Chapter 17: The East Asian World

China At Its Apex

Ming to Qing

- Achievements of Mings were impressive (6 institutions ruling traditionally Confucian)
- No longer solely agrarian
- Trading ships sent out, went to South Asia, India, and in the Atlantic Ocean
- Sent out for information and goods, resulted in massive profit

FIRST CONTACTS WITH THE WEST

- China, at the time, had huge empire-stretched from Gobi desert to Southeast Asia
- Didn't have much effect at first
- Christianity took hold and convinced Chinese people that Confucianism was similar

THE MING BROUGHT TO EARTH

- Ming declined slowly
- Internal problems led to arranged marriages, major epidemic led to population decreasing, Li's army disintegrated
- Qing came up from the Manchus

The Greatness of the Qing

- Qings were not universally liked, they were ruthless and insistent on Chinese tradition
- They changed their ruling style unlike Mongols
- They had many good rulers that pacified citizens
- Kangxi (1661-1722), arguably best ruler, got throne at seven years old, stabilized imperial rule, supported scholars
- Many missionaries came during Kangxi's reign, several hundred officials converted and 300,000 ordinary Chinese converted
- Successors of Kangxi suppressed missionary activity

QING POLITICS

- Manchus succeeded because they could adapt
- Kangxi governed by 16 Confucian commandments
- Manchus assigned farm land and military units
- Qing attempted to protect their identity throughout rule
- New civil service led to new candidates from different provinces, Manchu purchase their degree instead of earning it by the examination system

CHINA ON THE EVE OF THE WESTERN ONSLAUGHT

- First signs of internal decay of the Manchu dynasty appeared under Qianlong
  1. Qing military campaigns were very expensive
  2. As the emperor aged, he didn’t choose his subordinates well, and fell under the corrupt influence of Heshen
  3. Funds destined for military or other uses siphoned off to Heshen
- White Lotus Rebellion (1796-1804)
- Treaty of Nerchinsk (1689)
1. Between Siberian Russia and Manchuria
Changing China

THE POPULATION EXPLOSION
- For centuries, China’s pop. Remained within a range of 50 to 100 million, rising in peace and falling during invasion
- During late Ming and early Qing, pop. Increased from about 70 to 80 million in 1390 to over 300 million at the end of the eighteenth century
  1. Most likely caused by a time of peace, introduction to new crops from the Americans, and a new faster growing rice
  2. Greater pop. Pressure on land
  3. Smaller farms
  4. Small margin of safety during climatic disasters

SEEDS OF INDUSTRIALIZATION
- Steady growth of manufacturing and commerce
- Merchants and manufacturers began expanding their operations beyond their immediate provinces
- Commercial networks operated on a regional and sometimes national basis
- Foreign trade expanded
- Taxed heavily on manufacturers, but taxed lightly on agriculture

Daily Life in Qing China
- Ideal family unit was the joint family, with three to four generations living under one roof
- Arranged marriages
  1. Often didn’t even meet partner until the ceremony
  2. Love clearly secondary to their primary responsibilities in the family unit
- Beyond the joint family was the clan
  1. Sometimes called a lineage
  2. Extended kinship unit of dozens or hundreds of joint and nuclear families linked together by a clan council of elders
  3. Some clans rented out lands to poorer families

THE ROLE OF WOMEN
- Always inferior to men
- Daughters not favored, and in times of food scarcity, may even be put to death
- Not educated, but in charge of educating their children and handling the family budget
- Some women committed suicide because of frequent bullying from husband and mother-in-law, as well as being treated as scullery maids or love objects

Cultural Developments
THE RISE OF THE CHINESE NOVEL
- Considered less respectable than poetry and non-fiction prose
- Often written anonymously or under pseudonyms
- Depicted great realism, including the sexual private side of Chinese life, which sometimes got so pornographic that they were banned and recently found in Japan
  - *The Golden Lotus*
  - *The Dream of the Red Chamber*

THE ART OF THE MING AND QING
- Considered the most outstanding example of architecture is the Imperial City in Beijing
- Decorative arts flourished, especially the lacquerware and the cloisonné
- Chinoiserie was in vogue
- Blue-and-white porcelain greatly prized
- Totally rejected foreign techniques

Tougawa Japan
- Japan near anarchy
- Warring states

The 3 Unifiers
- Oda Nobunaga (1568-1598) seized capital of Kyoto, was a brutal and suppressing ruler, killed by own general
- Toyotomi Hideyoshi (1582-1598) built head quarters in castle in Osaka, extended his power to the Southern Islands, the daimyo (great lords) of the regions accepted his authority, created national currency, reassigned his land as fiefs to the local daimyo, who pacified the country side.
- Tokugawa Ieyasu (1598-1616) named himself shogun, completed restoration of central authority, Tokugawa rulers remained in power until 1868

Opening to the West
- Portuguese started trading with Japan, China and Southeast Asia and soon opened up trading with the West as well
- Local Japanese lords made castles based on European model
- Jesuit missionaries converted many Japanese to Christianity, destroyed local relics and shrines and turned some temples into Christian schools and churches, so Toyotomi Hideyoshi made an edict that prohibited any more Christian activity in his land, and the Jesuits were forced to leave the country within twenty days
- Revolts led to the persecution of Japanese Christians
- Japan soon prohibited foreign trade altogether, except from the Dutch in Nagasaki Harbor

The Tokugawa “Great Peace”
- Ruled through bakufu - now made from coalition of daimyo and a council of elders
- More centralized government; shogunate set national policy for emperor in Kyoto and governed their own domain--which was about one fourth of the national territory--and the cities of Edo, Kyoto and Osaka
- The shogunate's state was divided into domains that were ruled by about 250 daimyo
- Shogunate encouraged the daimyo to maintain their own domain and a domain in Edo to be able to live off the taxes they collected from their territories
-The long period of peace led to the daimyo having to make the samurai into commoners who farmed in the castle towns because they had no job if there was no conflict

SEEDS OF CAPITALISM
- Peace led to a rise in commerce and manufacturing, mainly due to technological advances in farming and more fertile land to farm
- Most of the commercial expansion happened in major cities and castle towns
- Banking flourished, paper money currency was made, and merchants formed guilds
- Merchant class emerged and became significant in life of the Japanese nation
- Industrial activity spread beyond cities and as imports increased and technology got more advanced, cotton replaced hemp as clothing material for most of Japan
- Most samurai fell into debt because they relied on the insufficient rice lands to cover expenses
- Peasant still typically relied on growing rice, but with rice's declining profit and rising costs and taxes many peasants had to work on the farms of the wealthy, but others revolted excessively unsuccessfully

Life in the Village
- Orders from bakufu instructed peasants on all elements in their life to keep them in line
- Nuclear family with joint of family concept emerged, family property given to eldest son
- Women more restricted, had to obey husbands, penalty was death
- Aristocratic women obliged to reflect husband's rank through strict code of behavior and dress
- Marriages arranged
- Gender roles more equal for commoners
- Strict legal distinctions between four main classes, which were the warriors, artisans, peasants, and merchants

Tokugawa Culture
- Tension between old society and new cultural values
- Woodblock printing made literature more available to common people
- New writing more joyful than before

THE LITERATURE OF THE NEW MIDDLE CLASS
- Saikaku, a very popular novelist at the time, wrote Five Women Who Loved Love, which went against the Confucian ethic of a faithful wife
- Rise of kabuki in theater
  1. Emphasis on violence, music and dramatic gestures
  2. Government tried to restrict it
  3. Women prohibited from acting
- Poetry continued in its serious tradition

TOKUGAWA ART
- Reflected change in Japanese culture
- Constructed lavish mansions and castles
Prosperity of new merchant class made paintings, architecture, textiles, and ceramics thrive
-Used gold foil to cover walls or ceilings in castles, reflected light and made dark castle rooms brighter
-No longer copied Chinese, developed own artistic style
-All kinds of art influenced by other cultures
-Woodblock printing used to make illustrated texts about stories that were passed on by oral tradition
  1. Used black and white, but later used bright colors
  2. Made pictures of Tokugawa urban classes, cities, and the interior of houses

Korea: The Hermit Kingdom
- Based their society on Chinese organizations and principles
- Restricted aristocrats to enter in the bureaucracy
- Peasants remained serfs, bound to land
- Slaves labored on government farms
- Eventually showed sign of independence
  1. Created own phonetic alphabet for writing their spoken language
- Rise in agriculture led to population increase, emergence of urban industrial and commercial sector
- Korean rulers tried to keep Korea isolated, did not always work
  1. Invasions from Japan and China eventually forced Korea to promise allegiance to new imperial government in Beijing
  2. Information about Christianity brought to peninsula by Koreans who were in China, small Catholic community developed