



# CHINA EXPLORES THE WORLD

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# CHINA EXPLORES THE WORLD

- **Main Idea (Objective):**



- During the Ming Dynasty, China sent a fleet to explore Asia and East Africa. This fleet eventually even went one to explore North and South America.

# CHINA EXPLORES THE WORLD



- You probably have learned about Christopher Columbus and his voyage to the “New World”. Imagine if China had sent ships to North America first. Lets look into these exciting Ming Explorations.

# CHINA EXPLORES THE WORLD

- Early Ming Emperors were curious about the world outside of China and wanted to increase China's influence abroad.



- **Abroad** – Going in or to other countries.

# CHINA EXPLORES THE WORLD

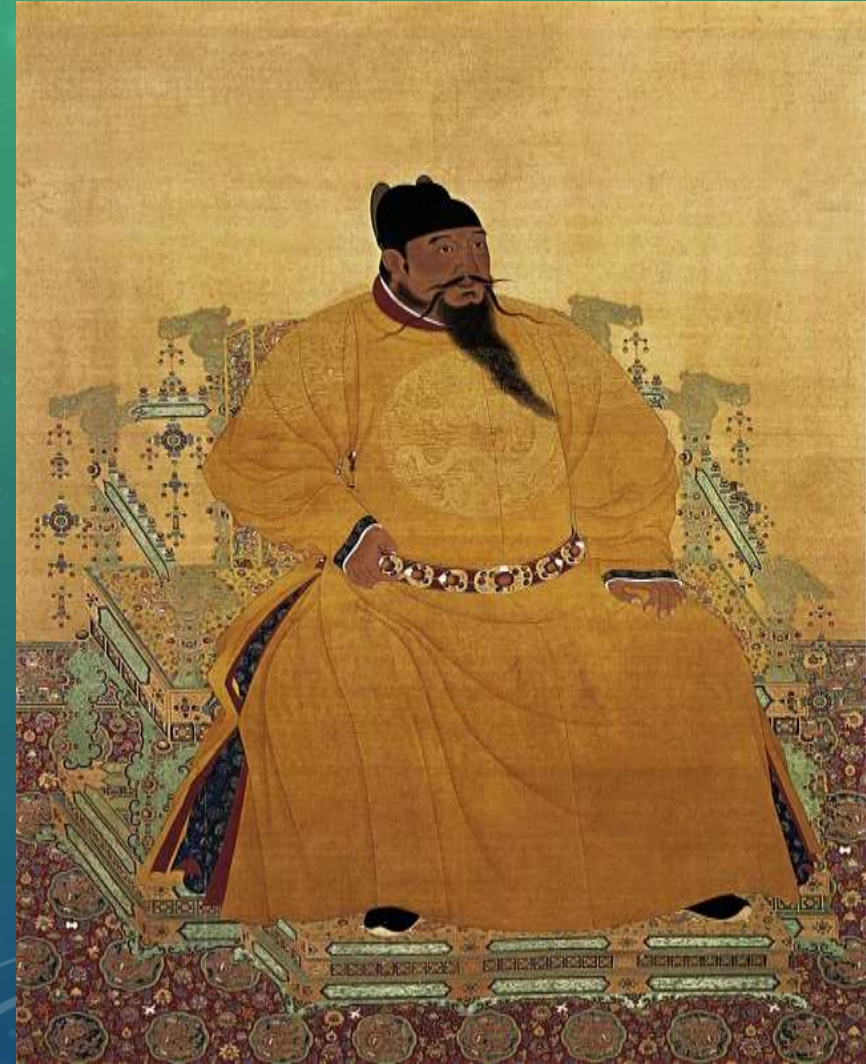
- To reach these goals abroad, Ming Emperors built a large fleet of ships.



- These ships usually sailed along China's coast, however they were so well built that they could sail in the open sea.

# WHO WAS ZHENG HE?

- From 1405 to 1433, Emperor **Yong Le** sent the fleet on seven overseas voyages.



- The emperor wanted to trade with other kingdoms, show off China's power and demand that weaker realms pay tribute to China.

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# WHO WAS ZHENG HE?

- The of these journeys was a Chinese Muslim, court official and Admiral named **Zheng He** (**Jung-Huh**).



- **Zheng He's** voyages were extremely impressive and are still very important to China's long history.

# WHO WAS ZHENG HE?



- Zheng He's first fleet had **62** large ships, **250** smaller ships and over **28,000** men. ( **Part of the Fra Mauro Map, greatest surviving medieval map, relating the travels of a junk ship into the Atlantic Ocean in 1420**)

# WHO WAS ZHENG HE?



- These ships would later be called “**China’s Treasure Ships**” or “**Junk Ships**”.

# WHO WAS ZHENG HE?

- The largest ship of Zheng He's fleet was over **440** feet long, which was more than five times as long as Christopher Columbus's flag ship, the **Santa Maria**.



- The Santa Maria was built almost 90 years after the Chinese treasure ships had already sailed completely around the world.

# WHO WAS ZHENG HE?



- Think about this...if Zheng He was here, in North America between 1405 – 1433...what does that say about Columbus and what you have previously been taught in school about the discovery of North America?

# Columbus Arrives in America

- Lets look at the facts!!!

- **1409 - 1421:** Chinese fleets set off to complete voyages throughout the entire world

- **1423:** Chinese cartographers create an accurate world map complete with latitude and longitude.

- **1424:** a Venetian **Niccolo dei Conti**, arrived in Italy with this map and gave it to a Portuguese Prince in Venice.

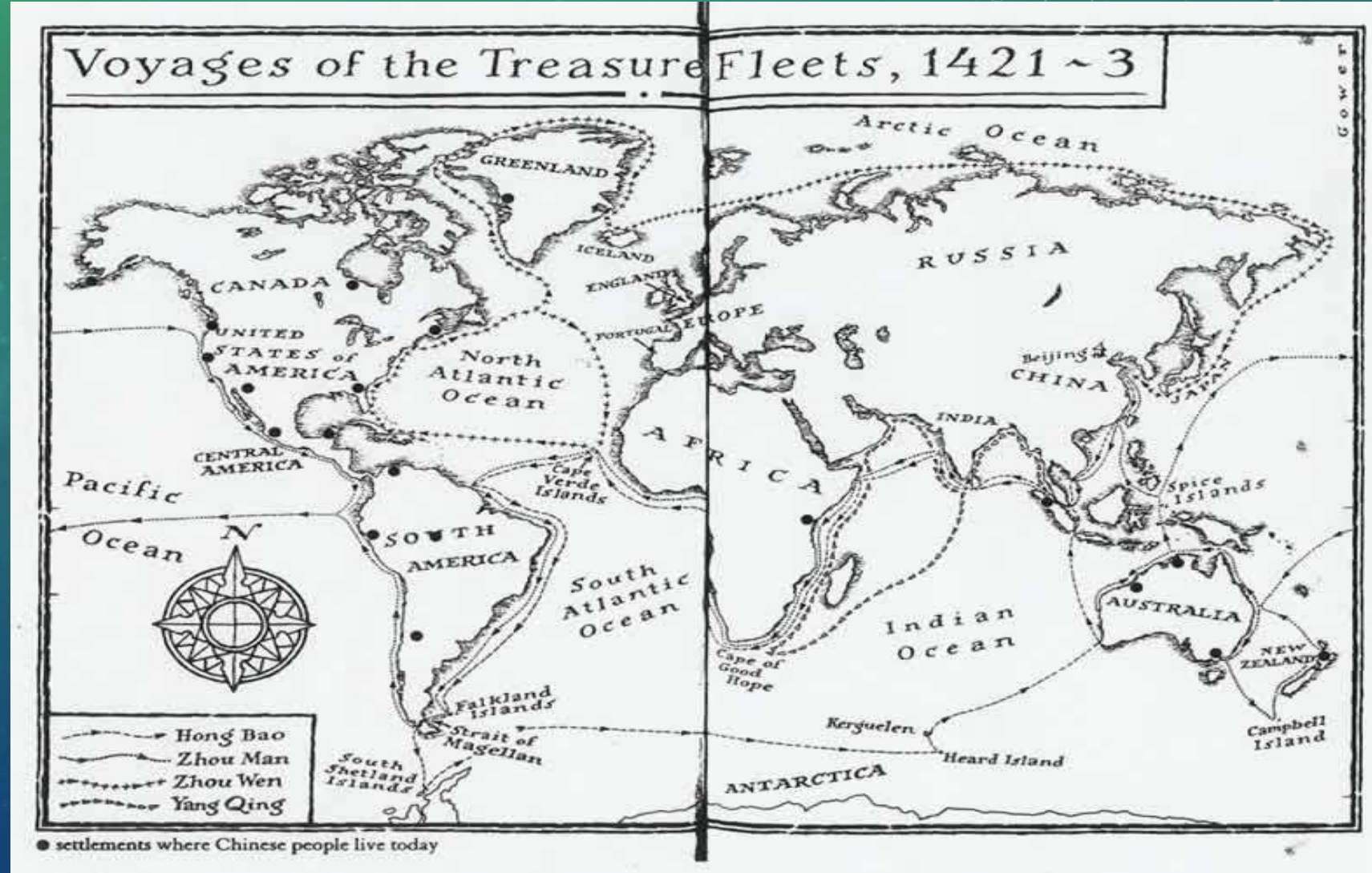
- **1428:** From this map the Portuguese produced a complete world map. Explorers from Columbus to Cook relied on this 1428 map.



# COLUMBUS ARRIVES IN AMERICA



# COLUMBUS ARRIVES IN AMERICA



- **Zheng He Map**, transcription of what is now "North America"



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# WHO WAS ZHENG HE?



- Part of the Fra Mauro Map, greatest surviving medieval map, relating the travels of a junk ship into the Atlantic Ocean in 1420.

# COLUMBUS ARRIVES IN AMERICA



- Ming porcelain found in a Muslim tomb column in Kenya

# COLUMBUS ARRIVES IN AMERICA



# COLUMBUS ARRIVES IN AMERICA



- China created a replica of the treasure ships for the 2008 Olympics

# COLUMBUS ARRIVES IN AMERICA



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# WHO WAS ZHENG HE?

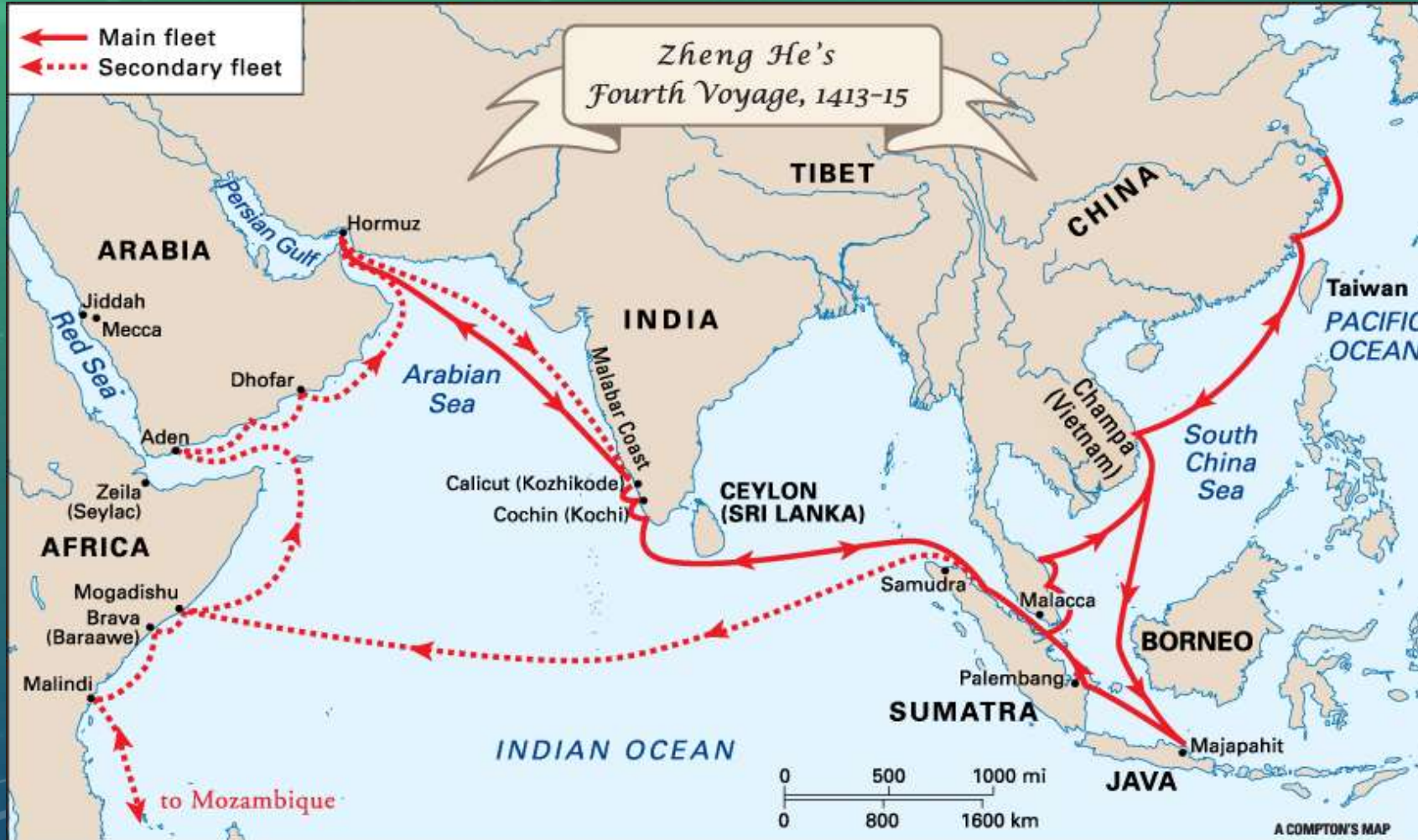
- **Questions:**
- **1)** Why did Emperor Yong Le send voyages around the world?
- **2)** Who was the leader and admiral of these voyages?
- **3)** What were the dates of these voyages and why is that important?

# WHO WAS ZHENG HE?

- **Questions:**
- **1) Why did Emperor Yong Le send voyages around the world?**
  - **He wanted to trade with other kingdoms and to show off China's power.**
- **2) Who was the leader and admiral of these voyages?**
  - **Zheng He**
- **3) What were the dates of these voyages and why is that important?**
  - **1405 – 1431...which means that China was here way before Columbus was!!!**

# WHERE DID ZHENG HE TRAVEL?

- Zheng He took his first fleet to southeast Asia, eventually reaching India and moving into the Persian Gulf of Arabia.



- He then explored the coast of East Africa.

# WHERE DID ZHENG HE TRAVEL?



- In these areas, Zheng he traded Chinese goods, such as silk, paper and porcelain for foreign goods such as silver, spices, wood and other goods.

# WHERE DID ZHENG HE TRAVEL?

- From Africa, Zheng He returned home with giraffes and other foreign animals for the emperor's personal zoo.



# WHERE DID ZHENG HE TRAVEL?

- As a result of Zheng He's voyages, Chinese merchants settled in Southeast Asia and India.



- There, they not only traded goods but also spread Chinese culture.

# WHERE DID ZHENG HE TRAVEL?



- Chinese merchants at home and abroad grew rich from the trade created by the Zheng He voyages and added much to China's wealth.

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# WHERE DID ZHENG HE TRAVEL?

- Despite these benefits, Chinese officials complained that the trips cost too much money.



- They also said the voyages were bad for China's way of life because they brought in new ideas from the outside world that were not Chinese...also merchants were becoming extremely rich and gaining much power.

# WHERE DID ZHENG HE TRAVEL?

- Confucius had taught that people should place loyalty to their society over their own personal desires.



- To the officials, China's merchants were disobeying this teaching by working to gain money for themselves.

# WHERE DID ZHENG HE TRAVEL?

- When Zheng He dies in 1433 C.E. he leaves China a very different place than when he started his voyages.
- One theory about his death is simply that Admiral Zheng He died in 1433...it may have happened during or shortly after the seventh voyage.
- Although, another theory is that Zheng He continued being the defender of Nanjing, ultimately dying in 1435 in battle.
- In 1985, a Muslim-style tomb was built in Nanjing on the site of an earlier horseshoe-shape grave... it contains his clothes and headgear as his body was buried at sea. (**Zheng He Tomb**)



# WHERE DID ZHENG HE TRAVEL?

- After Zheng He's death, the Confucian scholars persuaded the emperor to stop all Treasure Fleet voyages.



- The boats were all dismantled and no more ships capable of long distance travel were allowed to be built.

# WHERE DID ZHENG HE TRAVEL?

- As a result, China's trade with other countries sharply declined.



- Within fifty years, the ship building technology was forgotten and simply became legend.

# WHERE DID ZHENG HE TRAVEL?

- **Questions:**
- **1)** What types of goods was Zheng He's treasure ships bringing back to China?
- **2)** Where were Chinese merchants settling during this trading expansion.
- **3)** What did Chinese officials say about merchants becoming rich?
- **4)** What happened to the treasure ship fleet once voyages were halted?

# WHERE DID ZHENG HE TRAVEL?

- **Questions:**
- **1)** What types of goods was Zheng He's treasure ships bringing back to China?
  - **Silver, Spices, Wood and Animals**
- **2)** Where were Chinese merchants settling during this trading expansion.
  - **Southeast Asia and India**
- **3)** What did Chinese officials say about merchants becoming rich?
  - **They were disobeying the teachings of Confucius**
- **4)** What happened to the treasure ship fleet once voyages were halted?
  - **They were disabled and the technology was lost**

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# THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE IN CHINA

- Chinese officials were not able to cut off all of China's contacts with the outside world completely.



- In 1514 fleet from the of European country of **Portugal** arrived off the coast of China.

# THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE IN CHINA



- It was the first time Europeans had ever sailed to China and really the first direct contact between China and Europe since the journeys of Marco Polo.

# THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE IN CHINA

- The Portuguese wanted China to trade with their country.



- They were also on a mission to bring Christianity to China as well.

# THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE IN CHINA

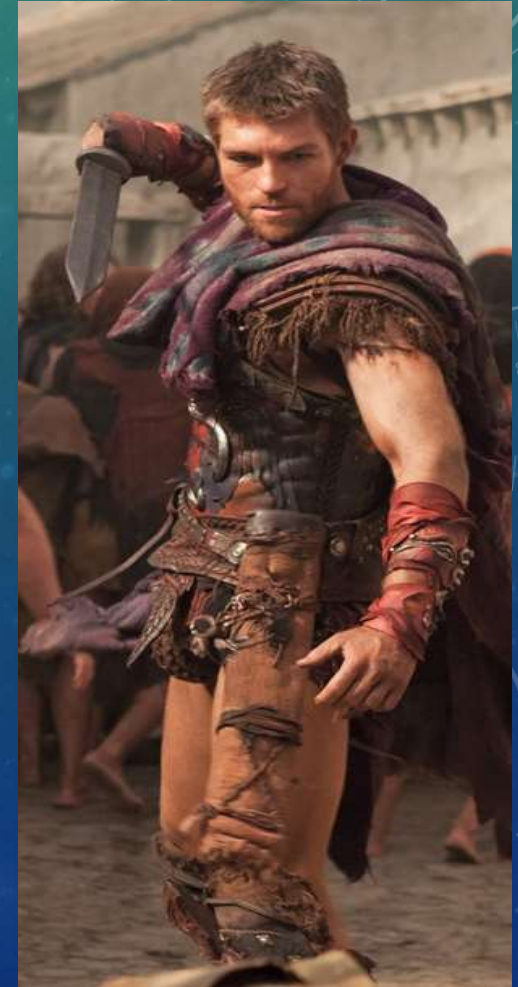
- At the time, the Ming government was not impressed with the Portuguese.



- China was at the height of its power and did not feel threatened by the outsiders.

# THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE IN CHINA

- In fact the Ming looked at Europeans as nothing more than **Barbarians**.



- **Barbarians** – uncivilized, violent people.

# THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE IN CHINA



- At first China refused to trade with the Portuguese, but in 1600, they had allowed Portugal to set up a trading post at the port of **Macao (Muh-Kow)** in southern China.

# THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE IN CHINA



# THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE IN CHINA





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# THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE IN CHINA

- Goods were carried on European ships between Macao and Japan.



- Despite this agreement, trade between China and Europe remained very limited.

# THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE IN CHINA

- Despite restrictions, ideas from Europe did reach China.



- Christian missionaries traveled to China on European ships, many of which were **Jesuits**, a special group of Roman Catholic Priest.

# THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE IN CHINA



- Completed World Map by the Jesuits...17<sup>th</sup> Century

# THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE IN CHINA

- These **Jesuits** were highly educated and their scientific knowledge impressed the Chinese.



- To get China to accept European ideas, the Jesuits brought with them clocks, eyeglasses and other scientific instruments.  
(**Above: Instruments to study star charts and space**)

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# THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE IN CHINA

- Although there were almost a thousand Jesuits that traveled to China, they were unable to convert many Chinese to Christianity.
- The Jesuits played a significant role in continuing the transmission of knowledge, science, and culture between China and the West, and had an impact on Christian culture in Chinese society today.
- In 1844 China may have had 240,000 Roman Catholics, but this number grew rapidly, and in 1901 the figure reached 720,490 and continues to grow today.



# THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE IN CHINA



- Jesuits on mission to China, 1900



# THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE IN CHINA

- **Questions:**
- **1)** What European country wanted trade with China in the 1500's?
- **2)** What did the Ming consider the Europeans to be?
- **3)** What was the name of the port in which Portugal was able to set up a trading post?
- **4)** What Catholic missionaries traveled to China to bring them Christianity? Were they successful?

# THE EUROPEANS ARRIVE IN CHINA

- **Questions:**

- **1)** What European country wanted trade with China in the 1500's?

- **Portugal**

- **2)** What did the Ming consider the Europeans to be?

- **Barbarians**

- **3)** What was the name of the port in which Portugal was able to set up a trading post?

- **Macao**

- **4)** What Catholic missionaries traveled to China to bring them Christianity? Were they successful?

- **Jesuits...somewhat successful**

# WHY DID THE MING DYNASTY FALL?

- After a long era of prosperity and growth, the Ming Dynasty began to decline.



- Ming emperors had gathered too much power into their own hands and with all of this control government officials had little desires to make improvements.

# WHY DID THE MING DYNASTY FALL?

- There is always room for improvements in a government and as time passed, Ming rulers became weak.



- Greedy officials who lived in luxury took over the country...as they did this they placed heavy taxes on peasants who began to revolt.

# WHY DID THE MING DYNASTY FALL?

- As law and order disappeared, a people called the **Manchus** attacked China's northern border.



- The Manchus lived to the north east of the Great Wall of China in an area known today as **Manchuria**.

# WHY DID THE MING DYNASTY FALL?

- The Manchus defeated the Chinese armies and captured Beijing.



- In 1644 they set up a new dynasty called the Qing Dynasty which lasted until the 1900's.

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# WHY DID THE MING DYNASTY FALL?

- **Questions:**
- **1)** Why would the Ming Emperors lose control if they held so much power?
- **2)** What group revolted against the Ming and set up a new Empire in 1644?



# WHY DID THE MING DYNASTY FALL?

- **Questions:**
- **1)** Why would the Ming Emperors lose control if they held so much power?
  - **They got lazy and had no desire to make changes**
- **2)** What group revolted against the Ming and set up a new Empire in 1644?
  - **The Manchus**

# HISTORY MYSTERY TIME!!



- History Mystery Time!!

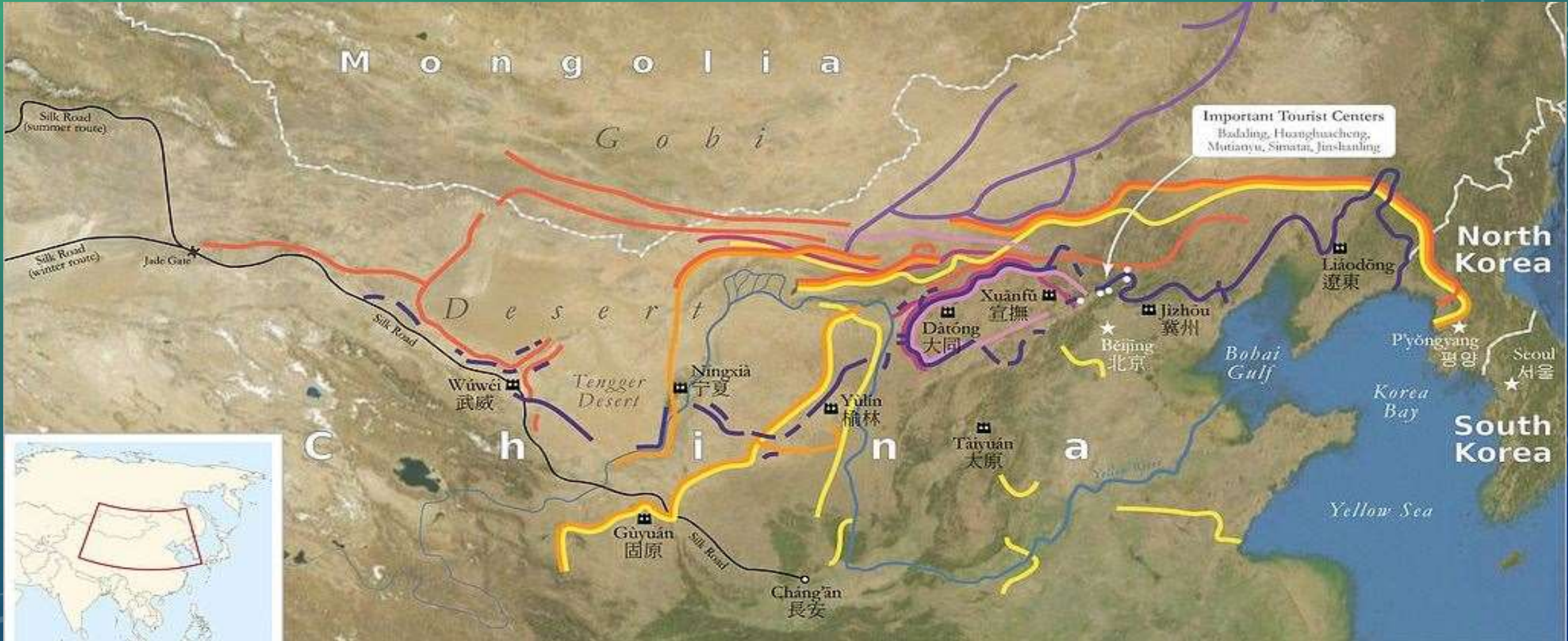
# HISTORY MYSTERY TIME!!



- There are always questions about the Great Wall of China.

# HISTORY MYSTERY TIME!!

- Was the Great Wall of China actually one complete wall?



- Absolutely not!

# HISTORY MYSTERY TIME!!



- Over twenty states and dynasties were involved in the building of the Great Wall.

# HISTORY MYSTERY TIME!!



- The creation of the Great Wall was initiated during the Warring States Period to prevent the invasion by other states of China and outer tribes.

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# WHY DID THE MING DYNASTY FALL?

- **Persuasive Writing:**
- Imagine you are living in China at the time of Zheng He's voyages. Write a newspaper editorial wither for or against the voyages.
  - Describe why you think the voyages are aiding or hurting China as a whole.

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# BIOGRAPHY OF ZHENG HE

- **Then and Now:**
  - What “made in China” products do you use today on a daily basis.
  - Do some research to find out what items and products you use are imported to the United States from China.

# BIOGRAPHY OF ZHENG HE

- **Top five items imported from China to the United States:**
  - **1) Cell phones and other household goods (58 Million)**
    - **2) Computers (47 Million)**
  - **3) Toys, games, and sporting goods (34 Million)**
  - **4) Apparel, textiles, non-wool or cotton (31 million)**
    - **5) Computer accessories (28 Million)**