EAST & SOUTHEAST ASIA

1450 – 1750

Transitions and the Quest for Political Stability
THE MING DYNASTY

- Ming government (1368-1644)
  - Drove the Mongols out of China
    - Constantly faced threats of new nomad invasions
    - Rebuilt Great Wall to prevent northern invasions
  - Centralized government control
    - Restored Chinese cultural traditions
    - Restored Confucian bureaucracy, civil service examinations
    - Eunuchs given impressive role in Forbidden City as bureaucrats
  - Ming attempted to recreate the past, not improve upon it
  - Moved capital to Beijing
    - Built Forbidden City for emperor, bureaucrats
    - City was closer to danger of north
    - Extended Grand Canal to the north to bring food to city

- Ming decline
  - Centralized government ran poorly under weak emperors
  - Weak emperors isolated by eunuchs, advisors
  - Public works fell into disrepair
  - Coastal cities, trade disrupted by pirates, 1520 – 1560
  - Government corruption and inefficiency
    - Caused by powerful eunuchs
    - Overshadowed by inability of bureaucrats to reform, innovate
  - Famines and peasant rebellions: 1630s and 1640s
  - Rebellion by army units opens door to nomadic invasion
  - Nomadic Manchu invaders led to final Ming collapse, 1644
THE QING DYNASTY

- **Manchus (1644-1911)**
  - Nomadic invaders
    - Originated in Manchuria
    - Last of the steppe invaders, dynasties
    - Overwhelmed Chinese forces
    - Proclaimed Qing dynasty
    - Originally pastoral nomads
    - Military force called banner armies
    - Captured Mongolia first, then China
  - Remained an isolated ethnic elite
    - Forbade intermarriage with Chinese
    - Forbade Chinese immigration to Manchuria, Mongolia
    - Permitted Confucian scholars to run government
    - Maintained Confucian system

- **Emperor Kangxi (1661-1722)**
  - Confucian scholar; effective, enlightened ruler
  - Conquered Taiwan
  - Extended control to Central Asia, Tibet, Sinkiang

- **Emperor Qianlong (1736-1795)**
  - A sophisticated and learned ruler, poet, and artist
  - Vietnam, Burma, Nepal made vassal states of China
  - China was peaceful, prosperous, and powerful
SON OF HEAVEN & SCHOLAR BUREAUCRATS

- Ming, Qing reestablish Sui, Tang, Song system
  - Neo-Confucianism predominated
  - Not nearly as flexible or vibrant as the previous system
- Emperor considered "the son of heaven"
  - Heavenly powers, maintained order on the earth
  - Privileged life, awesome authority, paramount power
  - Kowtow in his presence
- Governance of the empire
  - Fell to civil servants, called scholar-bureaucrats
  - Schooled in Confucian texts, calligraphy
  - Had to pass rigorous examinations with strict quotas
  - Often used eunuchs when not opposed by Confucians
  - Often riddled with etiquette, proper form
- Examination system and Chinese society
  - Civil service exam intensely competitive
  - Few chosen for government positions
  - Others could become local teachers or tutors
  - System was meritocracy
    - Ideal: best students running country
    - Wealthy families had advantages over poor families
    - Often the test was mere recitation, not original learning
- Confucian curriculum fostered common values
THE PATRIARCHAL SYSTEM

- Ming restored social system; Qing maintained traditions
- Basic unit of Chinese society
  - Remained the family
  - Highest value, filial piety
  - Family mirrored state-individual relations
  - Confucian duties of loyalty, reciprocity
    - Children to parents
    - Subjects to the emperor
    - Wife to husband (women to men)
    - Younger to elder
  - Important functions of clan, extended families
    - Justice, government administered through extended families
    - Reward, punishment effected all

- Gender relations
  - Strict patriarchal control over all females
  - Parents preferred boys over girls
  - Marriage was to continue male line
  - Female infanticide; widows encouraged to commit suicide
  - Footbinding of young girls increased
  - Lowest status person in family was a young bride
Intense garden-style agriculture fed a large population
- Chinese began to expand to South, Yangtze valley, clear forested lands
- American food crops in seventeenth century
  - Maize, sweet potatoes, peanuts grew on marginal soils, without much irrigation
  - Added to traditional foods: rich (South), wheat, millet, sorghum (north)
  - Available land reached maximum productivity by mid-17th century
- Population growth: 80 million in 14th century to 300 million in 1800
- Manufacturing and trade benefited from abundant, cheap labor
  - Exported large quantities of silk, porcelain, lacquer, and tea
  - Compensated for the exports by importing silver bullion
- Internal Commerce and Foreign trade
  - Both expanded under Ming tremendously
    - Exported tea, lacquer, silk, porcelain
    - Imported gold, exotics, spices
  - Brought wealth to the dynasty, merchants
  - Threatened Confucian scholar-bureaucrats
  - Kangxi began policy of strict control on foreign contact
    - Western merchants restricted to ports of Macao and Quangzhou
    - Western merchants often had to act through Chinese intermediaries
- Government and technology
  - China (along with much of Asia) was a labor intensive economy
    - Two types of systems possible: labor intensive or capital intensive
    - Europeans preferred capital intensive as it allowed better use of labor, was cheaper
    - Difference is capital intensive economies require machine, industrialization
  - Ming, Qing dynasties considered technological change disruptive
    - Abundant skilled labor, why not use it
    - Labor-saving technologies unnecessary as they put people out of work
THE SOCIAL SYSTEM

- Dynastic Family
  - Composed of emperor, family, wives, children, relatives
  - Lived in the Forbidden City; isolated lives of ease
  - Under the Qing, this group were Manchu, not Chinese

- Privileged classes
  - Scholar-bureaucrats: passed the civil examinations
  - Landed gentry: inherited land, wealth, titles
  - Occupied highest government, intellectual positions
  - Directed local government, society
  - Generally became landed as soon as able
  - Included priests, monks of Confucians, Taoists, Buddhists

- Peasants
  - Largest class
  - Esteemed by Confucius for their honest labor
  - Generally referred to as the mean people

- Artisans, other skilled workers
  - Some economic status

- Merchants
  - Often powerful and wealthy
  - Had little social status as they made wealth through money

- Lower classes: slaves, servants, entertainers, prostitutes
TRADITION & NEW CULTURAL INFLUENCES

• Neo-Confucianism
  • Confucianism
    • Education, traditions supported by Min and Qing emperors
      • Hanlin Academy in Beijing, provincial schools
      • Prepared students for civil service exams
      • Blended with Buddhism, Daoism to produce a Chinese synthesis
  • Popular culture
    • Expanded to include novels, romances, travel adventures
    • Imperial cultural projects: encyclopedias and libraries

• Christianity comes to China
  • Nestorian Christians not unknown in China, but had little influence
  • Portuguese brought Catholicism to China, courts
    • Matteo Ricci (1552-1610), an Italian Jesuit in the Ming court
      • A learned man who mastered written and oral Chinese
      • Impressed Chinese with European science and mathematics
      • Popular mechanical devices: glass prisms, harpsichords, clocks
  • Confucianism and Christianity
    • Jesuits respectful of Chinese tradition, but won few converts
    • Chinese had problems with exclusivity of Christianity
    • Franciscan, Dominican missionaries criticized Jesuits' tolerance
    • When pope upheld critics, Emperor Kangxi denounced Christianity

• Jesuits
  • An important bridge between Chinese and western cultures
  • Introducing each to the achievements of the other
TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE IN JAPAN TO 1867

- **The Warring States Period**
  - 15th century: Japanese civil war breaks out
  - Japan divided into warring feudal estates
    - Various daimyo begin to enact own laws
    - Europeans arrive 1543, give guns to Southern daimyo
    - Last Ashikaga Shogun lost control, eliminated in 1573
  - Nobunaga, Hideyoshi attempt to unite Japan
    - Nobunaga
      - Innovative, brilliant general, merciless, from a minor family
      - Deposed Ashikaga shogun, tries to conquer Japan
      - Assassinated by vassal general
    - Toyotomi Hideyoshi
      - Ablest general to Nobunaga but son of a peasant
      - Wanted to break hold of daimyo, samurai
      - Unites Japan temporarily 1590
      - Invades Korea; threatens to invade China, Philippines

- **Tokugawa Ieyasu**
  - General to Hideyoshi, from a minor family
  - Conquered Kanto, richest part of Japan
  - Ended Korean campaign, concentrates on ruling Japan
  - Wins civil war, establishes shogunate in 1603
  - Moves capital to Edo (Tokyo), reestablishes stability
  - First need to control the daimyo, powerful local lords
    - Each daimyo absolute lord within his domain
    - Tokugawa required daimyo to live alternative years at Edo
      - *Bakufu* controlled daimyo marriages, travel, expenditures
    - Daimyo allowed to rule lands, paid tax to the shogun
1. Emperor was honored as the head of state
2. Actual power was held by the shogun
3. Japan was an example of a centralized feudal state
4. The title of shogun was hereditary within the Tokugawa family
5. Shogun was in charge of courts, finance, appointed all officials
6. Shogun was head of the army; made all grants of land to daimyo
7. Daimyo were land holding samurai
8. Some were powerful enough to challenge the Shogun
9. The daimyo managed their domains or feudal possessions
10. Greater samurai owned land but not much; lesser samurai were warriors
SELF-IMPOSED ISOLATION

- The European Threat
  - European contacts introduced clocks, guns, printing press
    - Japanese learned to make guns, used them to unify Japan
    - Guns threatened the social order: peasants could fire one, no art!
  - New Ideas: Christianity
    - Successful in converting much of Kyushu
    - Christianity threatened social order
  - Difficult to unify Japan, control new contacts

- Control of foreign contacts
  - Control Catholics
    - Hideyoshi ordered missionaries to leave
    - Not enforced closely at first
    - Active persecutions began
    - Tokugawa order Japanese to renounce faith
    - Many thousands crucified for refusing
  - Control Contacts
    - Tokugawa banned Japanese from foreign contacts, travel/trade abroad
    - Shoguns adopted policy of isolation
      - Japan closed to outsiders 163s until 1854
      - Foreign trade was under tight restriction
      - One Dutch ship a year allowed to come to Nagasaki
    - Despite policy, Japan was never completely isolated
JAPANESE SOCIAL CLASSES

• Strict 4-class system existed under Tokugawa
  • Samurai at the top of social hierarchy
  • Followed by peasants, artisans, merchants.
  • Members of classes not allowed to change social status
  • Others: priests, entertainers
  • Outcasts (eta): professions considered impure were 5th class
  • Shoguns enacted laws governing hair style, dress, accessories

• Social change from 17th to 19th century
  • Peace undermined social, economic role of warrior elites
    • Shogun put samurai on regular salary: one koku per warrior
      • Koku was the rice ration needed to sustain one man for one year
      • Provinces ranked by koku produced yearly given only to most loyal retainers
    • Samurai began to move into castle-towns, which lowered their social status
    • Became increasingly in debt as forced to maintain an expensive life style
  • Rise of the Chonin: Merchants
    • Cities became more numerous, populous giving rise to merchants
    • Lowest ranked people in society; they profited from what other people produced
    • Over time they were to become very wealthy and powerful
  • Farmers
    • Law outlined the duties and conduct of the farmers
    • Reinforced by degree that peasants could not own weapons
  • With passage of time, class distinctions blurred
    • Peasants moved to towns, samurai moved to towns
    • Samurai became merchants
    • Merchants became landowners, intermarried with samurai
ECONOMIC, SOCIAL CHANGE

- Population growth and urbanization
  - Agricultural production
    - Doubled between 1600 and 1700
    - Annual production of rice was 25 million koku
    - One koku is around 5 bushels
    - American foods were not introduced into Japan
  - Population rose by 1/3 from 1600 to 1700
  - Expansion of cities
    - Castle-Towns expanded: became cities
    - Edo developed commerce, industry to support shogunate
- Hokkaido Island
  - Hokkaido had been settled by Ainu (Caucasians) prior to Japanese
  - Japanese pushed further north on island, settlers from Honshu arrived
- Economic and Commercial Changes
  - Japanese begin to develop inter-coastal shipping
  - Construction of well maintained national roads, bridges
  - Crafts included carpentry, stonemasonry, sake-brewing, lacquering
  - Japan traded sporadically with China, got American silver from China
CASTLE TOWNS
NEO-CONFUCIANISM & JAPANESE CULTURE

• Neo-Confucianism (loyalty, submission)
  • Became the official ideology of the Tokugawa
  • But borrowing from Chinese culture avoided

• School of National Learning
  • Scholars of "native learning" replace Confucian teaching
  • Tried to establish distinctive Japanese identity
  • Shinto emphasized

• Japanese Buddhism
  • Each variety developed its own distinctive Japanese version
  • Chan Buddhism became Zen Buddhism
  • Zen was the most popular with samurai

• Outside Learning
  • Tokugawa used outside learning if they controlled, regulated it
  • Introduced printing press to Japan

• Dutch Learning
  • Japanese scholars permitted to learn Dutch
  • After 1720 some Japanese permitted to read Dutch books
  • Shoguns became proponents of Dutch learning by mid-18th century
  • European art, medicine, and science influenced Japanese scholars

• "Floating worlds"—centers of urban culture
  • Included teahouses, theaters, brothels, public baths
  • Poet, novelists, art encourage
  • Kabuki theaters and bunraku (puppet) very popular
  • Development of tea ceremony, martial arts
  • Ukiyoe school of art depicted every day life
CHRISTIANITY AND JAPAN

- Christian missionaries
  - Dominicans, Franciscans arrived with the Portuguese
  - Jesuits came later
    - Had significant success in sixteenth century with samurai, daimyo
    - Adopted Japanese style wording, dress, manner including speaking Japanese
    - St. Francis Xavier visited Japan
  - Estimated that much of Kyushu including daimyo converted

- The Influence of Will Adams
  - An Englishman who was shipwrecked in Japan with a Dutch trade mission
    - Extremely gifted linguist who became friend, advisor to Tokugawa; became a samurai
    - Adams was Protestant and hated Catholics; was very honest about facts with Tokugawa
    - The real man behind Clavel’s great piece of fiction, *Shogun*
  - Heavily influenced how Tokugawa came to see Catholics

- Anti-Christian campaign
  - Launched by Tokugawa shoguns
    - Feared anything that might help daimyos, weaken shogun
    - Many daimyo were in contact with Europeans for weapons
    - Buddhists and Confucians resented Christian exclusivity
  - After 1612, Christians banned from islands
    - Tokugawa leyasu told Catholics to renounce faith
    - Many did, many more were crucified
    - Thousands went underground only to reappear in 1854
SOUTHEAST ASIA

- The Asian Sea Trading Network c. 1500
  - Characteristics
    - Area divided into three zones dictated by monsoonal wind patterns
    - West Indian Ocean between SW Asia, Africa, and Western India controlled by Arabs, Swahili
    - East Indian Ocean zone between Eastern India, Indonesia controlled by Indians
    - East Asian zone from SE Asia to China controlled by Chinese
    - Merchants from Muslim, Indian, Chinese worlds met at exchange points
    - Two types of trade: interregional (luxuries), intraregional (staples)
    - Two types of commodities: luxury (highest profit margin), staple (rice, wood used as ballast)
  - Government: suppressed piracy but no central control
  - Observed rules, stability, trade peacefully; no military

- Arrival of the Europeans
  - Portuguese arrive in India
    - Unprepared to abide by common rules, traditions
    - Aside from gold, silver, Portugal had little to trade
    - Portuguese were mercantilists: I want it all
  - Establish trade network in Indian Ocean
    - Destroyed, pillaged more than traded
    - Learned could make more profit in trade
    - Do not control whole area
      - Tried to monopolize all luxuries trade, control all trade
      - Controlled choke points: Goa, Macao, Malucca, Mombasa, Hormuz
      - Each was a fortified port with factories, church, warehouses
      - Men intermarried with locals, raised mixed families who came to join trade
    - Tended to war on other states
INDIAN OCEAN TRADE NETWORK

- Coffee
- Slaves
- Ivory
- Horses
- Silks
- Gold
- Steel
- Cloth
- Yarn
- Silks
- Indigo
- Pepper
- Gems
- Animals
- Drugs
- Spices
- Timber
- Rice
- Medicines
- Silver
- Lacquer
- Silk
- Porcelain
- Sugar
- Luxuries
- Tea
- Zone 1: Arabs and Muslims
- Zone 2: Indians
- Zone 3: Chinese
EUROPEANS, ASIAN CHANGE OVER TIME

- Portugal had liabilities
  - Too small of a nation, too little population: could not control whole region
  - Asian resistance, poor discipline, shipping loses, corruption hurt
  - In 1590, Portugal inherited by Spanish king; Portuguese interests ignored
  - Spanish enemies: Dutch, English begin to raid Portuguese territories

- Dutch establish their own Indian Ocean trading empire
  - Captured Malacca, came to control East Indies (Indonesia)
  - Followed Portuguese model of port, fort, factory
  - Systematized monopoly, built, used better, more ships in trade
  - Decided to monopolize the spice trade
  - Established plantations, transplanted crops: spices, coffee
  - Biggest change was to work with Asians, cooperate in system
  - Decided to monopolize transshipping trade between ports
  - As middlemen would buy in one area, sell in another

- English lose battle for spice to Dutch, concentrate on India
  - Established trading stations throughout country
  - Made alliances with local princes against Mughals, Portuguese
  - Concentrated on controlling cloth industry

- Going Ashore
  - Europeans could not fight, control large land masses: learned their lesson, their places
  - Concentrated on controlling islands where their naval advantage helped
    - Dutch conquered Ceylon, Java, East Indies
    - Spanish conquered Philippine Islands
  - Set up tribute systems for the local populations: taxes paid in produce produced under forced labor conditions
  - Content to let Asians retain old systems, traditions provided tribute paid

- Spreading the Faith
  - Portuguese, Spanish introduced Catholicism, missionaries: Dutch, English could have cared less
  - Problem: Christian equality conflicted with class, rank, traditions: made little initial impression
  - Greatest success was on Philippines where most people converted, even if they retained some traditions