



Diplomacy Between Taiwan and Manila: A New Letter From Zheng Jing

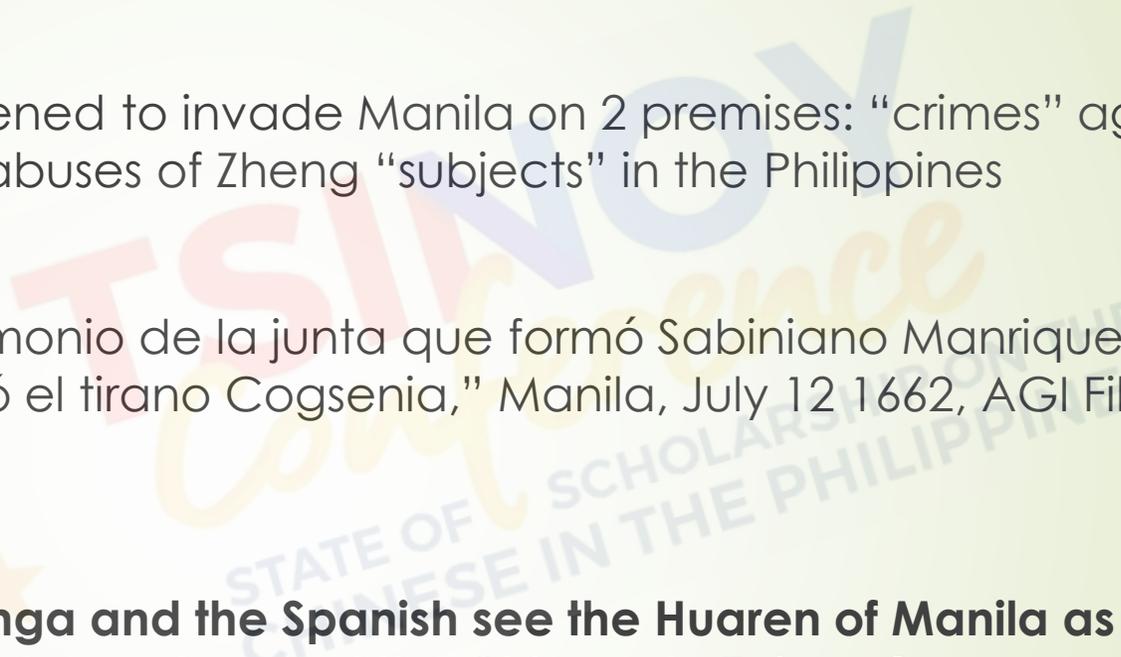
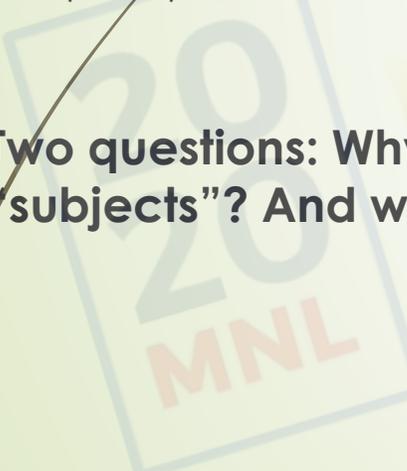
Patrick Stein





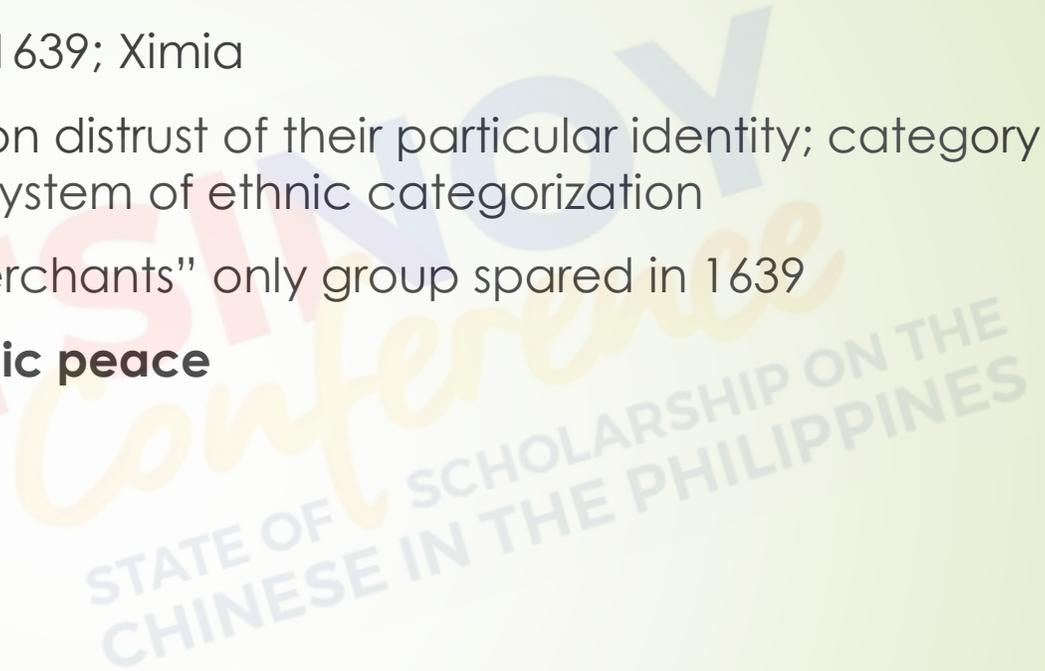
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"Descripción de la isla Hermosa y parte de la China y de la isla Manila," AGI MP-Filipinas 141, Pedro de Vera, Manila, 1626. Compare to de los Rios' map of 1597.

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- ▶ Koxinga, by way of Riccio, threatened to invade Manila on 2 premises: “crimes” against Zheng-affiliated merchants, and abuses of Zheng “subjects” in the Philippines
 - ▶ Decision to expel Chinese: “Testimonio de la junta que formó Sabiniano Manrique de Lara sobre la carta que le escribió el tirano Cogsenia,” Manila, July 12 1662, AGI Filipinas 201, N.1, f81r-84v.
 - ▶ **Two questions: Why did both Koxinga and the Spanish see the Huaren of Manila as Zheng “subjects”? And why did de Lara choose to expel the Chinese to Taiwan?**
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Ethnicity and Sovereignty: Who's "Subjects" Were The Sangleys?

- Prehistory of Zhengs in Manila: Iquan in 1639; Ximia
- Spanish conflicts w/ Chinese centered on distrust of their particular identity; category of "Chinese" was awkward fit w/ Spanish system of ethnic categorization
- Role of merchant mediators: "Amoy merchants" only group spared in 1639
- **Zheng as extraterritorial arbiters of ethnic peace**

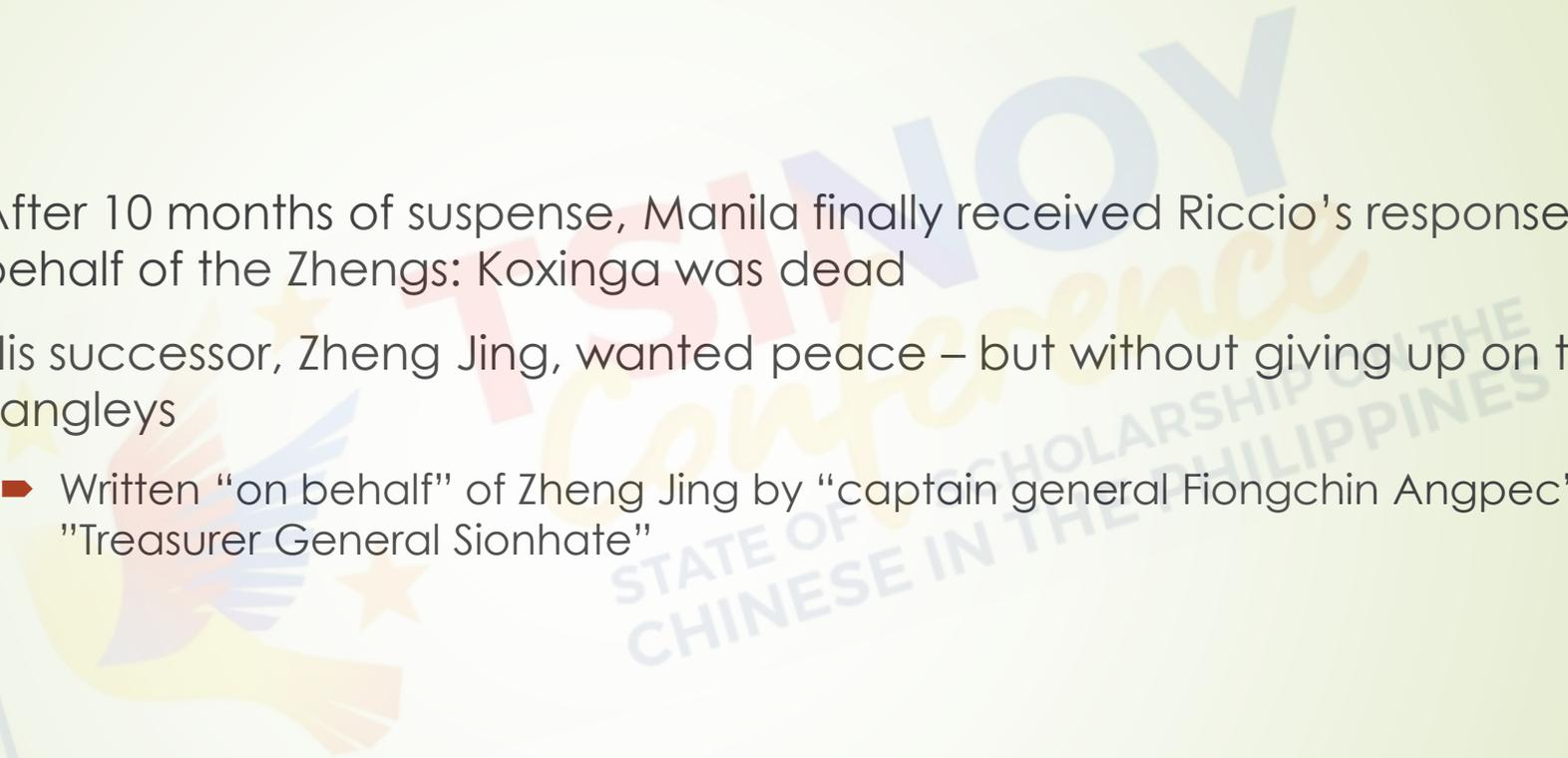


Facts on the Ground: Demographic Movements In Space of Diplomatic Lag

- ▶ While the Spanish awaited Chenggong's reply, they:
 - ▶ 1. Pulled back soldiers from Zamboanga and other forts;
 - ▶ 2. Put the Chinese of the Parian to work demolishing stone buildings near Intramuros;
 - ▶ 3. Arranged meetings with 10 prominent Chinese merchants;
 - ▶ 4. Fired on concerned Chinese protestors;
 - ▶ 5. Put down a rebellion of some 2000 Chinese convinced they were about to be massacred;
 - ▶ 6. Coordinated with local shipowners to ship off as many pagan Chinese as possible to Zheng Taiwan.

Zheng Jing's Letter

- ▶ After 10 months of suspense, Manila finally received Riccio's response on behalf of the Zhengs: Koxinga was dead
- ▶ His successor, Zheng Jing, wanted peace – but without giving up on the Sangleys
 - ▶ Written “on behalf” of Zheng Jing by “captain general Fiongchin Angpec” and “Treasurer General Sionhate”



Preamble

“To the lord Governor and captain general of the Kingdom of Luzon, in the name and by the order of the King of Isla Hermosa, Prince of Subenchiu, the mandarin governors of said state, who are the captain general **Fiongchin Angpec** and the Treasurer General **Sionhate**, together write this letter:

Our poor and lowly Kingdom has long had a singular correspondence, affection and affinity with your noble Kingdom, with reciprocal commerce and business. The majesty and greatness as well as the virtue of our past King has been made manifest to the entire globe. There is no place which has not been reached by his fame, which is the single cause for which the ships come and go like clouds through the two gulfs of east and west, reaching even the last corners of the sea and every kingdom upon which the sun rises, without there being any sort of person to whom his fame and wisdom have not been communicated and who did not offer and present him gifts from all the lands of the world.

Requests

We ask of you that the ships which still have not returned from Luzon come back with the silver and goods which are being detained inside and outside of the royal storehouses and that they be given back to us; that you punish those responsible for the deaths of innocents especially in Nueva Segovia and Vigan, where they killed our captains and others while detaining our goods; that you look upon the men of China who come to those parts with the eyes of a father and that you give them assurances and keep each one in his post and role; and that regarding the fleet registers of our junks the established rules are kept without augmenting prices and without making them suffer aggravations. We remit ourselves in all else to whatever the Father negotiates until coming to the ultimate resolution and agreement. In receiving the response of this embassy we will inform our Prince Sichu (with whose full authority we govern the state) of the agreement which has been determined so that commerce can continue as previously without there ever being any difficulty whatsoever with the agreement so reached. Supposing your noble Kingdom joins gladly in these conveniences there is no need to imagine war nor hostilities, and is this not much better? We hope your lordship will pardon us if we have dared to express to you the inside of our hearts, and now it only rests on your lordship with your most excellent understanding to work out the preparations and negotiations. We send this to your lordship in year 17 of King Englec [?] the 24th of the second moon.

- 1. That the property of the Chinese who stayed in the Philippines be returned, whether held inside or outside of the Royal storehouses. [Followed by a partial list of such property.]
- 2. That all of the artillery and weapons which were left in Manila last year also be returned to their owners.
- 3. That the Lord Governor punishes the crime of the murder of many innocent people, including some very old and even blind people as well as very many married Christians; and especially the deaths in Cagayan and Vigan of the captains of two junks as well as a teacher and fourteen sailors, making the total number of these dead seventeen.
- 4. That the Lord Governor publishes severe regulations to the effect that Indian and black soldiers do not bother, hurt, nor confront the Chinese, and that transgressors be rigorously punished.

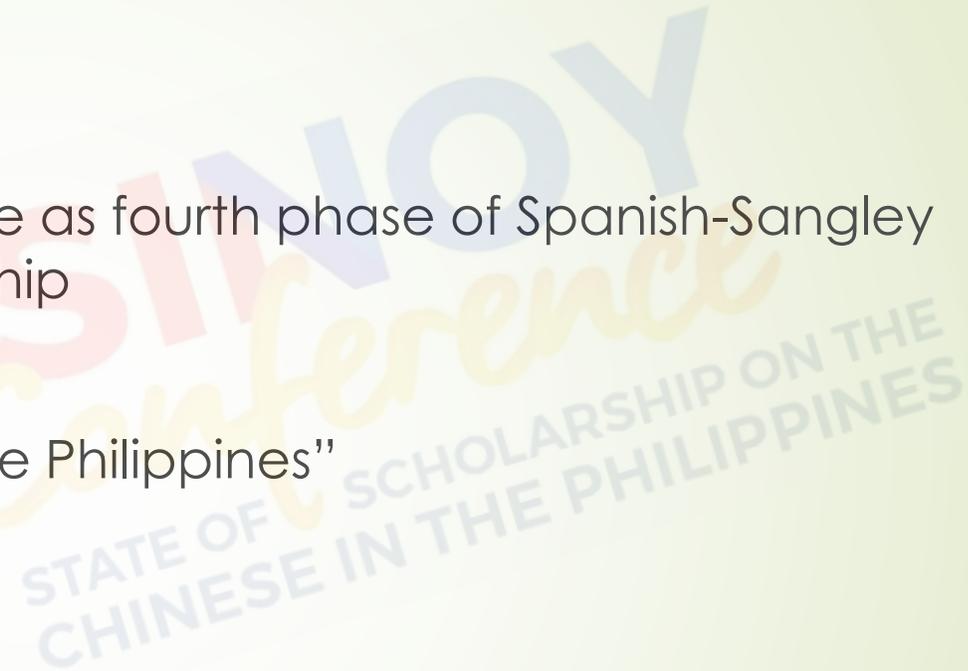
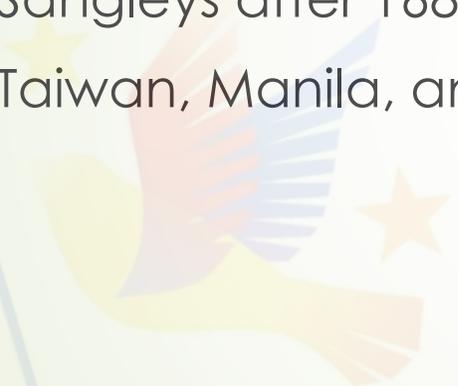
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- 5. That the Lord Governor prohibits with severe penalties the Sangleys' gambling, even on the five days which they are usually conceded for their Easter.
 - 6. That, in conformity with the agreement made with the ambassador Ximia who came to these islands in the year 1657 that every junk coming from China bring 50 Piculs of iron and 50 of grain to be sold for one fifth lower than the going price, no more should be asked of our junks than this. And if your majesty should want more quantities of these they should be paid for at the going price in the land.
 - 7. That the general licences [of residency in the Philippines] be paid in two installments, with six months between.
 - 8. That the licences of 6 reales go back to the former ordinances, except that the communal box where they are kept be held in the middle of the city with the key held by three people: two priests of different denominations and one Chinese elected by the residents of the Parian. Also, that people who have recently arrived from China not be forced to purchase such a license until one month after their arrival, and that people who leave and return within one year not be forced to purchase such a license more than once.

- 9. That the pagan Chinese be conceded the right to purchase a site to bury their dead.
- 10. That the captains of Chinese junks, being serious and important personages, be treated with the courtesy of not paying the license of 6 reales nor any entry fee once they arrive.
- 11. That the Sangleys not be obliged to acquire special licences to go to Tondo, Binondo, Santa Cruz, Quiapo, San Miguel, Dilao, Bagumbaya as far as La Hermita, or Cavite, and that for everywhere else the agreement be kept as it was in the time of the ambassador Ximia.
- 12. That, given their service to your Majesty in the Rivera of Cavite and other works, carriers not be obligated to labor except for those who voluntarily so obligate themselves.
- 13. That junks arriving from China be made to pay only 14 pesos upon arrival and 2 pesos upon departure, and that they not be obligated to give any gifts to the accountant in charge.

- 14. That, given the continuous work which both Christian and pagan Chinese have had to perform over the past 10 months in the reparation of fortifications, the Lord Governor relieve them of this labor.
- 15. That due to the grave inconvenience which it causes those from Vigan who have moved to the Parian, those Sangleyes who have wives and families be allowed to relocate to their old homes. (This point as well as 14 were added by Victorio Riccio with the authority invested in him as ambassador.)
- 16. That all those Sangleyes who live in said Parian, or in any other part of the islands who are Vagabond and Sinful and who live scandalously with no profession, be obliged to return to China.
- 17. That all the articles here expressed as well as those agreed upon with said ambassador Ximia, not all recapitulated here, be observed and preserved in all the Islands of this archipelago subject to this government with assent, longevity, and firmness in perpetual peace.”

Conclusions

- 20 years of Zheng peace as fourth phase of Spanish-Sangleys relations – quasi-citizenship
- Sangleys after 1683
- Taiwan, Manila, and “the Philippines”



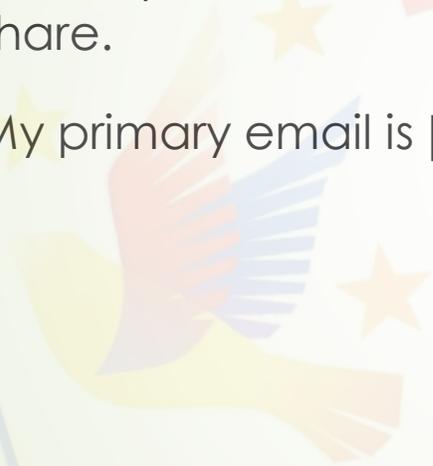
Primary Citations

- ▶ “Copia de la junta en que se vio la carta de los mandarines gobernadores del reino de Chino de trajo Victorio Riccio pidiendo que continúe el trato con esa ciudad,” AGI Filipinas 201, f.38-53, 1663.
- ▶ “Testimonio de la junta que formó Sabiniano Manrique de Lara sobre la carta que le escribió el tirano Cogsenia,” Manila, July 12 1662, AGI Filipinas 201, N.1, f81r-84v.
- ▶ “Copia de la junta en que se vio la carta de los mandarines gobernadores del reino de Chino que trajo Victorio Riccio pidiendo que continúe el trato con esa ciudad,” AGI Filipinas 201, f.38-53, 5/6/1663.
- ▶ Victorio Riccio, *Acts of the Order of Preachers in the Empire of China* [Manila, 1673], reprinted in José Eugenio Borao Mateo, ed., *Spaniards in Taiwan: Documents* (Taipei: SMC Pub, 2001)



Contact

- ▶ If anyone would look to see the full letter, either in my translation or my transcription of the Spanish original, please reach out! I'd be happy to share.
- ▶ My primary email is **patrick.f.stein@gmail.com**



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