Pirates, States, and Diplomacy in a Multipolar Maritime Asia

Classroom Simulation Exercise

Instructor Packet
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Overview of the Exercise

In 1670, the representatives of a number of key powers in East and Southeast Asia gathered in an undisclosed location to discuss how to resolve the escalating conflict across the region. The exercise is divided into two days or class sessions. Across these two days, students will divide into five separate groups. These groups will shift from the first to the second session as different powers are introduced.

Day 1:
- Zheng Maritime Network
- Dutch East India Company (VOC)
- Ayutthaya (Siam)
- Tokugawa Japan
- Qing China

Day 2:
- Zheng Maritime Network
- Dutch East India Company (VOC)
- Ayutthaya (Siam)
- Tokugawa Japan
- Cambodia

In most cases, the groups will not change so the Qing China group in class 1 will become the Cambodia group in class 2. In our experience, this will not create additional work for the group.

Note: The Dutch East India Company was called the Vereenigde Oost-Indische Compagnie in Dutch. Because of this, you will frequently see it referred to by its acronym, VOC.

These powers can be further divided into three broad groups or factions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Armed Maritime Powers</th>
<th>The Continental Trading Powers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Zheng</td>
<td>Siam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The VOC</td>
<td>Cambodia (on Day 2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Continental Agrarian Powers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Qing (on Day 1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokugawa Japan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If students have a strong preference for joining a particular group, they may select a particular group through a sign-up sheet. Group membership will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis. Those who do not choose to sign up will be assigned a group.
The discussion on Day 1 and 2 will revolve around two central questions:

*Day 1: Which powers will be recognized as states?*
*Day 2: Who gets to wage war on the seas and which ships should be protected?*

For Day 1, the discussion will focus on two quasi-state enterprises, the Zheng maritime network and the VOC, and whether or not they should be recognized as states. The Dutch East India Company and the Zheng maritime network were hybrid enterprises that possessed essentially sovereign powers. And yet both struggled to find a place in diplomatic networks. At the same time, the Zheng and the Qing were locked in a competition for legitimacy. The Zheng claimed that the Qing were Manchu usurpers with no rights to the Chinese throne while the Qing argued variously that the Zheng were pirates or should take up a place as loyal tributary vassals. The discussion will center on whether the Zheng or the VOC should be recognized as states.

For Day 2, the question revolves around the protection of shipping in territorial waters and the open sea. The VOC and the Zheng were at war with each other in this period. Both sides wanted to engage in unrestrained maritime warfare on the sea-lanes in pursuit of their interests, while receiving legal guarantees and protection from land-based powers. Cambodia, Siam, and Tokugawa Japan were caught up in this conflict. The goal of Day 2 is to rule on these questions of offensive maritime warfare and which ships should be protected. Should VOC shipping be protected or should Zheng vessels be guaranteed protection?

Each group will receive their own specialized set of instructions and list of readings to prepare for their role in the exercise. Upon the completion of Day 1, students will receive group-specific mission statements for Day 2. The specific content will be provided once Day 1 has ended, and will be dependent upon the final voting results on Day 1.
When preparing for the project, please keep the following guidelines in mind:

1. Assume that it is 1670. You may know the eventual outcome, but do not let the actual trajectory of historical events alter your judgement. Your goal is to secure the best outcome for your group across the exercise. Because of this, you should base your decisions on the priorities identified for your group and do your best to achieve those. You cannot know what will happen in the long term nor should you include that in your discussion.

2. Politics, diplomacy, and warfare are complex matters. Not everything should be viewed in terms of a zero-sum, success or failure dichotomy. Therefore, the final outcome can take many forms. It could result in the granting of legitimacy for the Zheng or the VOC, for neither group, or for both. Each of these outcomes will have a different impact on how Day 2 will take shape.
Learning Goals

The overall purpose of the exercise is to demonstrate three points:

- The second half of the seventeenth century was a unique moment in East Asian history in which two armed enterprises that engaged in trade and piracy dominated the sea lanes, forcing a range of different powers to respond.

  The lines between legality and illegality, and between a legitimate state and an armed pirate enterprise are blurred and subject constantly to change. This was especially the case in the early modern period.

- The world of seventeenth-century East Asia was a multipolar one characterized by multiple permutations and possible alliances. The Qing might ally with the VOC, the VOC with Siam, and so on.

Suggested Grading

After the conclusion of the group project, students will write a reflective paper in which they will summarize and analyze what they have learned over the two-day period. General instructions are as follows. Think about broad patterns and significant themes that you have observed and engaged with during the conversations within your group and during your interaction with the other political actors in East Asia. You may also raise any questions or point out avenues for further inquiry or research. Do not forget to include a summary of group dynamics and your individual role and contributions. Your final grade for the group assignment will be an average of the group performance scores in the two sessions and your individual reflection papers.
Day One

The aim for Day 1 is to decide who should be treated as a **full and recognized state**. The Dutch East India Company and the Zheng maritime network were hybrid enterprises that possessed essentially sovereign powers. And yet both struggled to find a place in diplomatic networks. At the same time, the Zheng and the Qing were locked in a competition for legitimacy. The Zheng claimed that the Qing were Manchu usurpers with no rights to the Chinese throne while the Qing argued variously that the Zheng were pirates or should take up a place as loyal tributary vassals.

**Stage 1** (before class) – Do the readings, prepare your position

**Stage 2** (before class) – Write a diplomatic letter to one of the other parties, deliver it

**Stage 3** (class) – Discuss and deliberate over the letter (10-15 min.)

**Stage 4** (class) – Send an embassy to a different party or receive an embassy (10-15 min.)

**Stage 5** (class) – First convention. Present your side’s case. Each group should designate a representative to present its case before the others (15-20 min.)

**FIRST VOTE**

**Stage 6** (class) – NEWS ARRIVES

**Stage 7** (class) Send a new embassy (10 min.)

**Stage 8** (class) Second convention (15-20 min.)

**SECOND VOTE**
Day Two

The VOC and the Zheng are at war. Both sides want to engage in unrestrained maritime warfare on the sea-lanes in pursuit of their interests, while receiving legal guarantees and protection from land-based powers. Cambodia, Siam, and Tokugawa Japan are caught up in this conflict. The goal of Day 2 is to rule on these questions of offensive maritime warfare and which ships should be protected.

**Stage 1** (before class) – Each group does the readings, prepare your position

**Stage 2** (before class) – Write a diplomatic letter to one of the other parties, deliver it

**Stage 3** (class) – Discuss and deliberate over the letter (10-15 min.)

**Stage 4** (class) – Send an embassy to a different party or receive an embassy (10-15 min.)

**Stage 5** (class) – First convention. Present your side's case. Each group should designate a representative to present its case before the others (15-20 min.)

**FIRST VOTE**

**Stage 6** (class) – NEWS ARRIVES

**Stage 7** (class) Send a new embassy (10 min.)

**Stage 8** (class) Second convention (15-20 min.)

TOKUGAWA JAPAN, SIAM AND CAMBODIA MUST REACH A CONSENSUS DECISION ON WHAT KIND OF ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN
News Flashes

For each day, there is a separate news flash which will trigger a new vote. This will cause the current alliances to fracture and new ones to develop. It will also require new decisions.

**News Flash for Day 1**

Rebellion of the Three Feudatories.

Wu Sangui, Geng Jingzhong, and Shang Kexi have revolted against the Qing. The Zheng on Taiwan have joined forces with the rebels. 60% of the empire is in rebel hands, defections mount daily.

This will trigger a new discussion centered on the legitimacy of the Qing who are now under threat.

The issue now becomes: Are the Qing legitimate? This question will be considered alongside the original discussion and so the vote will encompass the Qing, the VOC and the Zheng.

**News Flash for Day 2**

VOC vessels seize Zheng shipping.

VOC ships have attacked and seized a Zheng vessel on its way to Japan from Ayutthaya. The ship was captured in open waters outside Ayutthaya. 35 sailors drowned out of crew of 363. The VOC seized cargo containing deerskins and saltpeter, valued at 30,000 taels of silver.

This will trigger a new discussion. The question now becomes: What action should be taken toward the Dutch seizure of Zheng shipping? Tokugawa Japan, Siam, and Cambodia will all be required to take a position and to reach a consensus decision.

**Mission Briefings for all Factions**

Note: These briefings provide a general guide. Decisions taken on Day 1 will impact Day 2. As a result, it may be necessary for the instructor to edit these mission briefings depending on the results of Day 1.
Zheng Maritime Network

Day One

The mission for Day 1 is to decide who should be treated as a full and recognized state. The Dutch East India Company and the Zheng maritime network were hybrid enterprises that possessed significant powers. And yet both struggled to take up a place in state-to-state diplomacy. At the same time, the Zheng and the Qing both competed for legitimacy. The Zheng claimed that the Qing were Manchu usurpers with no rights to the Chinese throne while the Qing argued variously that the Zheng were pirates or should take up a place as loyal tributary vassals.

Readings

- Hang, Conflict and Commerce, pp. 146-240

Feel free to consult outside sources if you find them useful in formulating your stance.

What you want:

For the Zheng, your key goal is to demonstrate that you should be recognized as a state. You should emphasize your connections with the Ming and the fact that you possess territory, both in Taiwan and on the southeastern Chinese coast, as well as a fully functioning bureaucracy. You have a formidable military force controlled by civil authority and organized according to divisions. You have conquered Taiwan and plan to push further into Southeast Asia. You maintain relations with a range of foreign powers.
What you don't want:

You are in a state of war with the VOC and the Qing. You won your first major battle against the VOC and conquered Taiwan, but even now Dutch ships attack your commerce. You want to make sure that no one recognizes the VOC. At the same time, you do not recognize the Qing, who overthrew your Ming overlords. Although Ming claims to the throne underpin your own legitimacy, you feel there is room for an accommodation with the new Manchu rulers but only if they recognize your full autonomy and agree to halt all military operations against you.

What you want to achieve:

1. Siam is historically sympathetic to you. It is also a major, rapidly growing trading partner, but one that is worried about the Qing and the VOC, which are the preeminent continental and maritime powers. Siam pays tribute to the Qing and has granted the VOC a monopoly on its key products. Can you persuade Siam to recognize you?

2. Tokugawa Japan is the biggest and most important market for your products, and a key supplier of silver, copper, and weapons. Your family has a clear Japanese connection and you once enjoyed Tokugawa Japan's clear protection. At this point, however, the Tokugawa is dubious of both the Zheng and the VOC. Can you persuade Tokugawa Japan to recognize you?

3. The Qing is your enemy. The Manchus captured and killed Zheng Zhilong, murdered Koxinga's mother in cold blood, indirectly caused Koxinga to perish in the tropical heat of Taiwan, and imposed a haircutting order that cuts to the very core of your Han Chinese identity. Nonetheless, a negotiated settlement could work, since you lack the power to dislodge the Qing from the mainland. Can you persuade the Qing to recognize you?

4. The VOC is your enemy. Although once a trading partner and ally, the Dutch now compete with you for supplies of key products like deerskins and markets across maritime East Asia. They want to ruin your business and destroy you militarily. Can you persuade the other powers not to recognize the VOC?
Day One

**Stage 1** (before class) – Do the assigned readings, prepare your position

**Stage 2** (before class) – Write a diplomatic letter to Siam

**Stage 3** (class) – Discuss and deliberate over the letter (10-15 min.)

**Stage 4** (class) – Send an embassy to Tokugawa Japan, persuade Tokugawa to reject the VOC (10-15 min.)

**Stage 5** (class) – First convention. Present your side's case. Your group should designate a representative to present your case before the others (15-20 min.)

VOTE: OTHER ACTORS WILL DECIDE YOUR FATE

**Stage 6** - News arrives

**Stage 7** (class) – Send a new embassy (10 min.)

**Stage 8** (class) – Second convention (15-20 min.)

VOTE: OTHER ACTORS WILL DECIDE YOUR FATE
Day Two

The VOC and the Zheng are at war with each other, and this conflict is obstructing the smooth flow of trade in maritime East Asia. Both sides want to engage in unrestrained maritime hostilities in pursuit of their interests, while receiving legal guarantees and protection from land-based powers against their enemy. Cambodia, Siam, and Tokugawa Japan are caught up within this conflict. The goal of day 2 is to rule on the question of whose ships are protected.

Readings

- Adam Clulow and Xing Hang, “Restraining Violence on the Seas: The Tokugawa, the Zheng Maritime Network, and the Dutch East India Company” (forthcoming), draft
- Hang, *Conflict and Commerce*, pp. 146-240

What you want:

You’re at war with the Dutch East India Company (VOC). On Day 1, your legitimacy came under severe challenge from first, the Qing, and then Tokugawa Japan, your main trading partner. Siam, on the other hand, was supportive and consistently willing to recognize your legitimacy as a state. You are furious with the VOC and want the right to wage unrestricted retaliatory campaigns against it. Although you are frustrated with Japan’s vote, you still want the Tokugawa, along with Siam and Cambodia, to guarantee the protection of your ships along key trade routes across East and Southeast Asia.

What you don’t want:

You want to make sure that no one recognizes the VOC, opens their market to it, or guarantees the protection of its ships.
Day Two

**Stage 1** (before class) – Do the assigned readings, prepare your position

**Stage 2** (before class) – Write a diplomatic letter to Tokugawa Japan

**Stage 3** (class) – Discuss and deliberate over the letter (10-15 min.)

**Stage 4** (class) – Send an embassy to Siam, seek legal protection from Siam and persuade it not to grant the VOC a monopoly (10-15 min.)

**Stage 5** (class) – First convention. Present your side’s case. Your group should designate a representative to present your case before the others (15-20 min.)

**Stage 6** - News arrives

**Stage 7** (class) – Send a new embassy (10 min.)

**Stage 8** (class) – Second convention (15-20 min.)

VOTE: OTHER ACTORS WILL DECIDE YOUR FATE

DECISION: OTHER ACTORS WILL DECIDE
Ayutthaya (Siam)

Day One

The mission for Day 1 is to decide who should be treated as a full and recognized state. The Dutch East India Company and the Zheng maritime network were hybrid enterprises that possessed significant powers. And yet both struggled to take up a place in state-to-state diplomacy. At the same time, the Zheng and the Qing both competed for legitimacy. The Zheng claimed that the Qing were Manchu usurpers with no rights to the Chinese throne while the Qing argued variously that the Zheng were pirates or should take up a place as loyal tributary vassals.

Readings

- Bhawan Ruangsilp, *Dutch East India Company Merchants at the Court of Ayutthaya: Dutch Perceptions of the Thai Kingdom*, c. 1604-1765 (Leiden: Brill, 2018), pp. 5-14, 111-148

Feel free to consult outside sources if you find them useful in formulating your stance.
What you want:

You are a trading power. You possess abundant resources in high demand from China and Japan, such as deerskins, deer hides, saltpeter, medicinal ingredients, and maritime products. You want open and secure trade with as many trading partners as possible.

What you don't want:

You do not want any power to emerge as the unchallenged hegemon in maritime East Asia. You particularly fear a maritime power blockading the sea lanes leading into your key port cities or monopolizing access to your products. These unfavorable scenarios further threaten your already fragile domestic stability, which is heavily dependent upon royal prestige and the capacity to project strength.

What you want to achieve:

Your goal is to ensure friendly ties with the Dutch, Zheng, and Qing so you can sell your goods to all of them in a peaceful trading environment.

Day One

Stage 1 (before class) – Do the assigned readings, prepare your position

Stage 2 (before class) – Write a diplomatic letter to the Qing

Stage 3 (class) – Discuss and deliberate over the letter (10-15 min.)

Stage 4 (class) – Receive embassies (10-15 min.)

Stage 5 (class) – First convention. Present your side's case. Your group should designate a representative to present your case before the others (15-20 min.)
VOTE: RECOGNIZE VOC OR ZHENG - ACCORD ONE PARTY LEGITIMACY

Stage 6 - News arrives

Stage 7 (class) – Send an embassy (10 min.)

Stage 8 (class) – Second convention (15-20 min.)
VOTE: RECOGNIZE THE VOC, THE ZHENG, OR THE QING - ACCORD ONE PARTY LEGITIMACY
Day Two

The VOC and the Zheng are at war with each other, and this conflict is obstructing the smooth flow of trade in maritime East Asia. Both sides want to engage in unrestrained maritime hostilities in pursuit of their interests, while receiving legal guarantees and protection from land-based powers against their enemy. Cambodia, Siam, and Tokugawa Japan are caught up within this conflict. The goal of day 2 is to rule on these questions of offensive maritime warfare and which ships are protected.

Readings

- Adam Clulow and Xing Hang, “Between the Company and Koxinga: Territorial Waters, Trade and War over Deerskins,” in Lauren Benton and Nathan Perl-Rosenthal (ed.), The View from the Sea: Rethinking Global Maritime History (forthcoming), draft

Feel free to consult outside sources if you find them useful in formulating your stance.

Your Objectives

You want open trade with the VOC and the Zheng. At the same time, King Narai wants to send royal junks manned by Chinese sailors directly to Japan. You do not want the trading lanes to be endangered by warfare or maritime blockade. You also want your vessels to enjoy legal protection and recourse if they are damaged on the high seas.
Day Two

**Stage 1** (before class) – Do the assigned readings, prepare your position

**Stage 2** (before class) – Write a diplomatic letter to the Dutch East India Company

**Stage 3** (class) – Discuss and deliberate over the letter (10-15 min.)

**Stage 4** (class) – Receive embassies (10-15 min.)

**Stage 5** (class) – First convention. Present your side's case. Your group should designate a representative to present your case before the others (15-20 min.)

VOTE: ALLOW OR RESTRAIN VOC OR ZHENG

**Stage 6** - News arrives

**Stage 7** (class) – Send an embassy (10 min.)

**Stage 8** (class) – Second convention (15-20 min.)

REACH A CONSENSUS WITH CAMBODIA AND TOKUGAWA JAPAN ON WHAT KIND OF ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN
Tokugawa Japan

Day One

The mission for Day 1 is to decide who should be treated as a full and recognized state. The Dutch East India Company and the Zheng maritime network were hybrid enterprises that possessed significant powers. And yet both struggled to take up a place in state-to-state diplomacy. At the same time, the Zheng and the Qing both competed for legitimacy. The Zheng claimed that the Qing were Manchu usurpers with no rights to the Chinese throne while the Qing argued variously that the Zheng were pirates or should take up a place as loyal tributary vassals.

Readings


Feel free to consult outside sources if you find them useful in formulating your stance.

What you want:

You have forged a political order in which you occupy a place at the center. You maintain it by carefully choosing and vetting your partners and allies. Those like Korea or the Ryukyu kingdom which confirm an image of Tokugawa supremacy are allowed in, while those who do not conform to your worldview are barred from stepping foot in your realm. You possess abundant quantities of silver, copper, weapons, and other goods widely in demand in maritime East Asia, and you are a huge consumer market. You want to keep things the way they are as long as you profit from the status quo.
What you don't want:

You're suspicious of any power that threatens to upset the balance of power in maritime East Asia. You're worried that any slight to your prestige in the region will undercut your authority and this may have domestic consequences as you preside over a system with 200 plus semi-autonomous domanial lords. You will not tolerate any challenge to your authority.

What you want to achieve:

You think both the Zheng and the VOC can be unreliable pirates. However, you also view the Qing as barbarians unfit to rule over China, and an existential military threat. You are a key swing vote. You need to be persuaded which one to support.

Day One

**Stage 1** (before class) – Do the assigned readings, prepare your position

**Stage 2** (before class) – Write a diplomatic letter to the Dutch East India Company (VOC)

**Stage 3** (class) – Discuss and deliberate over the letter (10-15 min.)

**Stage 4** (class) – Receive embassies (10-15 min.)

**Stage 5** (class) – First convention. Present your side's case. Your group should designate a representative to present your case before the others (15-20 min.)

*VOTE: RECOGNIZE VOC OR ZHENG - ACCORD ONE PARTY LEGITIMACY*

**Stage 6** - News arrives

**Stage 7** (class) – Send an embassy (10 min.)

**Stage 8** (class) – Second convention (15-20 min.)

*VOTE: RECOGNIZE THE VOC OR THE ZHENG OR THE QING - ACCORD ONE PARTY LEGITIMACY*
Day Two

The VOC and the Zheng are at war. Both sides want to engage in unrestrained maritime hostilities in pursuit of their interests, while receiving legal guarantees and protection from land-based powers against their enemy. Cambodia, Siam, and Tokugawa Japan are caught up within this conflict. The goal of day 2 is to rule on these questions of offensive maritime warfare and which ships are protected.

Readings

- Adam Clulow and Xing Hang, “Restraining Violence on the Seas: The Tokugawa, the Zheng Maritime Network, and the Dutch East India Company” (forthcoming), draft

Feel free to consult outside sources if you find them useful in formulating your stance.

Your Objectives:

Although you depend upon foreign trade to a certain extent, your economy is largely agrarian and domestically oriented. You are mainly concerned about the possibility of maritime violence adversely affecting the security of your coastline and social order at home. You are determined to avoid any conflicts that end up blockading your access to the outside world via the sea lanes. On the other hand, you can cooperate with and provide legal guarantees for those maritime powers that bring security and order to maritime East Asia. You would be willing to open up some of your markets to maintain this beneficial relationship.
Day Two

Stage 1 (before class) – Do the assigned readings, prepare your position

Stage 2 (before class) – Write a diplomatic letter to the Zheng Maritime Network

Stage 3 (class) – Discuss and deliberate over the letter (10-15 min.)

Stage 4 (class) – Receive embassies (10-15 min.)

Stage 5 (class) – First convention. Present your side’s case. Your group should designate a representative to present your case before the others (15-20 min.)
VOTE: ALLOW OR RESTRAIN VOC OR ZHENG

Stage 6 - News arrives

Stage 7 (class) – Send an embassy (10 min.)

Stage 8 (class) – Second convention (15-20 min.)
REACH A CONSENSUS WITH CAMBODIA AND SIAM ON WHAT KIND OF ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN
Dutch East India Company (VOC)

Day One

The mission for Day 1 is to decide who should be treated as a full and recognized state. The Dutch East India Company and the Zheng maritime network were hybrid enterprises that possessed significant powers. And yet both struggled to take up a place in state-to-state diplomacy. At the same time, the Zheng and the Qing both competed for legitimacy. The Zheng claimed that the Qing were Manchu usurpers with no rights to the Chinese throne while the Qing argued variously that the Zheng were pirates or should take up a place as loyal tributary vassals.

Readings

- Bhawan Ruangsilp, *Dutch East India Company Merchants at the Court of Ayutthaya: Dutch Perceptions of the Thai Kingdom, c. 1604-1765* (Leiden: Brill, 2018), pp. 5-9

Feel free to consult outside sources if you find them useful in formulating your stance.
What you want:

For the VOC, your key goal is to demonstrate that you are a state. You should emphasize that the Governor-General is effectively a kind of king who is widely recognized by other powers. You should stress the wide range of diplomatic connections centered on Batavia and the fact that you possess a powerful fleet and an impressive commercial reach.

What you don't want:

You are in a state of war with the Zheng and are competing with them for profits and market share in Japan and Southeast Asia. You lost Taiwan and are determined to avenge this humiliation. You want to make sure that no one recognizes the Zheng, who are your most determined and dangerous enemy.

What you want to achieve:

1. Siam has traditionally feared your naval strength, and has granted you a monopoly in the purchase of several lucrative products such as deerskins. However, the Zheng are also trading in Ayutthaya, and are cutting into your business. Can you persuade Siam to recognize you?

2. The Qing and you share a common enemy: the Zheng. The Qing want to use your ships to attack the Zheng stronghold of Taiwan, but are also holding out for a negotiated settlement with that island’s rulers. Can you persuade the Qing to recognize you and deny all recognition to the Zheng?

3. Tokugawa Japan is the biggest and most important market for your products. Decades of diplomacy have given you a depressed status but reasonably secure place in the hierarchy of Japan’s political and commercial partners. Although the Tokugawa have always been suspicious of your maritime activity, which they describe as piracy, they are growing increasingly suspicious of the Zheng. Can you persuade the Tokugawa to recognize you?

4. The Zheng is your enemy. Although once a trading partner and ally, they now compete with you for supplies of key goods and markets across maritime East Asia. They want to undermine your monopoly and ruin your business. Can you persuade other powers not to recognize the Zheng?
Day One

Stage 1 (before class) – Do the assigned readings, prepare your position

Stage 2 (before class) – Write a diplomatic letter to the Zheng Maritime Network

Stage 3 (class) – Discuss and deliberate over the letter (10-15 min.)

Stage 4 (class) – Send an embassy to Siam, persuade Siam to reject Zheng (10-15 min.)

Stage 5 (class) – First convention. Present your side’s case. Your group should designate a representative to present your case before the others (15-20 min.)

VOTE: OTHER ACTORS WILL DECIDE YOUR FATE

Stage 6 - News arrives

Stage 7 (class) – Send an embassy (10 min.)

Stage 8 (class) – Second convention (15-20 min.)

VOTE: OTHER ACTORS WILL DECIDE YOUR FATE
Day Two

The VOC and the Zheng are at war. Both sides want to engage in unrestrained maritime hostilities in pursuit of their interests, while receiving legal guarantees and protection from land-based powers against their enemy. Cambodia, Siam, and Tokugawa Japan are caught up within this conflict. The goal of day 2 is to rule on these questions of offensive maritime warfare and which ships are protected.

Readings

- Adam Clulow and Xing Hang, “Restraining Violence on the Seas: The Tokugawa, the Zheng Maritime Network, and the Dutch East India Company” (forthcoming), draft

Feel free to consult outside sources if you find them useful in formulating your stance.

Your Objectives:

You're at war with the Zheng. You want the right to wage unrestricted maritime warfare. Your best and brightest jurists, such as Grotius, have devised an elaborate legal framework to justify the unrestrained use of violence by VOC ships. You also want to monopolize the purchase and distribution of goods across maritime East Asia. You want to persuade Tokugawa Japan, Cambodia, and Siam to recognize your unchecked right to police the seas, and to deal with you as their exclusive agent for foreign trade. You want to make sure these three states cut off their ties with the Zheng and do not guarantee the protection of their ships. This will allow you to attack Zheng ships wherever they are encountered.
Day Two

Stage 1 (before class) – Do the assigned readings, prepare your position

Stage 2 (before class) – Write a diplomatic letter to Cambodia

Stage 3 (class) – Discuss and deliberate over the letter (10-15 min.)

Stage 4 (class) – Send an embassy to Tokugawa Japan, persuade Japan to revoke its alliance with the Zheng and recognize your right to attack their shipping (10-15 min.)

Stage 5 (class) – First convention. Present your side's case. Your group should designate a representative to present your case before the others (15-20 min.)
VOTE: OTHER ACTORS WILL DECIDE YOUR FATE

Stage 6 - News arrives

Stage 7 (class) – Send an embassy (10 min.)

Stage 8 (class) – Second convention (15-20 min.)
VOTE: OTHER ACTORS WILL DECIDE YOUR FATE
Qing China

Day One

The mission for Day 1 is to decide who should be treated as a full and recognized state. The Dutch East India Company and the Zheng maritime network were hybrid enterprises that possessed significant powers. And yet both struggled to take up a place in state-to-state diplomacy. At the same time, the Zheng and the Qing both competed for legitimacy. The Zheng claimed that the Qing were Manchu usurpers with no rights to the Chinese throne while the Qing argued variously that the Zheng were pirates or should take up a place as loyal tributary vassals.

Readings

  Hang, Conflict and Commerce, pp. 176-188, 211-234
- Sarasin Viraphol, Tribute and Profit: Sino-Siamese Trade, 1652-1853
  (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 1977), 28-57

Feel free to consult outside sources if you find them useful in formulating your stance.
What you want:

You have been in power for a number of decades, but your hold over China is still relatively weak in places. There are powerful, semi-autonomous generals, the Three Feudatories, like Geng Jimao and Geng Jingzhong in Fujian ruling over your strategic frontier provinces. You also fear a renewed Ming restoration movement within your empire. You are concerned that the Zheng on Taiwan will collude with these subversive forces to overthrow your rule. At the same time, you firmly believe that the Qing is the new center of the world and everybody around you should pay homage to you as subordinate tributary vassals. You are willing to accept the Zheng if they submit to Manchu authority in some manner.

What you don't want:

You are in a state of war with the Zheng and they are a dangerous presence on the flank of your empire. You do not want to see them strengthened in any way. If they gain wide acceptance in maritime Asia, they will always represent a threat to you.

What you want to achieve:

1. The Zheng is your enemy. Their very presence in Taiwan threatens the domestic stability of your empire. If they could be neutralized in some manner, then you can tolerate their existence. If they refuse your terms, can you persuade other powers not to recognize the Zheng?

   2. The VOC is an unreliable ally who shares a common enemy with you: the Zheng. If you could persuade the Dutch to assist you with their powerful ships in eliminating the Zheng threat, you would be willing to grant them recognition.
Day One

**Stage 1** (before class) – Do the assigned readings, prepare your position

**Stage 2** (before class) – Write a diplomatic letter to the Zheng

**Stage 3** (class) – Discuss and deliberate over the letter (10-15 min.)

**Stage 4** (class) – Send an embassy to the VOC, proposing a military alliance against Zheng (10-15 min.)

**Stage 5** (class) – First convention. Present your side's case. Your group should designate a representative to present your case before the others (15-20 min.)

**VOTE: RECOGNIZE VOC OR ZHENG - ACCORD ONE PARTY LEGitimacy**

**Stage 6** - News arrives

**Stage 7** (class) – Send an embassy (10 min.)

**Stage 8** (class) – Second convention (15-20 min.)

**OTHER ACTORS WILL DECIDE YOUR FATE**
Cambodia

Day Two

The VOC and the Zheng are at war. Both sides want to engage in unrestrained maritime hostilities in pursuit of their interests, while receiving legal guarantees and protection from land-based powers against their enemy. Cambodia, Siam, and Tokugawa Japan are caught up within this conflict. The goal of day 2 is to rule on these questions of offensive maritime warfare and which ships are protected.

Readings


Feel free to consult outside sources if you find them useful in formulating your stance.

What you want:

You possess abundant resources in heavy demand from China and Japan, such as deerskins, marine and forest products. However, you are not a strong state. Cambodia is a shadow of the glorious Angkor Empire (ninth to fourteenth centuries). The position of your king is always precarious. Scheming royal relatives and ambitious warlords constantly try to usurp the throne. Your neighbors, Ayutthaya (Siam) and Cochinchina (Quinam or southern Vietnam), keep meddling in your succession struggles. They take your land, plunder your wealth, carry off your people, and try to install rulers subservient to their interests. With your own resources, you are not able to repel Ayutthaya (Siam) and Cochinchina (Quinam). You want reliable outside allies able to counterbalance their influence.
What you don't want:

You do not want to be overly depend upon any one power, which would seriously threaten your already fragile domestic stability.

What you want to achieve:

Your goal is to ensure that either the Zheng, the VOC, or both become your allies. You can provide them legal guarantees and trading privileges in exchange for their military protection of the royal court. The more potential partners you can bring over to your side, the better it is for maintaining a balance of power with Ayutthaya (Siam) and Cochinchina (Quinam).

Day Two

Stage 1 (before class) – Do the assigned readings, prepare your position

Stage 2 (before class) – Write a diplomatic letter to the Dutch East India Company

Stage 3 (class) – Discuss and deliberate over the letter (10-15 min.)

Stage 4 (class) – Receive embassies (10-15 min.)

Stage 5 (class) – First convention. Present your side’s case. Your group should designate a representative to present your case before the others (15-20 min.)
VOTE: ALLOW OR RESTRRAIN VOC OR ZHENG

Stage 6 - News arrives

Stage 7 (class) – Send an embassy (10 min.)

Stage 8 (class) – Second convention (15-20 min.)
REACH A CONSENSUS WITH TOKUGAWA JAPAN AND SIAM ON WHAT KIND OF ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN
Each exercise will work differently depending on the most persuasive groups. The following is how the exercise played out at a class at Brandeis in 2018.

**Day One**

**ARE THE ZHENG LEGITIMATE?**
Tokugawa - Abstain
Siam - Abstain
Qing – No

**IS THE VOC LEGITIMATE?**
Tokugawa - Yes
Qing - Yes
Siam - Abstain

**News Flash for Day 1**

**Results for Day One**

- Qing (Delegitimized)
  Approve: Siam
  Reject: Tokugawa, VOC
  Abstain: 0

- Zheng maritime network (Questionable legitimacy)
  Approve: Siam
  Reject: Tokugawa
  Abstain: 0

- VOC (Determined to have legitimacy)
  Approve: Tokugawa, Siam
  Reject: 0

**Day Two: Part Two**

**IS THE QING LEGITIMATE?**
Tokugawa: No
VOC: No
Siam: Yes

**ARE THE ZHENG LEGITIMATE?**
Siam: Yes
Tokugawa: No

**IS THE VOC LEGITIMATE?**
Siam: Yes
Tokugawa: Yes
Day Two

LEGAL PROTECTION OF VOC SHIPPING?
Tokugawa Japan: VOC
Siam: VOC
Cambodia: VOC

LEGAL PROTECTION OF ZHENG SHIPPING?
Tokugawa Japan: NO
Siam: ZHENG
Cambodia: NO

News Flash for Day 2