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978-0-521-43260-3 - China and Maritime Europe, 1500-1800: Trade, Settlement, Diplomacy, and Missions

Edited by John E. Wills

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## China and Maritime Europe, 1500–1800

*China and Maritime Europe, 1500–1800*, looks at early modern China in some of its most complicated and intriguing relations with a world of increasing global interconnection. New World silver, Chinese tea, Jesuit astronomers at the Chinese court, and merchants and marauders of all kinds play important roles here. Although pieces of these stories have been told before, these chapters provide the most comprehensive and clearest summaries available, based on sources in Chinese and in European languages, making this information accessible to students and scholars interested in the growing connections among continents and civilizations in the early modern period.

John E. Wills, Jr., is Emeritus Professor of History at the University of Southern California. He is the author of many books, articles, and chapters on China.

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# China and Maritime Europe, 1500–1800

*Trade, Settlement, Diplomacy, and Missions*

Edited by

**JOHN E. WILLS, Jr.**

*University of Southern California*

with contributions by

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## Contributors

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## Preface

The essays collected in this volume are revised versions of chapters originally prepared for publication in volumes 8 and 9 of *The Cambridge History of China*. The authors have undertaken this separate publication because they believe their subjects are connected with each other in ways that might not be apparent in the contexts of the two *Cambridge History* volumes and because they wish to make them more accessible to scholars who might not notice their appearance in those volumes and would appreciate having access to them in this more compact and convenient format. We have particularly in mind our colleagues in various areas of study of early modern European relations with Asia who do not specialize in the study of China – scholars of the Islamic world, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Japan, and Korea – including historians of Christian missions elsewhere in Asia. All of these studies are in the midst of vigorous revivals. Specialized conferences and publications abound, so that we are likely to meet these intellectual collaborators at a meeting in Macao or Pondicherry, at a Vasco da Gama quincentenary conference in Australia, or at a meeting in Europe focused on the career of a particular missionary. Our studies and those of all these colleagues are contributing more or less deliberately to the very exciting efforts to develop a non-Eurocentric historiography of the early modern world.

Our chapters offer much context, data, and bibliographic guidance for those who wish to make further contributions to the already flourishing literature on early modern world trade, in which China's provision of high-quality manufactures and tea and its nearly insatiable appetite for silver were important driving forces. They will also be of use to others working on world history topics that have been energetically

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discussed only very recently, such as the comparison of the internal authority structures and foreign relations of state systems, the indigenization of religions of foreign origins, and the dynamics of multiethnic societies, especially those in port cities. We hope that our colleagues working on all these themes in relation to China and other parts of Asia will find in this book some small payment on the great debt we owe them for their recent sophisticated studies and summaries. Finally, we have enjoyed contacts with and encouragement from colleagues in the People's Republic of China in ways we could scarcely imagine when we began work on these chapters in the 1980s. Chinese scholars long were frustrated by the difficulties of learning foreign languages and obtaining access to non-Chinese sources, but a younger generation is overcoming these obstacles and becoming full participants in the international networks of scholarship on the topics discussed in this volume. Here too we hope the volume will be of use in maintaining dialogue and establishing some sound basic narratives.

Versions of the first and second chapters of this book appeared in volume 8 of *The Cambridge History of China*. The author of Chapter 1 has taken advantage of this second publication to add a few references to recent scholarship and to include one paragraph of exposition that was unaccountably omitted from the volume 8 text. The authors of Chapters 2 and 3 have added some references to recent scholarship. We have made every effort to keep our bibliographies up to date and to revise our expositions and analyses in the light of the most recent scholarship. We hope readers will use these pointers to explore further and to keep up with emerging work. For missionary-related topics, we are especially happy to be able to refer readers to the treasures of information and interpretation in Nicolas Standaert, ed., *Handbook of Christianity in China: Volume One: 635-1800*.

Many other chapters of *The Cambridge History of China*, volumes 7, 8, and 9, will be of great importance to readers of the present work. We would mention especially William Atwell's "Ming China and the Emerging World Economy, c. 1470-1650," in volume 8. Other chapters in volumes 8 and 9 provide excellent accounts of basic contexts of economic, social, and cultural change and of Ming China's foreign relations with other areas. Volumes 7 and 9 include in their reign-by-reign summaries of Ming and Qing politics many excellent passages on foreign relations.

The authors have exchanged drafts and comments at many stages. The editor has taken responsibility for coordination and interaction with



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Cambridge University Press. We are grateful for the advice and encouragement of Frederic Wakeman, Denis Twitchett, C. R. Boxer, and John King Fairbank, and we mourn the deaths of all these eminent colleagues. We are very sorry that our friends and collaborators John L. Cranmer-Byng and John W. Witek, S. J., did not live to see their contributions to this volume in print. Father Witek was active until the final editing stages. This book is dedicated to the memory of these two colleagues in gratitude for their contributions and in token of our respect and friendship.

John E. Wills, Jr.  
Pasadena

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## Conventions

Pinyin romanization is used throughout except for the conventional Western usages of Canton (Guangzhou) and Amoy (Xiamen). Non-Chinese place names appear in modern forms, e.g., Melaka, not Malacca; Banten, not Bantam. We use the local English standard, Macao, not the Portuguese Macau.

### MING AND QING REIGN PERIODS, 1368–1820

Throughout the Ming and Qing dynasties, years were counted by year designations (*nianhao*) that were adopted at the beginning of each reign and, unlike the case in earlier dynasties, were not changed until a new emperor came to the throne. Thus the identification of an emperor with his reign period was very strong. It is common and correct to refer to “the Qianlong emperor” using his reign period; to write “Qianlong” as if it were a personal name or title of an individual is not correct but not rare. Volumes 7 and 9 of *The Cambridge History of China* contain excellent reign-by-reign summaries.

### MING DYNASTY

Hongwu, 1368–1398

Jianwen, 1399–1402

Yongle, 1403–1424

Hongxi, 1425

Xuande, 1426–1435

Zhengtong, 1436–1449

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Tianshun, 1457–1464  
Chenghua, 1465–1487  
Hongzhi, 1488–1505  
Zhengde, 1506–1521  
Jiajing, 1522–1566  
Longqing, 1567–1572  
Wanli, 1573–1620  
Taichang, 1620  
Tianqi, 1621–1627  
Chongzhen, 1628–1644  
(Omitted: Reign periods of “Southern Ming” loyalist regimes after 1644  
and of Qing before 1644.)

QING DYNASTY

Shunzhi, 1644–1661  
Kangxi, 1662–1722  
Yongzheng, 1723–1735  
Qianlong, 1736–1795  
Jiaqing, 1796–1820