

Source: [KBhHIST201KennedyCh1](#)

1 | Ming China in the 1500s

China has a lot going for it

- Population 100-130 Mil (Europe has 50-55)
- Complicated and remarkable culture
- Large irrigated and fertile land

Riches in technology

- Huge, state organized libraries
- Movable type printing
- Compass
- Large ships

Advanced trade

- Stimulated by canal-building and pop. pressures
- Large iron industry for army and government
- Gunpowder
- Larger cities than medieval Europe

Zheng He + Seafaring

See Zheng He + Seafaring [KBhHIST201ZhengHeSeafaring](#)

Also the link above details **some reasons why China closed its trade route.**

Economic Corruption

See [KBhHIST201ChinasDecline1500](#) China's Economic Decline in the 1500s

China's Woes

See [KBhHIST201ChinaWoes1500](#) China's Woes in the 1500s