



China's last native imperial dynasty!

Ming Dynasty, 1368-1644 C.E.

- ❖ The Ming restored Chinese rule to the Chinese. The Ming replaced the Mongol rulers (Yuan Dynasty).
- ❖ The Ming emperors expanded Chinese territory, increased trade, and even sponsored naval expeditions.

The Early Ming Empire, 1368–1500

Ming China on a Mongol Foundation

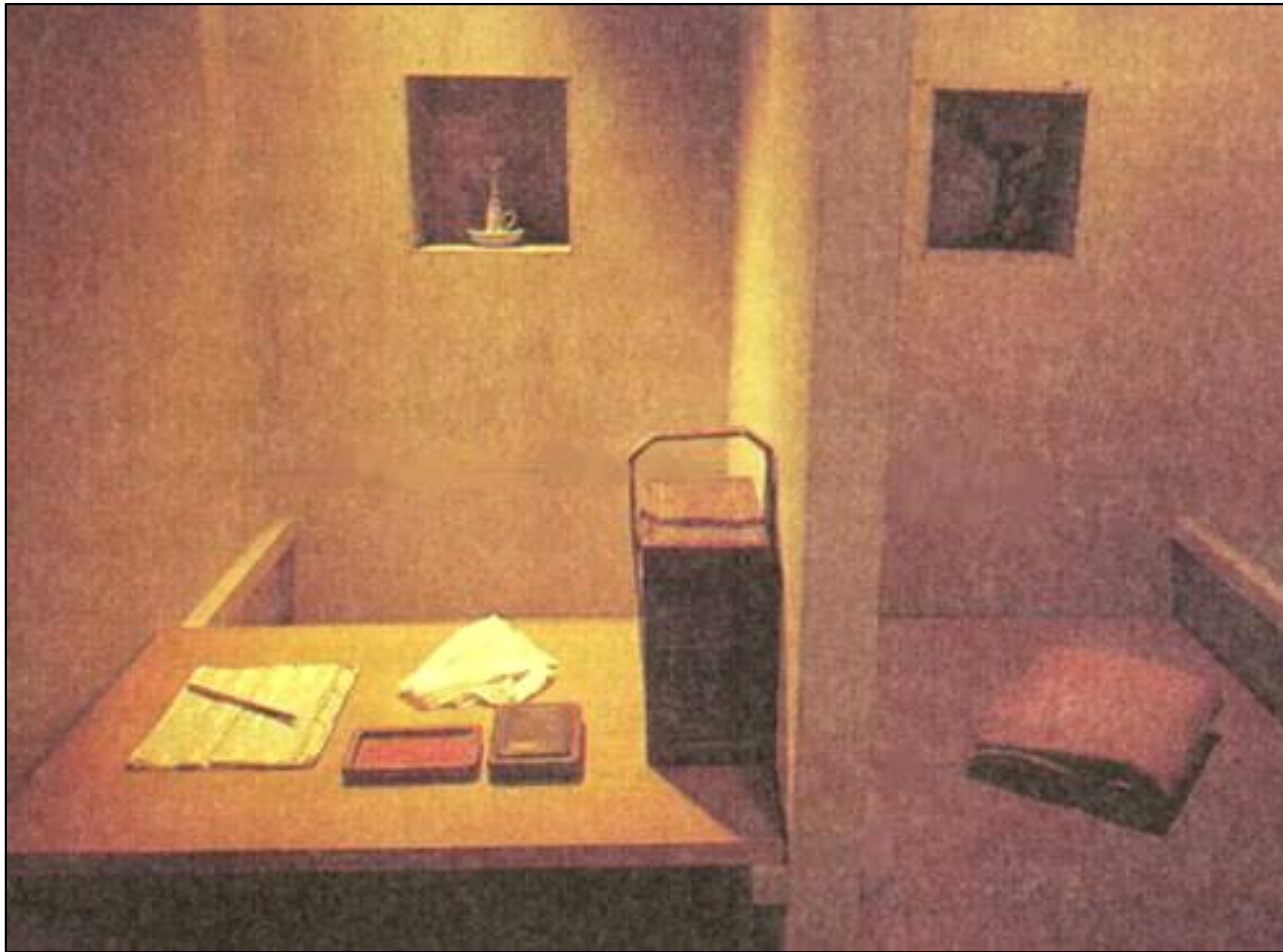
- ❖ The Mongols would dominate China from 1261-1368 → Until Zhu Yuanzhang would overthrow the Mongols and establish the Ming Empire in 1368
- He made great efforts to reject the culture of the Mongols

❖ At a deeper level, the Ming actually continued many institutions and practices that had been introduced during the Yuan.

❖ Areas of continuity include:


- the Yuan provincial structure
- the use of hereditary professional categories
- the Mongol calendar
- the use of Beijing as capital

Revived the Civil Service Exam



Ming Cultural Revolution

⌘ Printing & Literacy

- Cheap, popular books:
 - woodblock printing.
 - cheap paper.
- Examination system.
- Leads to explosion in literacy. 
- Leads to further popularization of the commercial market.

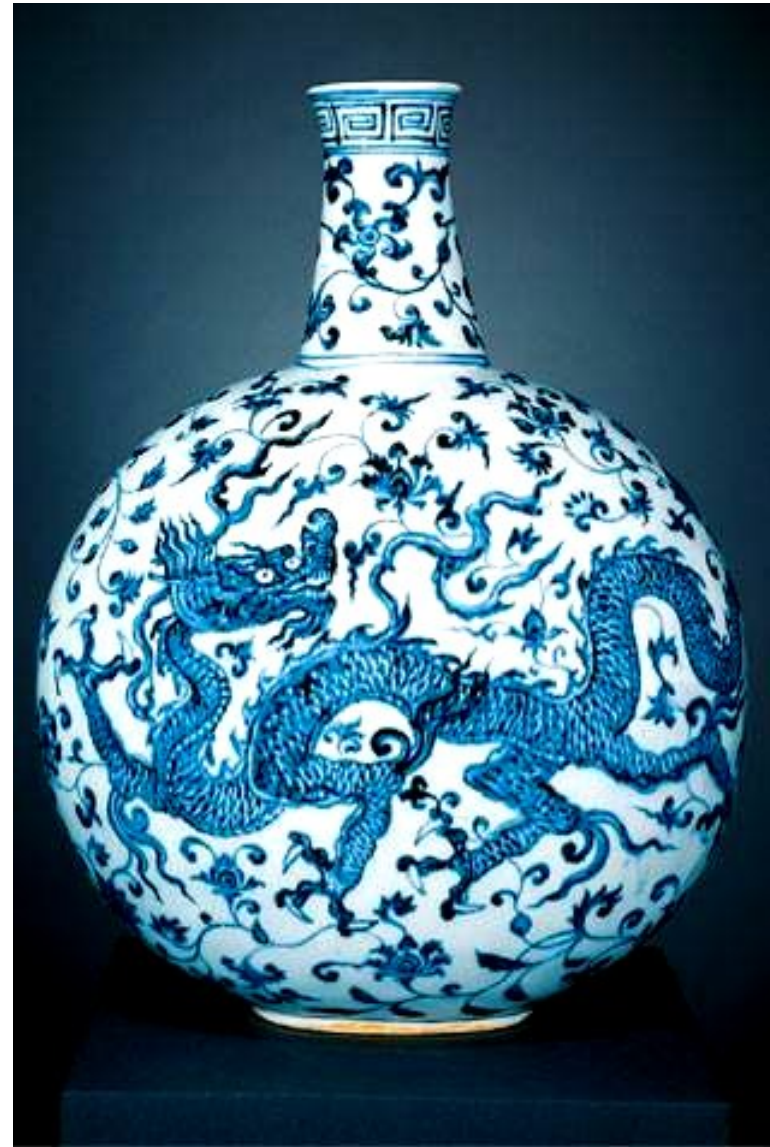
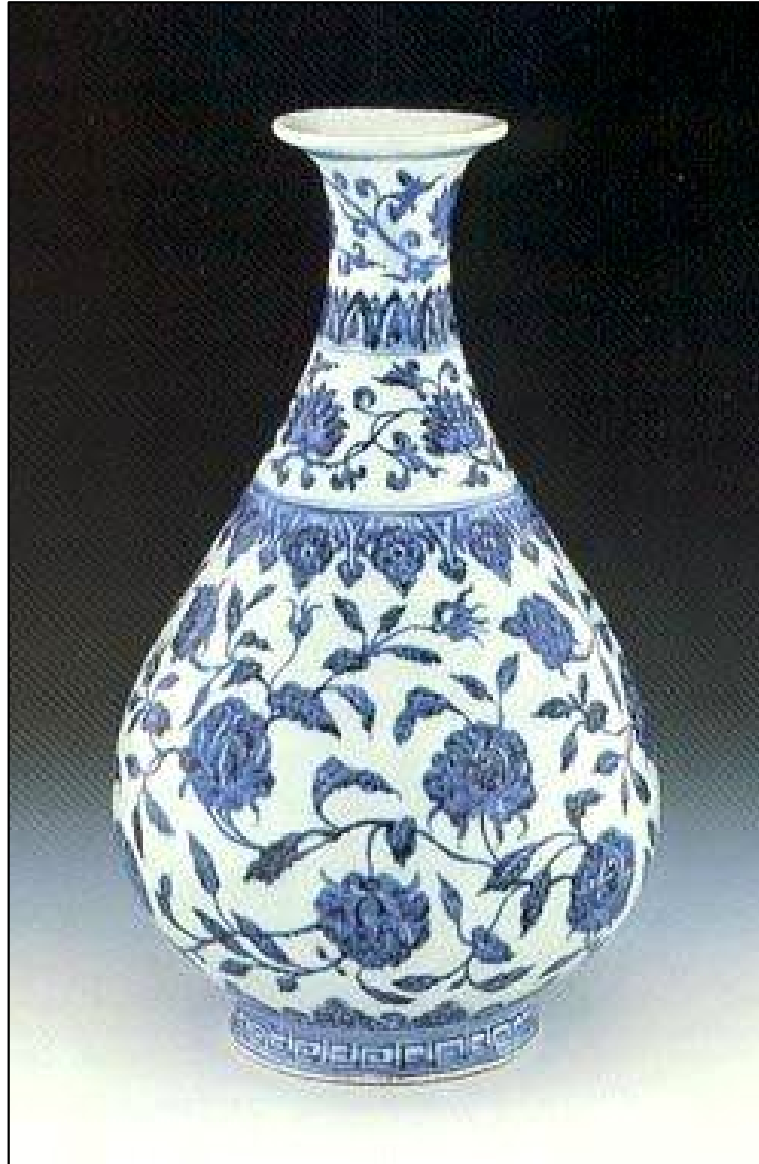
⌘ Culture & Art

- Increased literacy leads to increased interest in cultural expressions, ideas, and things:
 - Literature.
 - Painting.
 - Ceramics.
 - Opera.

Ming Porcelain / Ceramics, 17c–18c



Ming Vases, 18c



Ming Carved Lacquer Dish 15c



Ming Silver Market

⌘ Spanish Silver Convoys

- Triangle route:
 - Philippines to China to Japan.
- Silver floods Chinese Market:
 - Causes devaluation of currency & recession
 - Adds to reasons for Chinese immigration overseas.
 - Reduces price of Chinese goods in Europe
 - Increases interest in Chinese culture & ideas in Europe.
- Helps fund conquest of New World 
- Encourages Europeans in conquest & trade.



Ming Dynasty, 1368-1644 C.E.

- ⌘ Golden Age of Chinese Art
 - Moderation
 - Softness
 - Gracefulness
- ⌘ Three different schools of painting developed.
- ⌘ Hundreds of thousands of workers constructed the **Forbidden City**.



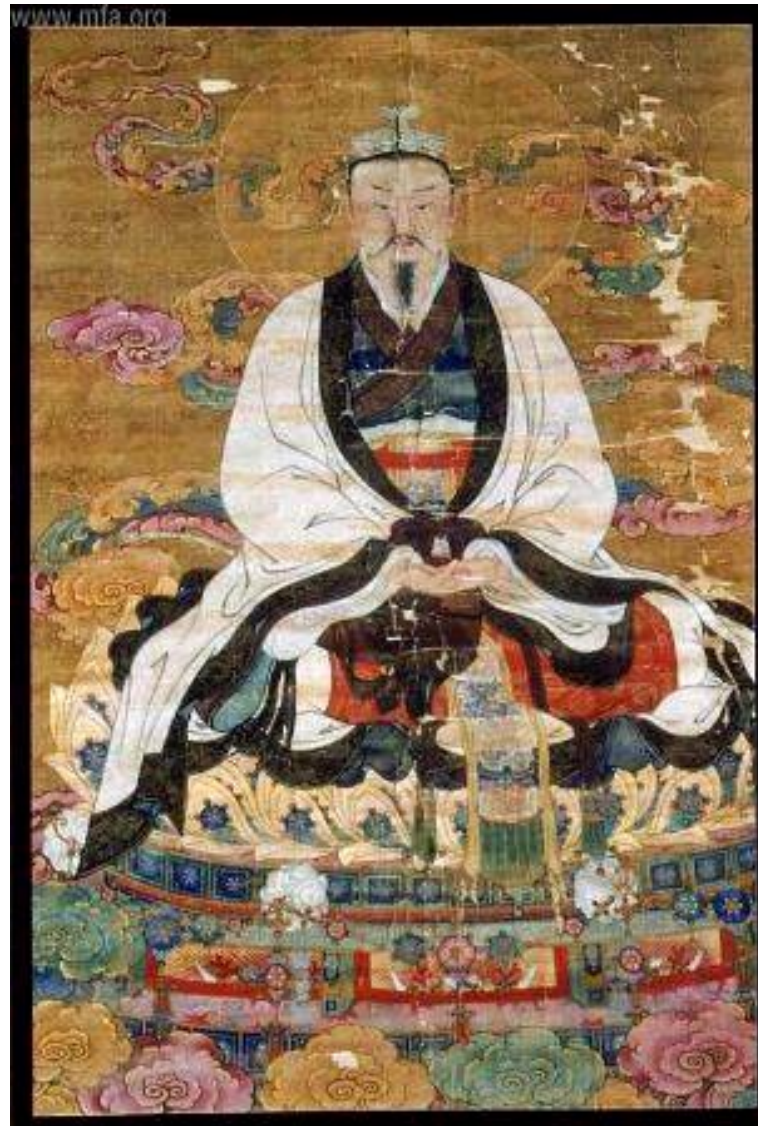
The Forbidden City: China's New Capital



Ming Scroll Painting “Travellers in Autumn Mountains”



Ming Painting – “Taoist Scholar”



Ming Painting – “Birds and Flowers”, 16c



Ming Painting and Calligraphy, early 16c



The Tribute System



Admiral Zheng He (Cheng Ho)



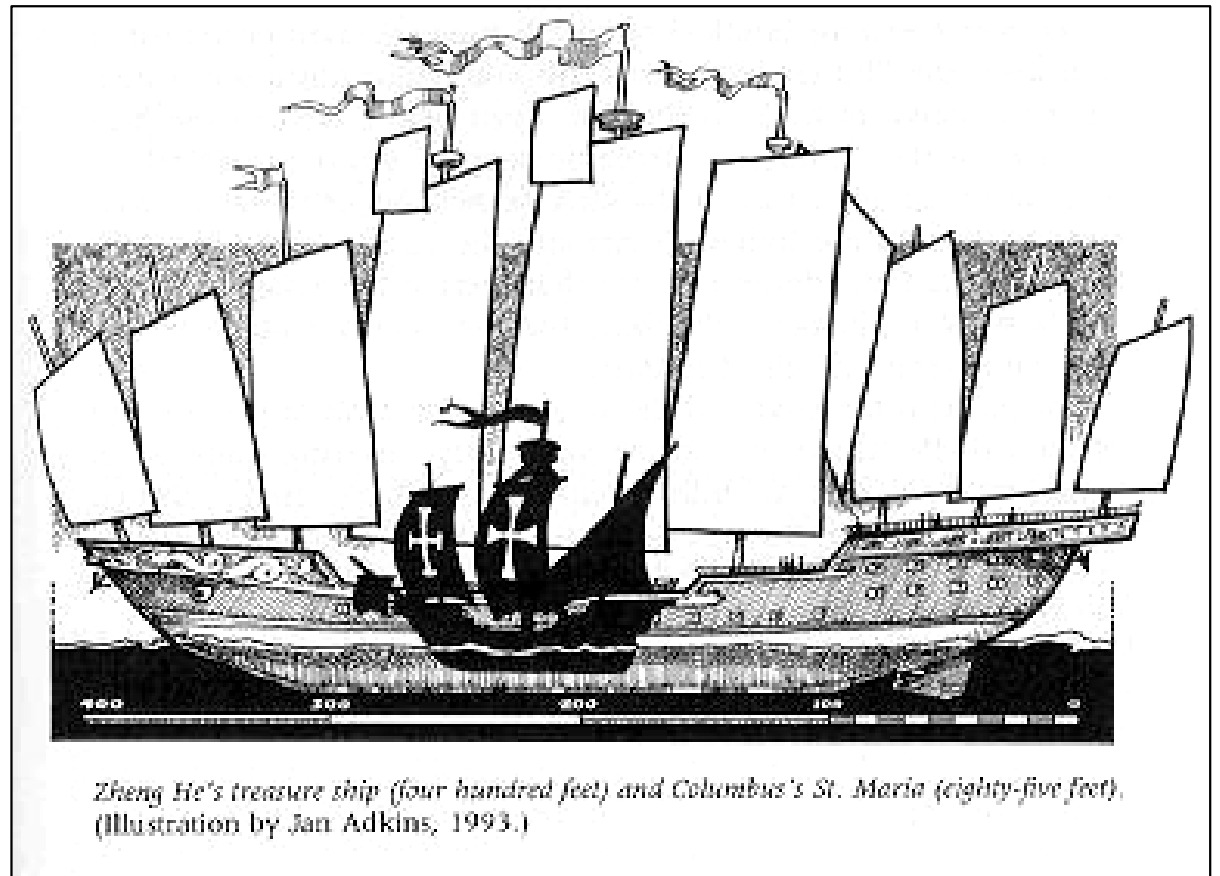
1371-1435

⌘ Ming "Treasure Fleet"

- Each ship 400' long & 160' wide



Admiral Zheng He (Cheng Ho)



Zheng He's treasure ship (four hundred feet) and Columbus's St. Maria (eighty-five feet). (Illustration by Jan Adkins, 1993.)

⌘ China's "Columbus?" 

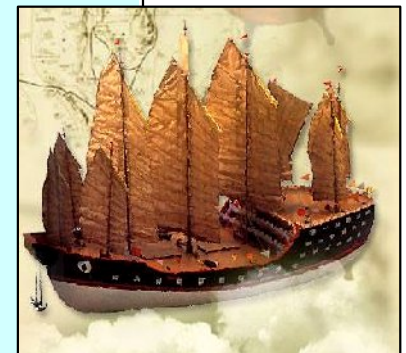
Admiral Zheng He's Voyages

- ⌘ First Voyage: 1405-1407 [62 ships; 27,800 men].
- ⌘ Second Voyage: 1407-1409 [He didn't go on this trip].
- ⌘ Third Voyage: 1409-1411 [48 ships; 30,000 men].
- ⌘ Fourth Voyage: 1413-1415 [63 ships; 28,500 men].
- ⌘ Fifth Voyage: 1417-1419
- ⌘ Sixth Voyage: 1421-1422
 - Emperor Zhu Gaozhi cancelled future trips and ordered ship builders and sailors to stop work.
- ⌘ Seventh Voyage: 1431-1433
 - Emperor Zhu Zhanji resumed the voyages in 1430 to restore peaceful relations with Malacca & Siam
 - 100 ships and 27,500 men; Zheng He died on the return trip.

MING CHINA 1368 - 1644

- 1368 Ming dynasty est. at Nanking
- 1421 Capital moved to Peking
- 1522 Mongol incursions and to Japanese sea pirate attacks
- 1566


- China 1400
- China 1644



⌘ 1498 --> Da Gama reached Calcutta, China's favorite port.

The Treasure Fleet

- ❖ Between 1405 and 1433 the Ming dispatched a series of expeditions to Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean under the Muslim eunuch admiral Zheng He.
- ❖ The goals of these missions were to reestablish trade links with the Middle East and bring Southeast Asian countries and their overseas Chinese populations under Chinese control, or at least under its influence.

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- ❖ Zheng He's expeditions retraced routes that were largely known to the Chinese already.
 - ❖ The voyages imported some luxury goods (including two giraffes) to China and added as many as fifty countries to China's list of tributaries.
 - ❖ However, there was not significant increase in long-distance trade and the voyages were, overall, not profitable.

- ❖ Many historians wonder why the voyages ceased and whether or not China could have gone on to become a great mercantile power or acquire an overseas empire.
- ❖ In answering this question, it is useful to remember that the Zheng He voyages did not use new technology, were not profitable, were undertaken as the personal project of the Emperor, and may have been inspired partly by his need to prove his worth.

- ❖ The end of the Zheng He voyages may also be related to the need to use limited resources for other projects, including coastal defense against Japanese pirates and defense of the northern borders against the Mongols.
- ❖ The end of the Zheng He voyages was *not* the end of Chinese seafaring: it was only the end of the state's organization and funding of such large-scale expeditions.

Chinese Ethnocentrism

- ❖ The Chinese believed that they were the “Middle Kingdom.” They believed that they could learn nothing important from other inferior cultures.
- ❖ This ethnocentric attitude eventually led to a policy of isolationism.
- ❖ Due to ethnocentrism, Chinese emperors eventually halted naval expeditions.
- ❖ Though China was very advanced for the time period, isolationism caused China to fall behind.

Technology

- ❖ Korea and Japan moved ahead of China in technological innovation.
- ❖ Korea excelled in firearms, shipbuilding, meteorology, and calendar making, while Japan surpassed China in mining, metallurgy, and novel household goods