Chapter 9
Empires of Trade: Asia, 1498–c. 1750

People
Nur Jehan: Mughal emperor’s wife who became ruler of India, making Persian its official language.
Auraganzeb: an intolerant Muslim ruler of India who re-introduced the religious tax and imposed Islam.
Shah Jehan: Mughal Emperor of India who built the Taj Mahal to commemorate his love for his wife.
Kublai Khan: Mongol who ruled China as the greatest empire in the world in his time.
Marco Polo: a Venetian merchant who to China by caravan for trade purposes, and later returned to stay for twenty years. Europeans learned of the East from his writings.
Jan Pieterszoon Coen: Dutch Governor-General of Java who was ruthless with the indigenous peoples.
Hideyoshi Toyotami: leader of the Japanese war lords who managed to restore a unified state and tried to make Japan dominant in Asia.
Tokugawa Ieyasu: the Japanese General who seized power after Toyotami and encouraged trade, but executed Christians.
Matteo Ricci: Jesuit priest who lived in China, learning Confucian Classics and adopting Chinese ways to show how they could be fulfilled within Christianity.
G.W. Liebniz: a German philosopher who was inspired in mathematics by Jesuit writings about China.

Terms
sepoys: Indian troops who worked for the British East India Company to preserve order in India.
samurai: Japanese warriors, usually of lower-class origin, who commanded local militias.
shoguns: the warrior General, named by the Japanese Emperor to govern in his name.
daimyo: regional lords in constant conflict with each other during Japan’s period of “Warring States.”
country trade: the buying and selling of goods within Asia itself; this trade was conducted by sailors on European ships.
accommodation with Confucianism: strategy adopted by Jesuits in China to find similarities with Confucian teachings, rather than stressing their differences.
barbarians: foreigners, viewed as culturally inferior by the Chinese.
porcelain “china”: Chinese pottery, highly valued by the West.
hermit kingdom: refers to the limited amount of trade and diplomatic exchange exercised by Korea.

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Mexican “dollar”: silver coin that became common currency in East Asia, since Europeans had to buy products there with silver, rather than trade goods.

1. • All princes equally entitled to inherit throne. Thus always competition for power. • Only the most militarily successful would be able to rule.

2. • Brahma: “holy power”; the Absolute; no limit in time, space, causality; pure existence, consciousness, bliss. • Karma: destiny of an individual in this and next life, based on appropriate reward for actions in previous lives. • Dharma: duties and obligations that fall to a person according to their caste, gender, and stage in life. • Moksha: the aim of Hindus; to achieve liberation from the cycle of rebirths, becoming one with Brahma. • Caste: hereditary, groupings of people; Hindus must live and marry according to the rules of the caste system.

3. • Portuguese came to trade, landed in south India, and made large profits. • Dutch, French and British then chartered companies. • Competition ensued with the establishment of “factories.” • Europeans engaged in local politics to get trade concessions.

4. • Ren: “benevolence” or “goodwill;” “how two human beings ought to behave toward each other.” • Ancestors: must be honoured by the living with sacrifices and rituals. • Mandate of Heaven: entitlement of Emperor to rule All Under Heaven, if governing virtuously. • The Classics: about a dozen books, especially The Analects, compiled by Confucius and his disciples. • Tolerance: acceptance of other philosophies and religions, as long as they respect the existing order.
5. 
- Tribute or tributary: an annual payment by one nation to another as acknowledgment of submission.
- Tribute came from Mongolia, Korea, Vietnam (with Cambodia and Laos), Japan and others.
- China was protected by its Great Wall from the neighbouring, but inferior, “barbarians.”
- In exchange for ritual submission to China, a ruler and people could keep their autonomy.

6. 
- Portuguese injected themselves into well-established system with footholds at Goa and the Asian islands.
- Spaniards eventually seized Manila and made it their centre of global trade.
- Dutch became dominant and ruthless, with their defeat of Aceh (Indonesia).

7. 
- Chinese were important presence in port cities.
- They mixed readily with locals and frequently became government officials.
- But where Europeans were in control, Chinese merchants were not trusted.

8. 
- They learned Chinese, studied Classics, dressed and behaved like Confucian scholars.
- Published books in Chinese about Western learning.
- Wrote about China for Europeans and also other Asians.

9. 
- Limited foreign contact on purpose.
- Required diplomats to prostrate themselves.
- Rituals, like bowing, emphasized superiority.
- Foreigners considered wards of the Chinese traders.

10. 
- The West wanted Asian luxury goods, such as silk and porcelain, as well as tea.
- The Chinese did not want much from the West. They traded for some clocks, furs, and ginseng, but took mainly silver.