

1. A scholar loyal to the Ming wrote in the beginning of the Qing:

“That no one can find peace and happiness anywhere is all on account of the prince. In order to get what he wants, he maims and slaughters all under heaven and breaks up their families. – for the aggrandizement of one man’s fortunes. Without the least feeling of pity, the prince says “I’m just establishing an estate for my descendants.” (A Plan for the Prince, ca. 1670)

To what events in the Ming dynasty might he be referring? Do you think his criticism is fair? Considering this passage, and the ones in the assigned reading, what changes does he want to make in Chinese government?

## ANSWERS

Adequate:

1. Sees the prince as responsible for violence and poverty in the state.
2. Emphasizes role of families (groups of descendants) in society .
3. Many late Ming intellectuals were alienated from the government, which was controlled by eunuchs, not scholars.

Better

1. Opposes hereditary monarchs, which had been the central political institution of the Ming (and previous dynasties).
2. May be suggesting that the Chinese state could do without a monarch.

Best:

1. Late Ming was a time when Chinese intellectuals were experimenting with all sorts of new ideas about society and politics.
2. The Qing put an end to such experimentation. They installed a monarch who was in some respects more powerful; than the Ming.