

“East Meets West: East Asia before the 1800s”

Class Discussion Questions

1. What was the “Age of Discovery (also known as the “Age of Exploration”) in the 1400s, 1500s, and 1600s?
2. What were East-West interactions like before the 1800s? What was the extent of and limit to these interactions?
3. Who was Marco Polo?
4. What was the Spice Trade?
5. What was Ming China (1368 - 1644)? What were some of its weaknesses in terms of its security and power vis-à-vis Western states?
6. Name a number of European outposts, footholds, and pockets of control in East Asia before the 1800s.
7. Provide examples of how religion and trade helped to increase interactions between East Asia and the outside world before the 1800s.