

# China in the World Economy

Autumn 2022

- Ing. Mgr. Petr Svatoň
- [petr.svaton@mail.muni.cz](mailto:petr.svaton@mail.muni.cz)

# Requirements for passing the course

- **Seminars + essay + exam**

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- Exam – 4 open questions – **20 points**

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- 35-32,5 points - „**A**“
- 32-29,5 points - „**B**“
- 29-26,5 points - „**C**“
- 26-23,5 points - „**D**“
- 23-20 points - „**E**“
- 19,5-0 points - „**F**“



# Contents of the course

- Today – introductory about China's geography and history
- Relative decline of China after 1800 - „Century of humiliation“

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- China's relative decline after 1800 - „Century of humiliation“
- It is not going to be on the test 😊

# Contents of the course

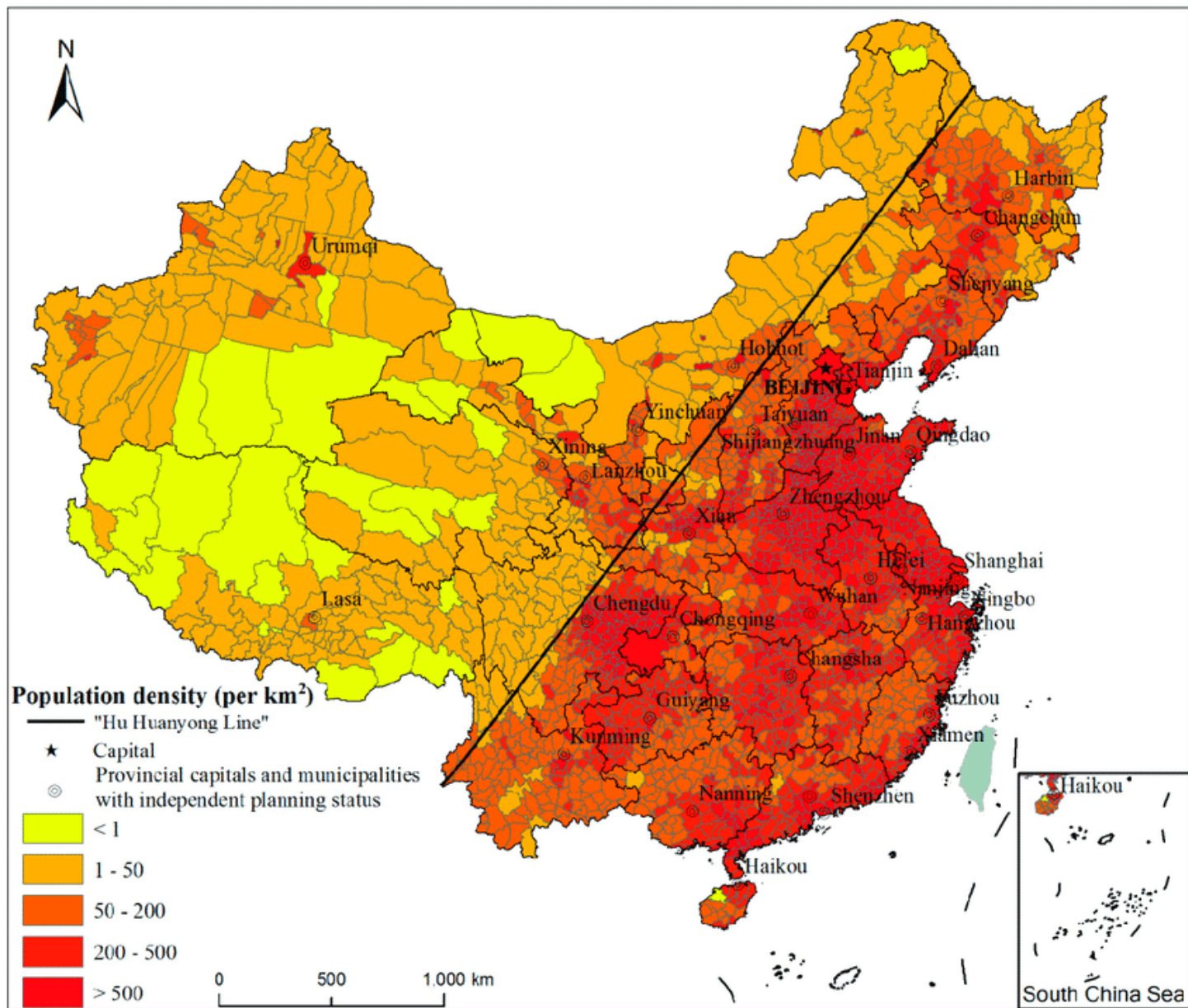
- Other topics covered by the course:
- Next week – Marxism and its evolution
- Waves of reforms after 1978
- China's role in WTO, IMF, WB
- Belt and Road Initiative
- China's contemporary economic and technological ambitions under Xi Jinping
- Trade war with the United States, deteriorating relations with EU

# Geography of China

# China Major Rivers Map

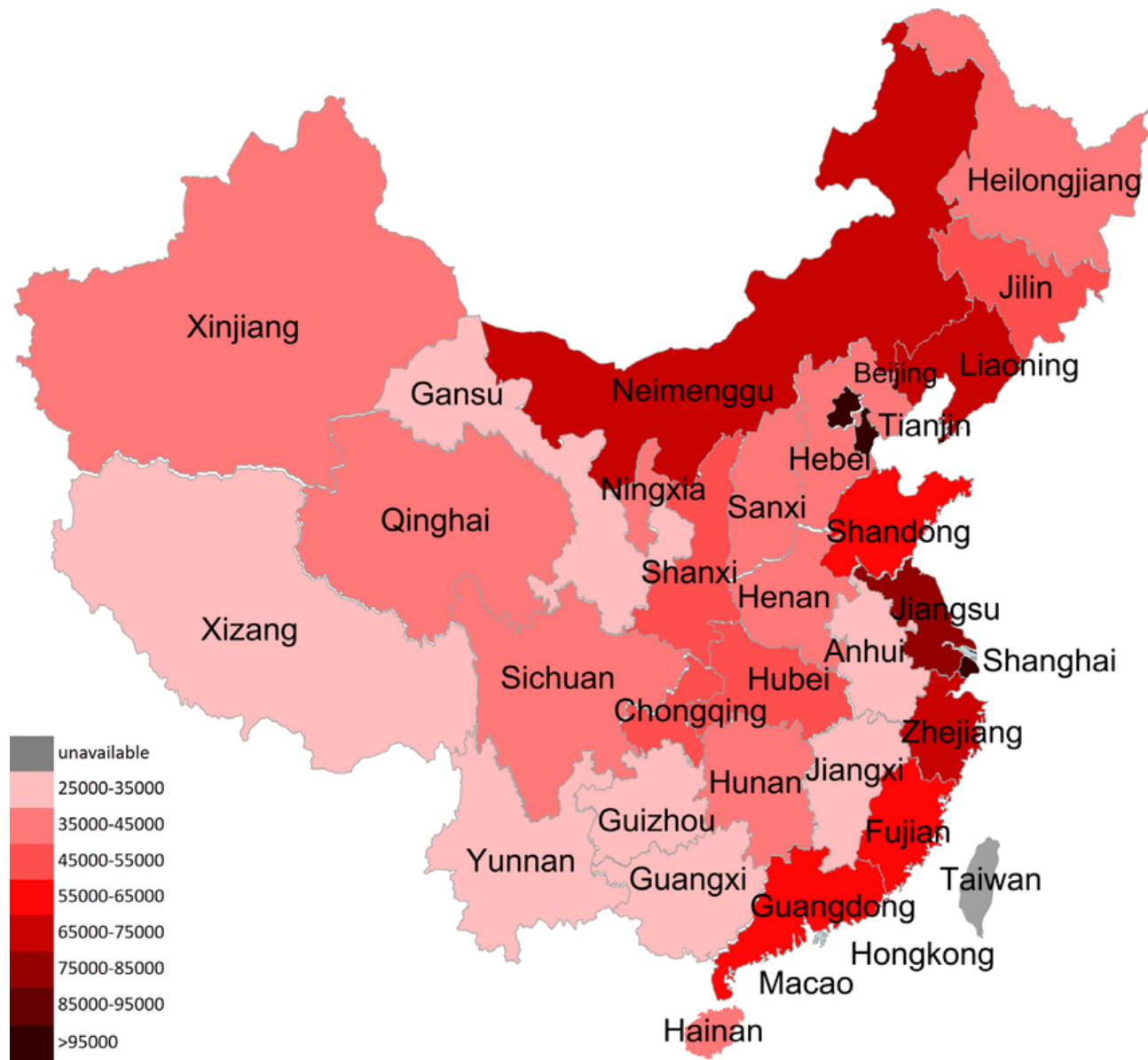




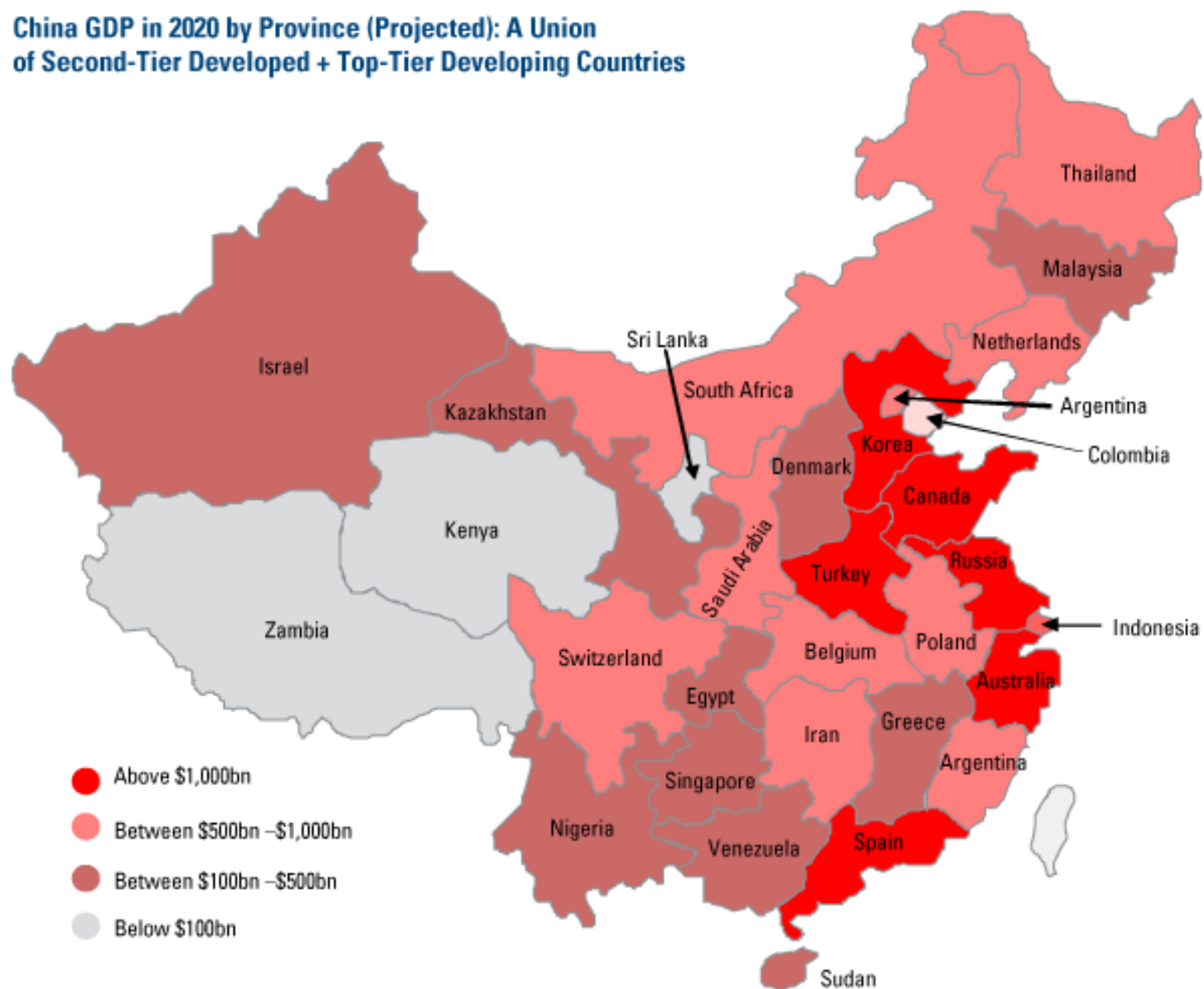








### China GDP in 2020 by Province (Projected): A Union of Second-Tier Developed + Top-Tier Developing Countries



Source: HSBC, CEIC, IMF, CIA

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- Skewed to highlight stability and continuity + to justify the People's Republic's territorial claims
- > unbroken line of legitimate rule from the Bronze Age to Xi Jinping

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- Many conquest dynasties established by violent invasions (Manchu, Mongols)

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- Tibet, Xinjiang, southern provinces – semi-independent vassal states, often ruled by indigenous leaders and chiefs
- Taiwan – only partially conquered in mid-1600s, treated as a neglected backwater until being ceded to Japan in 1894

# Imperial China

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- > natural disasters or military defeats signal the fact that Heaven is displeased

# Imperial China

- Security

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- Nomadic vs. settled civilization

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- Security – periodic invasions by steppe tribes
- Nomadic vs. settled civilization
- Nomads – **no conception of permanent borders or fixed property > no respect for China's state**
- Mobility, personal fighting prowess







# Imperial China

- China – large population, organized military (mostly infantry)
- Nomads mostly caused small-scale plunder
- **Large tribal confederations** = existential threat













# Imperial China

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- The interior of China, however, was mostly **demilitarized and administered by civil bureaucrats = mandarins**

# Imperial China

- Mandarins – **official-scholars**





一集

戊申春日

李君五小相寄呈

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- > influence on the Communist party
- > influence on modern European states! > civil service

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- - **service in the military, bureaucracy; trade**
- **„Mandarin Chinese“** – official language
- Many other **dialects** of Chinese survive to this date
- Mainly in the south – **remnant of China's slow expansion south** towards Southeast Asia





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- Foreign policy
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- > center of the universe, **surrounded by barbarians** = everyone else
- The best that other countries can do to lift their status is to become **Chinese vassals**

# Imperial China

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- Benevolent imperialism?

# Grand Canal



## China Major Rivers Map





# Grand Canal







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- Connection between „**wheat China**“ and „**rice China**“ – **harvests during different parts of the year > exchange, prevention of famine**
- Invention of water navigation locks

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- Need for women to have many children > **early marriage, patriarchal society**

# Imperial China

- Lack of available fertilizer > sophisticated system of using human feces
- = rules for who should go to which latrine etc
  
- Oppression of peasants by landlords – not formal serfdom, but high rents for land

# Timeline of dynasties

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- **Xia** (2000 BC – 1600 BC) – mythical, never proven
- **Shang** (1600 BC – 1000 BC) – small bronze-age state in northern China, pagan religion and divinations



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- „**Hundred Schools of Thought**“ > Confucianism, Legalism, Taoism = search for legitimacy and unity in a turbulent age

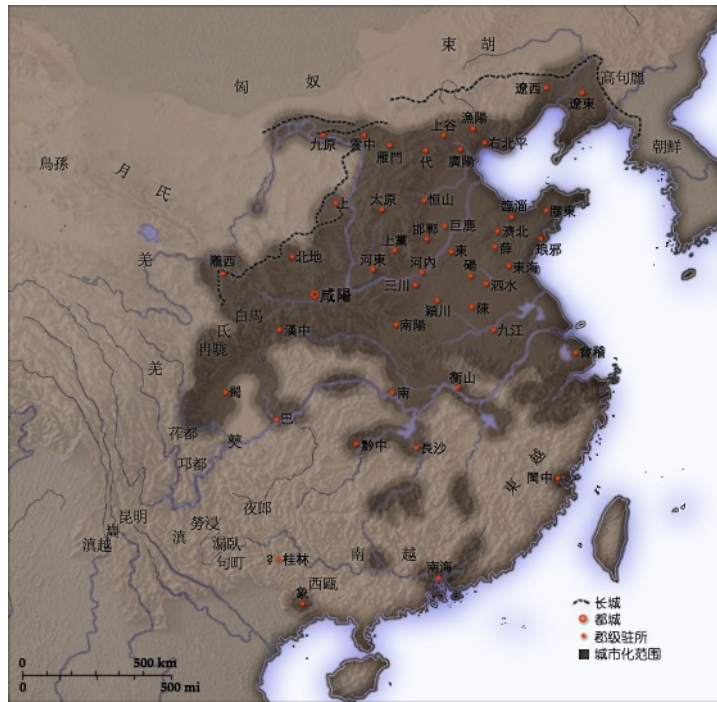


# Qin

- „First Emperor“ – Qin Shi Huang – around **220 BC**
- Destroyed the other states, **unified China**, expanded into the south
- **Great Wall**, terracota army, first great capital at Chang-an (Xian)
- **Megalomaniac and tyrannical – high taxes, cruel punishments, purges of dissident scholars**
- Unpopular > overthrown around 200 BC
- > „China“





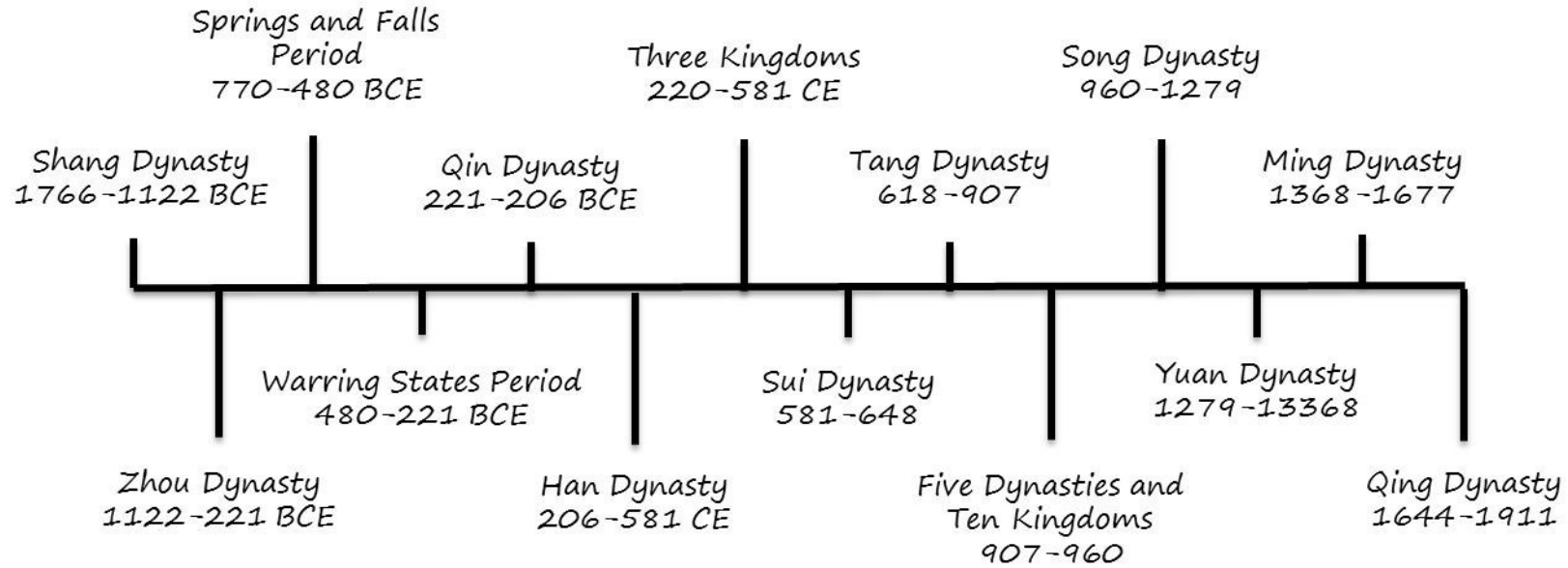


# Han

- **200 BC – 200 AD**
- > „Han Chinese“, „Han characters“
- More lenient, ruled on the basis of consent
- Confucianism as the state ideology, first imperial examinations
- Defeated the Xiongnu steppe tribes > **Silk route**



# Chinese Dynasties



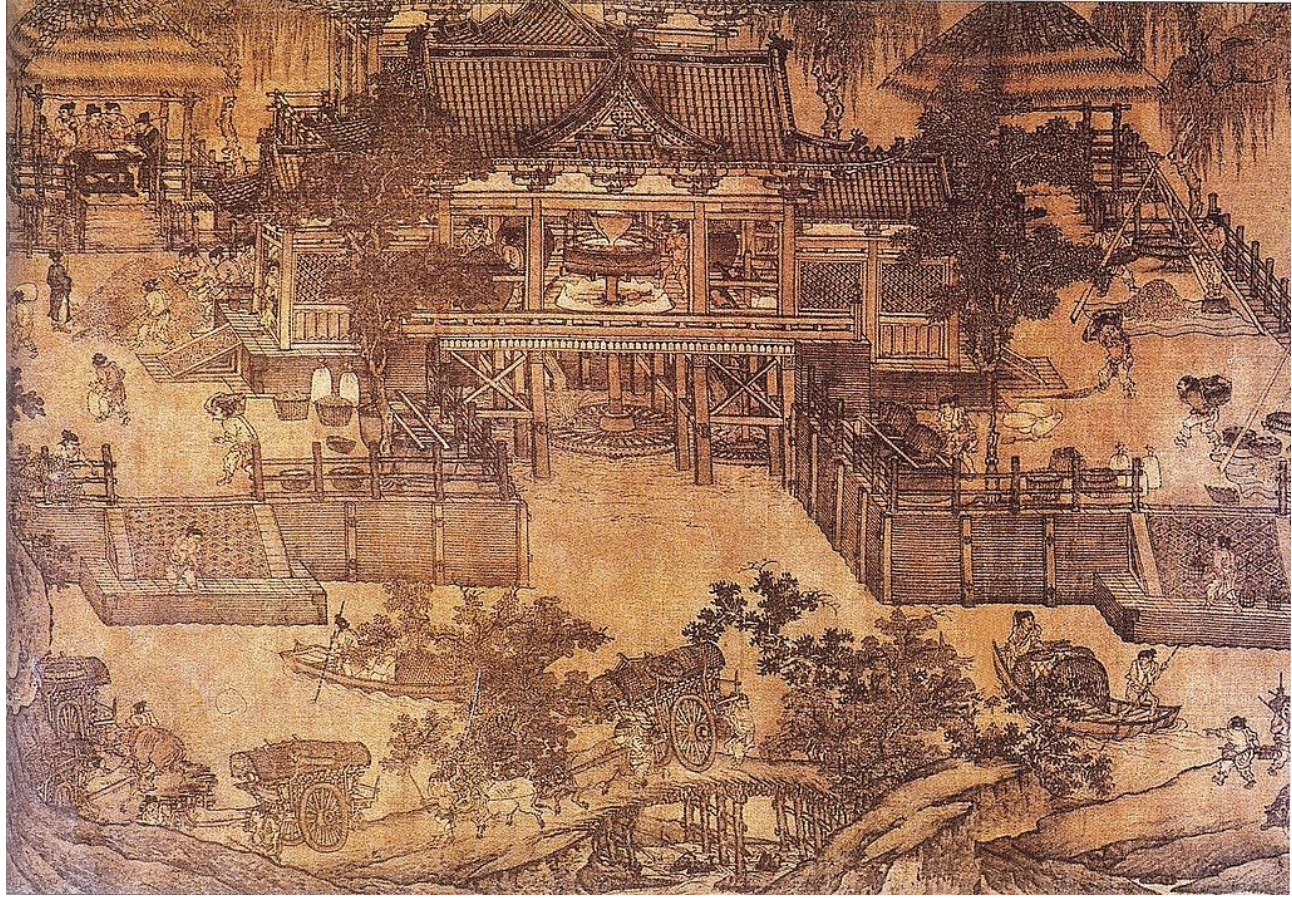
# Sui and Tang

- 200 AD – 600 AD – „Three Kingdoms period“ – many short-lived regimes
- Around 600 – **Sui** – unification, **Grand Canal**
- Again too high taxes and too much cruelty > **Tang dynasty (600-900)**
- Exposure to foreign cultures (Buddhism, Islam, Zoroastrianism, Christianity)
- **Imperial examinations!**
- „An Lushan rebellion“ – **relatively** worst civil war in human history?



# Song

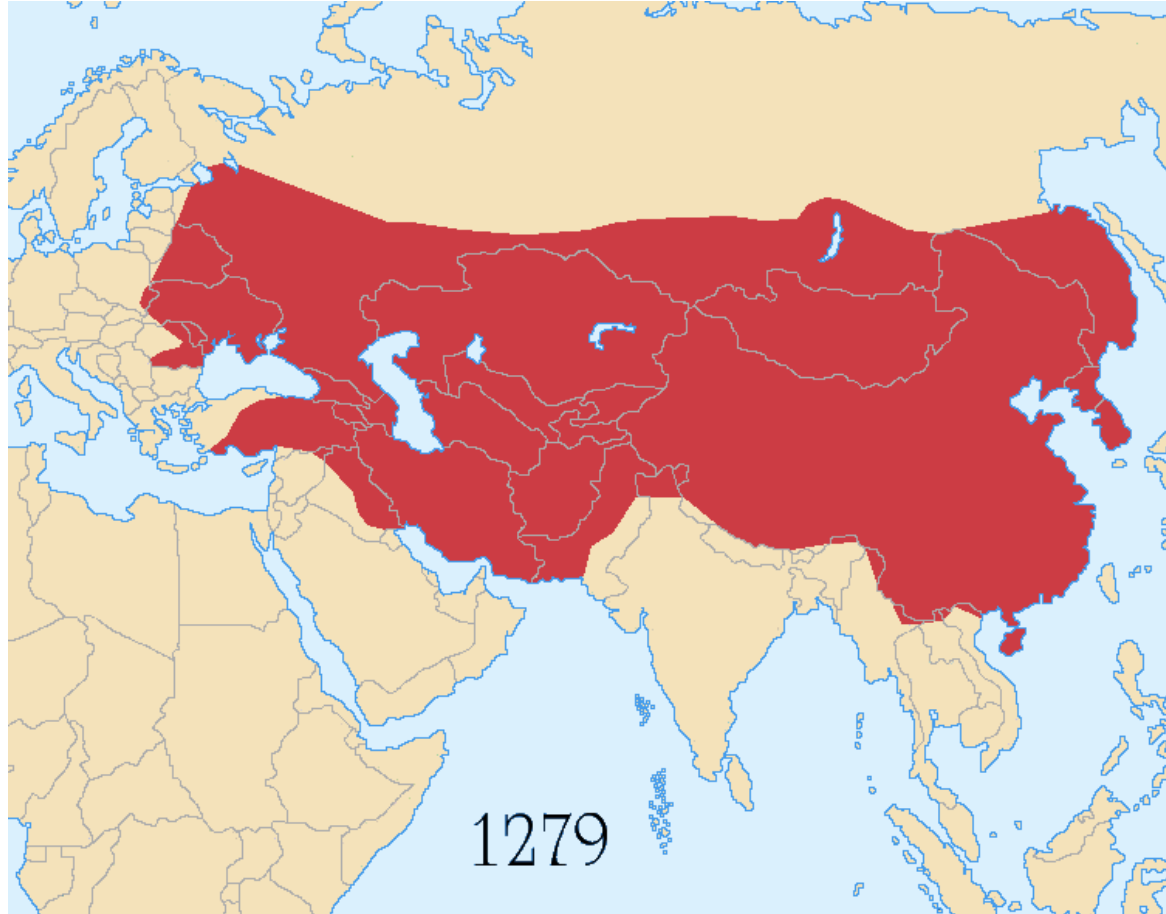
- **Song dynasty (900-1250)**
- Unknown and underrated
- Better rice from Southeast Asia > **doubling of population**
- Technological Innovation: **paper money, printing of books, gunpowder, compass, pound lock**





# Mongols

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- Total conquest of China > Mongol Yüan dynasty



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- Total conquest of China > Mongol Yüan dynasty
- Kublai Khan – visited by Marco Polo
- Attempts to conquer Korea, Japan, Vietnam and Indonesia (!)

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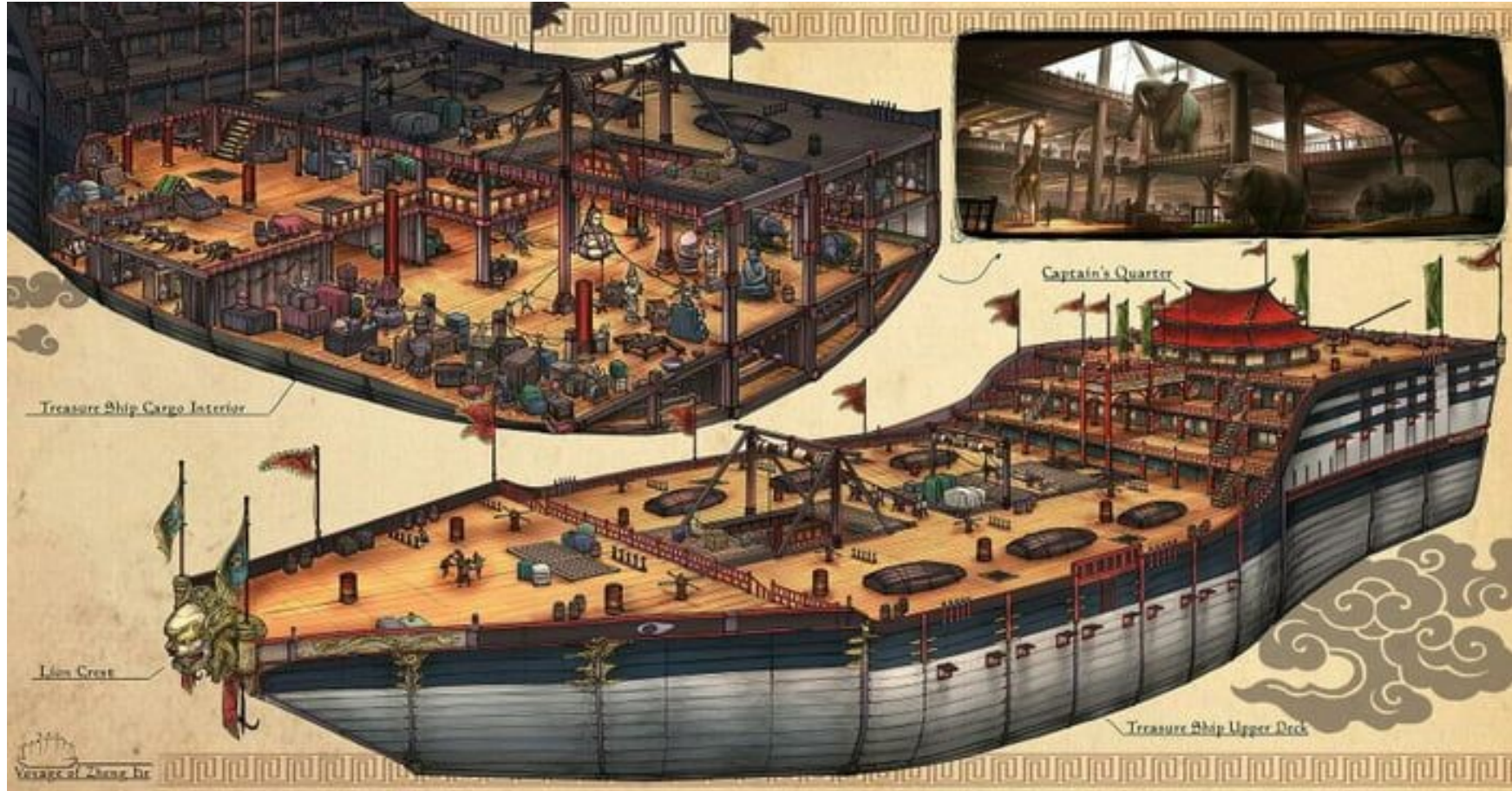
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- Nanking („Southern Capital“) and Beijing („Northern Capital“)

# Zheng He's voyages

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- **Cancelled – fear of foreigners + too expensive**

# Zheng He's voyages

- Why was the Silk Road not cancelled?

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- Why was the Silk Road not cancelled?
- No expenditures for the Chinese treasury
- + **luxury trade – not subversive!**

# Qing

- Last dynasty – **1650 - 1911**
- **Manchus, steppe nomads similar to the Mongols - conquered China**

- „The transition from Ming to Qing, Ming–Qing transition, or **Manchu conquest of China** from 1618 to 1683 saw the transition between two major [dynasties](#) in [Chinese history](#).“

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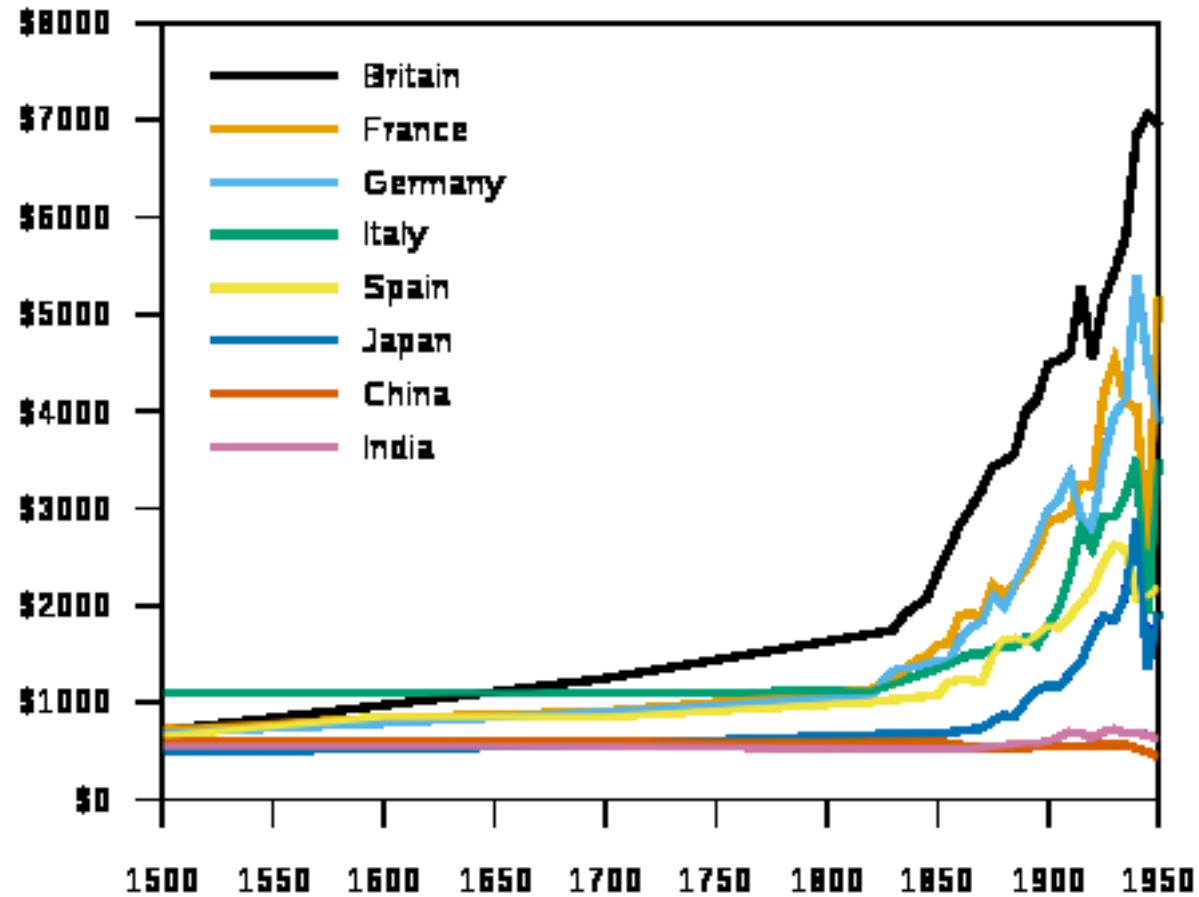
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- Reached the limits of pre-industrial growth – highest yields and population possible without modern machinery



# The rise of Europe



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- Probably overtook China in personal income as soon as 1400!
- A marked disparity only appeared with the Industrial Revolution (late 1700s)

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- **„China is already perfect the way it is and has no use for foreign ideas and technologies“**



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- First encounters with Europeans in the 1500s – **contempt for „barbarians from the sea“**
- **Cantonese system** – trade with China was possible only in the city of Canton, and only via a cartel of Chinese merchants



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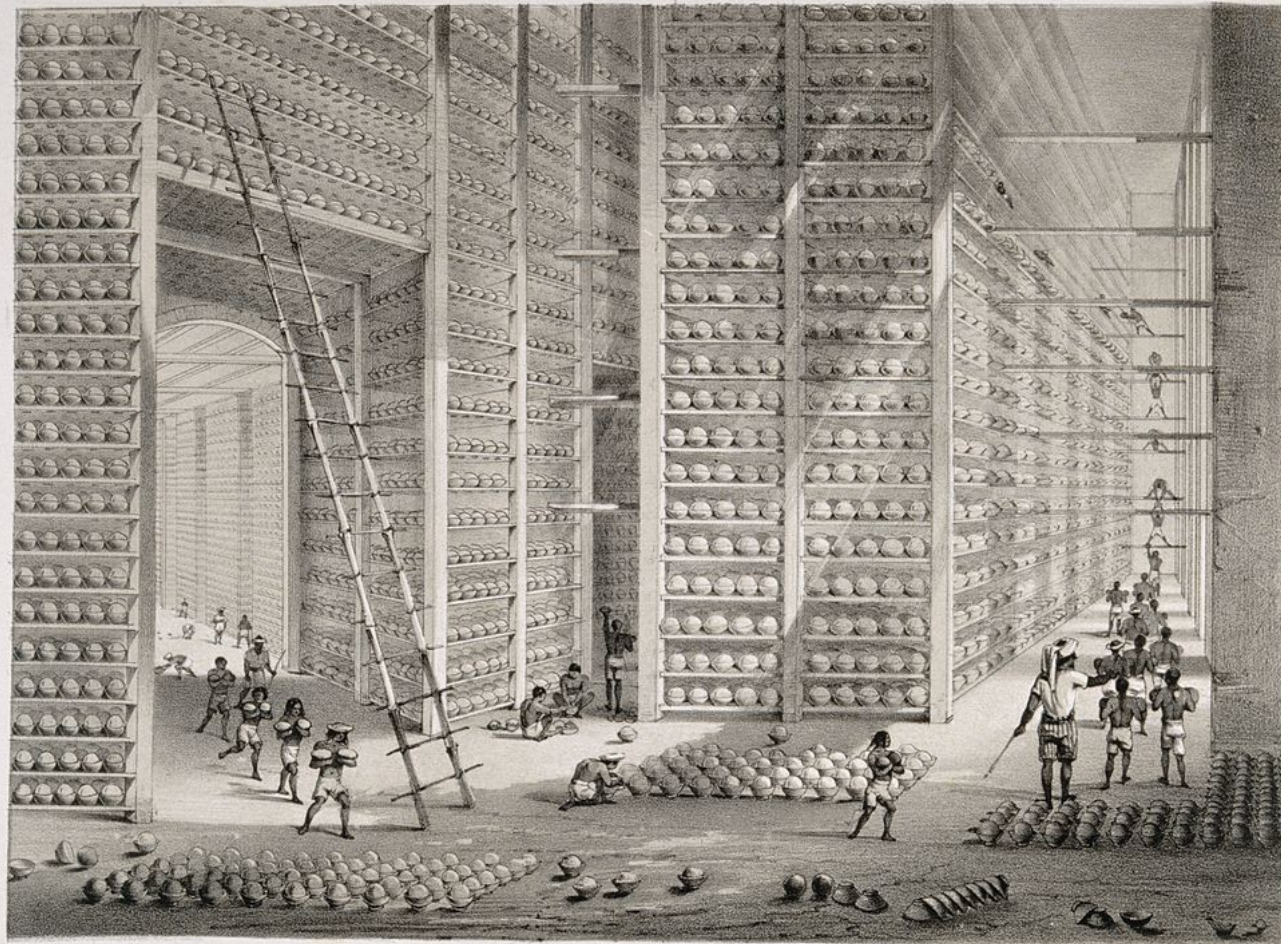
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- > **Opium wars > unequal treaties**



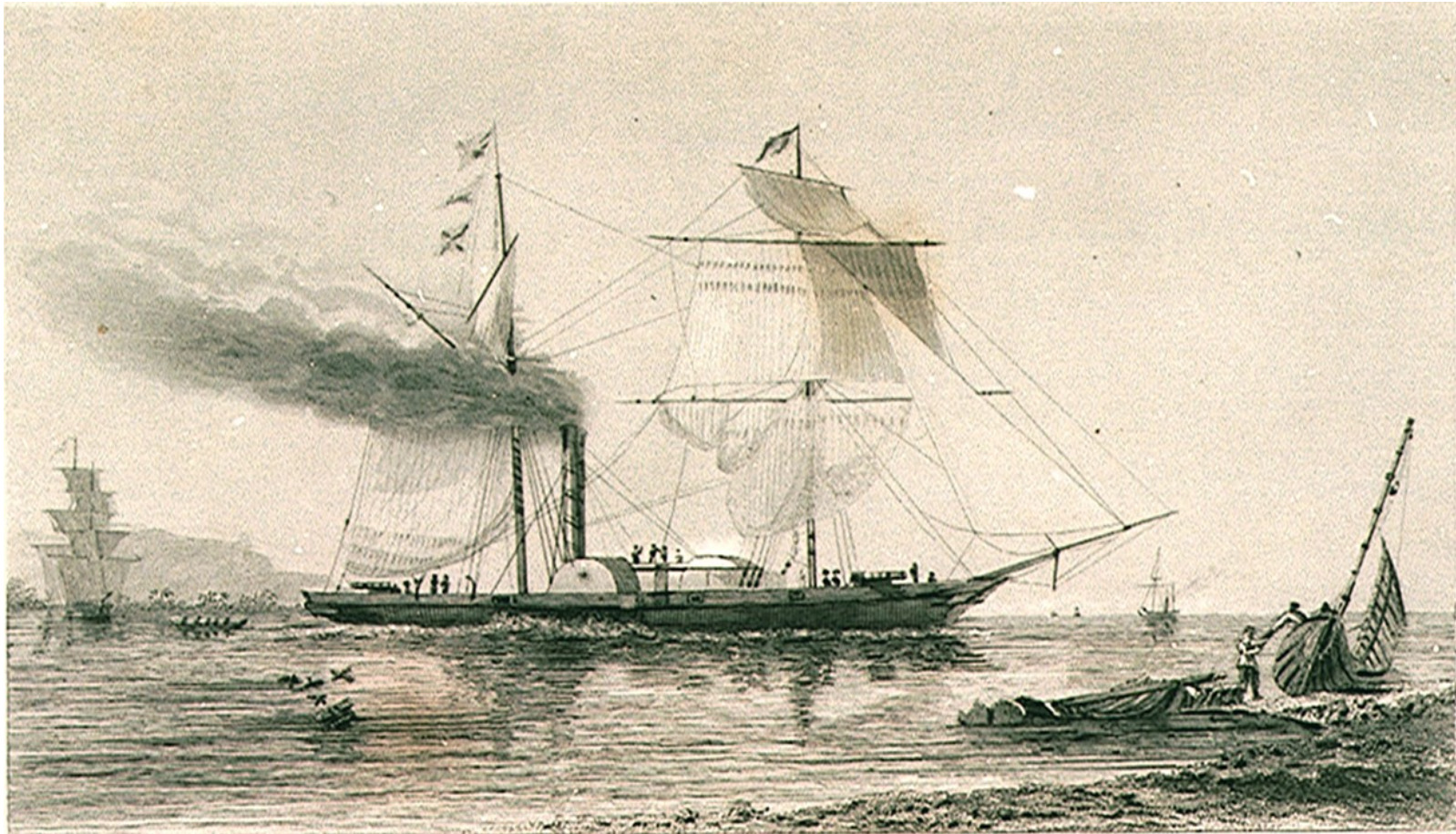


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Engraved by Macdonald & Macgregor Lith. London.

THE STACKING ROOM,  
OPIUM FACTORY AT PATNA, INDIA.





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- Other imperialist powers demanded similar concessions, **until China became partitioned into informal spheres of influence**





# Colonial Powers Carve Up China, 1850-1910





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- **1900** – „**Boxer uprising**“



COLORIZED BY  
JULIUS JÄASKELÄINEN



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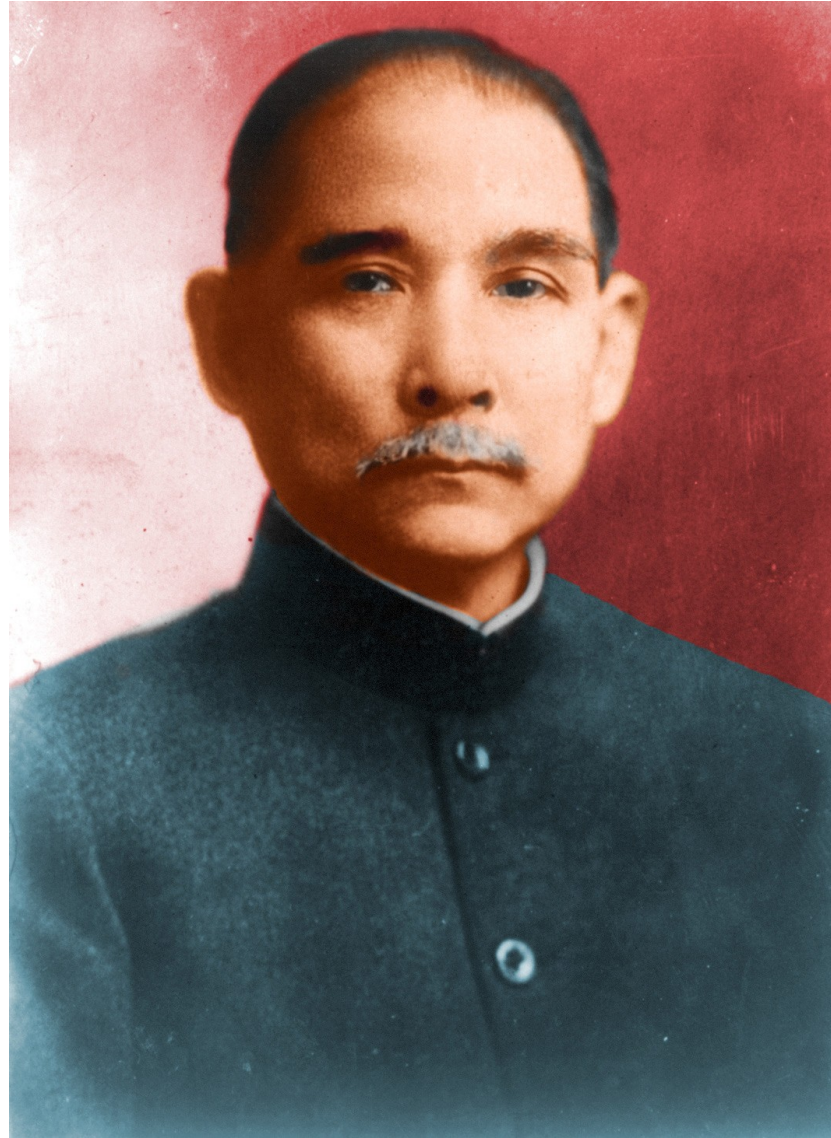
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- **> nationalist Chinese movement led by Sun Yat Sen**
- **Meant to overthrow the Manchu**
- **> create a Han-dominated republic, modernize China and expel the foreigners**

# 1911 – Xinhai revolution

- Series of army mutinies > quick collapse of the Qing, proclamation of the **Republic of China (ROC)**



„Five races under one flag“



# Collapse of central power

- **Sun Yat Sen did not have enough support to rule**, so power went to general **Yuan Shikai**, who promptly tried to make himself Emperor



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- Tibet, Turkestan (Uighurs) and Mongols seceded former their own states

# China, Second Warlord Era



# China



## Independent Warlords

- Xinjiang Clique
- Tibet
- Gansu Clique
- Kumul Khanate
- Ningxia Clique
- Yunnan Clique
- Shandong Clique

## Beiyang Government

- Wan Government

天下

壹玖叁肆年

## Nominally KMT States

- Yunnan Clique
- Left Kuomintang Government
- New Guangdong Clique
- Right Kuomintang Government
- Guominjun
- Shanxi Clique
- Fengtian Clique

合必分  
分必合  
天下大勢

## Revolutionaries

- Chinese Communist Party

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- > founding of the **Communist Party of China in 1921**

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- 1925 – Sun died, Chiang led a **Northern Expedition**, which conquered most of China by 1928

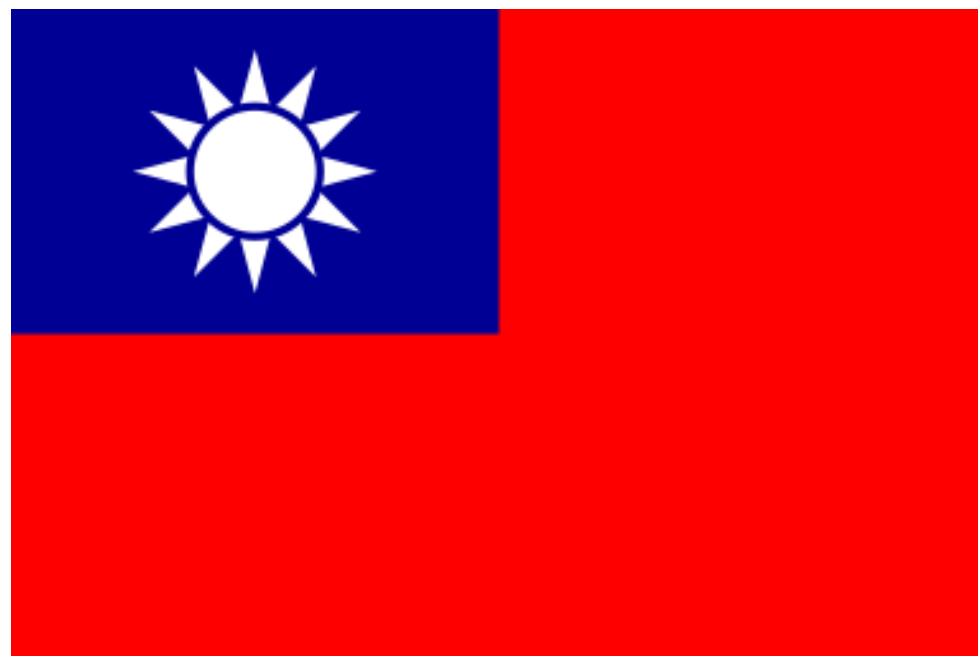






# Nanking decade

- 1927-1937
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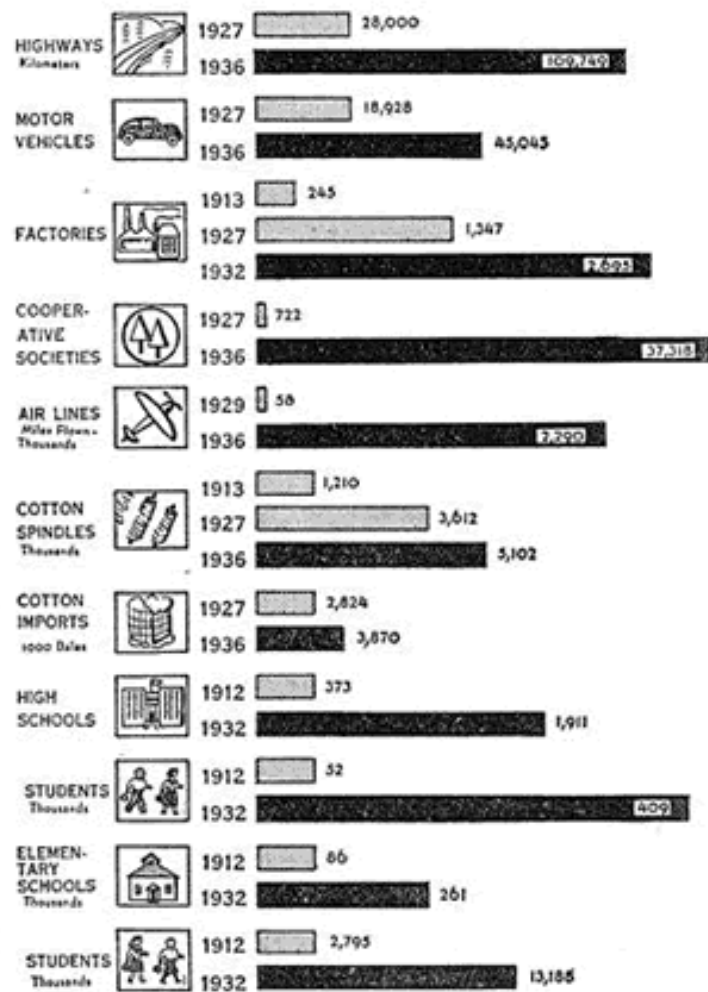




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## CHINA'S PROGRESS BEFORE THE INVASION





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- **Program of industrialization**, building of infrastructure
- > strengthening of the army for a clash against Japan

# Second Sino-Japanese war

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