China's Contacts with the Outside World

How did the foreign-contact policies of three medieval Chinese dynasties affect China?

Read the situation below.

The Johnsons have just moved to a new neighborhood. They are debating whether to have an open- or closed-door policy toward their neighbors. If they have an open-door policy, they will invite the neighbors to parties, ask for and perform favors for them, and borrow from and lend things to them. If they have a closed-door policy, they will keep to themselves and not interact with their neighbors at all.

In the T-chart below, write two arguments in favor of the Johnsons following an open-door policy and two arguments in favor of a closed-door policy. One example is done for each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Arguments for an Open-Door Policy</th>
<th>Arguments for a Closed-Door Policy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>An open-door policy is a good idea because if the Johnsons are friendly with their neighbors, their neighbors will share information about local services.</td>
<td>A closed-door policy is good because if the Johnsons are not friendly with the neighbors, the neighbors won't ask to borrow their things.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Content Terms
As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

Mongols    Ming
maritime    tributary

If you are doing the activity for this lesson, complete all steps in the Reading Notes for each section. (Note: If you are not doing the activity, skip Step 1 for each section.)

Section 2

Step 1: Read along with the first dialogue on Student Handout.

Step 2: Answer the following questions about Section 2.
1. In the space below, list at least six countries with whom China had contact during the Tang dynasty (through traders, merchants, missionaries, or visitors).

2. Describe how attitudes and policies changed toward the end of the Tang dynasty in regard to each of the following:
   - Foreigners:
   - Buddhists:
   - Trade routes:

Step 3: Answer the following question, using supporting details from your Reading Notes: To what degree did emperors of the Tang dynasty pursue a closed- or an open-door policy? Then, place an X at the appropriate place on the spectrum to indicate your answer.

© Teachers' Curriculum Institute
Section 3

Step 1: Read along with the second dialogue on Student Handout.

Step 2: Answer the following questions about Section 3.
1. List four ways in which China was affected by thriving trade during the Yuan dynasty.

2. Describe the role of foreigners in China during the Yuan dynasty. Then, explain how the Chinese felt about this.

Step 3: Answer the following question, using supporting details from your Reading Notes: To what degree did emperors of the Yuan dynasty pursue a closed- or an open-door policy? Then, place an X at the appropriate place on the spectrum to indicate your answer.
Section 4

Step 1: Read along with the third dialogue on Student Handout.

Step 2: Answer the following questions about Section 4.
1. What belief led China to acquire tributaries during the Ming dynasty?

2. Explain the purpose and result of Zheng He’s expeditions.

3. Describe what happened as the Ming dynasty turned inward in the mid-1400s.

Step 3: Answer the following question, using supporting details from your Reading Notes: To what degree did emperors of the Ming dynasty pursue a closed- or an open-door policy? Then, place and X at the appropriate place on the spectrum to indicate your answer.