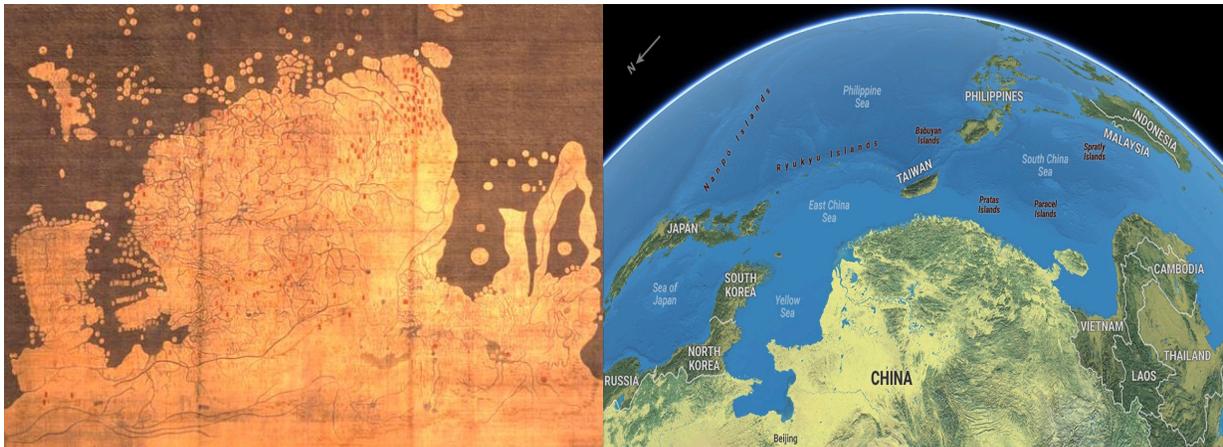


G. Marco Polo and Zheng He

1. The story of globalization is the story of all the cultures of the world becoming connecting to one another.
2. It begins with the voyage of Marco Polo from Venice, Italy to China.
3. When he returned to Europe **c.1300** he wrote about his adventures in *The Travels of Marco Polo*, which inspired many European explorers, such as Christopher Columbus, to seek out China.
4. Around the same time as the Europeans were getting started exploring, the Chinese emperor sent a fleet of ships commanded by admiral Zheng He on a naval tour of the known world, in **1405**.
5. Zheng He sailed past Malaysia to India, Persia, Arabia, and Africa.
6. The purpose of the expedition was only to collect gifts for the emperor, however. There was no new trade to be had with the same partners China had known for centuries, so further voyages seemed to serve no purpose, and no exploration beyond the world already well known was pursued.



The Kangnido Map of 1402 (left) show the Chinese view of the world, with China in the middle, Korea on the “left,” Japan, and Southeast Asia on the edge. (The modern map helps us identify the parts.) Even though the Chinese new about more than this, the map illustrates the “Middle Kingdom” mindset, because they didn’t bother to include it.

H. The Arrival of the Europeans

1. At the same time as Zheng He was on his voyage, the small European nation of Portugal became the first to attempt to reach China by sea.
2. Portuguese commander Vasco da Gama reach India in **1498** and was able to buy a cargo of spices that he sold for 60 times the cost of the voyage! Soon more explorers would follow in search of such riches!
3. The first Portuguese ship, under the command of Jorge Alvares, reached China in **1513**.

I. The Macartney Embassy (1793)

1. For a few centuries, there was no a lot of trade with Europe, but in **1793** that began to change.
2. An embassy was sent by King George III of England to China, led by Lord Macartney, came to try to expand trade between Britain and China.
3. The Chinese emperor was not welcoming: *“Our land is so wealthy and prosperous, that we possess all things. Therefore there is no need to exchange the produce of foreign barbarians for our own.”*
4. The Emperor warned: *“Should your vessels touch the shore, your merchants...will be subject to instant expulsion...Tremblingly obey!”*
5. The British could not understand this attitude, but Britain was busy fighting the wars of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic wars in Europe, so it was unable to send another embassy until these wars were over.
6. At that point in history, the refusal of China to trade for European goods represented a real problem for the British. If they could not have a “balance of trade,” then China would get all Britain’s gold & silver (the only money used at that time).



British ambassador Lord Macartney kneels but does not “kowtow” in his embassy to the Chinese emperor of 1793 seeking trade. The emperor dismissed the British with a warning to “tremblingly obey!”