Chapter 27

Tradition and Change in East Asia
The Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)

- Ming ("Brilliant") dynasty comes to power after Mongol Yuan dynasty driven out
- Founded by Emperor Hongwu (r. 1368-1398)
- Used traveling officials called Mandarins and large number of eunuchs to maintain control
- Emperor Yongle (r. 1403-1424) experiments with sea expeditions, moves capital north to Beijing to deter Mongol attacks
Ming China, 1368-1644
The Great Wall

- Origins before 4th century BCE, ruins from Qin dynasty in 3rd century BCE
- Rebuilt under Ming rule, 15th-16th centuries
- 1,550 miles, 33-49 feet high
  - Guard towers
  - Room for housing soldiers
The Great Wall of China
Eradicating the Mongol Past

- Ming emperors encourage abandonment of Mongol names, dress
- Support study of Confucian classics
- Civil service examinations renewed
Ming Decline

- 16th century maritime pirates harm coastal trade
- Navy, government unable to respond effectively
- Emperors secluded in Forbidden City, palace compound in Beijing
  - Hedonists
  - Emperor Wanli (r. 1572-1620) abandons imperial activity to eunuchs
Ming Collapse

- Famine, peasant rebellions in early 17th century
- Rebels take Beijing in 1644
- Manchu fighters enter from the north and retake city
- Manchus refuse to allow reestablishment of Ming dynasty
- Establish Qing (“Pure”) Dynasty
The Qing empire, 1644-1911

Map showing the expansion and control areas of the Qing empire from 1644 to 1911.
The Qing Dynasty (1644-1911)

- Manchus originally pastoral nomads, north of Great Wall
- Chieftan Nurhaci (r. 1616-1626) unifies tribes into state, develops laws, military
- Establishes control over Korea, Mongolia, China
  - War with Ming loyalists to 1680
  - Support from many Chinese, fed up with Ming corruption
- Manchus forbid intermarriage, study of Manchu language by Chinese, force Manchu hairstyles as sign of loyalty
Emperor Kangxi (r. 1661-1722)

- Confucian scholar, poet
- Military conquests: island of Taiwan, Tibet, central Asia
- Grandson Emperor Qianlong (r. 1736-1795) expands territory
  - Height of Qing dynasty
  - Great prosperity, tax collection cancelled on several occasions
The “Son of Heaven”

- Ming, Qing Emperors considered quasi-divine
- Hundreds of concubines, thousands of eunuch servants
- Clothing designs, name characters forbidden to rest of population
- The kowtow: three bows, nine head-knocks
The Scholar-Bureaucrats

- Ran government on a day-to-day basis
- Graduates from intense civil service examinations
  - Open only to men
  - Curriculum: Confucian classics, calligraphy, poetry, essay writing
  - Also: history, literature
The Civil Service Examinations

- District, provincial, and metropolitan levels
- Only 300 allowed to pass at highest level
  - Multiple attempts common
- Students expected to bring bedding, chamber pots for three-day uninterrupted examinations
  - Students searched for printed materials before entering private cells
Examination System and Society

- Ferocious competition
- Qing dynasty: 1 million degree holders compete for 20,000 government positions
  - Remainder turn to teaching, tutoring positions
- Some corruption, cheating
- Advantage for wealthy classes: hiring private tutors, etc.
- But open to all, tremendous opportunity for social mobility
The Patriarchal Family

- Filial piety understood as duty of child to parent; individual to emperor
- Eldest son favored
- Clan-based authority groups augment government services
Gender Relations

- Males receive preferential status
- Economic factor: girls join husband’s family
  - Infanticide common
- Widows strongly encouraged not to remarry
  - Chaste widows honored with ceremonial arches
- Men control divorce
  - Grounds: from infidelity to talking too much
Footbinding

- Origins in Song dynasty (960-1279 CE)
- Linen strips binds and deforms female child’s feet
- Perceived aesthetic value
- Statement of social status and/or expectations
  - Commoners might bind feet of especially pretty girls to enhance marriage prospects
Woman with Bound Feet

A Chinese woman with bound feet.
Population Growth and Economic Development

- Only 11% of China arable
- Intense, garden-style agriculture necessary
- American food crops introduced in 17th century
  - Maize, sweet potatoes, peanuts
- Rebellion and war reduce population in 17th century
  - Offset by increase due to American crops
Chinese Population Growth

![Graph showing Chinese population growth from 1500 to 1750 with millions on the y-axis and years on the x-axis.]
Foreign Trade

- Silk, porcelain, tea, lacquerware
- Chinese in turn import relatively little
  - Spices, animal skins, woolen textiles
- Paid for exports with silver bullion from Americas
- After Emperor Yongle’s early maritime expeditions (1405-1433), Ming dynasty abandons large-scale maritime trade plans
  - In part to appease southern populations
Trade in Southeast Asia

- Chinese merchants continue to be active in southeast Asia, esp. Manila
- Extensive dealings with Dutch VOC
Government and Technology

- During Tang and Song dynasties (7th-13th centuries), China a world leader in technology
- Stagnates during Ming and Qing dynasties
  - European cannons purchased, based on early Chinese invention of gunpowder
- Government suppressed technological advancement, fearing social instability would result
  - Mass labor over productivity
Classes in Chinese Society

- **Privileged Classes**
  - Scholar-bureaucrats, gentry
  - Distinctive clothing with ranks
  - Immunity from some legal proceedings, taxes, labor service

- **Working classes**
  - Peasants, artisans/workers, merchants
  - Confucian doctrine gives greatest status to peasants
  - Merchant activity not actively supported

- **Lower classes**
  - Military, beggars, slaves
Neo-Confucianism

- Version of Confucian thought promoted by Zhu Xi (1130-1200 CE)
  - Confucian morality with Buddhist logic
- Education at various levels promoted
  - Hanlin Academy, Beijing
  - Provincial schools
- Compilation of massive *Yongle Encyclopedia*
- Development of popular novels as well
Christianity in China

- Nestorian, Roman Catholic Christians had presence in China
  - Disappeared with plague and social chaos of 14th century
- Jesuits return under Matteo Ricci (1552-1610), attempt to convert Ming Emperor Wanli
  - Mastered Chinese before first visit in 1601
  - Brought western mechanical technology
    - Prisms, harpsichords, clocks
Confucianism and Christianity

- Argued that Christianity was consistent with Confucianism
  - Differences due to Neo-Confucian distortions
- Yet few converts in China
  - Approx. 200,000 mid 18th century, about 0.08 percent of population
  - Christian absolutism difficult for Chinese to accept
- Franciscans and Dominicans convince Pope that Jesuits compromising Christianity with Chinese traditions (e.g. ancestor worship)
- Emperor Kangxi bans Christian preaching in China
The Unification of Japan

- Shoguns rule Japan, 12th-16th centuries
  - Large landholders with private armies
  - Emperor merely a figurehead
  - Constant civil war: 16th century *sengoku*, “country at war”

- Tokugawa Ieyasu (r. 1600-1616) establishes military government
  - *Bakufu*: “tent government”
  - Establishes Tokugawa dynasty (1600-1867)
Tokugawa Japan, 1600-1867
Control of *Daimyo* (“Great Names”)

- Approximately 260 powerful territorial lords
  - Independent militaries, judiciaries, schools, foreign relations, etc.
- From capital Edo (Tokyo), shogun requires “alternate attendance”: daimyo forced to spend every other year at court
  - Controlled marriage, socializing of daimyo families
- Beginning 1630s, shoguns restrict foreign relations
  - Travel, import of books forbidden
  - Policy strictly maintained for 200 years
Economic Growth in Japan

- End of civil conflict contributes to prosperity
- New crop strains, irrigation systems improve agricultural production
- Yet population growth moderate
  - Contraception, late marriage, abortion
  - Infanticide: “thinning out the rice shoots”
Population Growth

- 1600
- 1700
- 1850

Years

Millions

1600
1700
1850

Copyright © 2006 The McGraw-Hill Companies Inc. Permission Required for Reproduction or Display.
Social Change

- End of civil disturbances create massive unemployment of Daimyo, Samurai warriors
- Encouraged to join bureaucracy, scholarship
- Many declined to poverty
- Urban wealthy classes develop from trade activity
Neo-Confucianism in Japan

- Chinese cultural influence extends through Tokugawa period
- Chinese language essential to curriculum
- Zhu Xi and Neo-Confucianism remains popular
- “Native Learning” also popular in 18th century
  - Folk traditions, Shinto
Floating Worlds (*ukiyo*)

- Urban culture expressed in entertainment, pleasure industries
- Marked contrast to *bushido* ethic of Stoicism
  - Ihara Saikaku (1642-1693), *The Life of a Man Who Lived for Love*
- *Kabuki* theatre, men playing women’s roles
- *Bunraku* puppet theatre
Christianity in Japan

- Jesuit Francis Xavier in Japan, 1549
- Remarkable success among daimyo
  - Daimyo also hoping to establish trade relations with Europeans
- Government backlash
  - Fear of foreign intrusion
  - Confucians, Buddhists resent Christian absolutism
- Anti-Christian campaign 1587-1639 restricts Christianity, executes staunch Christians
  - Sometimes by crucifixion
Persecution of Catholics
Dutch Learning

- Dutch presence at Nagasaki principal route for Japanese understanding of the world
- Before ban on foreign books lifted (1720), Japanese scholars study Dutch to approach European science, medicine, art