Asian Transitions in an Age in Global Change
Essential Questions

What contributions did the Ming Dynasty make toward exploration?
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.
The gentry class created its own culture to justify increased power.
Low status of women and the young were intensified.
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.
In imitation of the gentry, the merchants class invested in land.
Arts flourished & the novel achieved its classic form.
Under Emperor Yunglo:
• Revived Yuan Gov’t (hereditary profession).
• Moved capital back to Beijing & expanded on Forbidden City.
Emperor Yongle
[Zhu Di]
Under Emperor Yunglo, admiral Zhenghe led 7 expeditions to the West.
China beat Columbus to it, perhaps

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

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 circumnavigation, ahem, is rather. 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 features are wrapped around their heads and waists." Of the Australians, it reports: "The size of the aborigines is also black. All of them are nailed and wearing bone articles around their waists."

But this remarkable precision, rather than the errors, is what critics of the Memes theory are likely to use to question the authenticity of the 1381 map. Mr Memes and his followers are naturally extremely keen to establish that the 1381 copy is not a forgery and that it faithfully represents the 1381 original. This would lend weighty support to their thesis: China had indeed discovered America by 1381, not actually in 1492. Mass spectrometry analysis to date the copied map is underway at Waikato University, 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 ink.
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
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.
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
World Population reached:
1 billion in 1804
2 billion in 1927 (123 years later)
3 billion in 1960 (33 years later)
4 billion in 1974 (14 years later)
5 billion in 1987 (13 years later)
6 billion in 1999 (12 years later)

Unless we reduce our growth rate soon,
World Population will reach:
7 billion in 2013 (14 years later)
8 billion in 2028 (15 years later)
9 billion in 2054 (26 years later)
Foreign Trade
- Export vast quantities
  - Silk
  - Porcelain
  - Lacquer ware
  - Tea
- Compensate exports by importing silver

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