

Late Imperial China: the Great Wall and Beyond

Hist20422



Today one third of China's territory lies *outside* of the "Great Wall." The reasons for this lie in the history of China's last two imperial dynasties, the Ming and the Qing. But we can only understand those forces if we view China in its global interactions, especially with Inner Asia, Southeast Asia, and Europe. In this survey of China from roughly 1400 to 1800, we re-examine the parts of history you may have heard about – the Great Wall, foot-binding – and recover parts that are often forgotten, such as Chinese Muslims in Arabia, an Italian painter in the emperor's court, and the ethnic diversity that came with Qing's imperial conquests.

Assessment:

Critical analysis 1000 words (40%)

Essay 3000 words (60%)

Sample readings:

Louise Levathes, *When China Ruled the Seas: the Treasure Fleet of the Dragon Throne*

Peter Perdue, *China Marches West: the Qing Conquest of Central Eurasia*

Yangwen Zheng, *China on the Sea: how the Maritime World Shaped Modern China*

Kenneth Pomeranz, *The Great Divergence: China, Europe, and the Making of the Modern World Economy*

China's global connections are greater today than ever, and there is almost no professional sphere, whether in business, politics, the arts, or science, that is not linked to China in some way. This makes knowledge of Chinese history and culture a valuable asset in most careers. And according to our former students from this course, bragging about your knowledge of China will impress your future employers!

zoom link for our session, June 12, 2:30-3:30: <https://zoom.us/j/92115927934>