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
- 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
- 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.)

DECISION: OTHER ACTORS WILL DECIDE