

Ming Dynasty

1368 - 1644

Europe in SE Asia

- Asia generally thought of Europe (or didn't think of it) as backwards, but Europe was beginning to be felt globally by the 17th and 18th centuries
- SE Asia most affected; Portuguese and Dutch both focused on region
- Europeans took over two governments in this region and set up regimes that favored mercantilism
 - Philippines: Manila became capital of Spanish commerce in Asia
 - Indonesia: Dutch set up trading center in Java
- China, Japan, and Korea much more resistant to Europeans



Dutch Map of Batvia, the trading capital of Java

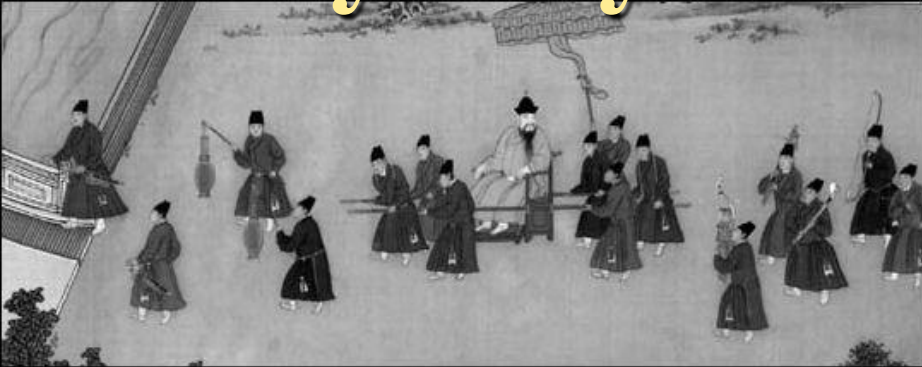
End of Yuan Dynasty (Mongols)

Swag.

- Rulers after Kublai Khan weak and plagued with corruption
 - Scholar-gentry began encouraging rebellion against “barbarian” oppressors”
 - Banditry widespread in countryside while piracy major problem on seas
 - China fell into chaos
- Power was grabbed by a peasant: Ju Yuanzhang who would begin Ming (“Brilliant”) Dynasty and change his name to Hongwu



Early Ming Dynasty



Eunuchs from the Ming Dynasty



Eunuchs from the Qing Dynasty

Overthrew Mongols in 1368

- Hongwu, first Ming emperor
 - Goal to remove all traces of Mongol rule
 - Established government based on traditional dynasties
 - Revived Confucian education and Civil Service Exams
 - Centralized government at new capital: Nanjing
- Ming rulers insisted on absolute obedience and were suspicious of non-Chinese
- Government used emissaries called Mandarins to make sure orders followed in outlying regions
- Relied on eunuchs for governmental service (did not have families to challenge rule)

What is a Eunuch?

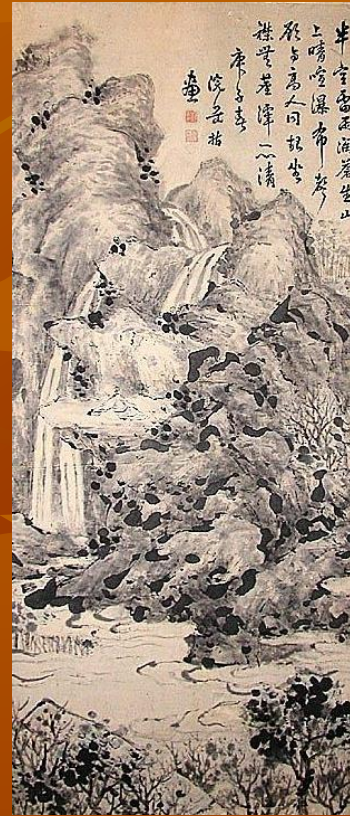
- Tradition of using eunuchs in the imperial court goes back at least 2,000 years
 - Began in the Han Dynasty (206 B.C.- A.D. 220), palace eunuchs often ran the day to day affairs of the court. They vied for power with military leaders and scholar-bureaucrats.
- Eunuch comes from the Greek word for bed watcher. Were used by the Chinese, Byzantines, Ottomans & other imperial states by monarchs as "keepers of the couch," or **guardians of the royal harem**.
- Chinese imperial eunuchs were nicknamed “bob-tailed dogs”.
 - During the Ming dynasty it was said that 20,000 of them were employed in the Forbidden City.
 - Imperial eunuchs survived until 1924 when the last 1,500 of them were banished from the Forbidden City, observed “carrying their belongings in sacks and crying piteously in high pitched voices.”
- Seen as greedy, corrupt & scheming. In Imperial life dramas - often cast as villains.
 - Made their contributions to Chinese culture. Eunuch Cai Lun is credited with inventing paper in A.D. 105. Court eunuchs in the Ming Dynasty were the first Chinese to play Western classical music. Eunuch Zheng He was China's greatest explorer. In the the Qing Dynasty, Emperor Qianlong assembled a chamber orchestra of eunuchs dressed in European suits and wigs.
- Many chose their way of life.
 - One eunuch told British author John Blofeld in *City of lingering Splendour*: “It seemed a little thing to give up one pleasure for so many. My parents were poor, yet suffering that small change, I could be sure of an easy life in surroundings of great beauty and magnificence, I could aspire to intimate companionship with lovely women unmarred by their fear or distrust of me. I could even hope for power and wealth of my own.

Women in Ming

- Highly patriarchal, emphasis on Confucianism increased control men had over women
 - Preference for sons (only they could take exams)
 - Widows encouraged to commit suicide
 - Footbinding popular
 - Could not divorce, but husband could put aside wife for disobedience or adultery



- Status of scholar-bureaucrats grew
 - Wore distinctive clothing and treated with deference by people
- Below gentry were peasants, artisans and merchants
 - Merchants still had lowest status
- Rich culture: philosophy, literature, history, calligraphy, painting, poetry
- Porcelain became major art form: wealthy Europeans desired it along with painted scrolls and screens

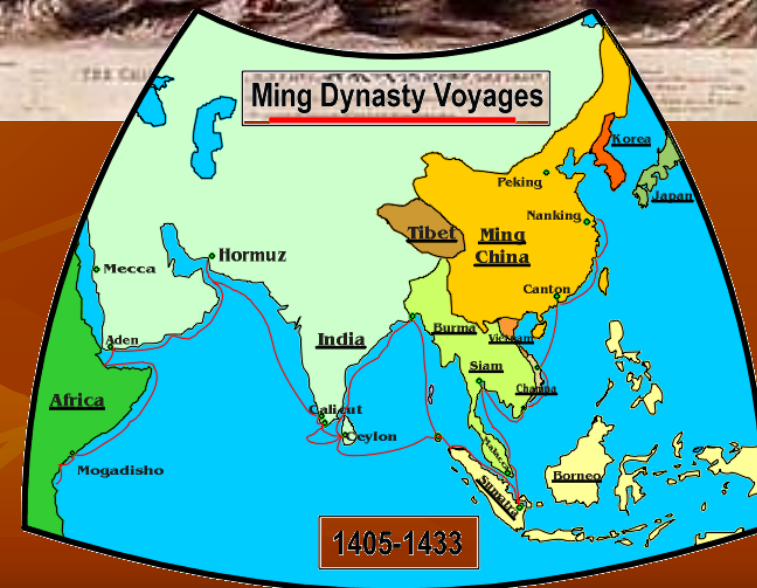


Society



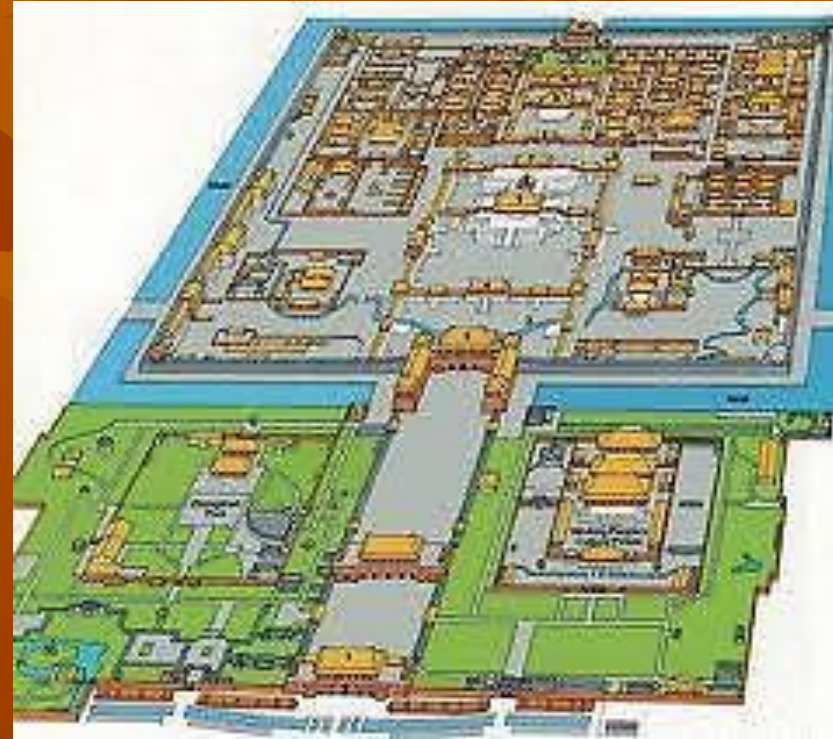
Ming Exploration and Trade

- 1st tried to spread power and authority by sailing throughout SE Asia and Indian Ocean
 - Zheng-he, Muslim Eunuch, admiral of the huge Ming Fleet
 - Eventually, scholar-gentry afraid of power of eunuchs, destroyed fleet and stressed traditional culture
- Believed China weakened by contact with others
 - Cautious of trade with outsiders
 - Believed that best to model itself on greatness of the past
 - Repaired irrigation systems, Great Wall, factories, internal trading connections
 - Promoted Chinese traditions: Confucianism and Neo-Confucianism



Later Ming: Politics

- Capital returned to Beijing and Forbidden City was built
 - Housed more than 20,000 people to serve emperor and family
- Bureaucracy revived, exams largely unchanged
- Large armies with good leaders and organization, but not as technologically advanced as those of the West



Map of Forbidden City

Later Ming: Economy



- Strong commercial activity, greater percentage of merchants than other regions even though merchants still low class
- Portuguese traded new world silver for luxury goods, but behavior offended Chinese: only allowed at one port: Macao
- Much urban growth
- Lagged in technology
 - Europeans adapting and improving technology
 - Chinese became more isolated and took little notice of technological advances outside of China

Later Ming: Trade

- Ethnocentric, did not need much from others
- High point in interaction between China and Japan
 - Shoguns emulated Chinese culture
 - Both countries plagued by pirates
- Trade limited with Europeans except for a few contacts with Dutch and Portuguese
- Did tolerate some Christian Missionaries



Ming sailors fighting pirates

Christian Missionaries



- Came to China before, but Plague & Yuan had disrupted
- During the Ming Dynasty, Jesuits came to China
 - Most famous Matteo Ricci
 - Italian - hoped to convert the emperor
 - Knew the Chinese had great respect for learning/refinement and studied Chinese culture, reading, and writing
 - Also knew the court was interested in European science, technology and mechanical inventions:
 - intrigued Chinese with bronze cannons, cuckoo clocks, and a giant clock that chimed the hours

More Jesuits

- Tried to convince emperor of similarities between Confucianism and Christianity
 - Held services in Chinese, allowed shrines to ancestors; had little success
 - Pope eventually alarmed at comparisons and ordered priests to follow accepted Christianity
 - Chinese ordered missionaries to quit preaching
 - Missionaries weakened, had neither papal or imperial support
- Effects
 - Opened China to European influence
 - Writings of the Jesuits stimulated an interest in China for Europe

Decline of Ming

We're
Back....again...



- Central Asian nomads began attacking borders (Again?!?)
- Series of weak emperors, corruption, court factions
- Peasant rebellions
- Northern Manchurians seized China from the north
 - Named their dynasty the Qing (“Pure”) Dynasty
 - Symbolic of throwing out bad rulers and returning to traditional Chinese culture
 - Problem: They were outsiders

Tokugawa Japan

1603-1867

Feudal Japan

- During the 12th -16th centuries, feudalistic hierarchies, emperor ruled in name only
 - Shogun, highest military official, held true power
 - Local control under territorial lords: Daimyo (dime·yow)
 - Each had own loyal samurai
 - Pledged allegiance to Shogun, but acted independently
- Late 16th century, civil war broke out among several daimyos and several warlords emerged
 - Most famous - **Toyotomi Hideyoshi** - broke power of warring daimyos and unified Japan in 1590
 - Wanted to rule China, Korea, and India
 - Began attacking Korea, but died before much progress
 - Unified Japan for the first time in history



Tokugawa Shogunate



- 1603-1867
- After Hideyoshi, daimyos met under leadership of Tokugawa Ieyasu
 - Established centralized government in 1603
 - Capital was at Edo
 - Government called Bakufu or “tent government”, implying that it was a holding place for the true emperor
- Daimyos still had much power
- Tokugawa Shoguns carried out policy: Daimyos had to go to Edo every other year (this meant the Shogun had direct control over 50% always)
 - Weakened daimyos by
 - Affecting wealth: they had to maintain two households
 - Absence from lands meant it was hard to establish a firm power base
- Daimyo needed permission to marry or build

Economics and Society

- Encouraged economic growth because less warring within Japan
- Increased agricultural production due to better irrigation, water control, and fertilizer
 - Rapid population growth
 - Curbed by birth control, late marriage, abortion, and infanticide
 - Needed because Japan had limited space



Edo During Tokugawa Period

Rise of Merchants



Japanese
Market
during the
Tokugawa
Shogunate

- Social hierarchy influenced by Confucianism
 - Ruling elites: shogun, daimyo, samurai
 - Middle class: peasants and artisans
 - Lower class: merchants
 - As trade flourished merchants began to be wealthier than upper classes
 - elite's finances based on agricultural production while the merchant's based on luxury goods
- During times of peace samurai left with little to do and became poorer
 - Forbidden from entering into any other profession, so many worked for merchants



Arts and Learning

- Culture shaped by Shintoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism
 - Elites influenced by Neo-Confucianism, many wrote in Chinese
 - Tokugawa Shogunate supported Neo-Confucianism
 - Some scholars emphasized Shinto because it was traditional, felt Neo-Confucianism diluted Japanese culture
- Japanese writing less characters than Chinese, so greater literacy
 - Did have moveable type, urban middle class became literate
- Poetry, novels, satires, Kabuki plays were most popular
- Urban teahouses, brothels, public baths popular because allowed people to escape from rigid decorum of society

Japan and the Europeans

Europeans at the port of Deshima



- Portuguese (mid-16th c.) first to Japan
 - Followed by traders and missionaries
 - Wanted pottery, lacquerware, and copper
 - Missionaries: goal of converting to Roman Catholicism
 - First tried to convert daimyos
 - Hideyoshi concerned (Converts refused to obey feudal lord's orders if they believed they conflicted with Christianity) and ordered missionaries to leave in the 1580s.
 - Tokugawa banned Christianity in 1614
 - Drove missionaries away, those who refused were killed
 - 300,000 Japanese Christians killed
- Tokugawa began restricting foreign trade
 - By 1640s only Dutch and Chinese ships allowed and only on island of Deshima