

Asian Transitions in an Age in Global Change



Essential Questions

- What contributions did the Ming Dynasty make toward exploration?

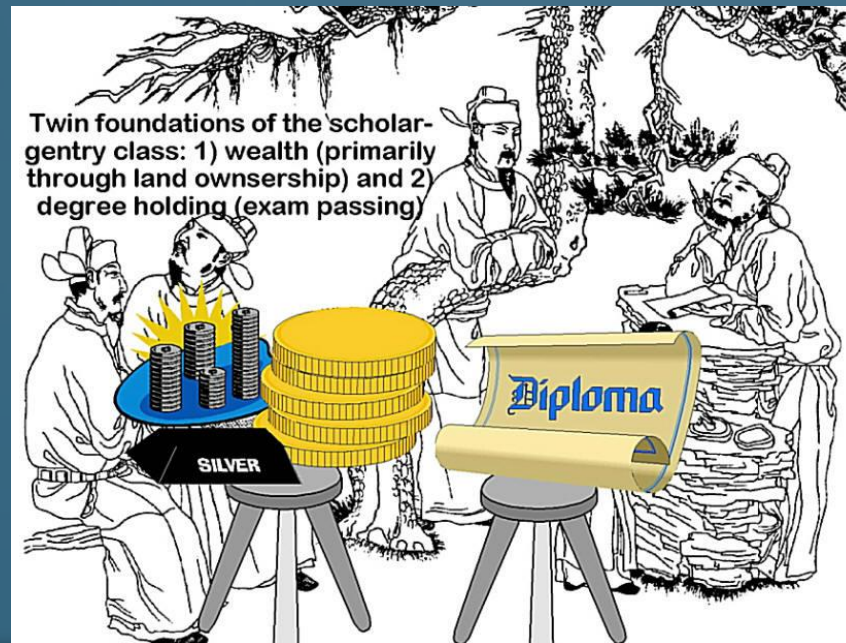


Ming China: A Global Mission Refused

- *Hongwu began Ming dynasty in 1368.*
- *Purify Mongol practices*
 - *Reinstalled Civil service exam.*
 - *Cleaned up corruption in royal court.*
 - *Improved public works.*
 - *Encouraged farming on abandon lands.*

Ming China: A Global Mission Refused

- The gentry class created its own culture to justify increase power.
- Low status of women & the young were intensified.



Ming China: A Global Mission Refused

- *Agricultural expansion & imports from Spanish & Portuguese stimulated economic boom. Maize, potatoes, & peanuts became staples.*
- *High demand for Chinese goods → to increase of American silver.*
- *Foreign traders were only allowed in Macao & Canton.*

Ming China: A Global Mission Refused

- ◉ In imitation of the gentry, the merchants class invested in land.
- ◉ Arts flourished & the novel achieved its classic form.



Ming China: A Global Mission Refused

● *Under Emperor Yunglo:*

- *Revived Yuan Gov't (hereditary profession).*
- *Moved capital back to Beijing & expanded on Forbidden City.*



Emperor Yongle [Zhu Di]



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<p>眇 <small>必忌切許慎說文眇直視也从目必聲讀若詩云泌彼泉水兵媚切顧野王玉篇鄙利莫八二切陸法言廣韻直視貌徐踏通釋筆媚反司馬光類篇一曰自愧恨曰眇又其羊切方言慙也韓道昭五音類聚音秘楊桓六書統替母眇既聲吹隸趙謙聲音文字通方音見轄韻</small></p>	<p>安 <small>必忌切顧野王玉篇必媚切女名也司馬光類篇兵媚切楊桓六書統替母安聲安隸字溇博義彼義切</small></p>	<p>欄 <small>必忌切顧野王玉篇布計切木名宋重修廣韻蒲計切司馬光類篇必計切韓道昭五音類聚批也楊桓六書統替母欄从木閉聲隸</small></p>	<p>裨 <small>必忌切顧野王玉篇方示切使也與裨字同丁度集韻趕止行也或以足从手作裨裨司馬光類篇必至切又壁古切楊桓六書統替母裨與蹕蹕</small></p>
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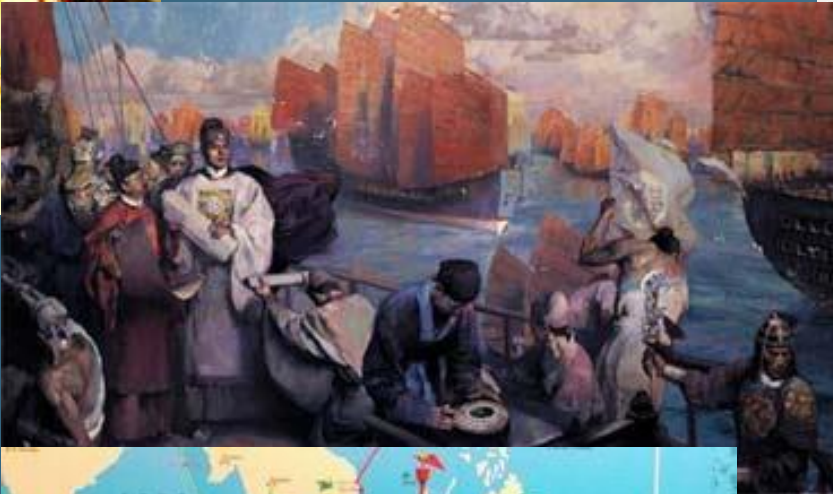


Ming China: A Global Mission Refused

- *Under Emperor Yunglo, admiral Zhenghe led 7 expeditions to the West.*



Ming Exploration



Columbus' Santa Maria beside Zhenghe's Flagship! B.B.



Chinese cartography

China beat Columbus to it, perhaps

An ancient map that strongly suggests Chinese seamen were first round the world

THE brave seamen whose great voyages of exploration opened up the world are

Yi Tong, imitating a world chart made in 1418 which showed the barbarians paying tribute to the Ming emperor, Zhu Di. The copyist distinguishes what he took from the original from what he added himself.

The map was bought for about \$500 from a small Shanghai dealer in 2001 by Liu Gang, one of the most eminent commercial lawyers in China, who collects maps and paintings. Mr Liu says he knew it was significant, but thought it might be a modern fake. He showed his acquisition to five experienced collectors, who agreed that the traces of vermin on the bamboo paper it is written on, and the de-pigmentation of ink and colours, indicated that the map was more than 100 years old.

Mr Liu was unsure of its meaning, and asked specialists in ancient Chinese history for their advice, but none, he says, was forthcoming. Then, last autumn, he read "1421: The Year China Discovered the World", a book written in 2003 by Gavin Menzies, in which the author makes the controversial claim that Zheng He circumnavigated the world, discovering America on the way. Mr Menzies, who is a former submariner in the Royal Navy and a merchant banker, is an amateur historian and his theory met with little approval from professionals. But it struck a chord: his book became a bestseller and his 1421 website is very popular. In any event, his arguments convinced Mr Liu that his map was a relic of Zheng He's earlier voyages.

Also in this section

- 81 American imperialism
- 82 History of happiness
- 83 New music

The detail on the copy of the map is remarkable. The outlines of Africa, Europe and the Americas are instantly recognisable. It shows the Nile with two sources. The north-west passage appears to be free of ice. But the inaccuracies, also, are glaring. California is shown as an island; the British Isles do not appear at all. The distance from the Red Sea to the Mediterranean is ten times greater than it ought to be. Australia is in the wrong place (though cartographers no longer doubt that Australia and New Zealand were discovered by Chinese seamen centuries before Captain Cook arrived on the scene).

The commentary on the map, which seems to have been drawn from the original, is written in clear Chinese characters which can still be easily read. Of the west coast of America, the map says: "The skin of the race in this area is black-red, and feathers are wrapped around their heads and waists." Of the Australians, it reports: "The skin of the aborigine is also black. All of them are naked and wearing bone articles around their waists."

But this remarkable precision, rather than the errors, is what critics of the Menzies theory are likely to use to question the authenticity of the 1418 map. Mr Menzies and his followers are naturally extremely keen to establish that the 1763 copy is not a forgery and that it faithfully represents the 1418 original. This would lend weighty support to their thesis: that China had indeed discovered America by (if not actually in) 1421. Mass spectrography analysis to date the copied map is under way at Waikato University in New Zealand, and the results will be announced in February. But even if affirmative, this analysis is of limited importance since it can do no more than date the copyist's paper and inks.

Five academic experts on ancient charts note that the 1418 map puts together



Admiral Zhenghe



Ming China: A Global Mission Refused

- Isolation: b/c of growing pressures to defend borders.



Ming China: A Global Mission Refused

- *Isolation: Missionaries such as Matteo Ricci tried to convert ppl from the top down - met with little success.*



Christianity in China



- Jesuit > Matteo Ricci & Adam Schall
 - Dazzled Chinese with European science
 - Clocks, harpsichords, prisms, math & astronomy
- Very tolerant of Chinese traditions
 - Few converts
 - Franciscans & Dominicans critical



Pope sided with them

Kangxi ordered end of Christianity in China

Ming China: A Global Mission Refused

- Toward the end of 1500s the Ming dynasty began to weaken.
- Public works lapsed & disaffected farmers turned to banditry.
- Rebellion brought the Ming dynasty down in 1644 & the last emperor hang himself to avoid capture.

Ming Dynasty [1368-1644]

• Centralized government control

- Rebuilt wall to resist Mongol incursions
- Restored cultural traditions

• Decline

- Pirates on the east coast
- Corruption & inefficiency of eunuchs
- Famines & peasant rebellions
- Manchu invasion - emperor suicide
 - Emperor Chongzhen

Qing Dynasty 1644-1911

○ The Manchu

- Originally pastoral nomads
- Captured Korea & Manchuria
- Then China



Manchu Rulers

- Kangxi (1661-1722)
 - Enlightened ruler
 - Confucian scholar
 - Conquered Taiwan, Mongolia, Tibet & Central Asia
- Period of expansion

- Qianlong (1736-95)
 - Sophisticated, learned man
 - Brought Vietnam, Burma, & Nepal as vassal states
- China enjoyed peace, prosperity, & power



Foot Binding

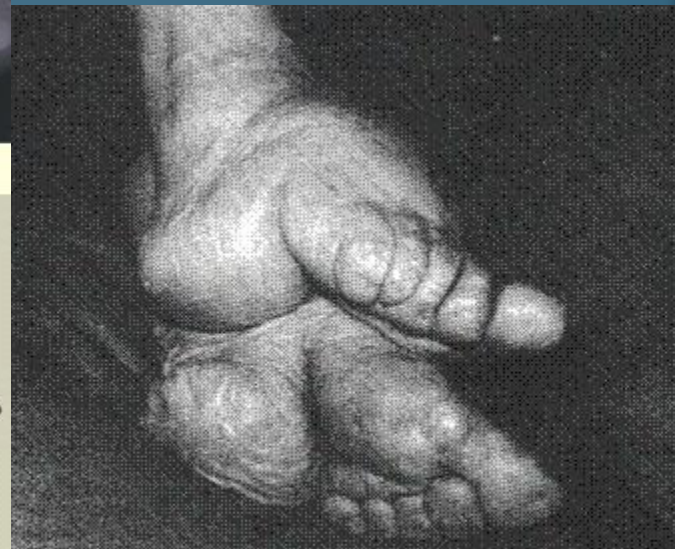
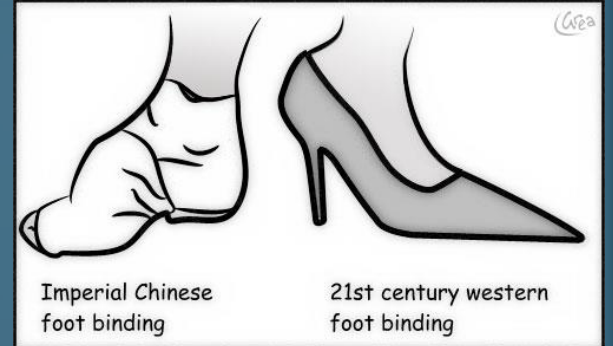
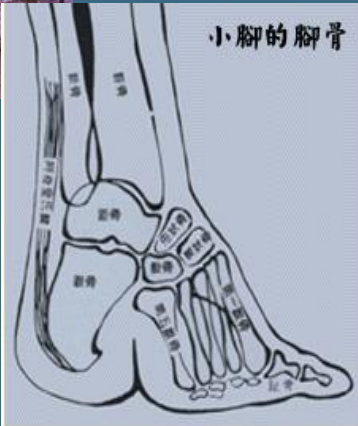
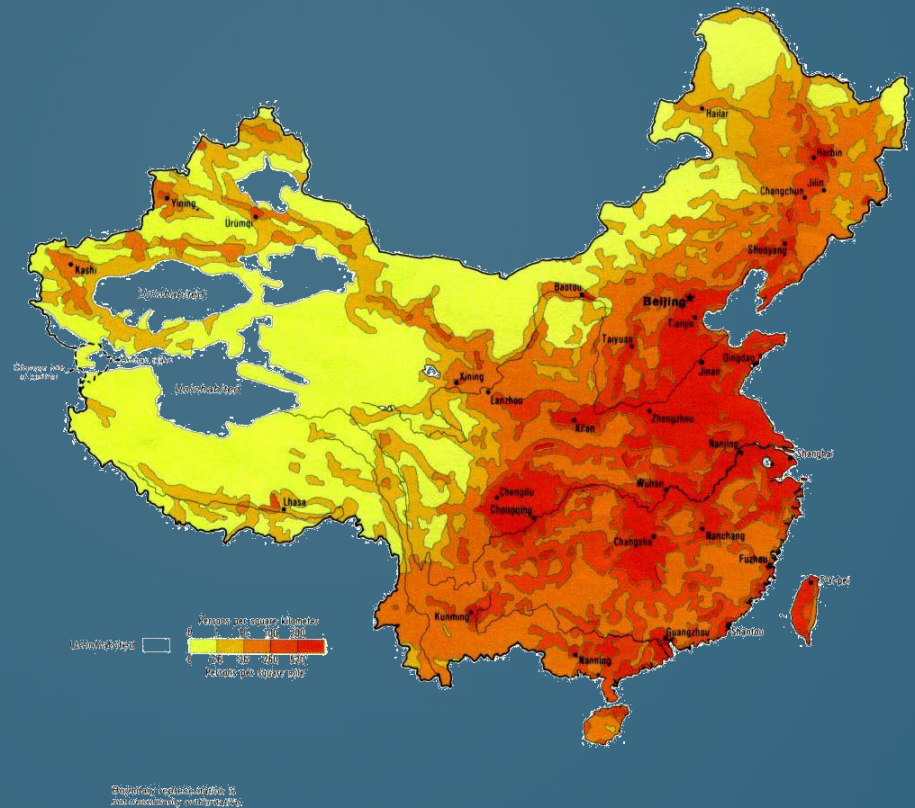


Figure 4 Naked bound feet – Howard S. Levy, Lotus Lovers, (Buffalo: Prometheus Books, 1992), 259.

Population Growth

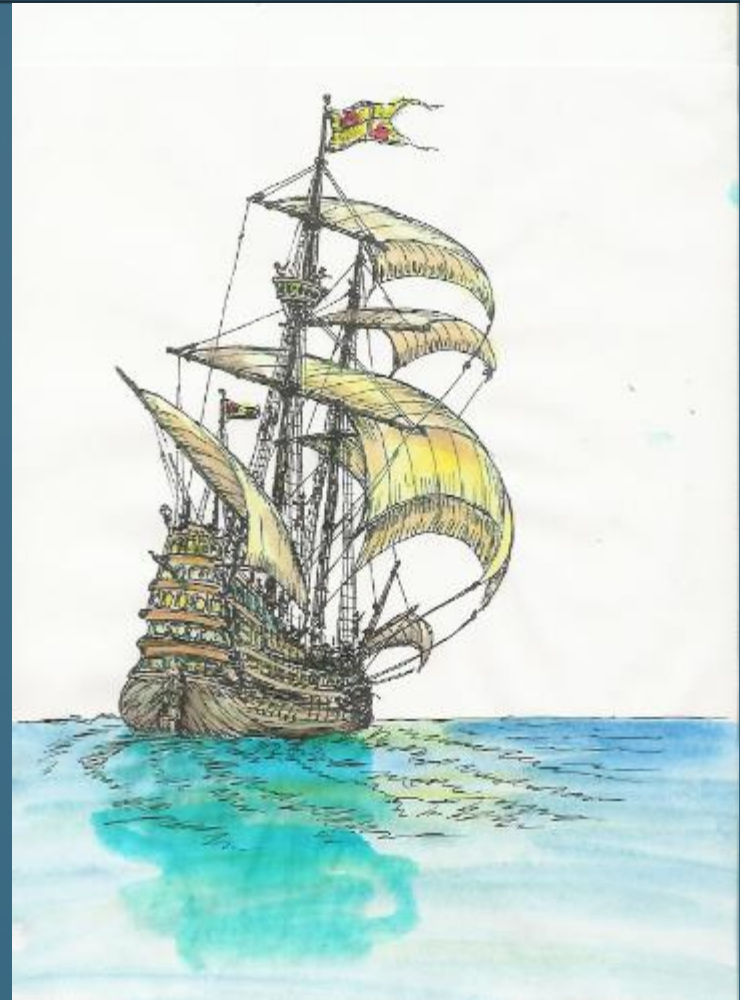
China: Population Density

- American food crops impact growth
 - Maize - sweet potatoes - peanuts
- Increased:
 - 100 M in 1500
 - 225 M in 1750
 - America has nearly 300 M today

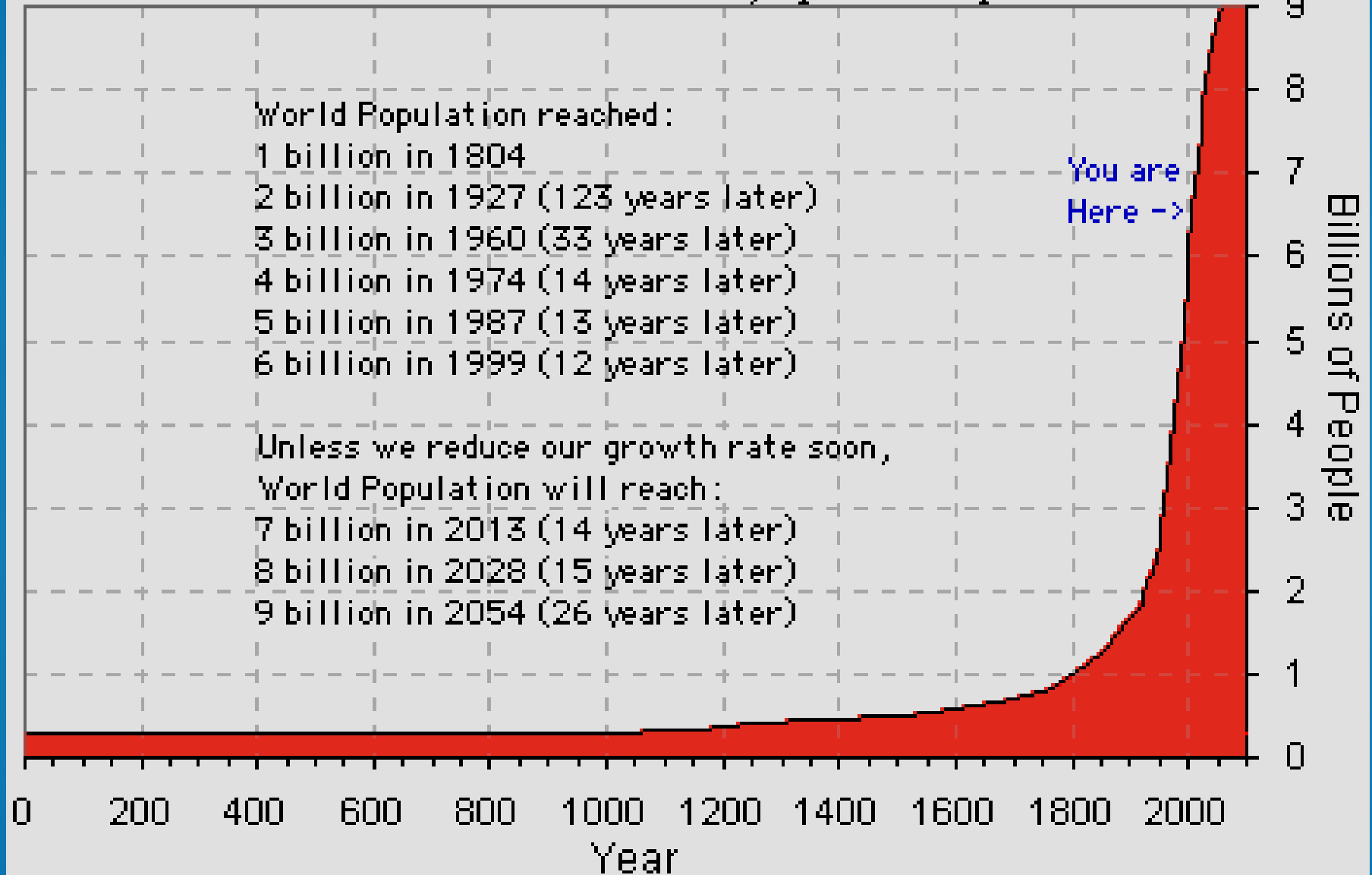


Manila Galleons

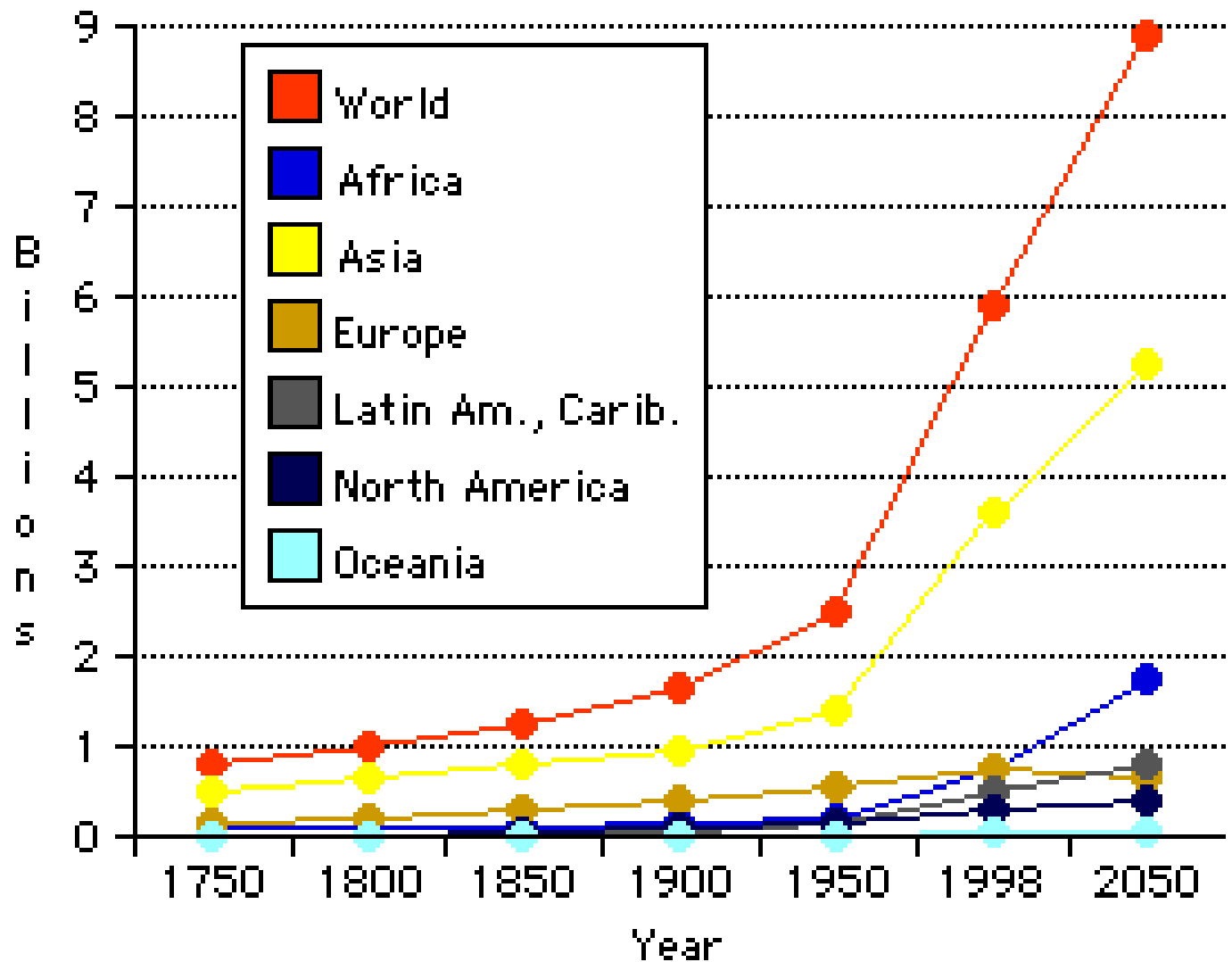
Trade from
New Spain
To East Asia via
the Philippines



Source: United Nations, Population Prospects: 2004 Revision



Population by Continental Region



UN Population Division: World Population Prospects, 1998 Revision

Economic Development



- Foreign Trade
- Export vast quantities
 - Silk
 - Porcelain
 - Lacquer ware
 - Tea
- Compensate exports by importing silver

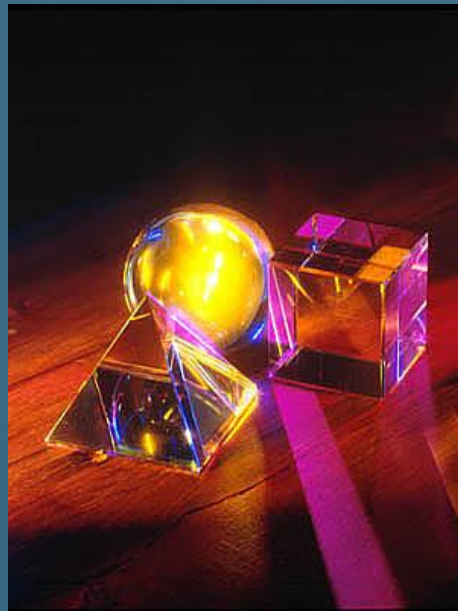
- Government & Technology
 - Trade under tight government control
- **Favored stability over technological innovation**
 - Large # skilled workers inhibited technological innovation





©Imperial Tea Court

European Technology



Cultural Impact of Jesuits



- Exposed China to
 - European science and technology
- Exposed Europe to
 - civil service exam system
 - rational morality of Confucianism
 - Could this have impacted the European Enlightenment?

