

# The Age of Exploration

Outcome: China and Japan's Reactions



# The Age of Exploration

## 1. Setting the Stage

- a. East Asia was a hot spot for luxury goods
  - b. Many Europeans were looking to trade with China and Japan
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## 2. Ming China

- a. The Chinese people had rebelled and driven out their [Mongol](#) rulers and had established the [Ming](#) Dynasty (1368–1644)
- b. China expected Europe to pay [tribute](#) to Ming leaders; they did not want Europeans threatening the peace and [prosperity](#) the Ming had brought to China



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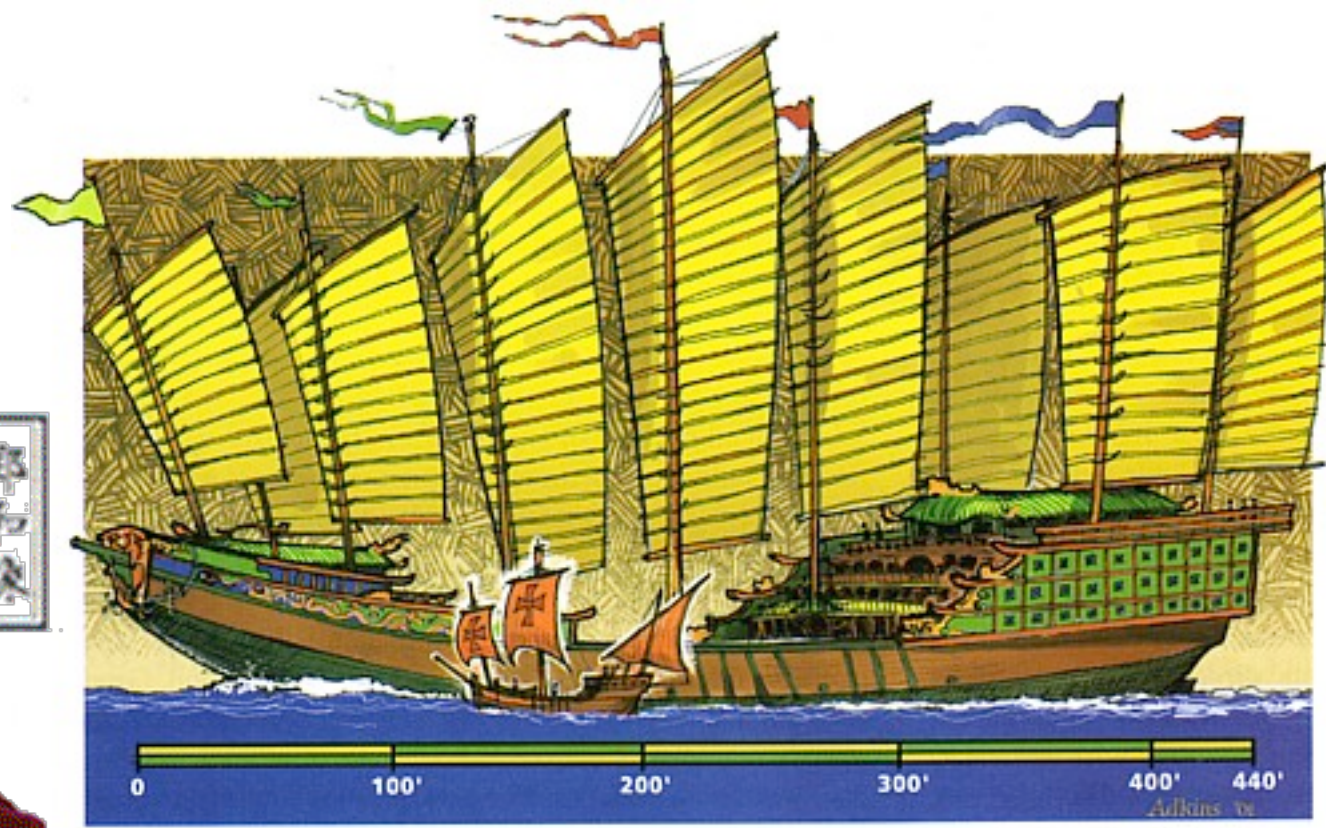
## 3. The Voyages of Zheng He

- a. Hongwu and son Yonglo were curious about the outside world and launched voyages of exploration
- b. Chinese Admiral Zheng He led seven voyages
- c. Voyages ranged from Southeast Asia to eastern Africa
- d. From 40 to 300 ships sailed on each voyage
- e. Some ships were 400 feet long (p. 537)
- f. Voyages included sailors, soldiers, carpenters, interpreters, accountants, doctors and religious leaders
- g. After 7<sup>th</sup> voyage and Zheng He's death, China withdrew into isolation and destroyed the fleet





鄭和



Zheng He

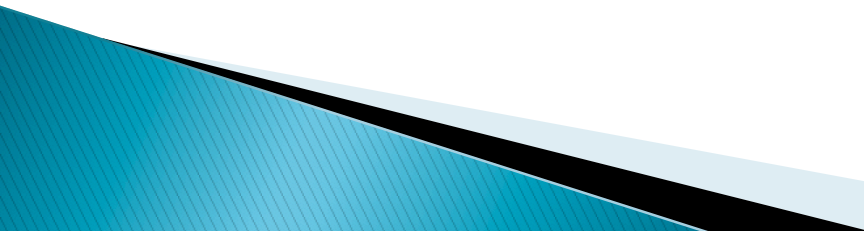
# Zheng He's Voyages



🌐 In 1498, Da Gama reached Calcutta, China's favorite port!



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4. Ming Relations with Foreign Countries
    - a. China's trade policies in the 1500s reflected isolation
    - b. Only government was allowed to conduct foreign trade
    - c. China did not industrialize for two reasons
      - i. Idea of commerce offended China's Confucian beliefs
      - ii. Chinese economic policies favored agriculture
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## 6. The Manchus

- a. The Ming government had ruled for 200 years and was weakening
- b. The Manchus, people from Manchuria, invaded China and established Qing Dynasty which ruled for 260 years
- c. Qing expanded China to include Taiwan, Chinese Central Asia, Mongolia, & Tibet
- d. To the Chinese, their country, called the Middle Kingdom, had been the cultural center of the universe for 2,000 years
- e. If foreign states wanted to trade with China, they would have to follow Chinese rules such as paying tribute and trading only at special trading ports
- f. The Dutch accepted these restrictions and were allowed to trade
- g. Kowtow ritual: kneeling in front of the emperor and touching forehead to ground 9 times



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## 6. Japan

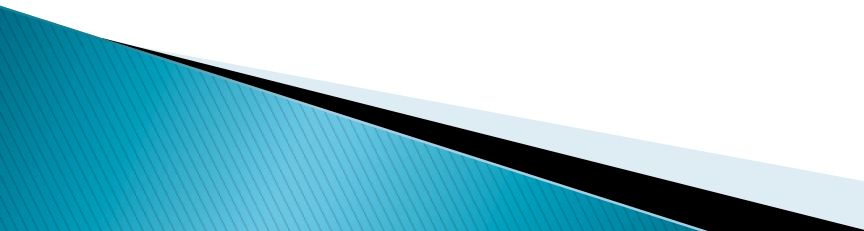
- a. In 1547, [civil war](#) shattered Japan's feudal system and the country became chaotic
- b. Warrior chieftains called [daimyos](#) became lords in a new Japanese feudalistic system





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## 7. Contact Between Europe and Japan

- a. Europeans began coming to Japan in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and were welcomed
  - b. Within a century, the aggressive Europeans had worn out their welcome
  - c. The Portuguese brought clocks, eyeglasses, tobacco, and firearms
  - d. By 1600, European missionaries had converted 300,000 Japanese to Christianity
  - e. After peasant rebellion (most were Christian) the shoguns ruthlessly persecuted Christians and led to the formation of an exclusion policy
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## 8. The Closed Country Policy

- a. 1639 the shoguns sealed Japan's borders and excluded merchants and missionaries
  - b. Only port of Nagasaki remained open but only to Dutch and Chinese traders
  - c. Lasted for more than 200 years
  - d. Japanese were forbidden to leave so as to not bring back foreign ideas
  - e. Japan wanted to continue to develop as a self-sufficient country
- ▶ Result: Europeans begin to explore west across the Atlantic Ocean to the New World.