

- Excused them from growing the queue
- Kept their own religious leaders
- Allowed them to follow their strict diets
- He took a woman to be his concubine, she kept to her strict religious practises and was given an honourable Muslim burial when she died

He met senior officials regularly in audience.

Read the documents submitted to him.

Travelled extensively to the Yangzi delta cities and in Manchuria.

Coordinate military campaigns

Issued numerous edicts on important policy matters.

However, he left a lot of the actual decision making to the grand councillors.

Previous two emperors had been very dynamic leaders, Qianlong allowed this to fade away as he was much more indifferent.

Failure to reform the tax system

Under Qianlong's rule the key elements of the tax system began to fade away.

Wealthy provinces that had surplus tax revenue were forced to hand it over to the poorer peasants. Restricting their ability to invest in local initiatives and causing the poor to lose incentive to reform their tax system and economic base.

Magistrates began to keep the tax collected to themselves, corruption began to creep back in.

The Ministry of Revenue slowly instituted a system by which every item of local expenditure had to be approved by members of its Peking staff before the money could be spent.

This led to an avalanche of paper work and an absurd system in which trivial matters were held up for years and important ones never got done at all.

One Ministry of Revenue document of this time from the capital province of Hebei shows that provincial officials had to clear such items as 43 taels to pay some guards on a bridge, 105 taels for sailors' wages, and 12 taels as pension allowance for two widows.

Safeguarding of culture and traditions

Filial piety

- Qianlong made a public show of this by his ritualized treatment of his mother the dowager empress. Pampering and flattering her to an enormous degree.
- Claiming filial loyalty to his insulted father, he reversed Yongzheng's edict of clemency and ordered the unfortunate Zeng Jing - that inept popularizer of Lu Liuliang's ideas back in 1728 - sliced to pieces in the market square of Peking.

Arts

- Expanded the imperial collection of paintings and calligraphy
- Employed Jesuit architects to build a European style summer palace outside of Peking for him.
- Order to compilation of important works: genealogies, histories, accounts of rituals - that would accurately preserve and enshrine the Manchu heritage
- Ordered a massive compilation to be made of the most famous literary and historical works of the past. Known as the *Four Treasuries* from its four main components of classics, histories, philosophy, and miscellaneous literary works,
- Comprising 3,450 complete works and commentaries on 6,750 others, filled 36,000 manuscript volumes and took ten years to complete. It is one of the great achievements of Chinese bibliography.

Internal Challenges

A series of misjudgements on the government's part coincided with domestic resentment to produce a tense situation overall.

Population Growth

- Huge population growth from 300 million in 1750 to 400 million in 1850.
- Many people were now, landless and unemployed.