

Empires in East Asia, 600-1350

Several kingdoms and empires arise in East Asia, helping to spread Hinduism and Buddhism, as well as trade, technology, and culture.



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Empires in East Asia, 600-1350

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Chapter 12

Section-1

Tang and Song China

During the Tang and Song dynasties, China experiences an era of prosperity and technological innovation.



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Section-1

Tang and Song China

The Tang Dynasty Expands China

Brief Reign of the Sui Dynasty

- Sui Dynasty, established by Wendi, lasts from 581 to 618
- Main accomplishment: completing Grand Canal, which expands trade
- Forced labor, high taxes lead to revolt; Sui emperor assassinated, 618

Tang Rulers Create a Powerful Empire

- Tang Dynasty (618 to 907) begun by brilliant emperor **Tang Taizong**
- **Wu Zhao**—only woman in China to assume title of emperor
- Tang rulers expand and unify empire, strengthen government



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The Tang Dynasty Expands China *{continued}*

Scholar-Officials

- Tang rulers revive civil service examination system
- Theoretically, exams open to all men, even commoners
- Practically, only rich can afford necessary education to take exam
- Growth of bureaucracy cuts power of nobles

The Tang Lose Power

- Tang rulers increase taxes in mid-700s, causing hardship
- Attacks on empire increase; in 907, last Tang emperor killed



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The Song Dynasty Restores China

Turmoil Followed by Strong Rule

- In 960, Taizu reunites China, proclaims Song Dynasty (960–1279)
- Song rulers unable to recapture lands lost in west and north
- In 1100s, Jurchen people arise in Manchuria, set up own empire
- In 1127, Song rulers forced south; build new capital at Hangzhou
- Southern Song empire lasts from 1127 to 1279



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An Era of Propensity and Innovation

Growth

- Population doubles during Tang and Song Dynasties to 100 million
- China becomes most populous country in the world

Science and Technology

- Chinese invent gunpowder, porcelain, mechanical clock, paper money
- **Movable type**—blocks of individual characters—makes printing easier
- In mathematics, Chinese develop use of negative numbers

Agriculture

- Advances in farming contribute to population growth
- Main advance: new strain of rice that produces two crops a year



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An Era of Prosperity and Innovation *{continued}*

Trade and Foreign Contacts

- In early Tang, trade with west over Silk Road
- During Tang decline, Chinese depend more on ocean trade routes
- Trade stretches from Japan to Southeast Asia, India, Africa
- Trade helps Buddhism spread

A Golden Age of Poetry and Art

- Tang period produces great poetry, including works of Li Bo and Tu Fu
- Song period known for brilliant painting



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Changes in Chinese Society

Levels of Society

- Power of noble families fades
- Wealthy scholar-officials form new upper class, called the **gentry**
- Urban middle class below gentry in social structure
- Laborers, soldiers, peasants at bottom of social structure

The Status of Women

- Status of women always lower than men in China
- That status falls even lower during Tang and Song periods
- Foot binding of upper-class girls becomes new custom



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The Mongol Conquests

The Mongols, a nomadic people from the steppe, conquer settled societies across much of Asia.



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Section-2

The Mongol Conquests

Nomads of Asian Steppe

Geography of the Steppe

- Steppe—dry grassland of Eurasia—provides home for nomads
- Two main expanses: Central Asia to eastern Europe, and Mongolia
- Steppe has little rain, dramatic seasonal temperature differences

The Nomadic Way of Life

- Steppe nomads are **pastoralists**—herd domesticated animals
- Way of life teaches Asian nomads to be skilled horse riders
- Nomads travel in **clans**—kin groups linked by common ancestor



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Nomads of the Asian Steppe *{continued}*

Steppe Nomads and Settled Societies

- Nomads and people living in settled communities often interact
- Some interactions peaceful, as in trade
- Sometimes nomads raid towns and cities to seize wealth, goods
- Strong state or empire could protect its lands from these invasions



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The Rise of the Mongols

Genghis Khan Unites the Mongols

- About 1200, **Genghis Khan**—“universal ruler”—unites Mongols
- In early 1200s, begins campaign of conquest
- By 1225, controls Central Asia

Genghis the Conqueror

- A brilliant organizer, strategist
- Uses brutality to terrorize enemies, force surrenders



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The Mongol Empire

Death and Succession

- Genghis Khan dies in 1227
- Successors continue conquests for 50 years
- Conquer territory from China to Poland

The Khanates

- In east, Mongols conquer northern China and invade Korea
- In west, Mongols take Kiev and threaten Vienna and Venice
- In 1250s, Mongols turn their attention to Persia
- By 1260, Mongol Empire split into khanates, four regions



The Mongol Empire *{continued}*

The Mongols as Rulers

- Mongol rulers are tolerant of other peoples, cultures
- Some Mongols adopt local ways, leading to split among khanates

The Mongol Peace

- Peaceful period from mid-1200s to mid-1300s called **Pax Mongolica**
- Much east-west trade, exchange of ideas during this period



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The Mongol Empire

As Emperor of China, Kublai Khan encourages foreign trade.



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The Mongol Empire

Kublai Khan Becomes Emperor

A New Emperor

- **Kublai Khan**, grandson of Genghis, becomes great khan in 1260
- Kublai conquers China by 1279

Beginning a New Dynasty

- Establishes Yuan Dynasty (1279–1368), period of peace, prosperity
- Kublai adopts Chinese ways, builds capital at Beijing

Failure to Conquer Japan

- In 1274 and 1281, Kublai tries but fails to conquer Japan
- Massive second invasion destroyed by typhoon



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The Mongol Rule in China

The Mongols and the Chinese

- Mongols live separately from Chinese, follow own laws
- Mongols keep top government posts, put Chinese in local positions
- Kublai extends Grand Canal to Beijing, builds highway

Foreign Trade

- Trade increases under Kublai, sending Chinese products to other lands
- Kublai invites merchants from other lands to China



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Mongol Rule in China *{continued}*

Marco Polo at the Mongol Court

- Venetian trader **Marco Polo** visits China in 1275
- Polo returns to Venice in 1292; tells stories of what he saw in China
 - fabulous cities, fantastic wealth
 - Burning “black stones” (coal) to heat Chinese homes
- Kublai Khan’s government and trade in Beijing
- These stories gathered into a book; most readers doubt its truth



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The End of Mongol Rule

Declining Power

- Failed expeditions to Southeast Asia show weakness of Yuan Dynasty
- High taxes cause resentment

Yuan Dynasty Overthrown

- Kublai dies in 1294; successors are weak
- In 1300s, rebellions break out, leading to formation of Ming Dynasty

Decline of the Mongol Empire

- Mongol rule collapses in Persia in 1330s; in Central Asia in 1370s
- By end of 1300s, only Mongol rule in Russia remains, the Golden Horde



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Feudal Powers in Japan

Japanese civilization is shaped by cultural borrowing from China and the rise of feudalism and military rulers.



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Chapter 12

Section-4

Feudal Powers in Japan

The Growth of Japanese Civilization

Japan's Location

- Japan lies east of China; name means “land of the rising sun”
- Closest neighbor is 120 miles over water, Korea
- 500 miles of water separate it from China

The Geography of Japan

- Consists of about 4,000 islands in a 12,000-mile archipelago
- Varied climate, but little land for farming



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The Growth of Japanese Civilization *{continued}*

Early Japan

- Many different clans worshipped own gods
- This early religion later called **Shinto**—“the way of the gods”
- Shinto worshipers respect forces of nature, ancestors, and kami
- Kami—divine spirits dwelling in nature: tree, rock, waterfall

The Yamato Emperors

- By 400s, Yamato clan takes control, names emperor
- For many centuries, Yamato emperors rule; sometimes in name only



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Japanese Culture

Buddhism in Japan

- Japanese learn Chinese ideas, customs from contact with Korea
- Buddhism spreads widely in Japan, mixes with Shinto practices

Cultural Borrowing from China

- Prince Shotoku rules as regent; sponsors missions to Tang China
- Chinese ideas, practices gain wide currency in Japan as result
- Japanese adopt Chinese writing, art, and ways of everyday living
- Japan does not copy China's civil-service system



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Life in the Heian Period

The Heian Court

- In late 700s, Japanese move capital from Nara to Heian (modern Kyoto)
- Heian's upper class creates a highly refined court society
- Rules, rituals, and artistic pursuits structure court life
- The Tale of Genji by Lady Murasaki Shikibu illustrates Heian society
- This 11th-century masterpiece is considered the world's first novel



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Feudalism Erodes Imperial Authority

Decline of Central Power

- During most of Heian period (794–1185) rich Fujiwara family rules
- In mid-1000s, large landowners build private armies, become warlords
- Small landowners trade land to warlords in exchange for protection
- Feudal system of local rule develops; Fujiwara family loses power

Samurai Warriors

- Landowners take **samurai**—warriors—as bodyguards
- Samurai live according to **Bushido**—demanding code of behavior





Feudalism Erodes Imperial Authority *{continued}*

The Kamakura Shogunate

- In late 1100s, Minamoto family wins in struggle for power
- In 1192, Yoritomo becomes **shogun**—military dictator running Japan
- Shogun rules from Kamakura, while emperor stays in Kyoto
- Kamakura shoguns use samurai to repel Mongol invasions (1274, 1281)



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Kingdoms of Southeast Asia and Korea

Several smaller kingdoms prosper in East and Southeast Asia, a region culturally influenced by China and India.



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Kingdoms of Southeast Asia and Korea

Kingdoms of Southeast Asia

Geography of Southeast Asia

- Area between Indian and Pacific Oceans, includes mainland and islands
- Five major rivers on mainland, but mountains make travel difficult
- Key to power in region is control of trade routes and harbors

Influence of India and China

- Indian traders arrive in first century A.D.; bring Buddhism, Hinduism
- Indian influence remains today
- Chinese migrants and traders bring Chinese influence



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Kingdoms of Southeast Asia *{continued}*

The Khmer Empire

- By 800s the Khmer conquers kingdoms, creates an empire
- **Khmer Empire** (now Cambodia) controls Southeast Asian mainland
- Rulers build temple complexes in capital, Angkor
- **Angkor Wat**—square mile complex dedicated to Hindu god Vishnu

Island Trading Kingdoms

- Sailendra dynasty rules on Java; its culture shows Indian influence
- Island empire Srivijaya dominated area from 600s to 1200s



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Kingdoms of Southeast Asia

Dai Viet

- During Han Dynasty, China controls Southeast Asia
- Vietnam becomes an independent kingdom, Dai Viet, in 939
- Influenced by Chinese culture: Buddhism, government
- Keep own cultural identity; women have some independence
- Ly Dynasty (1009–1225) establishes capital at Hanoi



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Korean Dynasties

Korean Culture

- **Combines Chinese culture with native traditions**

Geography of Korea

- Peninsula with little arable land; mountains and seas isolate it

Early History

- Different clans control areas; in 108 B.C., Han China conquers Korea
- Chinese introduce governing method, religions, system of writing
- Regional powers arise; the Silla defeats others, drives out Chinese
- Silla rule: Buddhist monasteries, bronze sculptures, writing system



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Korean Dynasties *{continued}*

The Koryu Dynasty

- In 935, Wang Kon takes control, forms **Koryu Dynasty**, rules to 1392
- Models government on China's civil service system, with differences
- Mongols dominate Korea from 1231 to 1360s
- In 1392, scholar-officials overthrow Koryu Dynasty

Koryu Culture

- Inspired by Song artists; Korean artists produce celadon pottery
- Korean artisans produce wood blocks for printing Buddhist scriptures



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