

Haijin and Canton

Name: _____

<p>Anti-Foreign Opinion: The Chinese Empire’s attitude towards non-Chinese was always fairly negative. As early as the Sui Dynasty, China considered itself the greatest culture and greatest state on Earth. Foreign influence on China was always viewed as a threat to China’s culture and civilization. However, after the Mongol Conquest and the Mongol-run Yuan dynasty, this only grew worse. The Yuan treated the Chinese horribly and after they were expelled, China became obsessed with protecting its culture.</p>	<p>What are a few reasons why China developed anti-foreign opinions?</p>
<p>Haijin: in 1371, three years after the Ming Dynasty began, the Haijin was put into place by the emperor. The Haijin simply means “Sea Ban.” The idea was to stop Japanese piracy and to free up China’s soldiers to finish off the last remnant of the Mongol army. The Sea Ban abolished all private naval commerce throughout China. To enforce it, the government destroyed ships, shipyards, and ports in Southern China and punished merchants with death.</p>	<p>What was the Haijin?</p> <p>What was it created to do?</p>
<p>The Treasure Fleet: only private trade was banned by the Haijin. Which meant the central government could still participate in trade. It did this with the use of massive fleets called treasure fleets. These ships would travel twice a year to all of China’s allies to conduct trade. To allies who had upset China, they would be punished by only one or no visits from the Fleet. However, as large as the treasure fleet was, it was still a dramatic reduction in trade for China. It was also expensive and by the 1470s, the treasure fleets stopped running.</p>	<p>How did China trade during the Haijin?</p> <p>What were some problems with the Treasure Fleet system?</p>
<p>Did it Work? Short answer: no. The Haijin was completely counterproductive. By 1450, piracy was at the worst it had ever been in or around China. The ban on trade meant that people living on the coast of China could no longer make money legally and so many turned to smuggling and piracy. In fact, by 1450 most of the “Japanese” pirates were actually Chinese.</p>	<p>In what ways did the Haijin actually make problems worse?</p>
<p>Why? China kept the Haijin in place for 200 years. It was not just to fight pirates. Even casual Chinese observers at the time noted how ineffective the policy was for fighting pirates. Most historians believe the Sea Ban was actually kept in place to support the central government against the wealthy classes of Southern China. It also was intended to defend Chinese culture, which was considered to be under threat from foreign influences. Most concerning to the emperors were radical forms of Buddhism from Japan, Islam from Central Asia, and Christianity from Portuguese traders (starting around 1470).</p>	<p>Why is “fighting pirates” not viewed as the reason for the Haijin?</p> <p>What are some possible reasons it was enforced?</p>
<p>How did it hurt China? Many ways. Firstly, the government lost a huge amount of tax revenue. This was especially difficult considering that the Ming Dynasty also spent a lot of money. It built the modern Great Wall—an incredibly expensive project. Combined with the costly treasure fleets and the expense of supporting China’s million man army, the Ming Dynasty often was fighting to not go bankrupt.</p>	<p>Why did the Haijin cause a revenue problem for China?</p>

<p>Secondly, China was starting to isolate itself from diffusion. For the first time in a thousand years, China was not the center of world innovation. And the Haijin came at just the right time to worsen China's disadvantage. China missed out on such inventions as the musket, steam engine, telescope, and vaccine.</p>	<p>How did the Haijin hurt China's technological progress?</p>
<p>The Great Clearance: the Haijin was briefly abandoned due to money issues at the end of the Ming Dynasty but was reinstated by the Qing in the first years of their reign. The Qing took the sea ban much further. In 1661, the Qing ordered all people living on the coast of Southern China to destroy their homes and move 10 miles inland. This clearance did not last long but it did signal a period of intensified restrictions on trade. Under the Qing, China became more isolated than it had been even under the Ming.</p>	<p>How did the Qing modify the Haijin?</p>
<p>The Canton System: shortly after the end of the Great Clearance, the Qing Dynasty shifted its trade policy. It formally abolished all foreign trade throughout China, except through the single port of Canton (now known as Guangzhou). Although this technically was a lighter restriction than the Haijin, which was finally abandoned, it was also more easily enforced. Leading to China actually becoming more isolated than before.</p>	<p>What is the Canton System?</p> <p>How was it different from Haijin?</p>
<p>Technological decline: isolated behind the Haijin and Canton systems, China fell further and further behind Europe. By 1600, Europe had caught up to China technologically. By 1800, Europe was greatly ahead of China. It is unclear the extent to which this decline was caused by China's isolation but it certainly wasn't helping. Had lines of diffusion been open, China probably would have received some of the newer inventions from Europe. However, China's intellectual community also shares some of the blame. By rejecting foreigners, they closed themselves to the new ideas that drove Europe's period of innovation. The Imperial Exams might also have had a hand in the decline, as they absorbed much of the time that intellectuals might have spent studying science, math, or engineering.</p>	<p>To what extent was Haijin and Canton to blame for China's decline?</p> <p>How were Chinese intellectuals also to blame?</p> <p>How were the exams to blame?</p>

<p>Prompt: was the Haijin or Imperial Exam more to blame for China's decline from 1300-1800?</p>
<p>Thesis:</p>
<p>Evidence:</p>