

CIVILIZATION: Ming China 1368 C.E. – 1644 C.E.

Geographic Description:	-Himalayan mountain range in the west, Gobi Desert was to the north, seas to the East -Huang He and Yangtze rivers, active ports Canton and Macao
P	-Zhu Yuanzhang, a Buddhist peasant monk, led a rebellion and overthrew Mongol rule to establish the dynasty -Restored civil service exam and scholar gentry—harder than ever! (Zhu was suspicious of scholar-gentry since his own education was limited) -Ming leaders created a board of censors to prevent corruption in government -Officials that were not doing their job were publicly and harshly beaten and also were censored from talking about Emperor -2 nd Emperor (Younglo) in 1405-1433 sends Zheng He on expeditions; 28 years of state sponsored exploration -3 rd emperor calls them back and return to a “Middle Kingdom” mentality but far from isolated -there were more than 3 emperors and up until the late 1500s (when decline began) the Chinese gov't ruled over the largest population utilizing its vast internal resources and technology with a very organized bureaucracy and strong military
E	-Agriculturally based with trade contacts throughout Asia Sea Trading Zone, showed they had mandate by repairing infrastructure (Grand Canal) -New World crops (potato, corn and peanuts) brought by the Europeans were able to grow in marginal areas (areas that prior were hard to grow in) Population increased because these crops supplement the staple crop of rice -more population will demand more goods, increase in artisan class and merchant class, cities became highly active in trade, commercial revolution occurred in the 1500s - Overland trade with China was at the lowest point it had been in millennia, sea trade became highly developed. Shipping offered more efficient and safer trade options than did caravans attempting to cross the increasingly treacherous Taklimakan Basin. As trade along the sea routes became more developed, diplomatic relations with the various nations of East and Southeast Asia, India, the Arab coast and even as far as the east coast of Africa were more actively engaged. Trade remained a large continuity even after the Voyages of Zheng He ended; many foreign merchants did business at Macao and Canton in hopes of gaining special trading privileges
R	-Daoism, Buddhism, and Confucianism were practiced separately or in conjunction (Neo-Confucianism) -many Christian missionaries arrived on board European ships; the Franciscans and Dominicans worked to gain converts among the masses while Jesuits like Matteo Ricci attempted to convert the upper class to Christianity; not much luck due to how Christianity opposed Confucian value of Emperor being viewed on Son of Heaven; Confucian court saw missionaries as barbaric especially when Christians criticized the Chinese science and technology
S	-Increase in population due to new agricultural products which led to a commercial rev -Peasants lives improved by Hongwu's reforms and provided untaxed lands but later emperors didn't keep them up -Neo-Confucianism reinforced social order -Upper class women were confined to the house; continuation of foot binding and emphasis on bearing male children, how to read and write but could not hold government positions -lower class women had more freedoms due to economic necessity of the family -Court women were influential; concubines -elite men were not monogamous -merchants used wealth from trade to purchase land since that was the best way to improve social status
I	-Scholar-gentry revival, Civil service exam became more competitive and difficult -Ming vases (typical blue and white) and novels (Golden Lotus and Journey to the West (Adventures of the Monkey God) -Chinese were not impressed by European ideas -Availability of books increased, causing an increase in literacy -could be considered a golden age, but lacked innovation in science and technology (this would hurt them)...rested on what was invented back during Tang-Song -when introduced to Tobacco as a result of Columbian Exchange, used it with Opium which intensified effects
A	-Porcelain jars and vases; some of the best in the world, Paintings (landscapes) -Literature and detective stories – Novels became commonplace -The production of silk was organized into imperial and private silk factories. Their various sectors were managed by officials assigned to the factories, who in their turn were supervised by an imperial silk commissioner. The first step in the long process of silk production was the purchasing of the raw silk. Its quality had to meet stringent requirements and therefore it was examined by experts. Afterwards the material had to be reeled, dyed, and transported to the workshops with the looms, all processes which had to be carried out by skilled artisans and supervised by knowledgeable officials.
Decline:	-Imperial leadership became inferior which led to corruption, public works project went ignored, peasants overtaxed, natural disasters -There was starvation: peasants ate goose poop, tree bark, and each other, Times got so bad, children were being sold into slavery, Rebellions -1644 the Ming Dynasty fell and the Manchus (Jurchens) seized Beijing by breaking through the great wall to seize political vacuum -Qing Dynasty established...LAST DYNASTY
Global connections/ interactions:	-China imposed RELATIVE isolation..(Japan was much more so!), Traded through Canton and Macao after death of Zheng He; gov't ended voyages because of new emperor, expense, lack of valuable trading goods in exchange with other Asian and Africa civs, needed to fund military in the north along the Great Wall and money needed to build new capital at Beijing -China became more relatively isolated at a time when Europe was going through the “Age of Exploration” and increasing their contacts across the Globe; this will begin the global shift in hegemony(power), Ottomans were concentrating on conquest & administration of growing land-based empire