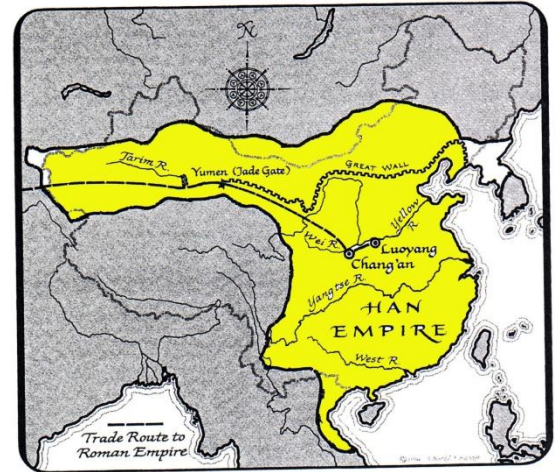


The Golden Age of China: The Tang, Song, & Ming Dynasties

I. The end of Classical Han China

- A. During the _____ Era, the emperors of _____ China created large empire & developed numerous innovations
- _____ for gov't employees based on Confucian teachings
 - _____ -making technology that attracted _____ from outside China
 - The _____ trade route brought Chinese luxury goods to Europe & Asia and increased cultural diffusion
- B. Like the _____ Empire, Classical China under the Han Dynasty entered an era of decline & eventually fell
- After the Han Dynasty collapsed in 220 A.D., no _____ was strong enough to _____ China
 - Over the next _____ years, more than 30 local dynasties rose & fell
- C. In 589, China was _____ again & a strong central government was restored...the restoration of the examination system allowed _____ bureaucrats to help _____



Han Dynasty Empire (206 B.C. - A.D. 220)
the empire

II. The Rise of Post-Classical China: The Tang & Song Dynasties



- A. During the Tang & Song Dynasties, China experienced an extended "_____ " & became the richest, most _____, & most _____ country in the world
- For the 1st time in China's history, emperors encouraged foreign _____
 - Emperors did their best to try to _____ the routes along the Silk Road
 - Chinese merchants relied on _____ as well to trade with India & Arabia
 - Increased trade led to the spread of _____ (centralized gov't, Confucianism, & writing) to _____, _____, & Southeast Asia
 - Increased trade helped spread _____ throughout China
- B. The Tang & Song dynasties were eras of major technological advancement:
- The _____ helped make China the most advanced country in the world
 - Much of China's technology spread to other people across _____



Southern Song Empire (1127-1279)

Chinese Innovations

	Your Guess	Correct Answer		Your Guess	Correct Answer
1.			6.		
2.			7.		
3.			8.		
4.			9.		
5.			10.		

C. The End of the Golden Age

- Despite the _____ & culture during under the Tang & Song Dynasties, the Chinese were briefly overthrown by the _____
- In 1368, the Chinese overthrew the Mongols & established the _____
 - The Ming emperors encourage overseas trade...and began a series of _____ led by _____ to demonstrate Chinese superiority
 - Zheng He and the Treasure Fleet Expeditions

- i. With a fleet of over _____ ships, Zheng He led _____ different expeditions
 - ii. Zheng He explored areas along the _____ Ocean & _____, expand trade, & collected _____ from foreigners
 - iii. Zheng He had better ships & traveled _____ than any European explorers would for 100 years
- D. After the 7th treasure fleet voyage in 1433, Chinese leaders unexpectedly _____ the expeditions & retreated into _____
1. Scholar-officials complained that Zheng He's voyages used valuable _____ that were needed to _____ China
 2. China's official _____ policy was to keep the influence of _____ to a minimum
 3. China's geography & gov't policies kept it relatively _____ for the next 300 years until European _____ in the 1800s demanded access to Chinese trade

Zheng He (1371-1433), the Chinese Admiral

Through his seven voyages of discovery, Zheng He helped transform China into the superpower of his time. Little did the famous Muslim geographer, Ibn Battuta know, that about 22 years after his historic visit to China, the Mongol Dynasty would be overthrown and the Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1644) would begin. A young boy would grow up to be the "Admiral of the Chinese Fleet." His name... **Zheng He.**

The ships that he would sail throughout the Indian Ocean would retrace some of the same routes taken by Ibn Battuta, but he would be in huge boats called "junks". He would go to East Africa, Mecca, Persian Gulf, and throughout the Indian Ocean. Zheng He helped transform China into the world's, superpower of his time.

In 1405, Zheng was chosen to lead the biggest naval expedition in history up to that time. Over the next 28 years (1405-1433), he commanded seven fleets that visited 37 countries, through Southeast Asia to faraway Africa and Arabia. In those years, China had by far the biggest ships of the time. In 1420 the Ming navy dwarfed the combined navies of Europe.

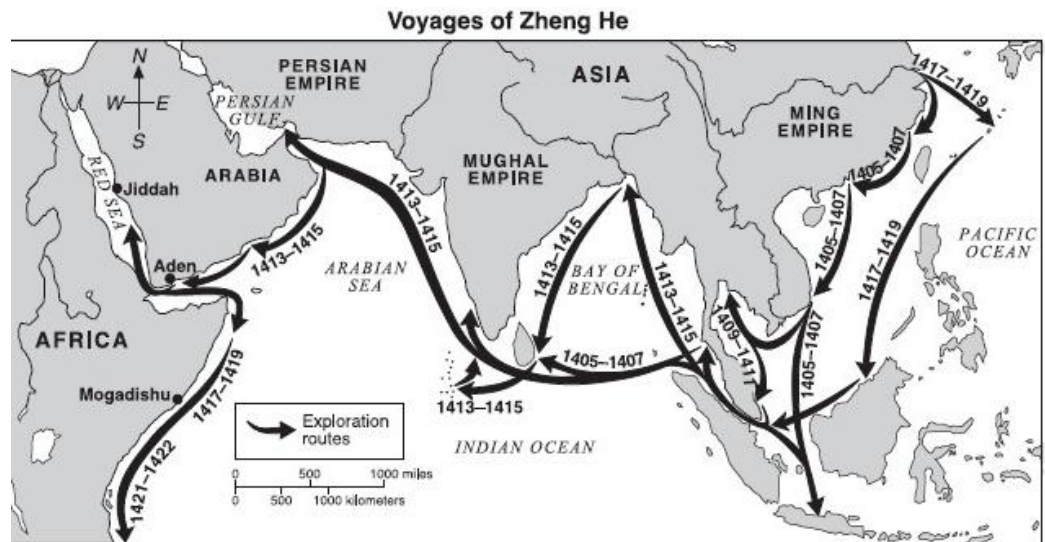
The Ming Emperor Yong Le funded the expeditions as an attempt to display China's might abroad. A great fleet of big ships, with nine masts and manned by 500 men, each set sail in July 1405, half a century before Columbus's voyage to America. There were great treasure ships over 300-feet long and 150-feet wide, the biggest being 440-feet long and 186-across, capable of carrying 1,000 passengers.

Zheng He's first fleet included 27,870 men on 317 ships, including sailors, clerks, interpreters, soldiers, artisans, medical men and meteorologists. On board were large quantities of cargo including silk goods, porcelain, gold and silverware, copper utensils, iron implements and cotton goods. The fleet sailed along China's coast close to Vietnam and reached Sri Lanka in South Asia. On the way back it sailed along the west coast of India and returned home in 1407. Envoys from India and several countries in Asia and the Middle East also boarded the ships to pay visits to China. Zheng He's second and third voyages taken shortly after, followed roughly the same route.

In the fall of 1413, Zheng He set out with 30,000 men to Arabia on his fourth and most ambitious voyage. He sailed around the Arabian Peninsula to the mouth of the Red Sea. The arrival of the fleet caused a sensation in the region, and 19 countries sent ambassadors to board Zheng He's ships with gifts for Emperor Yong Le. Zheng He's fifth and sixth voyages explored the east coast of Africa.

Emperor Yong Le died in 1424 shortly after Zheng He's return. Yet, in 1430 the admiral was sent on a final seventh voyage. Now 60 years old, Zheng He revisited the Persian Gulf, the Red Sea and Africa and died on his way back in 1433 in India. This proved to be the final expedition. Ming officials adopted an isolationist policy, destroyed the Treasure Fleet ships, and destroyed much of the government records from the expeditions.

With unrivaled nautical technology and countless other inventions to their credit, the Chinese were poised to expand their influence beyond India and Africa. Here was one of history's great turning points. Had the Chinese emperors continued their huge investments in the treasure fleets, there is little reason why they, rather than the Portuguese, Spanish, Dutch and British, should not have colonized the world. Yet less than a century later, all overseas trade was banned, and it became a capital offense to set sail from China in a multi-masted ship. What explains this astonishing reversal of policy?



◀ Zheng He's treasure ship compared with Christopher Columbus's Santa Maria