest.  
• Population growth led to economic hardship and revolt.  
• Restrictive trade policies limited economic growth. |