

# Chapter 22

## Asian Transitions in an Age of Global Change

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### Chapter Themes

- Another example of new contact and its implications
- Characterizes European expansion into the Asian sea trading network (consisting of Arab, Indian and Chinese zones)
- Examines the reactions of China and Japan to increased contact w/the west

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### Patterns

- Chapter 22 highlights important patterns that we have seen throughout the pre-modern period
  - New levels of contact
  - Movement (trade & goods rather than ideas)
  - Highly varied responses to increased contact with Europe, though few Asian cultures see much of an impact...yet
  - A hint of what is to come (rise of the West)

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## Introduction

- Implications of being “last to the table” in Asian trade zones
  - European realization that Muslim traders are firmly entrenched in Asian trade zones and have been for hundreds of years (will block Christian missionary work)
  - Decision to use force deemed necessary in order to dominate trade networks (Europeans can take advantage of Arab political division)

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## Asian trading & Coming of the Europeans

- Profit motive combined with some missionary thrust
- Asian sea trading network stretches thousands of miles from Africa & the Middle East to East Asia
- Characterized by:
  - Lack of central control (Europeans can take advantage)
  - Absence of military force from commercial exchanges (European advantage)

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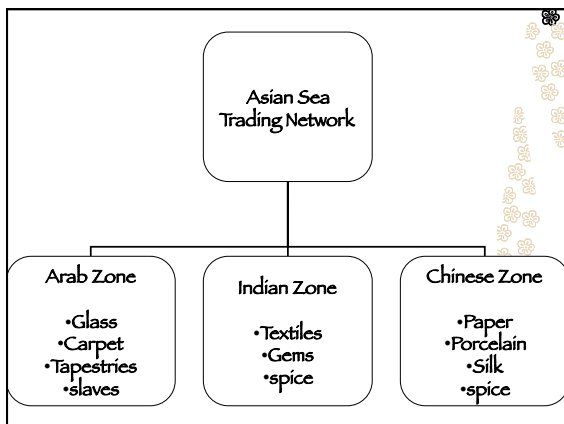
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## Asian Sea Trading Network

- A variety of goods traded but spice dominates b/c of its high prices
- Monsoon winds dictate trade seasons and encourage coastal trade
  - Creates a convergence of trade at certain important areas (ex.—Straits of Malacca)

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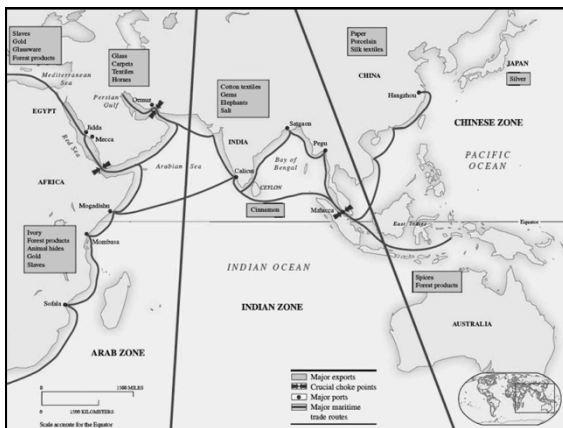
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## Trading Empire: Portuguese Response

- Learned quickly that their goods were not wanted
- Mercantilist philosophy taught that power dependent on wealth from trade
- Effective use of force with the goal to dominate trade networks (technology outweighs small size)
- Establish forts for protection
  - Goa, Ormuz and Malacca

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### Portuguese Vulnerability/ Rise of Dutch & English

- 17<sup>th</sup> c.—Dutch & English successfully battle for control
- Portuguese—lack men, quality ships, \$\$, capable rulers
- English--India
- Dutch—capture Malacca, establish fort in Java
  - Dutch trading empire—forts, factories & warships

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### European Tribute Systems

- European military advantage moves away once on land
  - Restricted to coast; need permission to trade inland
  - Resistance to Europe—Mindanao
- Tribute systems set up in places where Europeans fight for ground inland
  - Luzon

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### Spreading the Faith

- Dream of Christian Asia held by Spain & Port., not G.B. and Holland
  - Presence of Islam/Hinduism swiftly ends the dream
- Jesuits make inroads in Asia
  - “Trickle-down conversion”:  
Believed in adopting modes of the native upper classes in order to convert them. Others would then follow

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## Ming China

- Ming dynasty (1368-1644)
  - Founded by Zhu Yuanzhang
  - Helps expel Mongols
  - Takes name Hongwu, 1368
  - Mongols forced north of Great Wall

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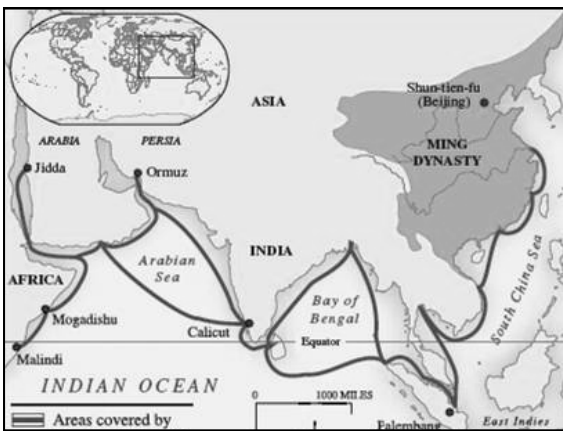
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## Chinese Revival

- Revival relies on the return of the scholar gentry
  - Revival of bureaucracy
  - return of exam system
- Hongwu limits the influence of scholar-gentry
  - Abolishes positions like chief minister
  - Public beatings for bureaucrats
  - Rules to cut down on factionalism/power plays at court

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### Scholar-Gentry Dominance

- Efforts to make peasants lives better offset by power of rural landlord families
- Women continue in their traditional subordinate roles
- Neo-Confucian social order/ philosophy still applies
  - Please note the story of the student who was beheaded for questioning his teacher!

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### An Age of Growth

- Contact = commercial boom
- American crops = pop. growth
- \$\$ used to patronize the arts
- Market
  - Silk, ceramics in high demand
  - Silver floods market
  - Europeans in Macao and Canton
- Agriculture
  - Corn, sweet potatoes, peanuts supplement staple crops
  - Pop. doubles between 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> c.

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### An Age of Expansion

- 1405-1423= Zheng He expeditions
- Motives: desire to explore, bring honor to the Ming
- Well-funded, huge fleets

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## Chinese Retreat

- Purposeful isolation occurs as Europeans move into region
- Jesuits infiltrate coastal areas
- Jesuits use knowledge of science and technology to gain entry
- Hope to convert the emperor first

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## Ming Decline

- Begins in the late 16<sup>th</sup> c.
- Reasons: (dynastic cycle)
  - Corrupt, incapable rulers
  - Failure to maintain dams, bridges etc.
  - Drought, famine
  - Local landlords gain too much power

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## Japan: Reunification/ First Challenge

- 3 leaders end the civil wars between the many daimyo of feudal Japan
  - Odo Nobunaga—deposes Ashikaga w/ firearms
  - Toyotomi Hideyoshi—Nobunaga's general who leads a failed invasion of Korea
  - Tokugawa Ieyasu—shogun whose family rules for 250 years

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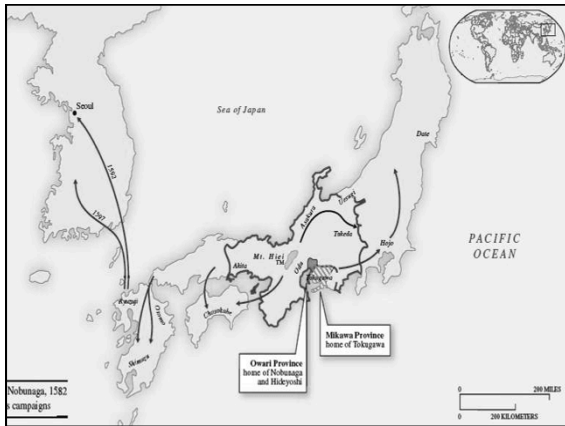
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Explain what is meant by the following quote:

■ "Nobunaga piled the rice, Hideyoshi kneaded the dough, and Tokugawa ate the cake."

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### Dealing w/the Europeans

- European presence= traders/ missionaries in Japan since 1543
- Japanese especially interested in firearms
- Jesuits initially protected (to counter Buddhist influence) but are viewed with suspicion after Buddhist power is crushed

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### Self-Imposed Isolation

- Result of growing doubts regarding European intentions
- Restrictions begin in 1580s
- Persecution of Christians begins in 1590s—reduced to an underground faith
- Complete isolation by Tokugawa by mid-17<sup>th</sup> c.
  - 1616, merchants restricted
  - By 1630, Japanese ships forbidden to sail overseas
  - By 1640s Dutch, Chinese visit only at Deshima Island

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### Global Connections

- Most of Asia is little impacted by European presence
- Level of exchange remains low but important (new foods, silver)
- Self-imposed isolation will have disastrous effects for much of Asia in the next century

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