AMSCO Chapter 20

East Asian Stability Meets Foreign Traders

1. Yuan Dynasty of the Mongols was overthrown in 1368, establishing Ming dynasty
2. Ming Dynasty
3. Stable Ming dynasty grew silk industry; both cities of Beijing and Nanjing were beautified, with royal family living in Forbidden City walled compound of royal palaces
4. Wanted a return to Confucian tradition and removal of all Mongol influences
5. Returned to the civil service exam and efficient bureaucracy
6. Expanded into Mongolia and Central Asia; restored Great Wall of China to protect against invasions from the north
7. Voyages of Zheng He
8. Seven great voyages to Indonesia, Ceylon, Indian Ocean, Arabia, east coast of Africa and even Cape of Good Hope to display mighty power of Ming Dynasty and collect tribute; over 300 ships and 25,000 sailors
9. Brought back exotic treasures like giraffes and also new ideas from Europe and beyond
10. Confucianism promoted stable, agrarian life, and greater interaction with world threatened social order; some considered non-Chinese barbarians
11. Emperor Yongle died and his son, Zhu Gaozhi ended Zheng he’s travels and discouraged sea travel by making building two mast ships a crime; this increased piracy in the China Sea
12. A Portuguese Trading Empire in Asia
13. Portuguese traders arrive in China in 1514; they already controlled African and Indian coastal trade; forts built along the way enabled Portuguese set up a monopoly on spice trade via a global trading post empire
14. Portuguese traders were followed by Dominican, Franciscan and Jesuit missionaries; Jesuits especially impressed Chinese court with scientific and technical knowledge, but not many converted
15. Portuguese Vulnerability – still small country, not enough manpower or ships; Portuguese merchants traded independently, cutting out government; corruption of officials; rise of Dutch and English naval powers, with British pushing Portuguese out of South Asia
16. Rise of Qing Dynasty
17. 1644, peasant revolt overthrew Ming and the Manchu moved in to the power vacuum, establishing Qing Dynasty, pacifying all of China within 40 years, and ruling until 1911
18. Qing Dynasty
19. Ethnically and culturally distinct from Chinese, tried to impose their culture on China, like attire and hair style, but allowed Chinese bureaucracy and civil service system to continue
20. Emperor Kangxi (1661-1722) long period of stability and expansion in China, moving into Taiwan, Mongolia and Central Asia, and Tibet
21. Kangxi permitted hundreds of thousands of Chinese to convert to Catholicism, but his successors forced these Catholics into secret worship; Jesuits were respected for speaking and writing in Chinese and respecting Confucianism
22. Built schools, authorized the Kangxi dictionary of 42,000 characters, and Collection of Books
23. Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795)
24. Annexed Xinjiang through mass killing of locals; local Muslims there, called Uighurs, never incorporated into Chinese culture
25. Installed Dali Lama on throne of Tibet; conquered Nepal; failed with Burma and Vietnam, hurting the Qing economy
26. To make money, Qing sold limited trading privileges to Europeans, but limiting them to Guangzhou (Canton)
27. English asked for more rights, and Qing emperor responded by saying the Chinese did not need any British manufactured goods
28. Bureaucracy became corrupt and charged even higher taxes; peasants revolted in White Lotus Rebellion, which was crushed by Qing, killing over 100,000
29. Economic Changes
30. Proto-industrial (some industry, but most people still farmers)
31. Population growth led to land shortage for producing food
32. China exported tea, silk, porcelain in exchange for silver, creating a need for silk workers; tax on traded goods also increased government income
33. Chinese Society
34. Confucianism honored family above individual; family bonds extended in to clans, supporting social stability
35. Only men were educated, no divorce; widows who committed suicide upon husband’s death were honored; foot binding conferred high social status while limiting physical movement
36. Arts and Literature
37. Modern novel may be traced back to “Journey to the West” (1590s); “The Golden Lotus” and “Dream of the Red Chamber” were also written during this time period in the Chinese vernacular
38. Japan
39. Military leaders called shoguns ruled Japan from 12th-15th centuries until conflict among aristocrats (daimyo) with personal armies led to chaos
40. Each daimyo had samurai (warriors) to attack neighboring daimyo
41. Finally, gunpowder allowed three daimyo to unite Japan
42. Powerful Daimyo
43. Oda Nobunaga used muskets from the Portuguese to take Kyoto in 1568 and unified 1/3 of Japan before his assassination in 1582
44. Toyotomi Hideyoshi united almost all of Japan before his death in 1598; power moved to capital city Edo (now Tokyo) controlled by Tokugawa Ieyasu after 1603, leading Japan in to *the Period of Great Peace*
45. Tokugawa Government – centralized into 250 hans (territories) each controlled by a daimyo with an army; daimyo had to have a house in han and another in the capital where his family lived while he was in han, essentially hostage to the emperor
46. Social Changes – samurais became obsolete, and some became ronin (samurai without a master) roaming the country and becoming bandits
47. Samurai still at top of social pyramid, below emperor and his court, next were peasants and farmers, and merchants are artisans at the bottom because they were parasites who made profit off the work of others; at the bottom were the Eta, untouchables because their jobs were unclean, like butchers and executioners
48. Silk and silver were produced in large quantities; paper money for banking helped economy, more food was produced so a surplus was available
49. Arts and Literature
50. Advances in architecture, woodblock printing, haiku, kabuki theatre, literature
51. Contact with Europeans – Christian missionaries and traders were welcomed at first, but converts began to destroy Buddhist shrines so Hideyoshi banned Christianity in 1587 and missionaries were expelled.
52. By 1630s almost all foreigners were expelled and foreign books were outlawed, travel abroad was prohibited, as was large ship building
53. Europeans were viewed as “uncouth”
54. Korea – called the “Hermit Kingdom” due to limited contact with outside world, but still influenced by China, especially Ming, who helped Korea block a Japanese invasion  
    A. Korea was under Manchu control during Qing Dynasty