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The two traditions I believe are the most encouraged by the Ming and Qing dynasties are sustaining the hierarchical and patriarchal social orders. The hierarchical traditions split the population into classes ranging from the noble class to the lower class. Patriarchal social orders determined that all families would follow the male line. Some of these traditions are still seen today. For example people are still separated into classes and females tend to take the male name upon marriage.

The people were split into three main classes, the privileged (noble) class, the working class, and the lower class. The noble class included the emperor (his family), gentry, bureaucrats, and scholars. (Bentley, Ziegler and Streets-Salter, Traditions, 437) The working class included workers, merchants and peasants. The lower class, also known as mean people included slaves, entertainers, prostitutes, and indentured servants. (Bentley, Ziegler and Streets-Salter, Traditions, 438)

As I mentioned above, the dynasties practiced a patriarchal social order. Men were preferred over women due to their ability to carry on the family line. Parents would often regard girls as a financial and social liability, and they were often killed as infants. (Bentley, Ziegler and Streets-Salter, Traditions, 434) If the woman was somehow widowed it was frowned upon for her to get remarried, and friends and family encouraged the wife to commit suicide to show loyalty. Some women would bind there feet with linen to prevent them from growing, and prevented them from supporting their own weight, in a process called foot binding. This process made women more appealing to men because they were seen as more feminine. Even lower class citizens would bind the feet of some young girls in an attempt to have them marry into a higher class. (Bentley, Ziegler and Streets-Salter, Traditions, 435)

The hierarchical and patriarchal social orders are the two traditions that were most encouraged by the Ming and Qing dynasties, and their influence is still seen today.

Works Cited

Jerry H Bentley, Herbert F. Ziegler, and Heather Streets-Salter, *Traditions & encounters: a brief global history, Third Edition* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2010)