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Today, China is simply returning to its old position as one of the world's great military powers. By showing that China's military dynamism was deeper, longer lasting, and more quickly recovered than previously understood, The Gunpowder Age challenges long-standing explanations of the so-called Great Divergence between the West and Asia.

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the gunpowder revolution and the military revolution helped transform Europe's feudal structures, laying the groundwork for Western global dominance.<sup>11</sup> But the gunpowder age actually lasted a millennium, from the first use of gunpowder in warfare in the late 900s to its replacement by smokeless powder around 1900.

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The Age of Gunpowder, China, Military Innovation, and the Rise of the West in World History. By Tonio Andrade . Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2016.

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The Gunpowder Age: China, Military Innovation, and the Rise of the West. by Tonio Andrade. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2016. ISBN 978-0-691-13597-7.

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The Chinese invented gunpowder and began exploring its military uses as early as the 900s, four centuries before the technology passed to the West. But by the early 1800s, China had fallen so far behind the West in gunpowder warfare that it was easily defeated by Britain in the Opium War of 1839-42.

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Between 1500 and 1800, China and Russia grew dramatically, both in territory controlled and population. In comparison to Russia and China, the seaborne trading empires of the Portuguese, Dutch, French, and English had less territory, tighter administrations, and much more global sweep.

### **Age of Gunpowder Empires 1450 – 1800 Changed the balance**

reinvented in Europe, there was an unbroken tradition of drill in China and even the technique of (crossbow) volley fire had existed at least since the Tang dynasty.

### **Andrade, Tonio: Gunpowder Age. China, Military Innovation**

Andrade, Tonio (2016), *The Gunpowder Age: China, Military Innovation, and the Rise of the West in World History*, Princeton University Press, ISBN 978-0-691-13597-7. Arnold, Thomas (2001), *The Renaissance at War*, Cassell & Co, ISBN 0-304-35270-5; Benton, Captain James G. (1862). *A Course of Instruction in Ordnance and Gunnery* (2 ed.). West Point, New York: Thomas Publications.

### **Timeline of the gunpowder age - Wikipedia**

A Chinese "thunderbomb" made of paper and bamboo wrapping two pounds of gunpowder and iron filings is mentioned to have been in use in Japan; Chinese style bombs are used as trebuchet shots until at least 1500

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