China and Japan’s Reactions

1. Setting the Stage
   a. Europeans sought new sources of wealth
   b. Many Europeans wanted to trade with China & Japan

2. Ming China
   a. The Chinese rebel army drove out the Mongol rulers and established the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)
   b. Ming ruler Hongwu brought stability to China, though he ruled as a tyrant
Ming Dynasty

• Hongwu drove out the Mongol leaders in 14th century during a time of famine, disease, and political turmoil.
• Created stability through a return to Confucian principles
• His roots as a peasant farmer made him sympathetic to the plight of common Chinese people
3. The Voyages of Zheng He
   a. Hongwu’s son Yonglo explored the world, sending admiral Zenghe to Southeast Asia and East Africa. Countries he visited sent tribute to the emperor’s court.
   b. These voyages were considered wasteful by some. When they ended, China withdrew into isolation.
Exploration

- Chinese had traveled & traded as far away as Eastern African for centuries
- Yonglo, son of Hongwu, sent his trusted admiral Zheng He on 7 tributary missions
- Expense & political issues brought these voyages to an end

- Replica “middle sized” treasure boat
Isolation

• Threat of invading powers, piracy, and foreign influence caused non-government trade to be made illegal

• Despite this, the Western demand for Chinese silk, porcelain, and other luxuries drove the Portuguese and other European countries to seek trade with China
4. Ming Relations with Foreign Countries
   a. China’s trade policies in the 1500s reflected isolation
   b. Only the government was allowed to conduct foreign trade. Illegal, smuggled goods were traded up and down the coast
   c. China did not industrialize for two reasons
      i. Idea of commerce offended China’s Confucian beliefs
      ii. Chinese economic policies favored agriculture
Confucianism

- Humanistic belief system of moral principles
- Focus on humaneness, justice, loyalty, and proper relationships
- Filial piety = respect for parents & ancestors
- All people have specific duties to be proper in their relationships with others
  - The more powerful party must protect & be fair
  - The less powerful party must be loyal & obedient
5. The Manchus
   a. The Ming government ruled for 200 years
   b. The Manchus, from Manchuria invaded China and established Qing Dynasty which ruled for 260 years
   c. Qing expanded China to include Taiwan, Chinese Central Asia, Mongolia, & Tibet
   d. To the Chinese, their country, called the Middle Kingdom, had been the cultural center of the universe for 2,000 years
   e. If foreign states wanted to trade with China, they would have to follow Chinese rules such as paying tribute and trading only at special trading ports
   f. The Dutch accepted these restrictions and were allowed to trade
   g. Kowtow ritual: kneeling in front of the emperor and touching head to ground 9 times
Qing Dynasty
Qing Dynasty

- Middle Kingdom – center of the universe!
- All other peoples considered inferior, barbaric
- The Dutch submitted & engaged in trade
- British resisted though they were eager to trade

Kowtow ritual
Women in China

• Chinese women were considered subservient to men (even their sons).
• Sons were favored over daughters.
• Unless they were very poor, women were expected to remain indoors, secluded from the outside world.
• Foot binding was both a symbolic and literal means of keeping women submissive.

The “ideal foot” was 3 inches
6. Japan
   a. In 1467, civil war shattered Japan’s feudal system and the country became chaotic
   b. Warrior chieftains called daimyo became lords in a new Japanese feudalistic system
Sengoku & Edo Japan

• “Warring States”
• Daimyos held regional power through military force, including samurai and foot soldiers
• Battled against each other for supremacy
• Tokugawa unified Japan, becoming shogun and settling the capital in Edo (Tokyo)
• In spite of civil wars, this was a period of economic and cultural flourishing in Japan
• Japanese warrior Sasai Ukon Masanao, who was killed at the Battle of Anagawa in 1573
7. Contact Between Europe and Japan
   a. Europeans began coming to Japan in the 16th century and were welcomed at first
   b. Within a century, the aggressive Europeans had worn out their welcome
   c. The Portuguese brought clocks, eyeglasses, tobacco, and firearms
   d. By 1600, European missionaries had converted 300,000 Japanese to Christianity
   e. After a rebellion against the shogun, the shogun ruthlessly persecuted Christians and led to the formation of an exclusion policy
• *Nanban* trade = “southern barbarian trade”
• 1543-1614
• "*They eat with their fingers instead of with chopsticks such as we use. They show their feelings without any self-control. They cannot understand the meaning of written characters*"
• Japan was much more populated and urbanized, with refined craft-making skill & military prowess
• Japan began trading copper and silver
• Adopted Western military technology, Christianity, and foods (especially refined sugar)
8. The Closed Country Policy
   a. 1639 the shoguns sealed Japan’s borders and instituted a closed country policy.
   b. Port of Nagasaki remained open but only to Dutch and Chinese traders
   c. Lasted for more than 200 years
   d. Japanese were forbidden to leave so as to not bring back foreign ideas
   e. Japan wanted to continue to develop as a self-sufficient country

Result:
   Europeans begin to explore west across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas
• Portuguese began trade in Japanese slaves
• Christian missionaries converted 300,000; viewed with suspicion by Japanese leaders
  – “For the padres to come to Japan and convert people to their creed, destroying Shinto and Buddhist temples ... is ... something deserving of severe punishment”
• By 1650, foreigners subject to death
• Christian converts persecuted
• Guns eradicated in favor of “civilized” sword
• Travel and shipbuilding prohibited
• Japan forced open to trade by American Commodore Matthew Perry in 1854 (250 years later)