

Juan Gonzalez de Mendoza, Catholic Missionary, in his 1585 *History of China*

“The Chinese have found by experience that to [leave] their . . . kingdom to conquer others is the spoil and loss of much people, and expenses of great treasures, besides the [work] and care which continually they have to sustain that which is got, with fear to be lost again; so that in the meantime whilst they were occupied in strange conquests [Zheng-He’s expeditions], their enemies [the Mongols and Turks] and other [bordering] kings . . . did trouble and invade them, doing great damage and harm . . . [so] they found it [necessary] for their quietness and profit . . . to leave all [that] they had got and gained out of their kingdom, but [e]specially such countries as were far off.”