CHAPTER 20

NORTHERN EURASIA, 1500-1800

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

The last several chapters have focused on the role different regions played in the Early Modern Era as Europe initiated a new global age of exploration and contact among far-flung world regions. This chapter focuses on Northern Eurasia. There are several dramatic personalities that make for wonderful biographical studies: Peter the Great, Kangxi, Qianlong, and Tokugawa Ieyasu. As you read, focus on comparing the actions and reactions of Russia, China, and Japan to various developments. For each example or trend you encounter, ask yourself, “Does this reflect only one person, country, or region, or the entire world system?”

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After reading Chapter 20 and completing this study chapter, you should be able to:

- Discuss the similarities and differences between Russia and Qing China and the complex relationship between the two countries.
- Explain how the two great land empires of Russia and Qing China tried to face the challenges of a changing world.
- Explain how East Asians interacted with European institutions and people such as the East India Company and the Jesuits.
- Discuss how Japan began its transformation to a centralized power on a path quite different from Chinese patterns.
IDENTIFICATIONS

Define each term and explain why it is significant, including any important dates.

Manchu

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Samurai

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daimyo

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Tokugawa Ieyasu

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“Dutch studies”

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“Forty-seven Ronin” incident

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Ming Empire

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Qing Empire

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Matteo Ricci

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Kangxi

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Amur River

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Macartney Mission

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Siberia

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Muscovy

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Ural Mountains

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tsar

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cossacks

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MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

Read the entire question, including all the possible answers. Then choose the one answer that best fits the question.

1. The Tokugawa government regulated the price of rice, the rate of interest, and the activities of moneylenders when the well-being of which social group was threatened?
   a. Peasants.
   b. Merchants.
   c. Nobles.
   d. Samurai.
   e. The fledgling Catholic Church.
2. How did the Japanese respond to Catholicism?
   a. The shogunal court was hostile, but certain regional lords were receptive.
   b. The shogunal court was receptive, but certain regional lords were hostile.
   c. Both the shogunal court and the regional lords were hostile.
   d. Both the shogunal court and the regional lords were receptive.
   e. Only the downtrodden peasants found it appealing.

3. Japan’s decentralized government system limited its ability to regulate merchant activities and
   a. thus also stunted the economy.
   b. actually stimulated the growth of commercial activities.
   c. thus most merchants remained quite poor.
   d. thus hurt the merchants and samurai.
   e. actually opened the door to widespread Dutch trade.

4. What is the significance of the “Forty-seven Ronin” incident?
   a. It was the ideological and social crisis of the Tokugawa government.
   b. It was a socially relevant subject for a play by Chikamatsu.
   c. It revealed the prevalence of seppuku in Japanese society.
   d. It symbolized in microcosm the downfall of the Tokugawa shogunate.
   e. It proved that samurai values were outmoded.

5. The success of Kangxi’s rule was due at least in part to
   a. the smooth transition between the Ming and the Qing dynasties.
   b. the lack of threat from outside invaders.
   c. its ability to incorporate ideas and technologies from different regions of Asia.
   d. European technology, which enhanced Qing agriculture, trade, and industry.
   e. Kangxi’s rule was unsuccessful.

6. Which of the Jesuit compromises with Chinese culture most upset the pope?
   a. Their adoption of improper dress.
   b. Their memorization of Confucian texts and use of their ideology to explain Christianity.
   c. Their use of Chinese during Mass.
   d. Their open admiration of Chinese culture.
   e. Their acceptance of ancestor worship as compatible with Christianity.
7. The negotiations of the Treaty of Nerchinsk
   a. were unsuccessful.
   b. demonstrated China’s power.
   c. demonstrated the Mongol’s power.
   d. demonstrated that Russia was an important and powerful neighbor to China.
   e. demonstrated that land empires were in decline.

8. Voltaire viewed the Qing emperors as
   a. model philosopher-kings.
   b. bloody tyrants.
   c. foolish children.
   d. religious demagogues.
   e. worrisome competitors.

9. What caused the Qing Empire to strictly limit the access of foreign merchants to China’s commercial cities?
   a. A combination of xenophobia and religious concerns.
   b. A combination of tax protectionism and piracy.
   c. A combination of piracy and xenophobia.
   d. A combination of religious concerns and fear if invasion.
   e. A combination of tax protectionism and inflation control.

10. The Russian word tsar means
    a. “khan.”
    b. “crown.”
    c. “caesar.”
    d. “throne.”
    e. “representative of God.”

11. The Russians under Peter the Great were determined to
    a. drive all the Turks from Russia.
    b. make an alliance with the Jesuits.
    c. convert to Roman Catholicism.
    d. secure a warm-water port.
    e. sever ties with Western Europe.
12. Which of the following about St. Petersburg is not true?
   a. It was intended as a demonstration of Russian traditional culture.
   b. It was built on land captured from Sweden.
   c. It became the capital city in 1712.
   d. It was intended as a demonstration of Russian sophistication.
   e. It was Peter’s window on the West.

13. From the Chinese perspective, European contacts were
   a. uninteresting
   b. useful but not essential.
   c. very important to its economy.
   d. essential to the solution of its technological problems.
   e. useful only in its competition with Russia for the Amur River Region.

14. Which action was most successful in solidifying the native population’s loyalty to the government?
   a. Peter the Great’s efforts of Westernization.
   c. Qianlong’s handling of the Macartney mission.
   d. Tokugawa Japan’s opposition to Christianity.
   e. Hideyoshi’s invasion of Korea.

**COMPARISON CHARTS**

Using information gathered from the text; fill in the blank areas of each chart with the relevant data pertaining to regions and categories listed. (Not all blank areas will necessarily be equally complete.)
DIVERSITY AND DOMINANCE

After reading “Diversity and Dominance: Gendered Violence: The Yangzhou Massacre” in your text, answer the following additional questions.

1. Why does the writer of this account find it necessary to reassure the reader that he has not fabricated any of it?

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2. Why do later people (in the author’s view) need to read his account?

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MAP EXERCISES

On Outline Map 20.1, mark the following:

- Qing homeland
- Qing Empire by 1644
- Qing Empire in 1659
- Territory acquired from Russia in 1659
- Qing Empire by 1783
- Tributary Areas
- Shade in manufacturing centers.

On Outline Map 20.2, mark the following:

- Russia in 1533
- Russia in 1598
- Russia in 1721
- Russia in 1796
FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. How do the land-based empires of Ming and Qing China and Russia compare with sea-based European empires (for example, Portugal, Spain, England) studied in earlier chapters?

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2. How did Confucianism change during this era?

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3. How does the world economic system of 1800 compare with 1492 C.E.? What changes have occurred, and what continuities have persisted?

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ANSWERS TO MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS (Ch.20)

1. D  p.560
3. B  p.563
5. C  p. 571
6. E  p. 571
7. D  p. 571
9. B  p. 575
10. C  p. 578
11. D  p.575
13. B  p.581
14. D  p. 581