

## ***BIG PICTURE QUESTIONS (XIII)***

1. Assume for the moment that the **Chinese had not ended their maritime voyages** in 1433. How might the subsequent development of world history have been different? What value is there in asking this kind of “what if” or counterfactual question?
2. How does this chapter distinguish among the **various kinds of societies** that comprised the world of the fifteenth century? What **other ways of categorizing the world’s peoples** might work as well or better?
3. What would **surprise a knowledgeable observer** from 500 C.E., were he or she to make a global tour in the fifteenth century? What **features of that earlier world** might still be recognizable?
4. What **predictions about the future** might a global traveler of the fifteenth century reasonably have made? Would it depend on precisely when those predictions were made?