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## **When China Ruled The Seas**

"When China Ruled the Seas: the Treasure Fleet of the Dragon Throne, 1405-33," by Louise Levathes (Simon and Schuster, 1994). In 1498 the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama, with a fleet of four small ships, sailed into the East African port of Malindi, where he hired a pilot who helped him navigate to Calicut.

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## The Treasure Fleet Of The Dragon Throne, 1405 33

It was a time of exploration and conquest, but it ended in a retrenchment so complete that less than a century later, it was a crime to go to sea in a multimasted ship. In *When China Ruled the Seas*, Louise Levathes takes a fascinating and unprecedented look at this dynamic period in China's enigmatic history, focusing on China's rise as a naval power that literally could have ruled the world and at its precipitous plunge into isolation when a new emperor ascended the Dragon Throne.

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*When China Ruled the Seas: The Treasure Fleet of the Dragon Throne, 1405-1433* is a nonfiction book published in 1994 by Louise Levathes. In a narrative that predates the voyages of Christopher Columbus, Levathes examines a three-decade period in the early 15th century when China launched seven major sea voyages.

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Buy *When China Ruled the Seas: The Treasure Fleet of the Dragon Throne, 1405-1433: The Treasure Fleet of the Dragon Throne, 1405-1433 (Revised) New Ed* by Levathes, Louise (ISBN: 9780195112078) from Amazon's Book Store. Everyday low prices and free delivery on eligible orders.

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During the brief period from 1405 to 1433, seven epic expeditions brought China's "treasure ships" across the China Seas and the Indian Ocean, from Taiwan to the spice islands of

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Indonesia and the Malabar coast of India, on to the rich ports of the Persian Gulf and down the African coast, China's "El Dorado," and perhaps even to Australia, three hundred years before Captain Cook was credited with its discovery. [from publisher description]

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When China Ruled the Seas The Treasure Fleet of the Dragon Throne, 1405-1433 Louise Levathes. Drawing on eye-witness accounts, official Ming histories, and African, Arab, and Indian sources, Levathes offers a stunning portrait of the rise and fall of China's great navy--one hundred years before Columbus--boasting the largest wooden boats ever built, technically superior vessels that predated ...

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When China Ruled the Seas - Levathes, a former staff writer for National Geographic, tells the tale of Chinese emperor Zhu Di and his favorite eunuch admiral, Zheng He, who tried during a 30-year period to break China's isolation with seven major naval expeditions to India, Indonesia, and Africa.

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While Menzies' book is more intriguing and examines the Chinese experiment with overseas exploration from the standpoint of a seaman and navigator, Levathes approaches it as a historian. 1421 A. D. gives one a sense of the wonder of exploration and its possibilities; When China Ruled the Seas makes sense of both its occurrence and its cessation.

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*When China Ruled the Seas*. New York: Simon & Schuster. ISBN 0-671-70158-4. Needham, Joseph (1986). *Science and Civilization in China: Volume 4, Physics and Physical Technology, Part 2, Mechanical Engineering*. Taipei: Caves Books Ltd. Needham, Joseph (1986).

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