

Source: [KBhHIST201ZhengHeSeafaring](#)

1 | China's Decline: Zheng He

After 1433, an edict suddenly called off [KBhHIST201ZhengHeSeafaring](#) the missions of Zheng He. The ending of these mission, according to [KBhHIST201KennedyCh1](#) and [KBhHIST201MannMing](#), is the warning sign for the decline of the economy in general.

Researchers speculate different causes of ending...

Models for Reasons for Zheng He's Missions Ending

Camp China-Was-Lazy and Conservative

[KBhHIST201MannMing](#)

- cultural superiority
- self-engrossment
- CONFUCIANISM! #sic @ [KBhHIST201KennedyCh1](#)
 - China is a conservative, Confucian country
 - Merchants are disliked
 - So are private capital
 - Armies are too!
 - A side note about tech
 - Confucianism actually does encourage tech
 - Simply requires building for knowledge or state purposes, and not for armies/private property
 - China attempted to emulate their “old ways”, especially after the mongol clearing => caused closing

Camp China-Couldn't-Care-Less

[KBhHIST201MannMing](#)

- Abundant resources already in China
- Nothing that the expedition saw actually actively “wow”ed China
- Assets needed could be found easily through good-ol-fashioned trade
- Seafaring was costly, and did not help the Northern Mongol invasions (duh)

Mann kind of agree with these people, but he mostly thinks that [KBhHIST201ChinasDeclineWRTCurrency](#) China's Decline w.r.t. Currency is the main issue.

Sidenote: “party A says, party B says, I say” is a very common order.

China never had a free market??

- Along with Zheng He's mission, overseas trade was banned @fact
- However, it was reversed again (see the source [KBhHIST201ChinasDecline1500](#)), confusingly