

**Compare and contrast the following historical case studies:**

**Footbinding in China**



Chinese footbinding of very young girls (between the ages of 3 and 8) was a common practice in China from the tenth century until the new Chinese republic banned it in 1912. Its purpose was to produce a tiny foot called the "golden lotus". This was three inches long (about 10 cms) and thought to be beautiful, dainty and elegant. The first two years of footbinding were extremely painful. By the time a girl turned three years old, all her toes except her big toe were broken and wrapped under or over her foot. Her feet were bound tightly with cloth strips to keep them from growing. The parents, usually the mother, decided whether or not to bind the feet of her daughter. The girl never had a choice in the decision.

**Cosmetic Foot Surgery and Jimmy Choo Shoes**

Women in 21<sup>st</sup> century Western societies are using cosmetic foot surgery to make their feet fit into the latest shoe designs by Jimmy Choo, Edmundo Castillo and Manola Blahnik. These shoes sometimes cost thousands of dollars. Advertisements for the shoes promise that they will make the wearer look more attractive and slimmer. Some women have paid \$2500 to have their toes shortened to fit into the points of Choo shoes. Others have paid to have collagen injected into the base of their feet, to provide cushioning. Risks associated with these surgical procedures include infection, nerve injury, pain and scarring.

