

Chapter 22: Reaching Out: Cross-Cultural Interactions

I. Recovery in China: The Ming Dynasty (pages 579-580)

1. What does “Ming” mean?
2. What traditional model of rule was revived under the Ming Dynasty?
3. Who were the “mandarins”? What was their function? What other group of people were heavily relied upon by Ming rulers to help carry out their political authority?
4. How did the Ming help promote economic recovery in China?

II. The Ming Dynasty (pages 724-727)

1. Why did the Ming put so much effort into rebuilding and extending the Great Wall?
2. What did the Ming do to, “ ... eradicate Mongol and other foreign influences and to create a stable society ... “?
3. What were the main reasons that led to the decline and ultimate collapse of the Ming Dynasty?

Read pages 727-728 on the Qing Dynasty (just the section on “The Manchus”)

1. Your text states that, “The establishment of the Qing Dynasty was due partly to Manchu military prowess and partly to Chinese support for the Manchus.” In what ways did the Chinese support the Manchus (and show frustration or dissatisfaction with the Ming)?
2. Explain how the Qing (Manchus) were like the Yuan (Mongols) in their attitude and actions toward the Chinese.

II. The Chinese Reconnaissance of the Indian Ocean Basin (pages 585-586)

1. What were the two main reasons (purposes) that the Ming emperor Yongle sponsored the infamous and massive naval expeditions?
2. Who was Zheng He?
3. What was unique about Zheng He’s “treasure ships”?
4. To what areas did Zheng He sail and have contact with?
5. Why were Zheng He’s voyages suddenly ended in 1433 after his seventh voyage?