Chapter 23

Asian Transitions in an Age of Global Exchange
Figure 23.1 Vasco da Gama's arrival in Calicut on India's Malabar coast as depicted in a 16th-century European tapestry. As the pomp and splendor captured in the scene convey, Da Gama's voyage was regarded by European contemporaries as a major turning point in world history.
Chapter Overview

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The Asian Trading World and the Coming of the Europeans

- European discoveries
  - Caravels
  - Products not wanted in East
  - Muslim traders: Indian Ocean, southern Asia
    - Missionary activity blocked by Islam
  - Asian political divisions advantageous
The Asian Trading World and the Coming of the Europeans

- The Asian Sea Trading Network
  - c. 1500
  - Arab zone
    - Glass, carpet, tapestries
  - Indian zone
    - Cotton textiles
  - Chinese zone
    - Paper, porcelain, silk goods
The Asian Trading World and the Coming of the Europeans

• The Asian Sea Trading Network
  – Marginal regions
    ▪ Japan, southeast Asia, east Africa
    ▪ Raw materials
      • Ivory, spices
By the Early Modern era the ancient trading network that encompassed the Indian Ocean and neighboring seas from the Mediterranean to the North China sea had expanded greatly in the volume of shipping and goods traded from the Middle East to China as well as in the number of port cities engaged in local and intercontinental commerce.
The Asian Trading World and the Coming of the Europeans

- Trading Empire: The Portuguese Response to the Encounter at Calicut
  - Mercantalists
  - Portuguese use military force
    - Diu, 1509
      - Defeat Egyptian-Indian fleet
The Asian Trading World and the Coming of the Europeans

• Trading Empire: The Portuguese Response to the Encounter at Calicut
  – Forts for defense
    ▪ Ormuz, 1507
    ▪ Goa, 1510
    ▪ Malacca
  – Goal: monopolize spice trade, control all shipping
Figure 23.2 In the 15th and 16th centuries, the port of Lisbon in tiny Portugal was one of the great centers of international commerce and European overseas exploration. Although aspects of the early, streamlined caravel design can be detected in the ships pictured here, additional square sails, higher fore and aft castles, and numerous cannons projecting from holes cut in the ships' sides exemplify a later stage of naval development.
The Asian Trading World and the Coming of the Europeans

- Portuguese Vulnerability and the Rise of the Dutch and English Trading Empires
  - 17th century
    - English and Dutch challenge Portuguese control
  - Dutch trading empire
    - 1620, take Malacca
    - Fort built at Batavia, 1620
The Asian Trading World and the Coming of the Europeans

- Portuguese Vulnerability and the Rise of the Dutch and English Trading Empires
  - Dutch trading empire
    - Concentrate on certain spices
    - Generally use force less
      - Use traditional system
  - English
    - India
Figure 23.3 Although today nutmeg is a minor condiment, in the Early Modern era it was a treasured and widely used spice. In this manuscript illustration from the 16th century, slices of an oversized nutmeg are being weighed in preparation for sale on the international market.
The Asian Trading World and the Coming of the Europeans

- **Going Ashore: European Tribute Systems in Asia**
  - Europeans restricted to coastlines
    - Permission needed to trade inland
  - Sporadic conflict
    - Portuguese, Dutch use force in Sri Lanka
      - Cinnamon
The Asian Trading World and the Coming of the Europeans

• Going Ashore: European Tribute Systems in Asia
  – Sporadic conflict
    ▪ Spanish
      • Philippines
        – Take north, Luzon
        – Fail to conquer southern island Mindanao
Map 23.2: The Pattern of Early European Expansion in Asia

The differing routes and choice of fortified outposts adopted by successive European nations as they sought to tap directly into the Indian Ocean trading network reflect the greater information regarding centers of production that latecomers, such as the Dutch and English possessed, relative to the pioneering Portuguese.
The Asian Trading World and the Coming of the Europeans

• Spreading the Faith: The Missionary Enterprise in South and Southeast Asia
  – Francis Xavier
  – Robert Di Nobili
    ▪ Italian Jesuit
    ▪ 1660s, conversion of upper-caste Indians
Ming dynasty (1368–1644)
  - Founded by Zhu Yuanzhang
    ▪ Helps expel Mongols
    ▪ Takes name Hongwu, 1368
    ▪ Mongols forced north of Great Wall
Ming China: A Global Mission Refused

- Another Scholar-Gentry Revival
  - Restoration of scholar-gentry
    - High offices
    - Imperial schools restored
    - Civil service exam re-established
Ming China: A Global Mission Refused

• Reform: Hongwu's Efforts to Root Out Abuses in Court Politics
  – Chief minister
    ▪ Position abolished
    ▪ Hongwu takes powers
  – Imperial wives from modest families
Figure 23.4

A 19th-century engraving shows the cubicles in which Chinese students and bureaucrats took the imperial civil service examinations in the capital at Beijing. Candidates were confined to the cubicles for days and completed their exams under the constant surveillance of official proctors. They brought their own food, slept in the cubicles, and were disqualified if they were found talking to others taking the exams or going outside the compound where the exams were being given.
Ming China: A Global Mission Refused

• A Return to Scholar-Gentry Social Dominance
  – Agricultural reforms
    ▪ To improve peasants' lives
    ▪ Balanced by encroaching landlord power
  – Women
    ▪ Confined
    ▪ Bearing male children stressed
    ▪ Independence only in being a courtesan or entertainer
Figure 23.5

The varied diversions of the wives and concubines of Ming emperors are depicted in this scene of court life. In addition to court intrigues and maneuvers to win the emperor's favor, women of the imperial household occupied themselves with dance, music, games, and polite conversation. With eunuchs, officials, and palace guards watching them closely, the women of the palace and imperial city spent most of their lives in confined yet well-appointed spaces.

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Ming China: A Global Mission Refused

- An Age of Growth: Agriculture, Population, Commerce, and the Arts
  - American food crops
    - Marginal lands farmed
  - Chinese manufactured goods in demand
    - Macao, Canton
    - Merchants profit
  - Patronage of fine arts
  - Innovations in literature
    - Woodblock printing
Ming China: A Global Mission Refused

- Ming Expansion and Retreat, and the Arrival of the Europeans
  - Overseas expeditions
    - Hundreds of ships mostly to southeast Asia
    - Curtailed for Great Wall
  - Jesuit missions
    - Matteo Ricci and Adam Schall
    - Limited power within China
      - Whether Chinese converts should be allowed to continue ancestral rites
The composite view of the Zheng He expeditions shown on this map indicate the great distances traveled as well as the fact that most of the voyages hugged the familiar coastlines of southern Asia and East Africa rather than risking navigation over large expanses of open sea.
Figure 23.6
Jesuits in Chinese dress at the emperor's court. The Jesuits believed that the best way to convert a great civilization such as China was to adopt the dress, customs, language, and manners of its elite. They reasoned that once the scholar-gentry elite had been converted, they would bring the rest of China's vast population into the Christian fold.
Ming China: A Global Mission Refused

- Ming Decline and the Chinese Predicament
  - Weak leaders
  - Public works
    - Failures leading to starvation, rebellion
  - Landlords exploitative
  - 1644, dynasty overthrown
    - Last emperor, Chongzhen
The Great Ships of the Ming Expeditions That Crossed the Indian Ocean
Visualizing the Past

The Great Ships of the Ming Expeditions That Crossed the Indian Ocean
Means and Motives for Overseas Expansion: Europe and China Compared

• China did not commit to overseas expansion.
  – Larger population not as efficient
  – Already had effective trade route
  – Funding went to fend off Mongols

• Europe excelled in overseas expansion.
  – Soldiers better led, armed, disciplined
  – Need for profit, treasure, crops
  – Christian missionaries
Fending Off the West: Japan's Reunification and the First Challenge

- Odo Nobunaga
  - Daimyo
  - Use of firearms
  - Deposes Ashikaga shogun, 1573
    - Killed, 1582
Fending Off the West: Japan's Reunification and the First Challenge

- Toyotomo Hideyoshi
  - Nobunaga's general
  - 1590, rules Japan
  - Invades Korea, unsuccessful
  - Dies, 1598
    - Succession struggle
Fending Off the West: Japan's Reunification and the First Challenge

- Tokugawa Ieyasu
  - Emerges victorious
  - 1603, appointed shogun
  - Edo (Tokyo)
    - Direct rule of Honshu
    - Restoration of unity
  - 250-year rule by Tokugawas
Map 23.4   Japan During the Rise of the Tokugawa Shogunate

As this map indicates, the main centers of population and political power in Early Modern Japan were readily accessible to the sea, which was the arena in which the Europeans could best project their military prowess and exercise their commercial prerogatives.
Fending Off the West: Japan's Reunification and the First Challenge

- Dealing with the European Challenge
  - Traders, missionaries to Japan since 1543
    - Firearms, clock, presses for Japanese silver, copper, finished goods
  - Nobunaga protects Jesuits
    - Counter Buddhist power
    - Hideyoshi less tolerant
      - Buddhists now weak
Figure 23.7 In this late 16th-century portrait, Hideyoshi (1536–1598) exudes the discipline and self-confidence that made possible his campaigns to unify Japan. Although warrior skills were vital in his rise to power, he and other members of the samurai class were expected to be literate, well-mannered by the conventions of the day, and attuned to the complex and refined aesthetics of rock gardens and tea ceremonies.
Fending Off the West: Japan's Reunification and the First Challenge

• Japan's Self-Imposed Isolation
  – Foreign influence restricted from 1580s
  – Christianity
    ▪ Persecutions by 1590s
    ▪ Banned, 1614
Fending Off the West: Japan's Reunification and the First Challenge

- Japan's Self-Imposed Isolation
  - Ieyasu
    - Increased isolation
      - 1616, merchants restricted
      - By 1630, Japanese ships forbidden to sail overseas
      - By 1640s
        - Dutch, Chinese visit only at Deshima island
  - Complete isolation from mid-1600s
A number of the major forms of interaction between expansive European peoples and those of Asia are vividly illustrated in this panoramic Japanese silkscreen painting from the early 1600s. The strong impression made by the size and power of the Portuguese ship that has just arrived in harbor is evident in the artist’s exaggeration of the height of its fore and aft castles. The trade goods to be unloaded, mainly Chinese silks, which are also to be sold in the marketplace at the right of the painting, but also exotic products such as peacocks and tiger skins, demonstrate the ways in which the Portuguese had become carriers between different areas in Asia, including Japan. The black-robed missionaries waiting to greet the arriving Portuguese sea captain (toward the right foreground) suggests that efforts to convert the Japanese to Christianity were in full swing, at least in this area of the kingdom.
Fending Off the West: Japan's Reunification and the First Challenge

- Japan's Self-Imposed Isolation
  - Tokugawa
    - Neo-Confucian revival
      - Replaced by School of National Learning
The use of coffee and coffee houses promoted new forms of consumerism and socialization in several regions.
English Presbyterian missionary John Eliot addresses a gathering of Native Americans. Known as “the Apostle of the Indians,” Eliot established the first church for Native Americans in Massachusetts. Missionary efforts of this sort formed a key element in shaping societies in the Americas.
Bishamonten, one of the seven lucky Japanese gods. Originally from India where he is known as Tamonten Shitenno, god of treasure, war, and warriors. He wears armor, carries a spear, and also a pagoda of treasures. Historic temple, a holy site for the visually impaired. Founded in 701 C.E. by Saint Benki. Japanese cultural patterns revealed a distinctive set of contacts and local influences.