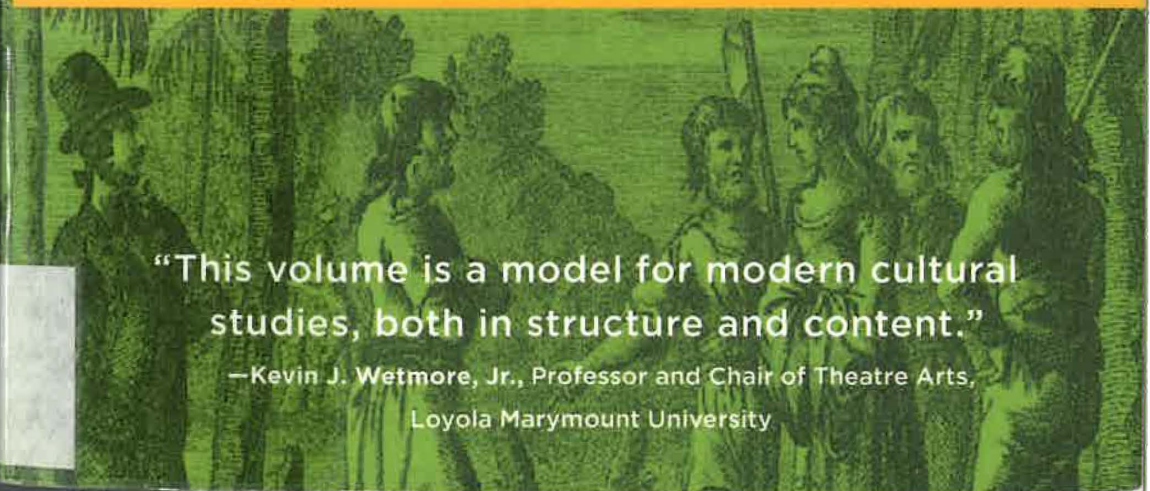


Scenes From Dutch Formosa

Staging Taiwan's Colonial Past



Edited by Llyn Scott



“This volume is a model for modern cultural studies, both in structure and content.”

—Kevin J. Wetmore, Jr., Professor and Chair of Theatre Arts,
Loyola Marymount University

PART III
HISTORICIZING AND HEROICIZING COXINGA



Illustration 16. Giuliano Zuliani [da Pietro Antonio Novelli] rame Allusivo ossia Illustrazione dell' *Isola disabitata* (1.8) in Carlo Goldoni *Opera teatrali Immagine tratta da opera teatrali*, Venezia, Antonio Zatta, 1795 42, 329.

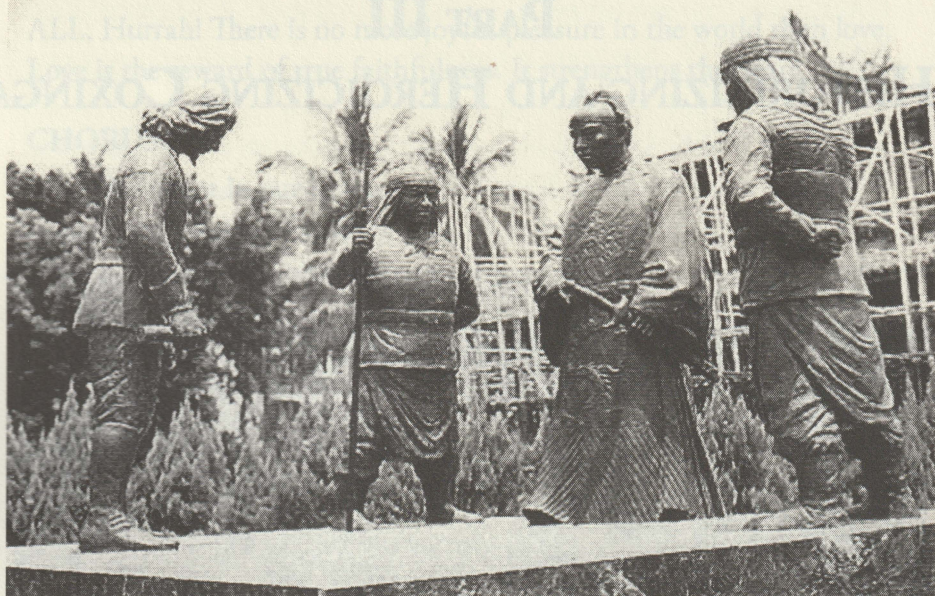


Illustration 17. *Met gebogen hoofd geeft Frederick Coyett zich over aan Coxinga.*

[With bowed head, Coyett surrenders to Coxinga.]

Dit standbeeld bevindt zich bij de Chih-Kan-toren op de plaats waar vroeger Fort Provintia lag.
(This sculpture is located near the Chih-Kan Tower on the site of the former Fort Provintia.)

Afbeelding: © Carl Koppeschaar.



Screening Dutch Formosa in 2000: Taiwan as China's Renegade Province in Wu Ziniu's *The Sino-Dutch War 1661*

Alexa Huang

What does Zheng Chenggong mean to today's China and Taiwan? How does a 2000 mainland Chinese film about seventeenth century China and Dutch Formosa—with a mainland Chinese/Hong Kong/Japanese cast—complicate the questions of belonging and betrayal? Taiwan's cultural identities have always been politically charged, in 1661 as in the new millennium.

Taiwan has had complex relationships with the dominant “motherland” across the strait and with Japan to the north. It was colonized by the Dutch East India Company, 1624 to 1661, governed by the Chinese Ming loyalist Zheng Chenggong from 1661 to 1683, and ruled by the Chinese Qing imperial court from 1683 to 1895, and the Japanese colonial government from 1895 to 1945. Taiwan has been regarded as a frontier, if not savagely dispensable, island (e.g. the Kangxi emperor's remarks in 1683 and Yu Yonghe's travelogue in 1697),¹ as China's renegade province (in institutionalized nationalist imaginations),²

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1. Yu Yonghe, *Pihai jiyou* (Small sea travelogue) (Taipei: Daiwan Yin Hang, 1959). See Emma Teng, “*Pihai jiuou*: An Early Exploration Account of Taiwan,” in *Hawaii Reader in Traditional Chinese Culture*, ed. V. Mair, N. Steinhardt and P. Goldin (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2005), 548-562. The Kangxi emperor's remarks are translated and quoted in Emma Jinhua Teng, *Taiwan's Imagined Geography: Chinese Colonial Travel Writing and Pictures, 1683-1895* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Asia Center, 2004), 34.
 2. Various Han Chinese nationalist discourses have been constructed by the Kuomingtang (KMT) in Taiwan and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP)

and a “free” (alternative)³ China. Dutch, Japanese, Chinese, and American influences can be seen in today’s Taiwan, home to 23 million residents.

One of the most important legends to emerge from this history of competing visions of Taiwanese identity is Zheng Chenggong (“Coxinga, Lord of the Imperial Surname, or Imperial Name Keeper”) whose lifespan from 1624 to 1662 parallels the existence of Dutch Formosa. He has alternately been cast as a Han Chinese martyr to a lost cause to oppose the “barbaric” Manchurian rulers, a defender of Ming China’s last frontier against Dutch colonizers, a deity in Taiwan referred to as the “Sage King who settled Taiwan,” and an iconic “national” hero—*minzu yingxiong*—to all sides in Chinese and Taiwanese politics—though to each for a very different reason.⁴

Zheng looms large in the cultural politics of nationalism both in the past and present. The son of a Japanese mother and Chinese father, Zheng was born in Kyushu, Japan, and thus, embodies Taiwan’s multicultural roots. His posthumous reputation has given birth to various narratives even outside China and Taiwan, including Dutch accounts of the fall of Formosa, J.M. Clements’ biography, and Chikamatsu Monzaemon’s Japanese puppet play *The Battles of Coxinga* (Kokusenya kassen, 1715). Chikamatsu’s play is examined by Cory Einbinder and Kalle Macrides’ article in the present volume. Adventures on the high seas in exotic locations may be especially attractive to audiences in isolationist Tokugawa Japan, but ultimately it is not the *what*, but the *why* of such a story and Zheng’s multiple affiliations

in China, connecting the idea of Taiwan as a “Chinese province” to late Qing imperial expansionism and the modern imagination of the Chinese nation.

3. Taiwan, the Republic of China, was commonly referred to as “Free China” during the mid-twentieth century. *The Free China Journal* (Ziyou Ahongguo banyuekan, 1949–1960) was published by the Taiwanese government to promote the “democratic [free]” republic.
4. “Kai Tai shengwang.” Taiwan has some 60 temples devoted to this “sage king,” the most representative of which is located in Tainan. For a reliable short biography of Zheng in English, see Earl Swisher, “Chéng Ch’êng-kung,” in *Eminent Chinese of the Ch’ing Period, 1644–1912*, 2 vols. Vol. 1. ed. A.W. Hummel (Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1943), 108–110.

that ultimately brings it to the forefront of artistic imaginations.⁵ Within China, in 1875 the imperial Qing established an official temple for Zheng in Taiwan to exploit the symbolic value of his legacy. The Qing court thus turned Zheng from a rebel into a role model of loyalty, and an icon of national unity. Since the 1920s, the legend of Zheng—a poster child of patriotism—has been the subject of silent and feature films, textbook narratives, popular imagination, and twenty-two episode-long mainland Chinese television dramas.⁶

Wu Ziniu’s (1953–) *The Sino-Dutch War 1661* (aka *Hero Zheng Chenggong*) is the latest cinematic period drama inspired by Zheng’s life and achievements and embellished with fictive details. A quick survey of Zheng as a historical figure is necessary to understand Wu’s film. Zheng Chenggong’s father, Zheng Zhilong, was a pirate leader who made a fortune in the Taiwan Strait and had a great deal of influence in China’s Fujian Province. Zheng Zhilong was later recruited by the Ming court in 1628 to defend the Chinese coast from pirates and the Dutch. The Zhengs’ military prowess became the last resort of the Ming court when Qing troops took over China in 1644. To reward the Zhengs’ loyalty, the Longwu emperor of the Ming conferred the imperial surname, Zhu, upon Zheng Chenggong, and changed his given name from Sen to Chenggong, meaning “success.” After his father defected to the Qing, Zheng Chenggong continued his military campaigns to restore the Ming dynasty. Wu’s film spends a considerable amount of time canvassing the tension between the father and the son, and their causes. At the beginning of the film, when Zheng Zhilong and his son are united, they discuss whether to obey the Ming court’s order to move north and fight the Qing troops, or to prioritize safeguarding Fujian and defending it from the Dutch invasion. Zheng Zhilong is portrayed as a strategist with pragmatic

5. Donald Keene, *World within Walls: Japanese Literature of the Pre-Modern Era 1600–1897* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999), 314–332.
6. Directed by Liu Guoquan and titled *Great Hero Zheng Chenggong* (Da yingxiong Zheng Chenggong, 2004). Though it was scheduled for a nationwide broadcast through China Central Television (CCTV), it was ultimately banned reportedly due to concerns over its portrayal of ethnic conflicts between Han Chinese and Manchurians.

concerns, while his son is a man with nobler goals informed by Confucian ethical principles.

ZHENG ZHILONG. The Ming dynasty is doomed, but the Ming emperor does not understand the situation. He issued an edict to ask me to confront the Qing army. I have braved the rough seas for many years to establish this foundation for the Zheng family. The honor of the Zhengs will be kept by you in the future.

ZHENG CHENGGONG. My teacher said country is more important than family. The great scholar instructed me that high officials must be loyal to the emperor and the country. Therefore, since the emperor has issued an edict to reinstate the Ming dynasty, the situation of the Zheng family should not be considered as first priority. I ask that you dispatch me to command the front line. I promise to wipe out the enemy to revenge the Ming. (*He kneels before his father*)⁷

But no resolution was reached in this scene, as the father interrupts his son by shifting the topic of the conversation. The film sidesteps the fact that the Zhengs may be more interested in maintaining a personal kingdom in Fujian and Taiwan. One reason why Zheng Chenggong consistently refused generous amnesty and enlistment offers from the Qing recruiters—and disregarded his father's personal entreaties after he defected to Beijing—may be his need to maintain a certain level of independence that was not connected to popular articulations of nationalism. For example, Zheng Chenggong had ambitious plans to seize the Philippines from the Spaniards to expand his trading routes. His premature death in 1662 changed the course of history and solidified his reputation as a patriot. In the film Wu presents Zheng Chenggong as a valiant yet compassionate character. The film opens with a scene in which Qing soldiers are beheading dissenting Ming prisoners who refuse to obey the Shunzhi emperor's order to follow Manchurian customs and have their heads shaved. Zheng Chenggong and his aides, Li Wan and Li Kun, arrive at the scene. A sword fight breaks out between them and the Qing soldiers. As Li Wan is about to behead the commander, Zheng intervenes. After cutting off the

7. Wu, *Sino-Dutch War 1661*: n. pag.

soldier's queue, Zheng reminds the Qing soldiers: "Don't forget we [Han Chinese] will never allow our heads to be shaved" as he rides off.

The dénouement of the film is Zheng Chenggong's attack of the Dutch Formosa on 1 April 1661, taking advantage of the high tide, and his success in driving the Dutch out of the island. The calm voice-over in the ending, imitating a documentary style after an extended sword and hand-to-hand duel between Zheng and the Dutch general, echoes the Han ethnic sentiment of an earlier scene. When Zheng, his mother, and his wife visit a teahouse in Fuzhou, they witness a puppet play. The enactment of the defeat of the Dutch, represented by red-haired puppets, is received enthusiastically by guests at the teahouse. Later at the teahouse, people of the town present Zheng with a long scroll announcing, "The Hope of Millions," with their signatures and their plea: "We entreat the Imperial Name Keeper to Reclaim Taiwan." The scroll, impressively rolled down from the third floor, also contains a brief recapitulation of Taiwan's history: "Treasure island (*baodao*) Taiwan has been an integral part of the Chinese nation since ancient times." The voice-over at the end of the film states: "After Coxinga liberated Taiwan . . . he said: 'I have finally proven my loyalty.'" It is not clear, however, whether he is being loyal to the Ming or the Qing court. The voice-over continues: "In 1683, Coxinga's grandson surrendered to the Qing dynasty and Taiwan returned to the motherland again." The film ends with an ambiguous shot of the sun which can be rising or setting, implying the end of the Dutch era, the beginning and end of Zheng's kingdom, or the beginning of two centuries of Chinese rule over Taiwan.

In conventionalized historical narratives, as in Wu's film, Zheng Chenggong's legacy does not lie so much in his restorationist effort dedicated to the Ming cause as in his attack of the Dutch and settlement in Taiwan. He has been constructed as national hero resisting foreign colonizers and imperialism and restoring proper Chinese rule over Taiwan.

The Sino-Dutch War 1661 focuses on the transformation of Zheng from a pirate leader to a founding father who establishes Chinese control over Taiwan and liberates the Taiwanese from Dutch colonial rule. Anyone familiar with this multi-determined history would not miss its potentially dangerous political messages and allegorical interpretations.

The film sidesteps Zheng's role in the Ming restorationist movement to reclaim China from the hands of the Manchurian rulers, even though the film opens with the fall of Ming in 1644. Approximately one third of the film dramatizes the defining battle in Zheng's career in 1661, a siege to expel the Dutch and take possession of Taiwan.

As one of the most productive members of China's Fifth Generation filmmakers, Wu is best known for his controversial war and historical films that focus on candid, graphic accounts of various forms of violence, including *Nanjing 1937* (1994) and *The Dove Tree* (1985). *Nanjing 1937* (aka *Don't Cry, Nanking*) is the first post-1990 non-documentary feature film that deals with the Nanjing Massacre and the war crimes committed by Japanese soldiers with a superstar cast including Rene Liu, Qin Han, and other stars. A film about the 1979 Sino-Vietnamese border war, *The Dove Tree*, was banned in China—the first Fifth Generation film to be banned. But Wu is no stranger to film censorship. Take his *Evening Bell*, winner of 1988 Silver Bear, Berlin Film Festival, and Best Director of China's Golden Rooster Award, for instance. The film is a psychological study of the effect of war on the Chinese and Japanese soldiers after Japan has declared surrender in 1945. He had to make numerous changes to the film before it was eventually approved by four levels of government censorship.

Wu's exploration of atrocity and violence has led Yingjin Zhang to characterize Wu's career as a pursuit of "his iconoclastic vision" about war.⁸ *The Sino-Dutch War 1661* differs from his previous war and historical films in that it no longer concentrates on graphic details of atrocity, but rather on the politics of war and the relationships among the Chinese, the Dutch, and the Taiwanese. *Nanjing 1937*, one of his most widely released films, also addresses similarly configured triangular relationships among Taiwan, Japan, and China represented by a Taiwanese draftee sent by the Japanese to China during the war. As Michael Berry has observed, the film addresses "the precarious position of Taiwan" in the second Sino-Japanese War and, unlike other works about the rape of Nanjing, uses the historical event "as a springboard to address larger issues."⁹ The film *Sino-Dutch War 1661*

8. Yingjin Zhang and Zhiwei Xiao, eds. *Encyclopedia of Chinese Film* (London: Routledge, 1998), 373.

9. Michael Berry, *A History of Pain: Trauma in Modern Chinese Literature and Film*

marked a new stage of Wu's career after a decade-long meditation on violence and a five-year hiatus.

In contrast to *The Dove Tree* and *Evening Bell*, the subject matter of *The Sino-Dutch War 1661* and Wu's approach did not create tensions within the Chinese authorities. The excessive use of voice-over technique suggests a documentary approach to representing the historical events. The voice-over also takes the tone of grand historical narratives, though it also leaves room for interpretation. The film's treatment of the complex triangulation of the Dutch Formosa, the Ming court in Fuzhou, and the Qing court in Beijing is often ambiguous.

What follows is the transcription of English subtitles. Readers interested in exploring the construction of Taiwanese identities could consult Emma Jinjua Teng's book and the sources provided by the Research Unit of Taiwanese Culture and Literature at the Ruhr-Universität Bochum.

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Illustration 18. *Coxinga the Conquerer*, Tainan Square, Tainan City, Taiwan
Photo by Llyn Scott 2010.



Excerpts from *The Sino-Dutch War 1661*

Directed by Wu Ziniu

(Narration appears on the screen) In 1645, young Zheng Cheung Gong who was a loyalist came back to support the Ming dynasty in Fujian. Later, Zheng's Japanese mother Tian Chuan arrived in China from Japan. One day, Zheng, Tian, and his wife Dong met a singer, Xueliang, in a tavern. Xueliang made Tian Chuan very happy and became Tian's adopted daughter. At the same time, the Qing army attacked Fujian. Zheng's father was surrounded before the Ming emperor was captured and Zheng's mother was killed. After several years, Zheng insisted on fighting the Qing and devoted himself to reinstating the Ming dynasty. One day, Zheng met Xueliang again. She encouraged him to recover Taiwan from the Dutch. Zheng accepted her idea and sent her to contact Zheng's spy, who was now in Taiwan. But Xueliang killed herself before Zheng succeeded in defeating the Dutch. In 1661, Zheng's army destroyed the Dutch warships and fortress and recovered the whole of Taiwan; however, Zheng died the next year.

(Date appears on the screen): May 2, 1661

VOICE. "It took me ten years to achieve my goal to expel the Netherlands from my motherland. Considering my poor citizens, it would be a tragedy if I were to leave them now."

(Map appears on the screen): Map of China

NARRATOR. On May 2, 1664, the Ming dynasty was overthrown; the same year the Manchus captured Beijing. North China was occupied

by the Qing dynasty. On October 1, 1644, the Shuzi emperor was crowned at the Forbidden City. He ordered all Chinese to shave their heads to show their loyalty to the Qing emperor. The Qing continued to invade the southern Ming.

Qing Field Camp

QING SOLDIER. Shave the next one!

MING PRISONER. Our skin and hair are gifts from our parents! Shaving one's head shows disrespect for our ancestors. I refuse to shave it. You cannot shave my head!

(SOLDIER beheads the dissenter)

(COXINGA, LI WAN, and LIN KUN approach in disguise)

QING SOLDIER. They don't come in peace.

QING OFFICER. Halt! Halt! You can only pass with a shaved head. Either head or hair goes.

MING. Nonsense.

QING. Stop! Don't you see the army? Who are you?

LIN KUN. I am Lin Kun, the Ming Vice-Commander of Fujian Province.

LI WEI. I am Li Wei, Military Governor.

COXINGA. Li Wan, don't kill him. My father is the Commanding General of the Ming Dynasty in Fujian Province. Don't forget we will never allow our heads to be shaved.

(COXINGA cuts off his queue)

On a Beach

Cast Credits

ZHAO WEN ZHEO

SHIU LING

DU ZHI GUO

YOKO SHIMADA

(COXINGA shouts over the sound of the waves)

Film Title appears in red letters: THE SINO-DUTCH WAR 1661

Fuzhou, 1645

ZHENG. My son, I'm glad to see you've finally come back. I know the road was difficult.

COXINGA. *(Speaks "father" in English)* Father, on the road from Nanjing, Li Wei, Lin Kun, and I saw the Qing soldiers beheading a Ming patriot and the roads were flooded with Qing troops. They will attack Fujian within the next few days.

ZHENG. Mountains surround Fujian, creating a natural barrier. I have in my command a quarter of a million men and the emperor is on my side. I am not worried about the Manchu from the north for now. What distresses me is not only the Qing army but also Taiwan. Fujian and Taiwan have always been united. Now Holland has been in possession of Taiwan for twenty-one years. I face the Qing army's attack from the north; I also fight against the Dutch fleet at sea. The Ming dynasty will be finished soon, but the Ming emperor does not understand. He still issues an edict to ask me to vanquish the Qing army directly. I have braved the rough seas for many years and now the Zheng family is well known. The honor of the Zheng family will be kept by you later.

COXINGA. My teacher said country is more important than family. The great scholar (Qianqian Yishi) instructed me that high officials must have loyalty to the emperor and the country. He said, "Only loyalty to the emperor and country can guarantee national peace." Therefore, since the emperor has issued an edict to reinstate the Ming dynasty, the situation of the Zheng family should not be considered a first priority. I ask that you dispatch me to command the front line. I promise to wipe out the enemy to revenge the Ming.

ZHENG. Let's talk about it later.

COXINGA. Father.

ZHENG. Son, the emperor often speaks of you. He intends to summon you.

COXINGA. The emperor?

ZHENG. He wishes to make a conferral upon you. My son, I also want to tell you that your mother will come from Japan soon.

COXINGA. (*Overjoyed*) My mother?

Open Sea

(*Japanese ship with TIAN on board encounters XUELIANG and two COMPANIONS adrift in the water*)

MAID. Mistress, someone is drowning.

TIAN. Rescue them quickly. Hurry! (*XUELIANG and TWO MEN brought onboard*)

TIAN. My girl, where are you trying to go?

XUELIANG. I want to go home. I want to go home.

Fuzhou Pier

(*TIAN'S ship arrives and is met by ZHENG, COXINGA, and Coxinga's wife, DONG YOU GU*)

COXINGA. Mother.

TIAN. I finally see my son again. You must be my daughter-in-law.

COXINGA. Mother, her name is Dong You Gu.

DONG. I'm honored to meet you.

TIAN. My husband.

ZHENG. You arrived from Hirado at last. Are your parents well?

TIAN. They are fine. They miss you.

ZHENG. We shall meet the emperor later. Don't say anything. Let's go.

(*TIAN riding in a cart*)

XUE. We are forever indebted to you.

Palace of the Southern Ming Long Wu Emperor

GUARD. Presenting Fujian Province Commanding General Zheng Zhilong

ZHENG. Zheng Zhilong along with his wife and his son Zheng sen have come to pay our respects to the emperor.

EMPEROR. Please rise. Let me see. So you are Zheng sen?

COXINGA. Yes.

EMPEROR. I heard of you long ago. When you were eleven, you expressed your loyalty to the country by expounding upon the virtues of the rulers of former dynasties. It is no wonder that within one year at the Imperial Academy, the entire city of Nanjing all knew the greatness of Zheng sen.

COXINGA. Thank you, your Majesty.

COURTIER. The Ming dynasty Long Wu emperor confers upon Zheng sen the emperor's surname Zhu, the first name Chenggong and the title Earl of Loyalty.

EMPEROR. Zheng Chenggong, the Imperial Namekeeper! Your father is already the Commanding General of Fujian Province. I appoint you in charge of military governors commanding the Imperial Army.

ZHENG. We kowtow to our benevolent Majesty!

EMPEROR. On your feet. Zheng Zhilong, I have seen today's report from Shaanxi Province. The Qing troops have taken the cities of Nanjing, Zhengjiang, Shaoxing, and Hangzhou. Now, they're camped at the border between Zhejiang and Fujian provinces. War is now at our doorstep.

ZHENG. Your majesty, Li Wei has been dispatched to strengthen the front line.

EMPEROR. (*Accusingly*) My imperial army is at your command. Why do you not attack the Qing army?

ZHENG. Your Majesty, the Qing army comes from the north. In Fujian, the mountains surround us on three sides. The ocean is on the fourth side. Fujian is difficult to attack and easy to defend. Fujian's prosperity depends entirely on maritime trade with the world. During the reign of the Chong Zhen emperor, according to the imperial ban on maritime trade, only Fujian was permitted to continue trading with the world. I believe our most urgent task is to protect our home province, guarantee the continuation of maritime trade

COXINGA. Father!

EMPEROR. Zheng Zhilong, I could not have become emperor without your support. Now, most of China is not under my rule. Why should you remain in my service?

ZHENG. I promise to hold Fujian Province secure.

EMPEROR. Are you only concerned about Fujian?

ZHENG. We can only reclaim Taiwan if Fujian is secured. And by reclaiming Taiwan, we will strengthen our maritime trade. Only when our court is prosperous can we have sufficient power to drive the Qing out of China. You don't know about military affairs.

GENERAL HUI. Military Governor, General Gan Hui, reporting from the front line! Two Dutch warships fired upon Fujian's trading vessels. They engaged in battle all the way from the Taiwan straits to Matzu.

ZHENG. I have a treaty with the Dutch Viceroy Kuye (Coyette) in Taiwan. They are not permitted to interfere with the Fujian trading vessels. How could he break the treaty! We must retaliate. Inform the batteries to fire the canons.

HUI. Yes, sir!

(ZHENG rushes out)

COXINGA. Your Highness, please don't mind what my father says.

(Dutch ships attack Fujian; two DUTCHMEN with a telescope)

ZHENG. Fire!

(Naval battle leaves Dutch ship burning with heavy black smoke.

COXINGA and DONG meet)

DONG. *(Pointing to ZHENG)* Over there.

COXINGA. Father.

ZHENG. My son, never forget you must always protect Fujian Province and our home.

COXINGA. Yes, sir.

(COXINGA, TIAN, and DONG visit town teahouse. A puppet play re-enacts the defeat of the Dutch red-haired barbarian)

PUPPET. Attack!

PUPPET MASTER. Bravo!

SERVANT. Have some tea.

DONG. Mother, please go in first.

COXINGA. Mother, forget the sadness arising from your argument over father's anti-Qing manners. Father selected this dish, "Buddha jumping the wall," for you. The story is that this dish is so fragrant that even when the monks catch a whiff of it they jump over the monastery wall just to steal a few bites. That is why this dish is called "Buddha jumping the wall."

TIAN. *(Laughing)* I can already smell its wonderful fragrance.

COXINGA. Mother, this is hibiscus and swallow nest soup.

(XUELIANG plays the lute)

XUELIANG. *(Sings)*

The tide of a thousand years;
The tears of ten thousand people;
from this bitter ocean water
the wind blows south.
The clouds move north,
but neither can carry my grief away.

(TIAN cries)

XUELIANG. *(Sings)*

Searching for one's home on
the horizon far away

(DONG cries)

XUELIANG. *(Sings)*

Reuniting with parents only in dreams.

My wish always pushes me on.

I ask the plum blossom in the old courtyard,
"When can I return?"

Pipa is my voice, but fails to relieve my worries.
Who understands the feelings of these strings
and the meaning of this song?

(*TIAN meets XUELIANG*)

XUELIANG. My lady, I would like to express my gratitude again for saving my life.

TIAN. You're the girl who was drowning at sea!

XUELIANG. Uh huh.

TIAN. Your song expresses heartfelt sorrow. My sons says your singing expresses longing for your parents. Can you tell me why?

XUELIANG. (*Sobbing*) My lady, I am from Taiwan. During the Tianqi Emperor's rule, the Taiwanese revolted against the Dutch, but unexpectedly, it did not succeed. My parents were both killed. Many of us fled to Fuzhou.

TIAN. Please, my girl. Come with me. I shall be your mother.

TOWNSMAN. Coxinga!

PEOPLE. Imperial Name Keeper!

COXINGA. My respected elders, Zheng Chenggong is at your service and awaits your

instructions.

XUELIANG. (*Holding banner "The Hope of Millions" that unfurls down from the third balcony*)

Fujian Compound Gate

(*Four MING DEFECTORS approach*)

GUARD. I see two people down below.

HORSEMAN. Lower the drawbridge!

GUARD. That's Officer Zhang from the Commanding General's headquarters, but I don't recognize the others. Officer Zhang, who are those men with you?

ZHENG. They are here to see the Commanding General.

GUARD. Lower the bridge.

On the Beach

(*COXINGA riding; meets XUELIANG*)

COXINGA. Adopted sister, you are looking toward your home. Please return, otherwise Mother will be worried.

XUELIANG. (*Nods*)

(*COXINGA and XUELIANG on horseback ride together furiously*)

Zheng's Chambers at Fujian

MING DEFECTORS. The gracious Commander Zheng!

ZHENG. Why the long journey? What is it you want?

MESSENGER. The Qing Emperor has sent this imperial degree. He offers you the post of Viceroy of Fujian and Guangdong provinces.

ZHENG. Viceroy of Fujian and Guangdong provinces?

DEFECTOR. In addition to Fujian Province, Guangdong Province will also be under your command.

ZHENG. This is a very important decision. Please allow me to think it over.

DEFECTOR. The Qing emperor is also very concerned about Taiwan. If the Dutch are defeated and Taiwan returned to China, according to the rule established by the Ming Taiwan will also be placed under your command.

(*COXINGA delivers XUELIANG to her quarters and goes to ZHENG'S chambers*)

COURT ELDER. Coxinga, your father has instructed us not to allow anyone to enter.

COXINGA. What affairs can be so confidential as to keep them a secret from me?

COURT ELDER. I don't know. Your father has ordered this area cordoned off as you can see. Guards are positioned throughout the compound.

(*COXINGA goes to the Imperial Court*)

COXINGA. Your Majesty.

EMPEROR. Please rise. Only you can be trusted. I have received the latest intelligence report. Not only are there traitors among the Ming troops at Xianxia Pass, but they are also colluding with the

Dutch imperialists. This is very serious. You must go to Xianxia Pass and supervise the military. Obtain the general's seal and take over command.

COXINGA. Yes, Your Majesty.

EMPEROR. If necessary, behead the general.

COXINGA. Yes, Your Majesty.

EMPEROR. You are a loyalist. This is strictly confidential. Be on guard.

(COXINGA and men ride to Xianxia Pass at night)

Zheng's Fujian Compound

DONG. *(Practicing archery)* That's right; look straight ahead. You still haven't hit the bull's eye. Try again.

XUELIANG. *(Shoots arrow)*

DONG. Let's see about this time.

EUNUCHS. Excuse us. Please let us pass.

(DONG and WOMEN watch as EUNUCHS talk to ZHENG)

XUELIANG. It seems like there is trouble.

DONG. Something is certainly up, otherwise the palace eunuchs would not be so frantic.

(TIAN approaches ZHENG)

TIAN. What has happened?

ZHENG. The emperor has dispatched Coxinga to the military front as commander of the imperial army.

TIAN. Of course he must obey the emperor's orders.

ZHENG. You don't understand. He has only taken twenty men with him. This is very serious.

TIAN. Not even you have been informed.

ZHENG. The imperial army only obeys the emperor's orders.

TIAN. But you are the Commanding General. Aren't the daily movements of the imperial army also reported to you?

ZHENG. Don't make wild guesses about the army.

TIAN. Of course the army is no concern of mine, but my son means the world to me. I beg you to have him return home safely.

EUNUCH. General! The imperial guards have cordoned off the compound.

(GUARDS enter with torches)

ZHENG. The emperor is a fool. How dare he watch me? Xueliang, you are the only one who can sneak into town. Remember, after leaving the city gate, follow the shoal. Hurry along the footpath and catch up to Coxinga.

XUELIANG. I know. I took the footpaths when I was homeless.

ZHENG. Xueliang, when you see Coxinga, tell him his father and mother want him to come back immediately. He must not go to Xianxia Pass. Do you understand?

XUELIANG. I know. What if Coxinga refuses to come back and insists on going to Xianxia Pass?

ZHENG. *(Takes off his leather vest)* Xueliang, Li Wei fights with a sword in both his left and right hands. Coxinga is aware of this. If he insists on going to Xianxia Pass, you must tell him to put on this leather vest before he can go. If Li Wei behaves recklessly, then he must be killed.

(XUELIANG rides to Coxinga's riverside encampment)

Riverside Encampment

MING SOLDIER. Is that a scout?

SOLDIER. Let's sieze him and find out.

SOLDIER. Isn't this Xueliang?

COXINGA. *(Coming out of tent)* Xueliang.

XUELIANG. Coxinga.

COXINGA. Why are you here?

XUELIANG. Your father sent me to tell you, you must immediately return to the Fuzhou.

COXINGA. This mission is top secret. How does my father know? Tell my father, I must go to Xianxia Pass.

XUELIANG. You must not! Your mother insists that you to return to Fuzhou.

COXINGA. I must obey the emperor.

XUELIANG. In that case, your father said if you are determined to go, I should give you this.

COXINGA. What is going on?

XUELIANG. Your father said to give you this.

COXINGA. My father wore this armored vest for thirty years, more years than I have been alive. My father must be sending me a message.

XUELIANG. Your father said, "If Li Wei behaves recklessly, you must kill him."

COXINGA. I will have someone escort you back to Fuzhou.

XUELIANG. I want to go with you to Xianxia Pass.

COXINGA. This is a very dangerous mission. You're a girl; you can't go.

XUELIANG. Your father also mentioned Li Wei is a master swordsman and very cunning.

(XUELIANG gives him the special sword)

A Forest

SOLDIER. Wait! It's Coxinga.

OFFICER. Why is he come? I must report to General Li by a faster footpath. Remember you must keep your queues hidden from view.

MEN. Yes, sir.

OFFICER. General, Coxinga is coming.

LI. Stop! Don't shave him. Clean this up! Hurry! Conceal your queues! Quickly put on your helmets. Coxinga is coming. Hurry! Tuck in your queues. Attention all officers. Keep calm.

(DUTCH ENVOY arrives with a large mantelpiece clock)

ENVOY. *(Speaking Chinese)* General Li, please excuse this interruption. Taiwan's Viceroy Kui Yi would like to present these gifts to General Li.

LI. What is this?

ENVOY. General Li, please also accept this bank check for 3,000

pounds of silver. We know General Li is a brave warrior and Viceroy Kui Yi holds you in high esteem.

LI. I'm still not used to wearing a queue upon my head. Right, tell me why you have come.

ENVOY. We would like to ask you to serve as a mediator between the Dutch East India Company in Taiwan and Zheng Zhilong. Regardless of whether you are under the Ming dynasty or the Qing emperor, we request the right to freely enter Fujian Province and enter China's interior.

LI. I will certainly pass this on to General Zheng.

(COXINGA and XUELIANG arrive at Li's military camp)

SOLDIER: *(Pushing her into a cell)* This way, miss.

Banquet Hall and Feast

LI. *(Sweating)* Let's eat and drink. Everyone, hurry. Hurry.

COXINGA: This drink will warm us up. Let's take off our caps. Wan Li, you also take off your cap.

LI. Coxinga, only the emperor has the authority to patrol the military front.

COXINGA. How can you say this!

LI. The Qing has 150,000 soldiers in the Fujian and Zhenjiang border region. You must know this. The Qing army is divided into eight divisions; each banner has its own division. Their flags flutter all around us and we see their armor shining with the sunlight. With so few men, we will not be able to defend Fujian Province.

COXINGA. When I was seven, I recall reading in our teacher's garden. At that time, we were fellow students. The class bullies frequently picked on me. You were always willing to fight back and come to my rescue. You are a hero in my heart. Li Wei, that was only fourteen years ago. Are you no longer that same Li Wei?

LI. Things are different today. When I went to Nanjing to meet you, I passed through the cities of Zhengjiang, Shaoxing, Hongzhou, and Yuhua. The Ming troops faced defeat everywhere. How could this not

raise doubts?

COXINGA. We have both received the Ming emperor's favor. We must loyally serve him.

LI. The emperor's favor? How have you served your country? The Ming emperor has given you a name to have you risk your life for his sake. You are doing just as you are told.

COXINGA. Li Wei!

LI. The Ming court has fled and deserted from Fujian to Beijing. After Fujian is lost in battle where will the court go next? What use is there in defending Fujian?

COXINGA. Li Wei, watch what you say!

LI. Your life is at stake. I will say what I want!

(SOLDIERS draw swords)

LI. What are you doing? Sit down. Sit back down. I've had too much of this strong drink. Bring more. Coxinga, please forgive me.

(XUELIANG discovers Li's soldiers are going to ambush Coxinga and starts to play a musical signal on the lute)

LI. Who is that playing?

COXINGA. Xueliang, my adopted sister.

LI. What a noisy racket!

COXINGA. It is the masterpiece "Ambush."

LI. Guards!

SOLDIER. Yes, sir!

COXINGA. What are you doing?

LI. I want to invite your adopted sister to join us. Such a masterpiece should be better appreciated.

(XUELIANG screams)

XUELIANG. Let me go! Coxinga, you're surrounded.

(Attack starts)

COXINGA. Look out for the arrows!

(XUELIANG is wounded by an arrow)

COXINGA. *(Holding sword to LI WEI'S throat)* Stop!

LI. Take them off! Coxinga, I recall our friendship. I must reveal the truth to you. At midnight, my troops will surrender to the Qing. According to the Qing imperial decree, Ming officials are to keep their titles under the Qing. If you come with me, you will also keep your title.

COXINGA. The Ming Imperial Army will not so easily surrender.

LI. Even if you kill me, you cannot escape. My troops will surround you.

COXINGA. I will fight to the end for my country. To live for loyalty, even if it means my death, means I will never shave my head and surrender to the Qing, which would bring scorn upon myself.

(SOLDIERS drop their swords)

COXINGA. We from Fujian will never surrender to the Qing.

(LI and COXINGA fight; XUELIANG assists COXINGA)

COXINGA. Li Wei, I will take your life. It is better than becoming a traitor.

LI. Wait! I am not the one. It is your father.

COXINGA. Shut up!

(Flashes of light; COXINGA trembles)

Zheng's Chamber at Fujian

QING MESSENGER: Viceroy of Fujian and Guangdong, have you made up your mind?

ZHENG: *(Nods)*

Military Camp

SOLDIERS. *(Shouting)* Coxinga!

COXINGA. Throughout my life, I have always detested traitors. Although Li Wei is my friend, he had to come to this end.

(XUELIANG appears in window)

COXINGA. From today, all officers will be under the command of Wan Li. I shall let the past be past. The devoted will be rewarded. *(To WAN LI)* Xueliang will remain with you while she recovers. You must

give her your best care.

WAN LI. Please rest assured.

ZHANG. Go, go.

DONG. My husband.

COXINGA. Zhang, where are you going?

ZHANG. Master . . .

DONG. Your father is going to Beijing.

Zheng's Chamber at Fujian

COXINGA. Father, Mother.

TIAN. My son, you have come back.

COXINGA. Father, I have killed Li Wei.

ZHENG. What?

COXINGA. Li Wei told me you had given him the order.

ZHENG. That is true. He is under my command.

COXINGA. To surrender?

ZHENG. I am not surrendering.

COXINGA. But Li Wei's troops have already shaved their heads.

ZHENG. Perhaps you have not yet heard. Hunan and Jiangxi provinces have all been taken by the Qing troops. Even your teacher Qianqianyi now pays allegiance to the Qing.

COXINGA. No, he could never have surrendered to the Qing. There must be a mistake.

ZHENG. How could there be a mistake in informing me about such an important matter?

TIAN. My son, I know you don't want to think it possible.

ZHENG. But the Ming dynasty is coming to an end. In China's 2,700-year history, from the Zhou dynasty until the present, only during the rule of the Ming has Taiwan come under the rule of foreigners. There is no use in serving a court which has decayed to this point.

COXINGA. Father, the emperor has given me the imperial surname and the first name, Chenggong [*Viceroy*]. It is my duty to re-strengthen

the Ming and reclaim Taiwan. Since ancient times, fathers have always taught their sons to be loyal. I have never heard of a father teaching his son to be a traitor. How dare you declare yourself a traitor in front of your son and wife?

ZHENG. Insolence! My son, your father is not surrendering. The Qing emperor has appointed me Viceroy of Fujian and Guangdong. Only a hero understands and handles the situation. It is an either-or for the hero. It is hopeless for Ming to fight against Qing.

Every emperor only devotes himself to internal struggles, even if he is being destroyed.

You can keep your loyalty. For the good of the Zheng family, separation is our best choice.

ZHANG. Master, everything is ready to go.

COXINGA. Father, if you go, you will be in grave danger. You can never return.

ZHENG. I must express my appreciation to the emperor.

COXINGA. (*Threatens to draw his sword*) Father!

TIAN. Sen'er!

COXINGA. Father! (*COXINGA picks up the leather vest and throws it at his father's feet*)

TIAN. No!

ZHENG. Take care of your mother.

TIAN. (*Kneeling*) Must you really leave us?

(*Military procession on horseback with torches*)

COXINGA. Father! Be careful! If anything happens to you, I will be filled with grief and take revenge.

VO. Coxinga's father never again returned to Fujian. The Qing emperor finally decapitated him in 1662.

Battle at Fuzhou

(*COXINGA is struck by an arrow*)

WAN LI. Coxinga, are you hurt? The western part of the city has been taken

(DONG, TIAN, and WOMEN fighting)

SOLDIER. Attack!

TIAN. Dong You'er!

DONG. Mother!

TIAN. (*Holding the young SON of COXINGA*) Protect the lifeline of the Zheng family. Take the child. Hope of Millions!

VO. In August 1646, the Qing dynasty captured Fuzhou's imperial court. Coxinga's mother died in the battle. The Ming's last emperor was captured and passed away in prison at Fuzhou.

Tian's Burial at Sea

COXINGA. (*Flashback scenes of his childhood with his mother; "Mommy." "Come here my son. It's an eagle. It's flying so high."*)

VOICE. For the next fourteen years, Coxinga fights against the Qing dynasty.

Ships at Sea

VOICE. After being defeated in Nanjing, he retreated to Xiamen in Fujian Province where he faced the Netherlands' sea force invasion.

XUELIANG. Holland's attack! Take away these tables. Quickly make room for the injured.

(*Later that night, XUELIANG takes care of the wounded after the battle*)

DONG. The sea is becoming more and more perilous. It's best for you to move and live with us.

XUELIANG. I am only an adopted daughter and my mother who adopted me is no longer with us. It's not appropriate for me to stay in the official residence. In addition, while you look after the canons, I'll see to the teahouse. This way we can help each other. Chenggong is still attending the canons. Please deliver this food to him.

DONG. I know you take care of Coxinga. His arrow wound becomes even more painful in the wind and cold. I am busy. Take this medicine to him as well.

Rocky Shore

XUELIANG. We would like to give you this medicine. You are worried about the situation today.

COXINGA. Many of my fellow soldiers have been buried at sea. (*Pours the medicine out into the surf*) Xueliang, the first time I saw you, your music brought tears to my mother's eyes. I swear this even after ten years: To bring you back to your home in Taiwan. Everytime I set eyes upon the "Hope of Millions," I am overcome with grief. Protection of Xiamen is not forever. If we plan to fight against the Dutch, we have to deal with the Qing army's attack. We have to face enemies. I hesitate about what to do next.

XUELIANG. Coxinga has devised a good plan. If you can defeat the Dutch, Taiwan will serve as a guerilla military training post to reinstate the Ming dynasty. And we will not be stopped by the Dutch.

COXINGA. (*Draws sword*) Taiwan!

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Instead of a much deserved retirement, Goedhart and his wife Ingrid embarked on a new career as Taiwan's ambassadors of tourism. The Goedharts resided in Tainan City where Goedhart designed and produced the exhibition "Once Upon a Time in Taiwan" in 2005. The exhibit, which housed replicas and authentic displays of daily life under the Dutch in seventeenth century Formosa, toured for a year around ten counties and cities in Taiwan. Goedhart, known as "Mister Taiwan" in the Netherlands, donated the entire exhibit to the Tainan City Government, where it resides permanently in the Taoyuan Early Settler's Life and Culture Museum, the only museum outside of the Netherlands with the Holland logo on its entrance. The mayor of Tainan named Goedhart an Honorary Citizen of that city in 2008.

Interested in every historical connection, Goedhart has been instrumental in locating and properly naming several relic sites. He assisted Penghu County and Chiayi County governments in rediscovering two forts in Taiwan. Goedhart correctly identified one of them, Fort San Domingo in Tamsui, previously thought to be built by the Spanish, as a Dutch fortification and renamed it Fort Antonio after Dutch Governor Antonio van Diemen. For his final enterprise before retiring from Taiwan, Goedhart secured an academic cooperation between Leiden University in Amsterdam and National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan. Menno Goedhart continues to promote Taiwan's