

Asian Gunpowder Empires Activity

Ming China—1368-1644

Mongols

- **Drove the Mongols out of China**

Neighbors

- **Conquered their neighbors**

Scholar-gentry

- **Scholar-gentry restored to power**
- **Civil Service Exams reinstated**

Confucianism

- **Confucianism increased**
- **Strick obedience to the state**

Construction

- **Built the Forbidden City (where the emperor lives with his wives and concubines)**

Ming Exploration

In 1405, before Europeans began to sail beyond their borders, China launched the first of seven voyages of exploration. They hoped they would impress the world with the power and splendor of Ming China as well as expand China's tribute system.

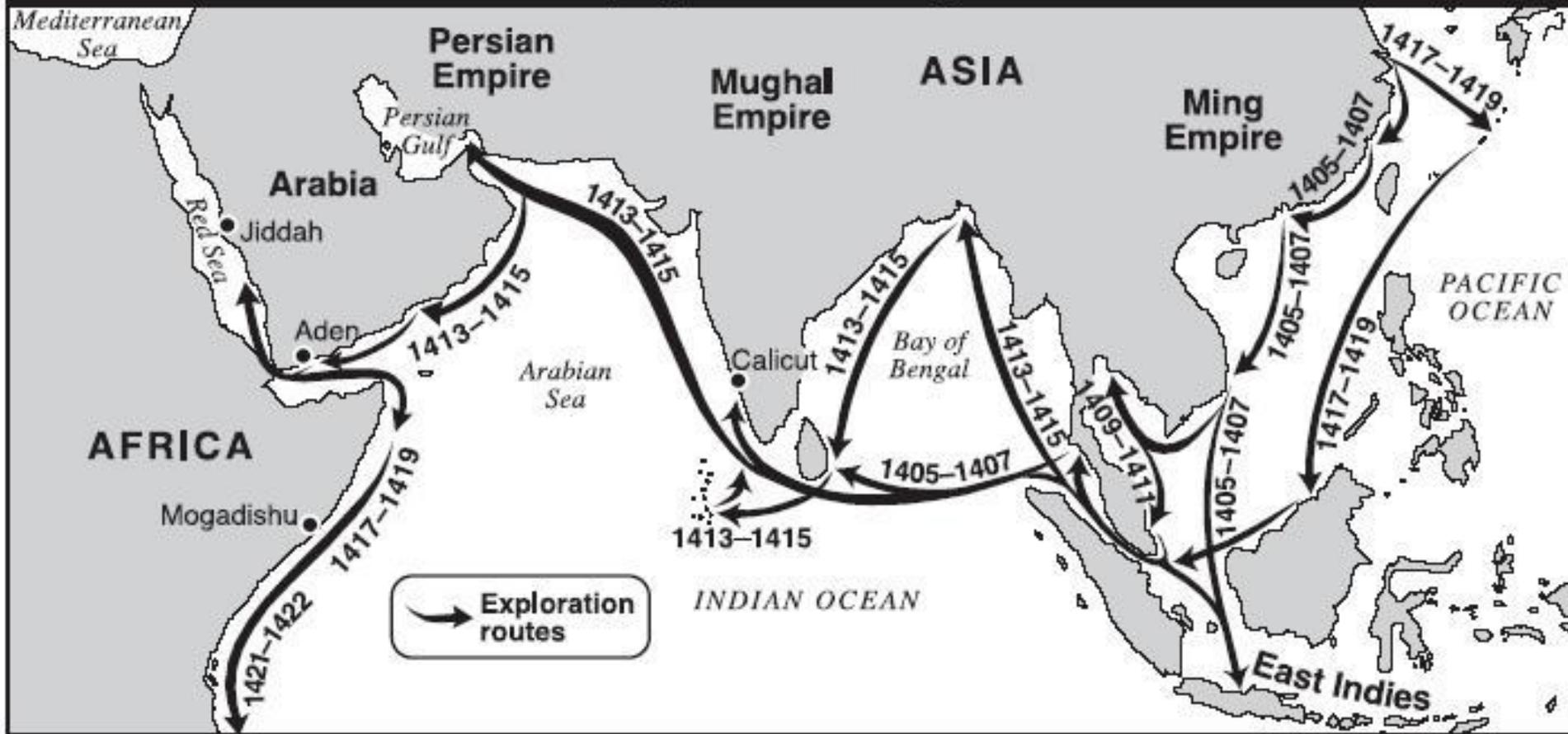
A Chinese Muslim admiral named **Zheng He** (jung huh) led all of the seven voyages. His expeditions were remarkable for their size. Everything about them was large—distances traveled, fleet size, and ship measurements. The voyages ranged from Southeast Asia to eastern Africa. From 40 to 300 ships sailed in each expedition. Among them were fighting ships, storage vessels, and huge “treasure” ships measuring more than 400 feet long. The fleet's crews numbered over 27,000 on some voyages. They included sailors, soldiers, carpenters, interpreters, accountants, doctors, and religious leaders. Like a huge floating city, the fleet sailed from port to port along the Indian Ocean.

Everywhere Zheng He went, he distributed gifts including silver and silk to show Chinese superiority. As a result, more than 16 countries sent tribute to the Ming court. Even so, Chinese scholar-officials complained that the voyages wasted valuable resources that could be used to defend against barbarians' attacks on the northern frontier. After the seventh voyage, in 1433, China withdrew into isolation.



Zheng He's Journeys

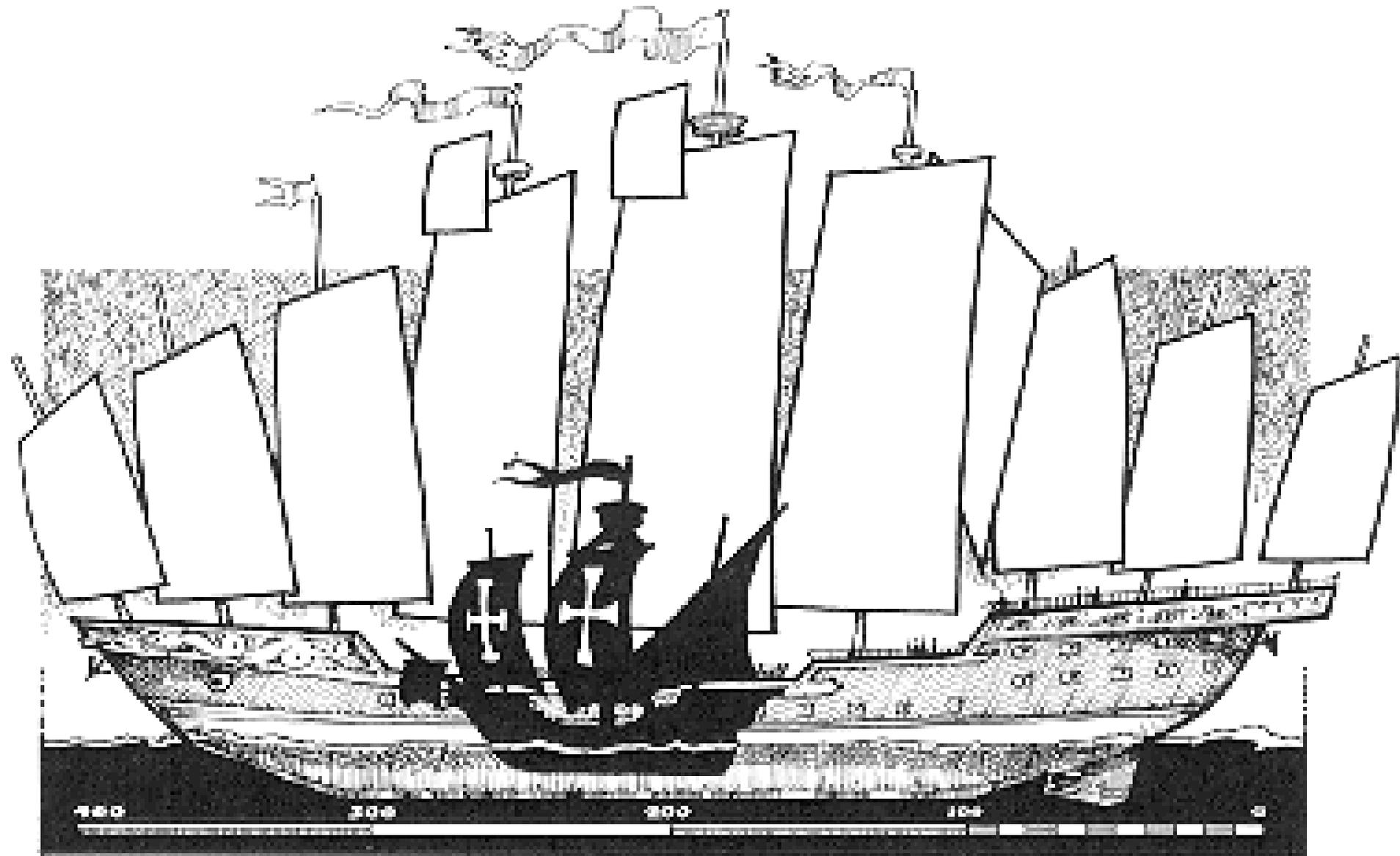
Voyages of Zheng He



Source: Elisabeth Gaynor Ellis and Anthony Esler, *World History, Connections to Today*, Prentice Hall (adapted)

Navigator	Number of Ships	Number of Crew
Zheng He (1405 - 1433)	48 to 317	28,000
Columbus (1492)	3	90
Da Gama (1498)	4	160
Magellan (1521)	5	265

Zheng He's ship—400 ft.
Columbus's ship—85 ft.

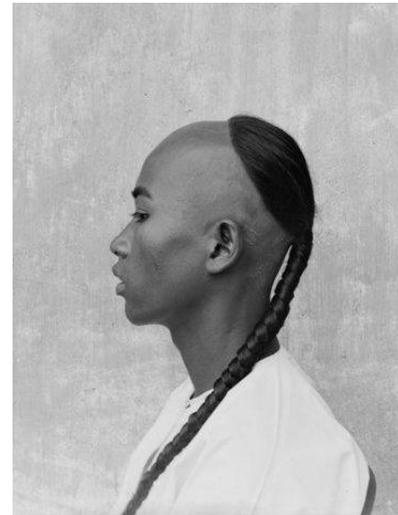


Qing Dynasty Begins

By 1600, the Ming had ruled for more than 200 years, and the dynasty was weakening. Its problems grew—ineffective rulers, corrupt officials, and a government that was out of money. Higher taxes and bad harvests pushed millions of peasants toward starvation. Civil strife and rebellion followed.

Northeast of the Great Wall lay Manchuria. In 1644, the Manchus (MAN•chooz), the people of that region, invaded China and the Ming Dynasty collapsed. The Manchus seized Beijing, and their leader became China's new emperor. As the Mongols had done in the 1300s, the Manchus took a Chinese name for their dynasty, the Qing (chihng) Dynasty. They would rule for more than 260 years and expand the empire's territory.

Many Chinese resisted rule by the non-Chinese Manchus. The Manchus, however, slowly earned the people's respect. They upheld China's traditional Confucian beliefs and social structures. They made the country's frontiers safe and restored China's prosperity. Yet they did force Chinese men to wear hair in a queue (see the image—a long braid that is never cut—a typical Manchu style).





s i b e r i a

MONGOLIA

MANCHURIA

KOREA

ZUNGHARIA
(military administration
1757)

Gobi Desert

EAST TURKESTAN
(military administration
1759)

TIBET

H i m a l a y a s

Jingshi (Beijing)

Tianjin

Jinan

Xi'an

Kaifeng

Nanjing

Yangzhou

Wuhan

Chengdu

Chongqing

Guanzhou

Guangzhou

Fuzhou

Qiongzhou (Hainan)

Luzon

ANNAM

South China Sea

Foreigners in China

To the Chinese, their country—called the Middle Kingdom—had been the cultural center of the universe for 2,000 years. If foreign states wished to trade with China, they would have to follow Chinese rules. These rules included trading only at TWO special ports and paying tribute.

The Dutch were masters of the Indian Ocean trade by the time of Emperor Qian-long. They accepted China's restrictions. Their diplomats paid tribute to the emperor through gifts and by performing the required "kowtow" ritual. This ritual involved kneeling in front of the emperor and touching one's head to the ground nine times. As a result, the Chinese accepted the Dutch as trading partners. The Dutch returned home with traditional porcelains and silk, as well as a new trade item, tea.

Great Britain also wanted to increase trade with China. But the British did not like China's trade restrictions. In 1793, Lord Macartney delivered a letter from King George III to Qian-long. It asked for a better trade arrangement, including Chinese acceptance of British manufactured goods. Macartney refused to kowtow, and Qian-long denied Britain's request. In the 1800s, the British, Dutch, and others would attempt to chip away at China's trade restrictions until the empire itself began to crack.

In the late 16th century the Catholic Jesuit missionaries were allowed to enter China. Jesuit Matteo Ricci was famous for his time in China where he learned the Chinese language and even dressed like the Chinese.



Tokugawa Shogunate (1603-1868)

Tokugawa Ieyasu (toh•koo•gah•wah ee•yeh•yah•soo), completed the unification of Japan. In 1600, Ieyasu defeated his rivals. His victory earned him the loyalty of daimyo (warrior chiefs in Japanese feudalism) throughout Japan. Three years later, Ieyasu became the sole ruler, or shogun. He then moved Japan's capital to his power base at Edo, a small fishing village that would later become the city of Tokyo.

Ieyasu founded the Tokugawa Shogunate, which would hold power until 1867. On his deathbed in 1616, Ieyasu advised his son, Hidetada, "Take care of the people. Strive to be virtuous. Never neglect to protect the country." Most Tokugawa shoguns followed that advice. Their rule brought a welcome order to Japan.



Japanese Feudalism

emperor

Shogun

**Daimyo
(lord)**

Samurai

Farmers

Craftsmen, Artisans

Merchants



European Influence in Japan

The Japanese first encountered Europeans in 1543, when shipwrecked Portuguese sailors washed up on the shores of southern Japan. They hoped to involve themselves in Japan's trade with China and Southeast Asia. The Portuguese brought clocks, eyeglasses, tobacco, firearms, and other unfamiliar items from Europe. Japanese merchants, eager to expand their markets, were happy to receive the newcomers and their goods. They were interested in the muskets and cannons.

In 1549, Christian missionaries began arriving in Japan. The Japanese accepted the missionaries in part because they associated them with the muskets and other European goods that they wanted to purchase. However, the religious orders of Jesuits, Franciscans, and Dominicans came to convert the Japanese. Francis Xavier, a Jesuit, led the first mission to Japan. Francis Xavier baptized about a hundred converts before he left Japan. By the year 1600, other European missionaries had converted about 300,000 Japanese to Christianity.

The success of the missionaries upset the shogun. He found aspects of the Christian invasion troublesome. Missionaries, actively seeking converts, scorned traditional Japanese beliefs and sometimes involved themselves in local politics. By 1612, the shogun had come to fear religious uprisings. He banned Christianity and focused on ridding his country of all Christians. After 1637 the shoguns ruthlessly persecuted Christians. European missionaries were killed or driven out of Japan. All Japanese were forced to demonstrate faithfulness to some branch of Buddhism. These policies eventually eliminated Christianity in Japan.

