China and Japan Reject Expansion

Key Terms and People

Hongwu  commander of the rebel army that drove the Mongols out of China in 1368
Ming Dynasty  Chinese dynasty that ruled from 1368 to 1644
Yonglo  Ming ruler; son of Hongwu
Zheng He  Muslim admiral who led seven exploration voyages during the Ming Dynasty
Manchus  people from Manchuria
Qing Dynasty  Chinese dynasty begun by the Manchus that followed the Ming Dynasty
Kangxi  powerful Manchu emperor of the Qing Dynasty
daimyo  Japanese warrior-chieftain who commanded a private army of samurai
Oda Nobunaga  daimyo who hoped to control all of Japan and seized Kyoto
Toyotomi Hideyoshi  daimyo who took control of almost all of Japan
kabuki  type of Japanese theater
haiku  type of Japanese poetry
Tokugawa Shogunate  dynasty that ruled Japan from 1603 to 1868

Before You Read

In the last lesson, you read about European exploration in the East.
In this lesson, you will read about China and Japan’s political and social development and efforts to limit contact with Europe.

As You Read

Use a chart to take notes about China and Japan’s contact with Europe.

CHINA UNDER THE POWERFUL MING DYNASTY; MANCHUS FOUND THE QING DYNASTY; LIFE IN MING AND QING CHINA

What was life like in China under the Ming and Qing?
Mongol rule in China ended in 1368 when Hongwu took control of the country. He declared himself the first emperor of the Ming Dynasty. Hongwu began his rule by increasing the amount of food produced and improving the government. His son Yonglo continued his better policies. Under Yonglo, an admiral named Zheng He led several voyages to Southeast Asia, India,
Arabia, and Africa. Wherever he went, he gave away gifts to show Chinese superiority.

The Ming government eventually tried to isolate China from the world, but Europeans continued to trade for Chinese ceramics and silk. Missionaries brought Christianity and technology.

By 1600, the Ming Dynasty had weakened and the Manchus, from Manchuria, northeast of China, took control in 1644. They started the Qing Dynasty. Two important emperors were Kangxi and his grandson Qian-long. They brought China to its largest size, increased its wealth, and sponsored an increase in artistic production.

During the Ming and Qing dynasties, farming methods, food production and nutrition improved. This caused the population to grow.

In Chinese culture, females were not valued. Many infant girls were killed, and adult women had few rights.

The Chinese tried to preserve their traditions and their isolation. Artists created works that showed traditional Chinese values and ideas. This helped to unify the Chinese people.

1. Which parts of society improved during this time, and which continued to be the same?

A NEW FEUDALISM UNDER STRONG LEADERS; LIFE IN TOKUGAWA JAPAN; CONTACT BETWEEN EUROPE AND JAPAN; THE CLOSED COUNTRY POLICY

Why were warriors fighting in Japan?

From 1467 to 1568, Japan entered a long, dark period of civil war. Powerful warriors took control of large areas of land. They were called daimyo. They fought each other constantly to gain land and more power.

In 1568, one of the daimyo, Oda Nobunaga, took control of Kyoto. It was the site of the emperor’s capital. His general, Toyotomi Hideyoshi, continued to try to bring all of Japan under one rule. Using military conquest and clever diplomacy, he won that goal in 1590.

Tokugawa Ieyasu completed the unification of Japan. He became the shogun, or sole ruler. He moved the capital to what would become Tokyo.

The new government brought about a long period of peace and prosperity for most people. Many peasant farmers, however, did not prosper, and left the countryside to move to the cities.

A traditional culture thrived, but in cities, new styles emerged. Townspeople attended kabuki, dramas of urban life. They also read haiku, poetry that presents images instead of ideas.

In the mid-1500s, European traders and missionaries began to arrive in Japan. Some missionaries, however, scorned traditional Japanese beliefs. They also got involved in local politics. In 1612, Tokugawa banned Christianity from the country. Christians were persecuted. This was part of a larger plan to protect the country from European influence. For the next 200 years, Japan remained closed to most European contact. All of Japan’s shoguns who ruled during this time descended from Tokugawa Ieyasu and were part of the Tokugawa Shogunate.

2. Which three leaders helped bring Japan under one rule?
As you read this lesson, take notes to answer questions about the Ming Dynasty in China and life under Tokugawa rule in Japan.

**The rulers of the Ming Dynasty drive out the Mongols and bring peace and prosperity to China.**

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<th>1. How did Hongwu bring stability to China?</th>
<th>2. What were some of his agricultural reforms?</th>
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<th>3. Why was only the government allowed to conduct foreign trade?</th>
<th>4. How did foreign trade affect Ming China?</th>
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**How did each of the following influence Japanese society and culture?**

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<th>5. Tokugawa Shogunate</th>
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<th>7. Christian missionaries</th>
<th>8. “Closed country” policy</th>
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