

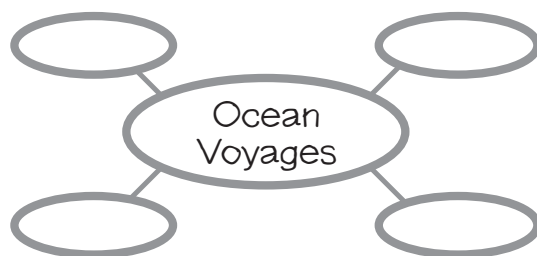
## CHAPTER 7 | LESSON 4 A Return to Chinese Rule

**Lesson 4 A Return to Chinese Rule****BEFORE YOU READ**

In this lesson, you will learn how the Chinese regained control of their country. You will also learn about the rule of the Ming and Qing dynasties.

**AS YOU READ**

Use this web diagram to take notes about the great ocean voyages undertaken during the Ming Dynasty. As you fill in the chart, consider why a country might want to limit contact with the outside world.

**TERMS & NAMES**

- **Forbidden City** a group of palaces and temples surrounded by walls in Beijing, China
- **maritime** related to the sea
- **tribute** payment made by one country to another as a sign of respect
- **Zheng He** an admiral of the Chinese fleet who completed seven long voyages between 1405 and 1433
- **Manchus** people who lived in Manchuria and conquered China in 1644

**Overthrowing the Mongols**

(pages 239–240)

*How was the Ming Dynasty established?*

Kublai Khan died in 1294. Afterwards, Mongol rule slowly weakened. In 1368, a rebel army led by Zhu Yuanzhang overthrew the Mongol emperor.

Zhu Yuanzhang, under then name Hongwu, became the first emperor of the Ming Dynasty. He set out to bring back China's imperial state. Hongwu encouraged Confucianism. He also brought back the state exams. He rebuilt roads, canals, and irrigation systems. These projects helped trade. He improved China's defenses by rebuilding and extending the Great Wall. Hongwu also helped farmers by lowering taxes. In addition, he provided them with land.

Eventually, Hongwu began to abuse his power. He ended public discussion of policies. Instead, he made decisions in secret. He took control of all government offices. Hongwu also set up a secret service to spy on his people. And he had tens of thousands of people arrested for treason and killed.

Hongwu died in 1398. He had chosen his grandson to succeed him. Not everyone supported this decision. A struggle for power began. It lasted for five years. Finally, a son of Hongwu named Yongle won victory. He declared himself emperor in 1403.

Yongle was a strong, capable leader. The Ming Dynasty reached the height of its power under his rule. Yongle built a new capital city at Beijing. A large group of palaces and temples stood at the center of the city. These buildings were surrounded by 35-foot-high walls. Commoners and foreigners were not allowed to enter this area. As a result, this group of buildings became known as the **Forbidden City**.

1. What improvements did the Ming emperors make in China?

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## READING STUDY GUIDE CONTINUED

**Trade and Overseas Voyages**

(page 241)

*How did China's relations with the outside world change under the Ming emperors?*

In the early 1400s, Yongle built a fleet of ships, which he sent on a series of maritime voyages. **Maritime** means related to the sea. Yongle wanted to extend Chinese influence. He also wanted tribute from other countries. **Tribute** is a payment by one country to another as a sign of respect.

China completed seven long voyages between 1405 and 1433. Admiral **Zheng He** led the fleet. He had as many as 300 ships. He also had nearly 28,000 crew members. Zheng He sailed around Southeast Asia to India, Arabia, and Africa. He returned with tribute that included gold and jewels. China's foreign trade and reputation grew because of these voyages.

By the 1430s, Yongle and Zheng He had died. Most Confucian officials thought China gained little from trade. They also thought that China benefited little from contact with foreigners. These officials were far more concerned with threats of invasions from Central Asia. So the Ming government ended the maritime voyages.

China did not remain isolated. Chinese merchants expanded trade with the rest of Southeast Asia. Also, European ships were traveling to China by the early 1500s. The Chinese traded silk, tea, and porcelain in return for a variety of Western goods, including silver.

2. How did China's policies change after the 1430s?

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**The Last Dynasty**

(page 242)

*How was the Qing Dynasty established?*

The Ming Dynasty declined after almost 300 years in power. Weak rulers, high taxes, and poor harvests led to rebellion. To the northeast of China was a region called Manchuria. The people there were known as the **Manchus**. In 1644, the Manchus conquered China. They started the Qing Dynasty.

The Manchus allowed only limited trade. They also limited foreign contacts and tried to restrict foreign influence in China. The Qing dynasty was China's last dynasty. It lasted until 1911.

3. How did the Manchus gain power?

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