Unit 1: Renaissance and Ming Dynasty

Day 5

Starter: Jan 18th and 19th

What do you know about the history of China? Can you name any dynasties? Any inventions? Any famous people? What role did China play in the larger economy during the period of 1000-1500 CE?

New Civ Test-determine if can vote

- Because of new immigration deal signed this week all students need to take a new, more rigorous civ test if they would like to register to vote at 18.
- The test is two days long
- Need to bring own food, water, sleeping bag, and writing utensils.
- 2 bathroom breaks a day
- It is very difficult to pass, so studying should start when you are a sophomore

What does this have to do with the Chinese renaissance?

I’ll tell you in a few minutes

“Dark Ages” Chinese Culture-The Mongols

- Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368)
  - Mongolian
- Chinese culture tolerated, but Chinese couldn’t hold positions of power. Looked down on. Foreigners held positions
- Rule could be very harsh
- Chinese did not like the Mongol culture. Infrequent bathing, don’t care about Chinese culture, don’t care about Confucianism.

The MONGOLS

Genghis Khan's Tax Laws:

- *If you do not pay homage, we will take your prosperity.*
- *If you do not have prosperity, we will take your children.*
- *If you do not have children, we will take your wife.*
- *If you do not have a wife, we will take your head.*

Used cruelty as a weapon → some areas never recovered from Mongol destruction!

The Extent of the Mongol Empire

Renaissance-Ming Dynasty- “Brilliant” Dynasty

Renaissance-Ming Dynasty-“Brilliant” Dynasty

- Erase signs of Mongol rule. Wearing Mongol style clothes, using Mongol names, or speaking language against the law.

- Re-establish Chinese ethnocentrism. Ethnic Chinese promoted to positions of power.

- Revive Civil Service System. Must pass a test based on Confucianism to be able to work in the government.
- Promote Confucianism

Hongwu

- Founder of Ming dynasty
- Rags to riches. Born in a peasant family. 7 older siblings, many put up for adoptions because family couldn’t feed them.
- Joined a Buddhist monastery, learned to read.
- Joined the army, rose through the ranks, became a commander. Overthrew the Mongols.
- Always thought of the peasants while ruling.

How was this a Renaissance for China?
Brought back the following...

Bureaucracy-Mandarins and Eunuchs

- Hongwu relied on mandarins: traveling bureaucrats (people who work for the gov.) to travel around the empire to make sure that things were working the way he wanted.
- Also trusted Eunuchs: Eunuchs can't have children so they won't have any heirs that they could try to get on the throne. Couldn't build power bases.
- This had been done in past "Golden Ages" (The Song Dynasty)

Great Wall

- Sections of the Great Wall date back to the 300's BCE, but they had fallen into ruin.
- Great Wall as we know it now is from the Ming.
- Who is the Great wall meant to protect against?
- http://www.history.com/topics/great-wall-of-china/videos

Bureaucracy-Confucian Civil Service Exams

- To get a good job in the government, needed to pass a series of exams on Confucianism.
- Study for years intensively
- For the final exam every student brought a pitcher of water, a chamber pot, bedding, food, an inkstone, ink, and brushes.
- Went to a small cell where they wrote for the next three day sand two nights (in some cases even up to 9 days)
- If someone died during the exam officials wrapped the body in a straw mat and tossed it over the high walls that surrounded the compound.

Forbidden City

- When rulers want to seem more legitimate (like they have the RIGHT to rule) they create monumental architecture (Think of things like the pyramids, any fancy castle or church, the Taj Mahal, etc.) Can you think of other examples?
- During Ming, new palace grounds, the Forbidden City
- Leader was considered the Son of Heaven and his name was so holy it shouldn't be spoken.
- The place where he lived was holy

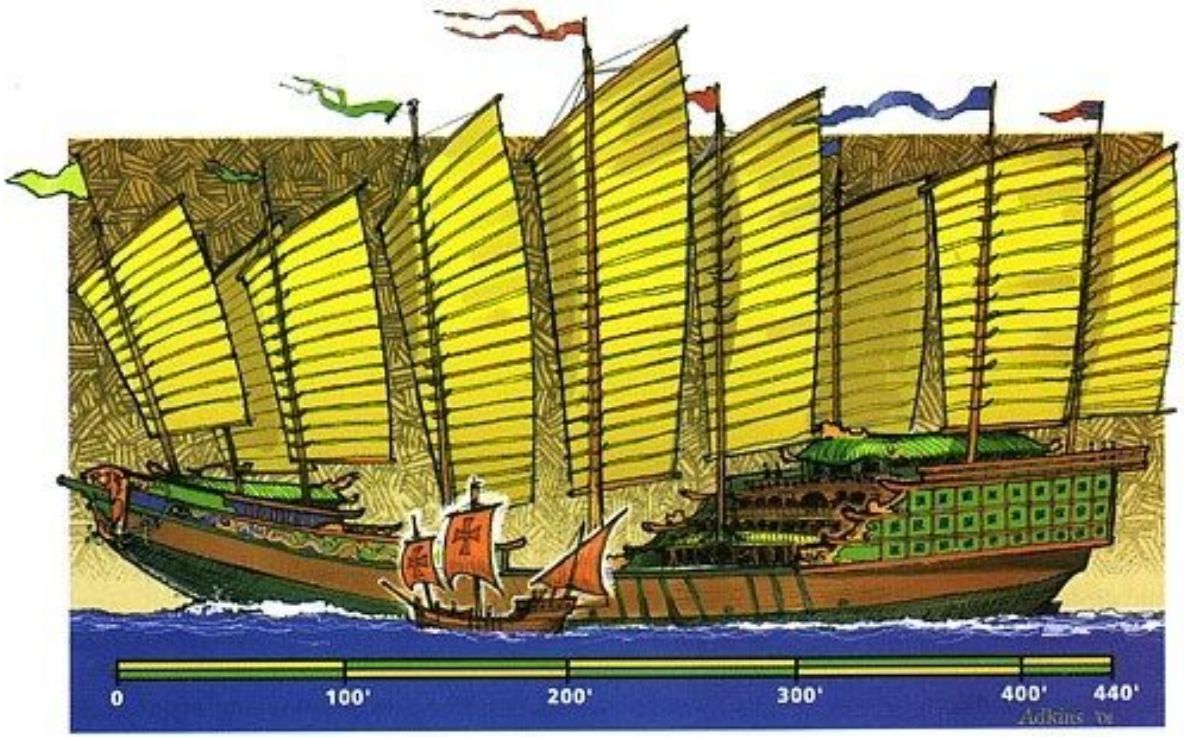
Yongle

- Hongwu successor
- Wanted to continue the revival of Chinese culture
- Organised a vast encyclopedia that compiled ALL significant works of Chinese history, philosophy, and literature.
- Almost 23,000 manuscript rolls, each equivalent to a medium size book.

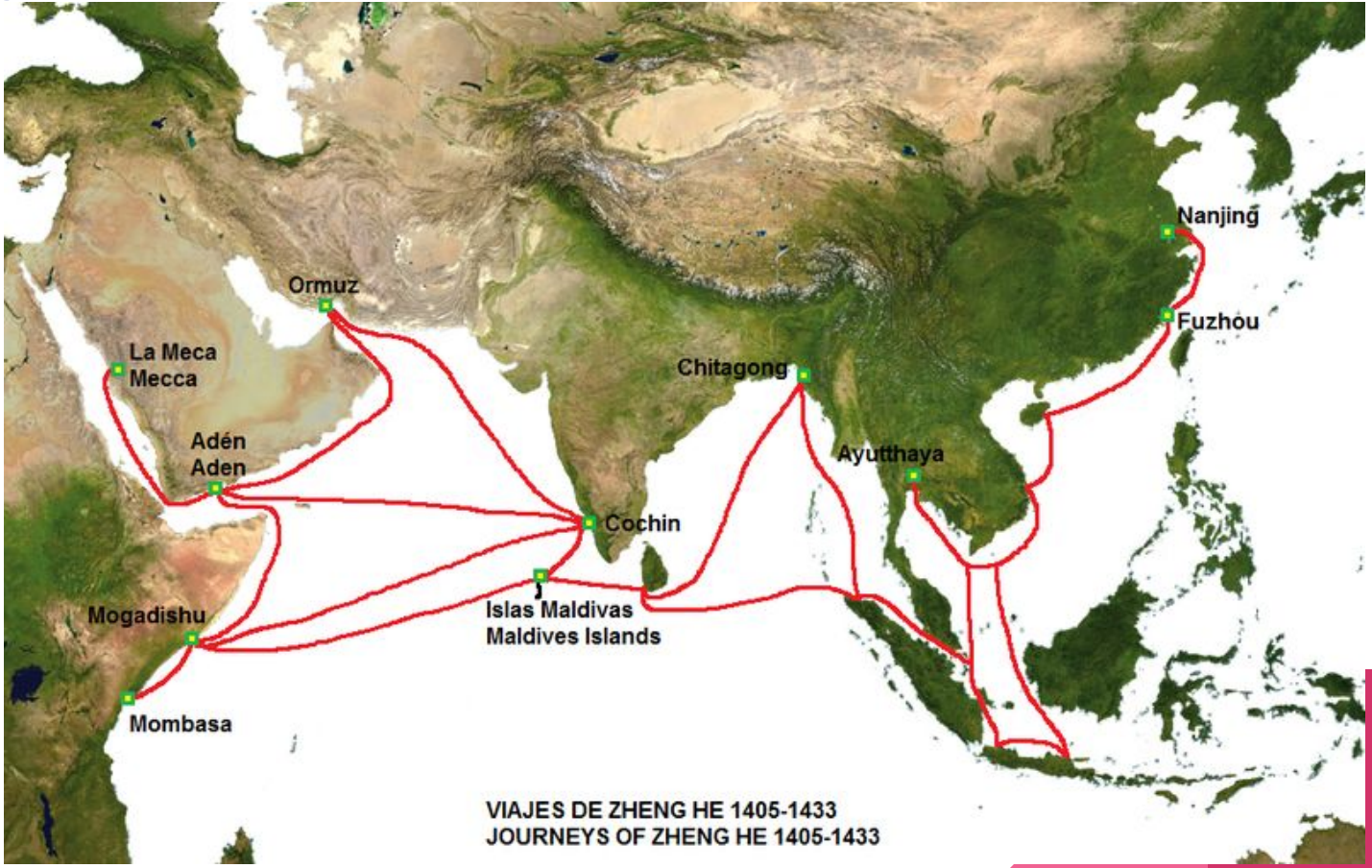
Yongle and Zheng He

- Yongle sponsored a series of naval expeditions mean to establish a Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean basin.
  - Impose imperial control over foreign trade with China
  - Impress foreign peoples with the power and might of the Ming
- These were lead by a eunuch admiral named Zheng He
  - Muslim, advisor of Yongle
  - His fleet contained 317 ships with 28,000 armed troops

Zheng He vs. Columbus



Zheng He’s Travels



Chinese navigation abilities

- Had invented the magnetic compass
- Star charts

Had the following 1,000 years before Europe

- The double hull
- Sternpost rudder
- Three and four masted ships

Predict: Why didn’t China discover the Americas before Europe?

Think, Pair, Share

Chinese Isolationism

- After Yongle, the new emperors had no interest in voyaging.
- Felt it was more necessary to focus efforts on agriculture at home.
- Also, needed resources to fight the Mongols in the north.
- Adopted a policy of isolationism, began shutting down trade with outside world.
- How will this affect the history of China?

Rise of the West or Fall of the Rest?

By 1700 Europe is the central power of the world. In the time before 1400, Europe was not powerful at all, it was behind the rest of the world. Is the rise of Europe more due to things that happened in Europe or more because the rest of the world declined in power?

Prepare for class discussion. Read over resources. Fill out sheet. This discussion will occur next class and will be worth the same as 3 assignments.