

# Terms, People, and Places

Ming Dynasty:

Zheng He:

# Lesson Objectives

- Understand how the Ming restored Chinese rule.
- Explain why the Ming explored the high seas for only a brief period.

# Summary

## “The Ming Empire”

After the fall of the Mongols, the Ming restored Chinese culture and later imposed a policy of isolationism.

CHAPTER  
**12**  
SECTION 2**Section Summary**

## THE MONGOL AND MING EMPIRES

**READING CHECK**

What are steppes?

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**VOCABULARY STRATEGY**

What does the word *dominated* mean in the underlined sentence? *Dominare* comes from the Latin word *dominus*, which means "master." Use this word-origins clue to help you understand the meaning of the word *dominated*.

**READING SKILL**

**Recognize Sequence** List in correct chronological order the three Chinese dynasties mentioned in the Summary.

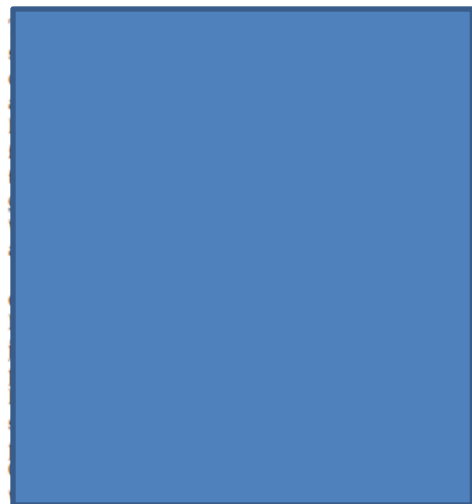
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The Yuan dynasty declined after Kublai Khan's death in 1294. Finally, Zhu Yuanzhang formed a rebel army that toppled the Mongols. In 1368, he founded the Ming, or "brilliant," dynasty. Ming China was immensely productive. Better methods of fertilizing improved farming. The Ming repaired the canal system, which made trade easier and allowed cities to grow. Ming artists developed their own styles of painting and created beautiful blue-and-white porcelain. Ming writers composed novels and the world's first detective stories.

Early Ming rulers sent Chinese fleets into distant waters to show the glory of their empire. The most famous voyages were those of Zheng He. Between 1405 and 1433, he commanded seven expeditions that explored the coasts of Southeast Asia, India, the Persian Gulf, and East Africa. However, after Zheng He died in 1435, the Ming emperor banned the building of seagoing ships, and overseas expeditions came to a halt. Historians are not sure why.

**Review Questions**

1. Why did trade flourish under the Mongols?

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2. What effect did Marco Polo's writings have in Europe?

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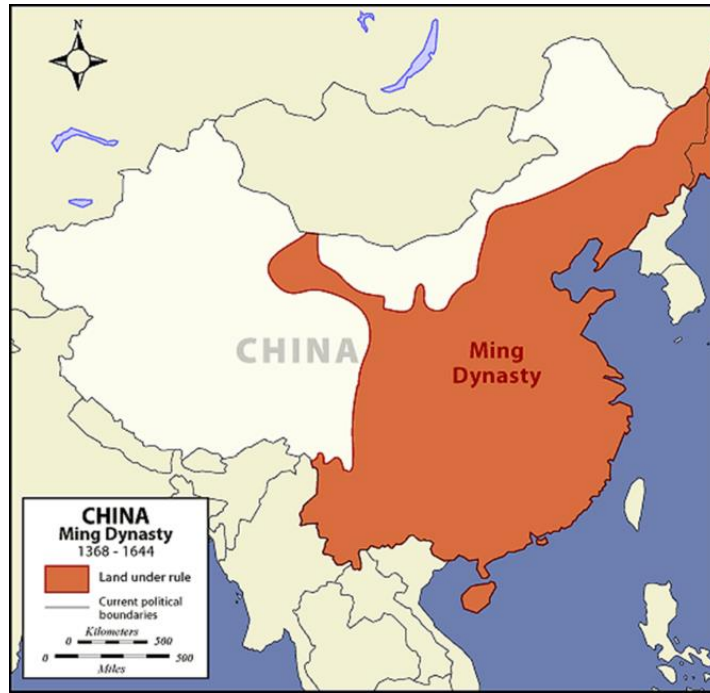
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# Aim #15: How did the Ming dynasty restore order in China?





# Ming Restore Chinese Rule 1368-1644



# Economic & Cultural Contributions

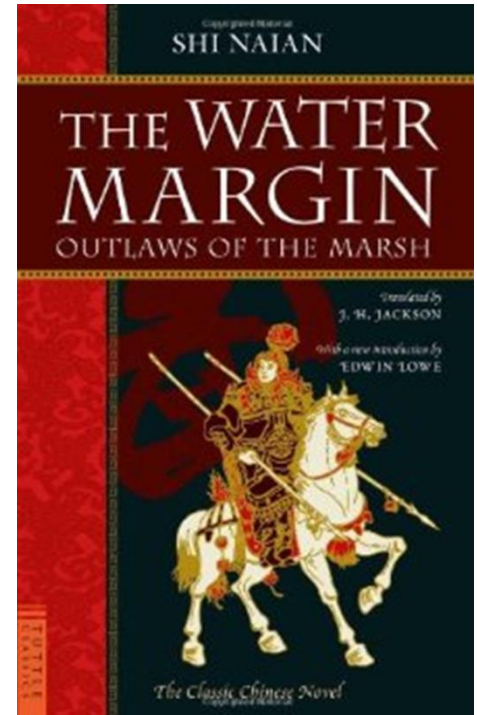
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## **Checkpoint**

How did the Ming restore Chinese rule  
& promote culture?



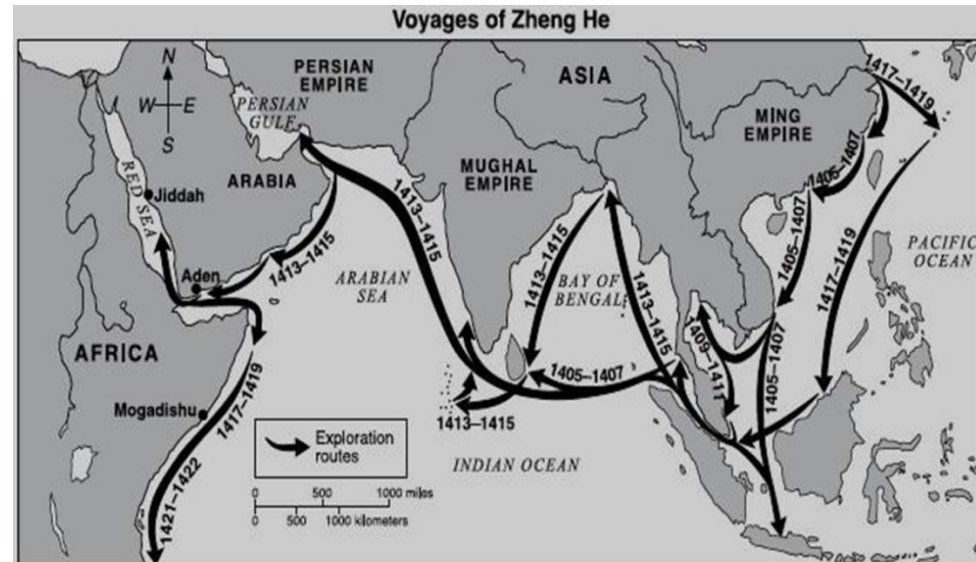
# China & the West (1500s)

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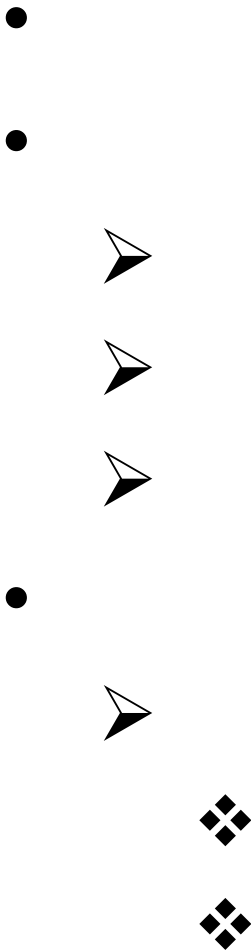
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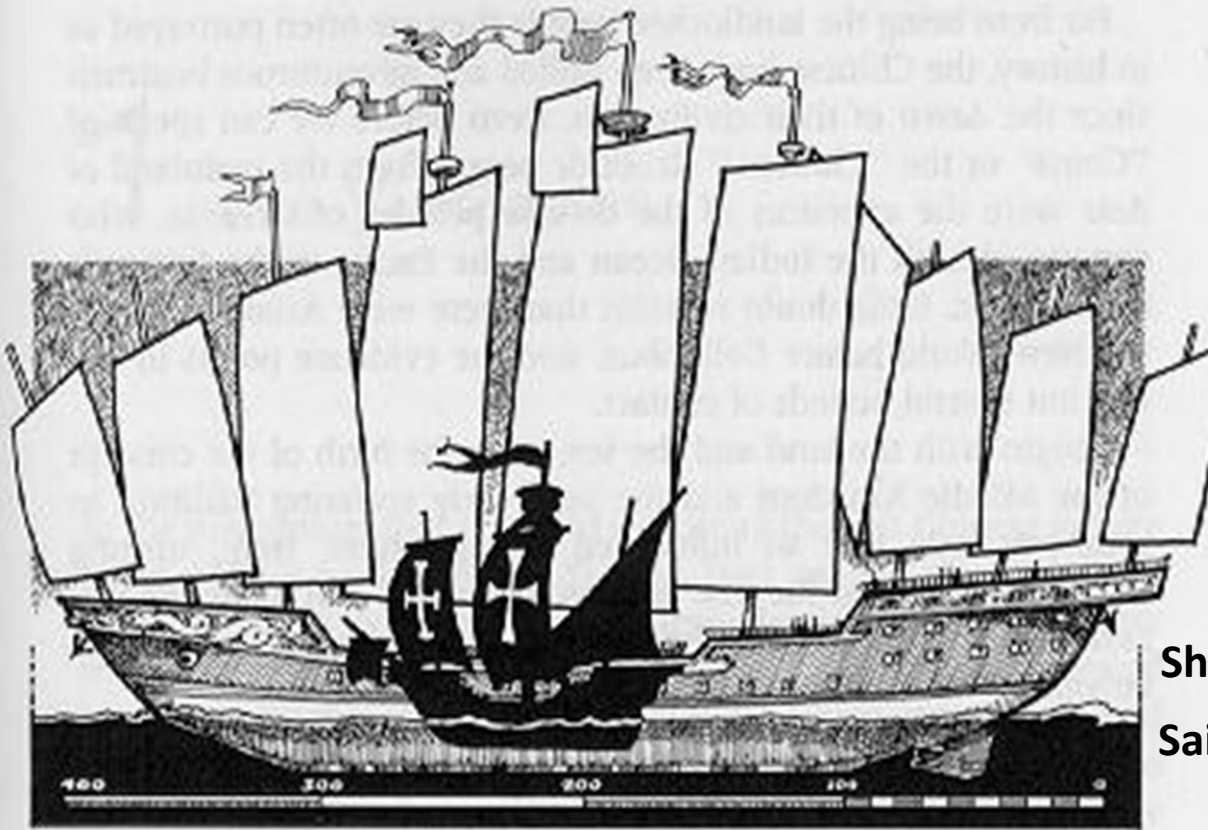
# Exploration (1405-1433)



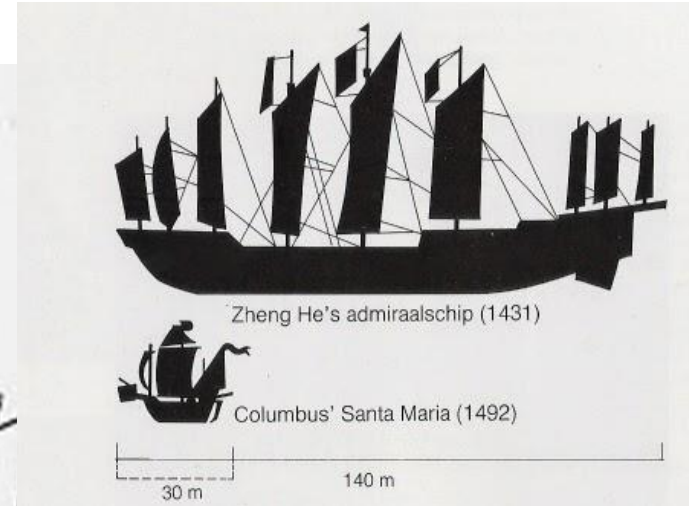
Source: Elisabeth Ellis and Anthony Esler, *World History: Connections to Today*, Prentice Hall (adapted)



- How would this 'turning inward' have hurt China?
- How do you think the course of history may have been changed by this decision to abandon the great overseas voyages?



*Zheng He's treasure ship (four hundred feet) and Columbus's St. Maria (eighty-five feet).  
(Illustration by Jan Adkins, 1993.)*



**Ships:** 300 vs. 3

**Sailors:** 30k vs. 89



## **Checkpoint**

What policies did the Ming pursue with regard to the outside world?





I don't get it...



I get it!

EXIT CARD  
Please jot down what you  
have gotten from today's  
lesson and what you still  
have questions on.