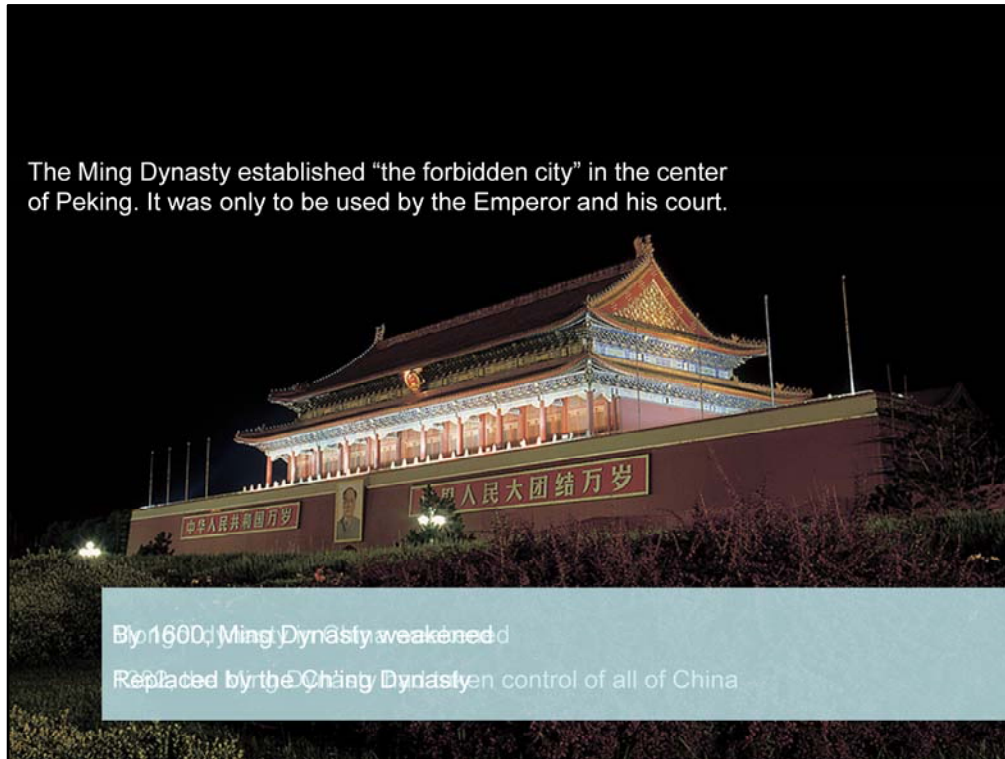




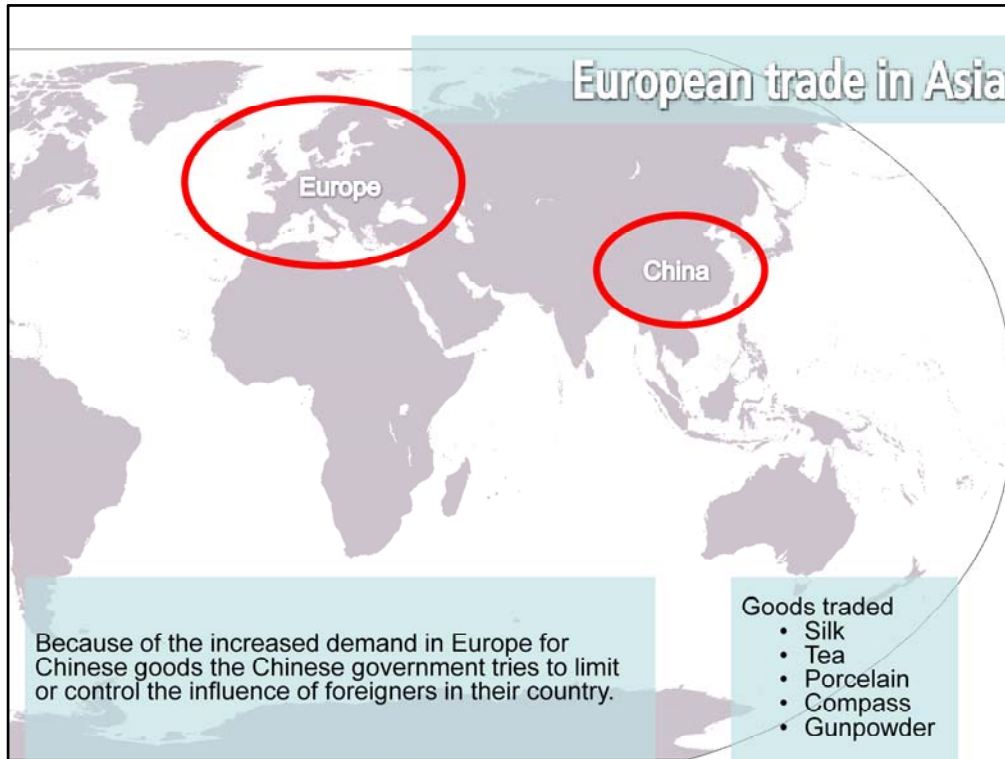
Unlike the Ottoman and Mughal Empires, which welcomed trade from foreigners, China and Japan resisted trade and other foreign influences. Eventually, European countries forced these countries to open up to trade during the Age of Imperialism in the late 1800s.



For centuries, China had been a great civilization ruled by Chinese emperors. China remained relatively free from foreign influence. In the 1200s AD, however, China was conquered by the Mongols. Kublai Khan, a Mongol emperor, was impressed with the Chinese civilization and ruled China from the city of Peking, which is modern-day Beijing. He adopted many Chinese customs.

Eventually the Mongol dynasty in China weakened. Led by a commoner, Chinese groups expelled the Mongol rulers and established a new dynasty to rule China. By 1382, the Ming Dynasty had taken control of all of China. The rulers looked to the ways of the past to guide the country, rather than adopting new methods. As a result, China progressed very slowly.

The Ming Dynasty was weakened by 1600 AD, and peasant revolts became common. A group from Manchuria in the northeast of China had adopted many Chinese customs and became very powerful. The Manchu people took advantage of China's weakened situation and established a new dynasty to rule China, the Ch'ing.



For centuries, European countries wanted to trade with China. By the time of the Ch'ing Dynasty, European ships were able to sail to the Far East. Chinese tea and porcelain were two of the products they sought the most.

Through much of its history, China had been reluctant to trade for two reasons. First, China was practically self-sufficient and needed no raw materials from abroad.

Second, China was unimpressed with Europe's manufactured goods.



The Manchu were also reluctant to trade with Europe because they wanted to keep tight control over China, and they feared the consequences that foreign influences might have. They restricted European traders to certain “foreign enclaves.” Virtually all foreign trade in China was restricted to the port city of Canton, now known as the city Guangzhou. It is quite far between Guangzhou and Beijing.

The Canton foreign enclave was established far away from the capital city of Beijing to ensure that foreigners would not influence the Chinese government. China’s attempts to limit trade with Europe ended up being a mistake, as they fell behind technologically. When they eventually went to war with Britain in the 1800s over Britain’s continued efforts to smuggle opium into the country, China was soundly defeated. The Treaty of Nanking that ended the war gave Europeans much more power over trade and territory in China.

*[Map courtesy of the University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin.]*

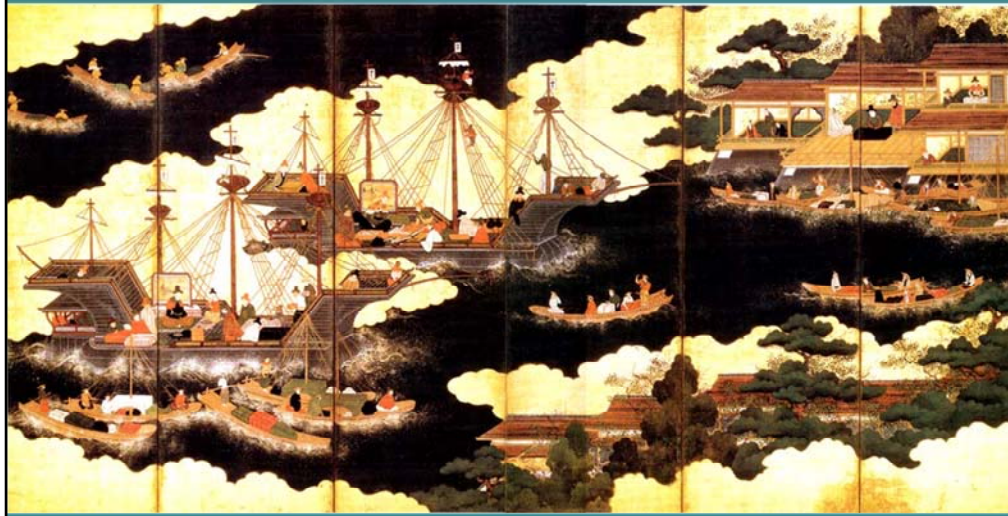


While Japan was influenced by China and Korea, the fact that it was an island nation separate from these powers meant that it developed its own culture and political institutions.

In Japan, the emperor was worshipped as though he were a god, although he had no real power over the government or military. Since the beginning of Japan's modern history, rival clans fought for power, gained power over the emperor, and ruled in his name. Real power in Japan belonged to the shogun who was considered to be the "supreme general of the Emperor's army." Shoguns controlled armies of samurai warriors, who fought with great loyalty for their lord. The shogun was essentially a military dictator as all members of the government were under his authority.

*[Map courtesy of the University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin.]*

## Europeans arrive in Japan




Painting of the first European ships arriving in Japan in 1543.  
Jesuit Christian Missionaries tried to convert the Japanese.

The first European ships arrived in Japan in 1543, while Japan was in a state of civil war. Japan was impressed with European firearms and did not initially limit trade with Europe.

Christian missionaries also entered Japan and began to convert some of the Japanese population to Christianity. Japanese rulers began to use firearms in battle and were able to end some of the unrest in the country. In 1603, the Tokugawa Shogun established control of the country and made the small town of Edo, today known as Tokyo, the capital of Japan.

## Japan Feared European Influence

The Japanese Shogun's adopted a policy known as isolationism to limit foreign influences to their country.



Japan was closed to European Traders until Admiral Perry used U.S. warships to force them to trade in 1854.

Several things worried the Shogun about the presence of Europeans in Japan. Many Japanese had converted to Christianity, which made him suspect of the missionaries. In addition, the Spanish had recently conquered islands in the nearby Philippines, which made him concerned about European aggression in Asia.

As a result of these fears, Japan tried to end, or at least limit, foreign influence. Christianity was banned by the shogun and Japanese Christians were tortured and executed. Japan also banned European merchants, giving only the Netherlands the right to trade in one city.

Japan's isolationism had both positive and negative effects. It brought peace and stability to Japan and allowed Japan's culture, especially the arts, to flourish under the Tokugawa shogunate. As with China, however, isolationism caused Japan to gradually fall behind Europe in technology, science, and military power.

## Review China and Japan

Question 1 of 3

Point Value: 10

What was the policy that China adopted in to reduce foreign influences in their country?

- Persecute Christian converts
- Establish foreign enclaves
- Establish a Chinese language only policy
- Ban trade with foreign countries

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