THE OVERSEAS CHINESE
A. Pre-European Era – fleeting contacts

1. Voyages of Admiral Zheng He (1405-33) – the Ming dynasty exception
Zheng He’s vs. Columbus’ Ships
2. Trade & trade winds
   a. some cultural exchanges, e.g. food
   b. some intermarriages
The Winds of Trade
3. Chinese merchants not as key as Indians or Arabs
4. Vietnam – the land link exception
B. Symbiotic European-Chinese Relationship

1. 1511 Portuguese arrive in Malacca (and attack)
2. “Nats on the Horizon”
Portuguese at Malacca/Melaka
3. European need for port domination
   a. distance from home
   b. little skills & few goods
   c. no networks vs. other merchants
4. Chinese need ally vs. Indians & Arabs
5. Relationship of suspicion (Spanish-Philippines)
a. enforced residence in the “Parian” ghetto under Ft. Santiago’s guns
Chinese under Spanish Rule

Fort Santiago & the Chinese Parian
b. restrictions on numbers of entries

c. local marriage possible only with conversion

d. bloody riots & Spanish military attacks
C. Local Rulers & Chinese

1. Short-term alliance for mutual benefit
   a. Malay tin mining
   b. specific limits & no women allowed
Tin Mining in Malaya

Chinese Life in Thailand
2. Long-term controlled immigration & assimilation
   a. encouraged by ruling Chakri dynasty
   1.) recognized value of industrious immigrants
2.) increase strength vs. Europeans
3.) intermarriage with elite Thai families
3. Chinese-Filipino mestizos
   a. descendants of early immigrants
   b. assimilation via maternal extended family
c. can travel outside of Parian

d. capital & provincial land
→ develop agriculture
exports

e. key role in anti-Spanish nationalism
Chinese Mestizos & Role in the Philippine Revolution

Jose Rizal
Mariano Limjap
& Family

Mestiza
D. European Use of Chinese
1. Divide & conquer in Malaya
   a. 19th century racial beliefs & hierarchies
   b. economic division of the country & its legacy
2. The hated “enforcer” in Indonesia
a. local tax collectors
b. concession for local opium monopolies
3. Creation of Singapore – from Malay village to a Chinese city
E. Chinese Occupy a Middle Level

1. European dominate large economic sectors – the Chinese are junior partners
2. Merchant link between European goods & natives
3. Merchant-moneylenders invest in agriculture
4. Native resentment
   a. Chinese seen as “Shylocks”
   b. seen as parasitic closed community that does not share its wealth
c. post-independence results

1.) repressive laws vs. language & schools

2.) exploitation (bribes & kidnapping)
3.) political marginalization – esp. in Malaysia
4.) massacres – Malaysia 1969 & Indonesia 1998