

Ming China

Chapter 17

Main Idea

- During the Ming and Qing Dynasties, China prospered, but the empire entered a period of extended isolation in response to increasing European contact.

Emperor Hongwu

Background

- 1368
 - rebel leader, Zhu Yuanzhang, overthrows last Mongol emperor



- Zhu takes name Hongwu
 - founds Ming Dynasty
 - Ming = "brilliant"



First Action

- rid China of "barbarian" (Mongol) influence
 - dress, names, places



Achievements

- expansion
 - Korea, Mongolia
- reduced taxes
- improved trade



Expansion of Power

- made government more centralized
- eliminated challenges, killed rivals

Yonglo

Achievements

- r. 1402-1424
- moved capital to Beijing
- built Forbidden city



Ming Sea Voyages

Zheng He

- Chinese Muslim Admiral
 - seven voyages around Indian Ocean
 - to show power of Ming



- 1433 – voyages end
 - lack of money
 - Confucian influence



Towards Isolation

Beginning

- b/c of dislike of European influences
 - traders, missionaries



Outside Influences

- European
 - religion
 - Matteo Ricci (Italian Jesuit)
 - education



Economy and Society

- Era of Prosperity
 - new crops from New World
 - growing population
 - growth in cities
 - increase in trade (porcelain)



Ming Decline

Reasons

- weak rulers
- corruption
- high taxes
- rebellions

Qing Dynasty

Origins

- Manchu take over Beijing (1644)
 - Manchu – people from Manchuria (NW of China)
 - rename themselves the Qing
 - become the last imperial dynasty

Continuities

- respect for customs and traditions
- civil service exam



(Map from China (1644-1911))

Restrictions

- no intermarriage
- no foot binding
- had to wear hair in Manchu style



Isolation

- contempt for European goods led the Qing to continue isolating themselves
- Result:
 - lagged behind European countries