The Chinese Silver Trade

1. Between 1500 and 1800, what percentage of the world’s silver trade did Mexico and Peru produce?
2. Where was over 40% of that silver going?



1. What were Europeans trading silver for?
2. What were the Chinese using this silver for?
3. Which dynasty developed the world’s first paper money?
4. What was paper money “only as good as?”
5. How did the Yuan and Ming undermine paper money?
6. What did Europeans want to hoard silver for?
7. What did Europeans eventually use to replace the silver trade to China with?



1. What did the Chinese name the Silver coin with the bust of Carlos IV? What happened to the price of this coin?
2. Why were the Dutch making coins with the face of a dead Spanish king?
3. What effect did the silver trade have on the world?
4. Why were few good traded over long distance in pre-industrial times?
5. Why were American crops were important to Chinese agriculture in the eighteenth century?

