

## ***Brief Chronology of Major Events in Macau History***

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- 214 BC            During the Qin Dynasty the site of Hong Kong and Macau , inhabited by a Tai people, comes under Chinese rule for the first time as part of the new province of Nan-Hai (South Sea).
- 1513            The Portuguese bring the first post-medieval European embassy to China. They sail past Hong Kong and Macau on their way to Guangzhou.
- 1553            Portuguese navigators bribe government officials in Guangdong Province for permission to dock in Macau harbor.
- 1553-1639       Portuguese lay foundations for an on-going and profitable trade with China, Japan, and other kingdoms in the Far East.
- 1557            Portugal is given the right, by payment of an annual tribute to establish a trading post in Macau. It is the first European outpost in the Far East
- 1558            Santa Casa de Misericordia opens. It is the oldest medical welfare institution in Asia.
- 1565            The Jesuits settle in Macau and begin spreading Christianity.
- 1594            The Jesuits establish the College of the Mother of God, the first western style university in the Far East.
- 1603            Dutch arrive in Macau.
- 1622            Portuguese defeat the Dutch in a bitter battle on June 24. This event is still commemorated yearly as the Dia da Cidade (The Day of the City).
- 1635            The first British ship, the *London*, docks in Macau on July 23. A fine is imposed on the Portuguese for al-

- lowing dangerous “red barbarians in port.”
- 1640 Portuguese language becomes international language of commerce.
- 1728 St. Joseph’s Seminary founded in February.
- 1762 The Jesuits are expelled from China, which includes Macau.
- 1840 Portuguese seize islands of Taipa and Coloane.
- 1844 Portuguese government forces Qing government to sign Sino-Portuguese Treaty of Peking. Portugal is to administer and govern Macau and adjacent areas in perpetuity. Macau becomes overseas province of Portugal.
- 1848 Portugal declares Macau a free trading zone and stops payment of tributes to China.
- 1887 China cedes Macau to Portugal by ratifying the Treaty of Lisbon.
- 1888 Portugal signs Treaty of Commerce and Friendship giving Portugal sovereignty over Macau. China never ratified this treaty.
- 1901 Macau has 80,000 inhabitants, of which 4000 are Portuguese.
- 1955 Portugal passes a law declaring Macau one of its overseas colonies. When the new government in Portugal following a successful coup came into power, it recognized Macau as a part of China’s territory.
- 1960s St. Joseph Seminary, that has given many priests to Macau and to other Portuguese territories, and even martyrs to the church, closes. It is now a place of pilgrimage.
- 1967 The Cultural Revolution threatens to extend into Hong Kong and Macau. The Red Guards fail in their attempt

- to destabilized either colony.
- 1974 Portugal declares its will to resolve Macau's political situation, stressing that it has no intention of having sovereignty over Macau against the wishes of the Beijing government.
- 1976 The Macau Organic Law of 1976 stipulates that Macau is a special area under Portuguese rule and enjoys administrative, economic, financial, and legislative autonomy.
- 1979 Portugal and China resume diplomatic relations on February 8, 1979. Portugal and Beijing sign a declaration in Paris, and agree to "the principle of mutual respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity" of Macau, which recognizes implicitly that Macau is Chinese territory under Portuguese administration.
- 1987 On April 13 after a series of talks, the prime ministers of Macau and China sign the Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration on Macau. This Declaration stipulates that Macau will return to Chinese sovereignty on December 20, 1999.
- 1990 Domingos Lam appointed first Chinese bishop of Macau in February.
- 1993 On March 31, Beijing issues Macau's mini-constitution or Basic Law meant to regulate the affairs of the enclave for fifty years following the handover.
- 1999 On May 16, banker turned legislator Edmund Ho Hauwah wins 81.9% of votes to become Macau's first chief executive. Macau's Preparation Committee, chaired by Vice-President Qian Qichen, approves the result of the election.
- 1999 December 20, after 450 years under Portuguese administration, Macau reverts to Chinese sovereignty.