

MING DYNASTY



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CHINESE RENAISSANCE- A "REBIRTH" OF CHINESE CULTURE



BACKGROUND

- Mongol Empire was overthrown in 1368
- Mongol influence was changed back to Chinese ideas: Neo-Confucianism, Civil Service Examinations
- New Emperor, Ming Hong Wu, ruled and his dynasty lasted until 1644
- His son, Yong Le, built the Forbidden City & extended the Great Wall of China (to what it is today)





CIVIL SERVICE EXAM

Question:

Write an eight-legged essay [one consisting of eight sections] on the following: *“Scrupulous in his own conduct and lenient only in his dealings with the people”*

Question 2

First unscramble the following characters and then comment on the significance of this quotation from one of the classic texts:

“Beginning, good, mutually, nature, practice, far, near, men’s”

“Men’s beginning nature is basically good. Nature mutually near, Practice mutually far”

- Brought back Civil Service Exam

- Allows hopeful peasants to get out of their poor life and have a government job
- Tests were 3 days long in a small cubicle
- Questions were based on poetry and Confucianism

PORTUGUESE EXPLORERS HIT CHINA

Portuguese explorers came to China being the 1st direct contact with Europe (besides Marco Polo's visit)

The Chinese ruler had little interests and saw them as a strange barbarian therefore little trade began at first

BUT...Europeans were fascinated with China.

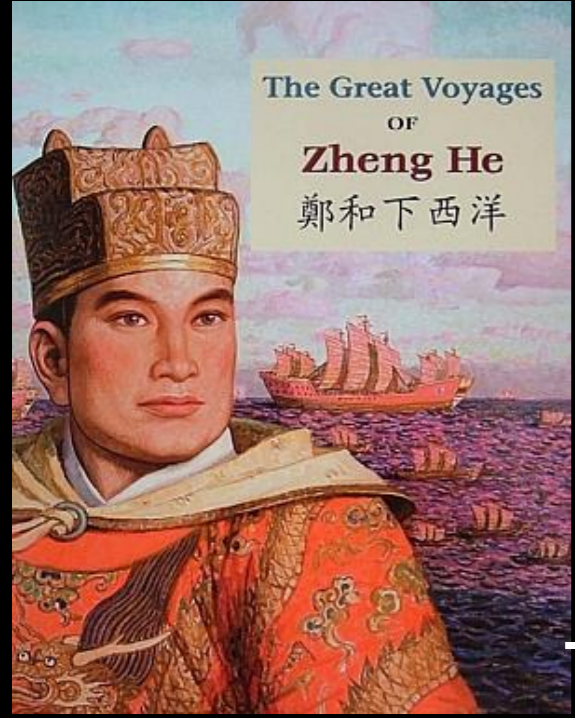
- Christian missionaries & European explorers were impressed with Confucianism, printed books, architecture, art, etc

When the Portuguese went back home, Europeans were even more curious about the great civilization on the other side of the world



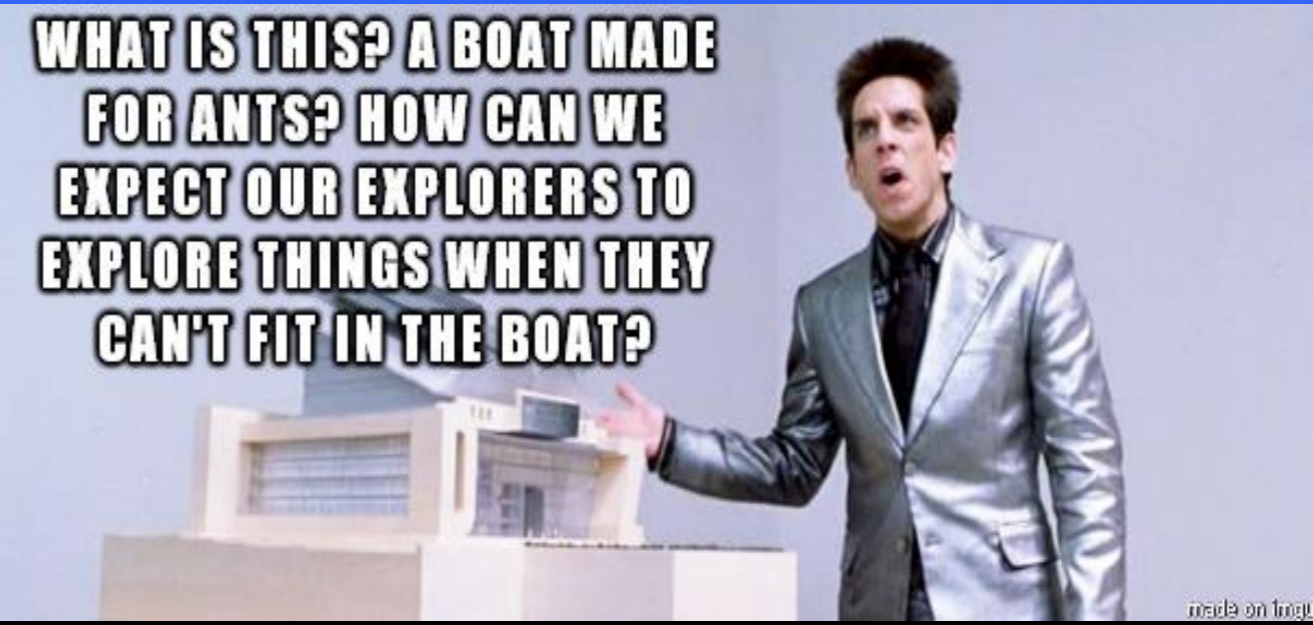
*Chinese Naval voyages went to the explore and dominated the Indian Ocean trade

*Returned with new information about the world and never before seen items (like giraffes, which he put in the Imperial zoo)



Zheng He

- famous Explorer
- led 7 expeditions to control Indian Ocean
- Possibly found America in 1421 but wasn't interested



MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS

- Completed the Great Wall of China
- Restoration of the Grand Canal
- Forbidden City
- Blue & White Porcelain
- International Trade & Commerce
- Machinery for silk and cotton looms



Literature, Art, Architecture

Drama/theater- started
musical plays

Began writing novels

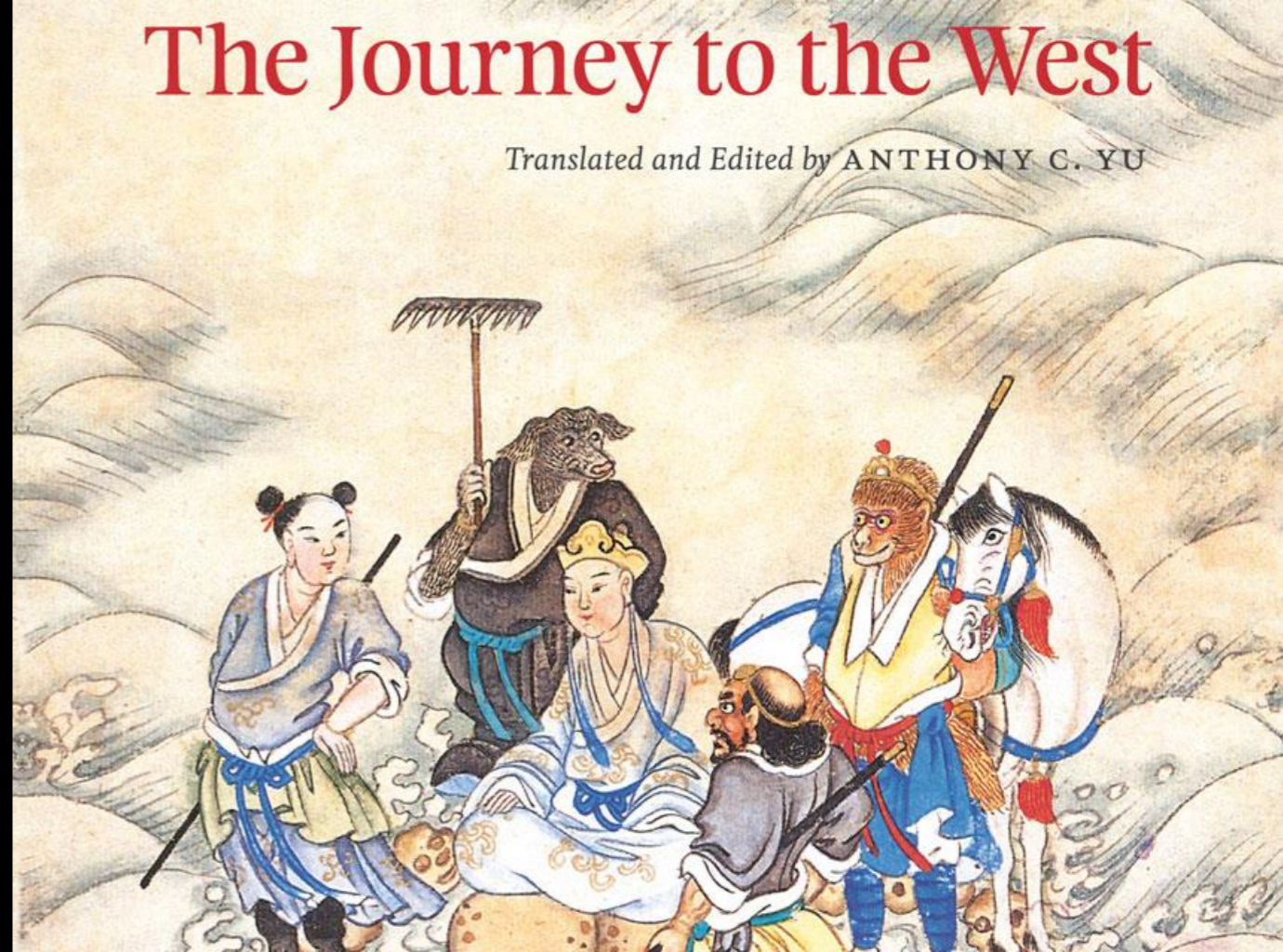
“Journey to the West”

“Tale of the Water Margin”

“The Plum in the Golden
Vase”

The Journey to the West

Translated and Edited by ANTHONY C. YU



FALL OF THE MING DYNASTY

- Late 16th Century (1500s), groups struggled to put their leader as emperor
- All rulers lacked control over the empire
- Government corruption lead to high taxes, peasant unrest
- Japanese Shoguns tried to conquer the region but failed. Cost China a lot of money to pay for the war
- Dry/cold weather caused decrease in crops
- Deadliest earthquake in history killed 800,000 people
- In 1630s, disease and death caused peasant revolt
- The last Ming Emperor hanged himself when the capital fell to the peasants



EXIT TICKET

During the Ming Dynasty, what change, idea, or invention probably affected China the most?

Explain in 1 paragraph

