Ming Dynasty and Tokugawa Japan

# Founding of the Ming

Ming dynasty founded by Zhu Yuanzhang

- Unique because he was born a peasant
- Expels Mongols
- Takes name Hongwu become emperor in 1368
- Force Mongols north of the Great Wall



#### Restoration of the Old System

Under the Ming Dynasty and Hongwu the traditional scholarly gentry is restored to power.

The Chinese Confucian schools and examination system were restored as well.

## Reforms



- The power of the Emperor restored (not in the hands of nobles)
- Honesty, loyalty, & discipline was expected from officials
- Emperor's wives were only allowed to come from modest families
  - off set power plays from high ranking families
- Limited number of eunuchs to powerful positions
- Built the Forbidden City



## An Age of Growth

- Importation of American crops = population growth
- Population grew from 80-90 million to 300 million from 14<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> centuries
- Chinese manufactured goods in high demand
  - Ceramics, textiles, etc..
- Macao & Canton only places Europeans were officially allowed

# The Zheng He Expeditions

- ▶ 1405-1423
- 7 major overseas expeditions including:
  - ► Persia
  - Indian Coast
  - African Coast
- Initial fleet contained 62 ships
  - Columbus only had 3 in 1492
  - Da Gama only had 4 in 1498

- Chinese had the capacity to expand on a global scale at least a century before the Europeans
- Expeditions end due to lack of funding and internal problems



### Arrival of the Europeans

- The first European groups to arrive in China were merchants as well as Franciscans and Dominicans
- The dominate group were the Jesuits
- They try to recruit the elites by adopting Chinese customs and clothing.



#### Ming Decline and Collapse

- Later rulers incompetent Public works projects fall into disrepair
- Floods, droughts, & famine rage lands
- Internal disorder leads to invasions
- Last Ming emperor, Chongzhen, kills himself to avoid capture and the dynasty is overthrown in 1644

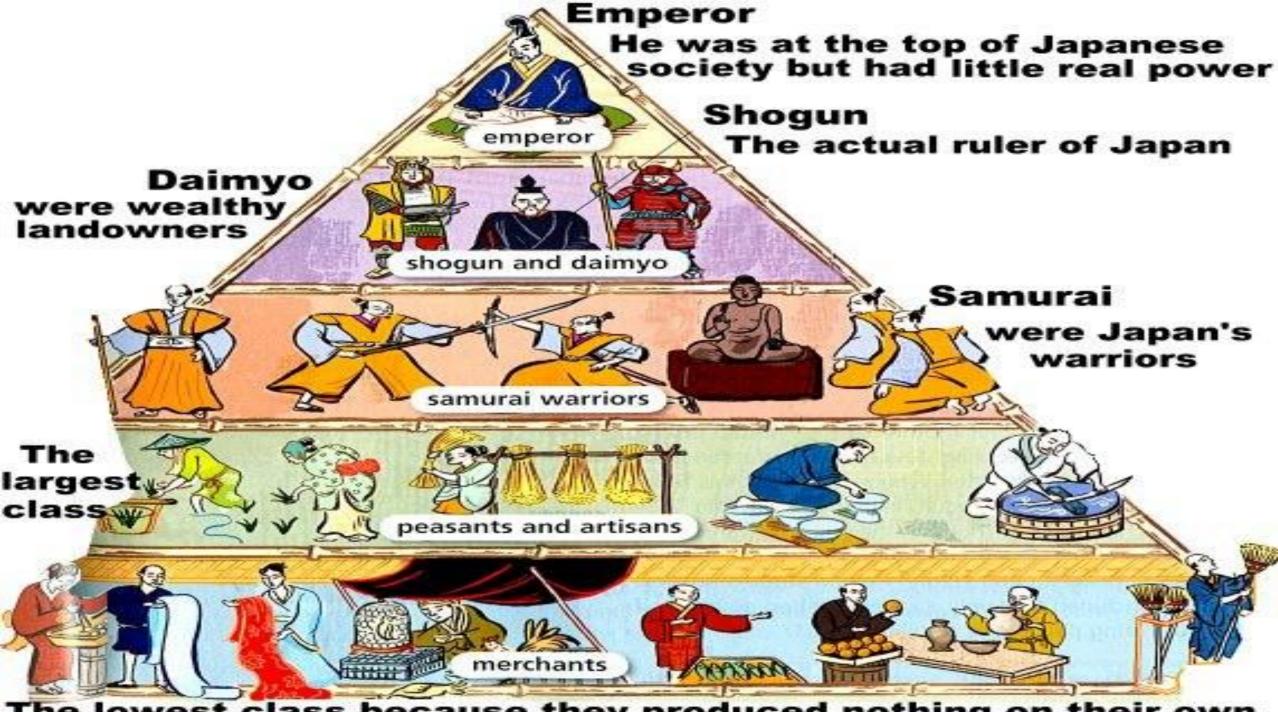
Tokugawa Japan

## Introduction

- Since the mid-15<sup>th</sup> century Japan was made up of 300 small feudal kingdoms.
- By the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century the Japanese had found leaders to restore unity under the Tokugawa Shogunate
- Three military leaders who restored unity:
  - Nobunaga
  - Toyotomi Hideyoshi
  - Tokugawa leyasu

### Japanese Feudalism

- Feudalism in Japan developed independently of European feudalism
- ► Similar:
  - Divided into Social classes, King/ Emperor at the top, peasants at the bottom
- Different:
  - Shogun had the real power, No reciprocal relationship in Japanese feudal system.



The lowest class because they produced nothing on their own

#### The Three Generals

- Nobunaga: Daimyo lord that used firearms extensively deposed the last Ashikaga shougun
- Toyotomi Hideyoshi: Nobunaga's general unsuccessfully invades Korea twice
- Tokugawa leyasu: Forms Tokugawa Shogunate – appointed Shogun by the emperor
  - Family rules for 250 years

#### Deal with the Europeans

- The earliest Europeans were Missionaries & traders
- Europeans brought firearms, printing press, clocks
- Nobunaga was tolerant of the missionaries and foreigners while Hideyoshi was not.

### Japans Self-Imposed Isolation

- Christianity banned in 1614 by Tokugawa leyasu
- Those who refused to renounce faith were imprisoned, tortured, or killed
- Increases isolation by restricting foreign merchants and Japanese ships forbidden to sail overseas by 1630
- By 1640, only the Dutch (Netherlands) and the Chinese were allowed to visit the island Deshima