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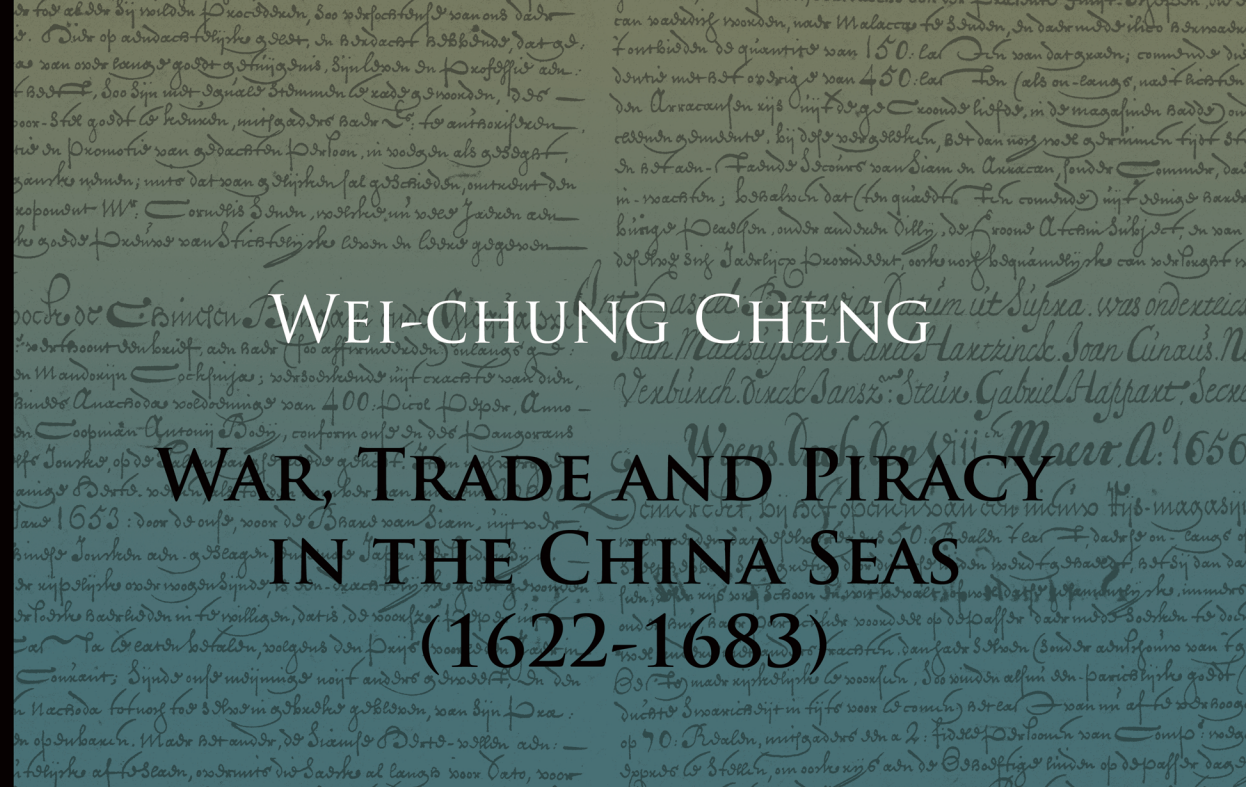
WEI-CHUNG CHENG

WAR, TRADE AND PIRACY IN THE CHINA SEAS (1622-1683)

The objective of this research is to examine the rise and fall of a prominent 17th century Chinese maritime power: the Cheng lineage. It elucidates how, due to the consequences of specific historical circumstances at a crucial moment in time, the Ming imperial administration initially tolerated a group of Chinese smugglers as a nominal coastal defense detachment. With the help of the local gentry, a substantial number of these mercenaries gradually transformed into the backbone of the defense force of Fu-chien province and became the main protectors of Chinese commercial interests in the East and South China Seas. Wrestling with other maritime competitors, the Cheng clan and their followers were dragged into a whirlpool of power struggles with the Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, and English in the China Sea region during the early stages of globalization. The fall of the Ming Empire allowed the Cheng lineage to create an independent, but short-lived sea-borne regime in China's southeastern coastal provinces.

Wei-chung Cheng

Wei-chung Cheng(1974) holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology from National Taiwan University, an MA in Sociology from National Cheng-chi University and an MA in History from Leiden University. He served at the National Museum of Taiwan History during 2005-6 and continued to pursue his research towards a PhD degree in History at Leiden University.



WEI-CHUNG CHENG WAR, TRADE AND PIRACY IN THE CHINA SEAS (1622-1683)

