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The Rise of the Western World 1500 = divide between modern and pre-modern times

Europe was weak,

Made of a hodgepodge of petty kingdoms

(Ming) China was the most advanced civilization in pre-modern times. - Much larger population - Very fertile and irrigated plains - ect. - Hierarchical administration run by educated Confucian elites

China had a habit of changing its conquerors much more than it was changed by them

Chinese invented the magnetic compass! (go us!)

Also, very early invention of printing.

Had paper money, which expedited commerce

And Gunpowder

Never plundered or murdered when travelling overseas to foreign lands

==Banned good ships, "turned back on world"==

Confucian code states that warfare is a deplorable activity

Laws significantly slowed progress by banning many things Loss of the free market and rapid market expansion

Chinese cities were never allowed the autonomy of those in the west;

Printing only allowed for scholarly activities, > much less for social criticism

The Muslim World

had turned in on itself

Problems with the Ottoman Turks (more specifically, their *massive* army)

Took over a bunch of stuff, had super strong navy, yatta yatta,

Without clear directives from above, the arteries of the bureaucracy hardened, preferring conservatism to change, and stifling innovation.

The printing press was forbidden because it might disseminate dangerous opinions.

Two Outsiders – Japan and Russia