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