

# China and the World

## 500 - 1300



AP WORLD HISTORY NOTES  
CHAPTER 9

# China after the Han Dynasty



- Political disunity following the collapse of the Han dynasty
- During this time, many Chinese people began to migrate south
  - Partly a natural migration
  - Partly due to the nomads from the north creeping in
  - Result = by 1000 CE, about 60% of China's population was in southern China
  - Result = the Chinese destroyed forests and land in southern China as they brought their intense agriculture with them

# The Reunification of China



- China regained its unity under the Sui dynasty (589-618)
- Reunified China with the construction of the Grand Canal
- Short-lived dynasty
  - Ruthless emperors = unpopular
  - Failed attempt to conquer Korea → wasted resources and upset people
  - Sui dynasty = overthrown



# The Grand Canal



# The Reunification of China



- Sui dynasty was followed by: the Tang dynasty (618-907) and the Song dynasty (960-1279)
- Both used the same state structure:
  - Centralized government
  - 6 major departments = personnel, finance, rites, army, justice, and public works
  - Censorate = agency that watched over the rest of government to make sure everything ran smoothly
  - Government officials chosen based on a revived Confucian-based examination system



# Tang and Song Dynasties

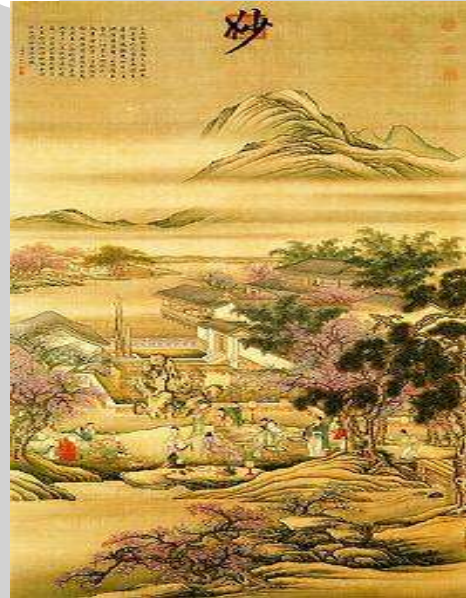


Map 9.1 Tang and Song Dynasty China  
Chapter 9, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, First Edition  
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# The “Golden Age” of China



- Focus on arts and literature
- Excellence in poetry, landscape painting, and ceramics
- Neo-Confucianism = revival of Confucianism mixed with Buddhist and Daoist elements



# The “Economic Revolution” of China



- Advancements in agriculture
- Most important = adoption of a fast-ripening and drought-resistant strain of rice from Vietnam
- Result = rapid population growth
  - Jumped to 120 million people by 1200 CE



# The Urbanization of China



- Many people began to move to cities
- Dozens of Chinese cities numbered over 100,000 people
- Capital of Song dynasty = Hangzhou
  - Had over 1 million people



Modern picture of Hangzhou

# Chinese Industrial Production

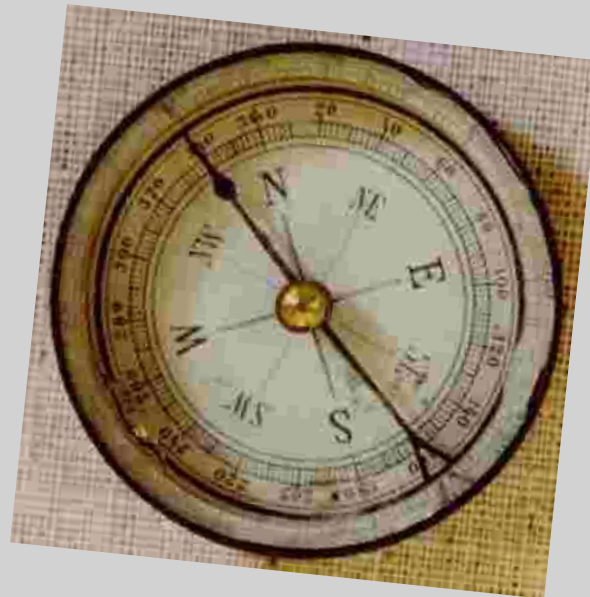


- Iron industry boomed
- Used to make: suits of armor, arrowheads, coins, tools, bells in Buddhist monasteries, etc.

# Chinese Innovations



- Woodblock and moveable type → led to the first printed books
- Larger ships and magnetic compass
- Gunpowder



# Women in the Song Dynasty



- Chinese women HAD been enjoying a looser patriarchal system
- With Song dynasty = major revival of Confucianism = belief in female subordination
- Patriarchal restrictions began to tighten again

# Foot Binding



- Began between the ages of 4 and 7
- Involved the tight wrapping of young girls' feet
  - Broke the bones and caused intense pain
  - Goal = to make the feet small and delicate
- Sign of female beauty
- Kept the women at home
- Began with just elite women, but soon became a common practice with all classes





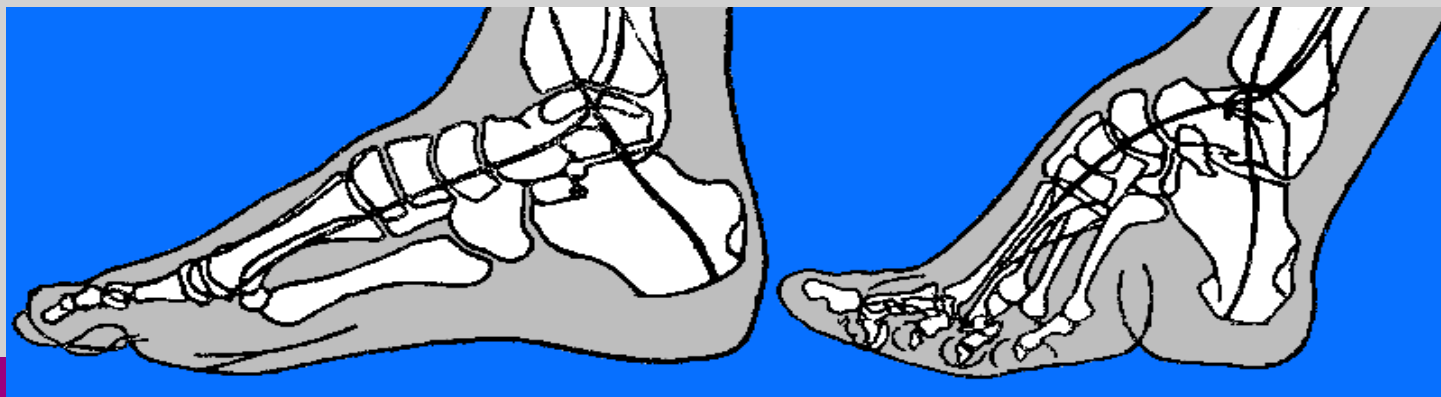
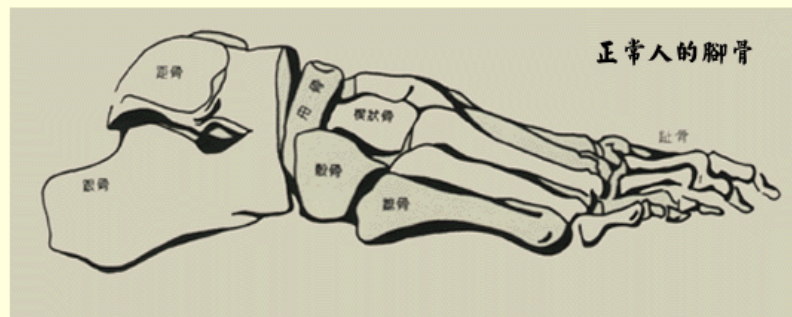
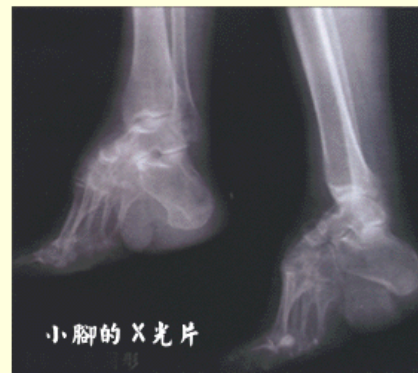
# Foot Binding



# Foot Binding



# Foot Binding



# Women and the Economy: Textiles



- China's economy became more commercial
- More factories and workshops → less home-made products
  - Workshops and factories run by men
  - Factories now used to produce silk and other textiles
  - Takes this job away from women

# Women and the Economy: Other Jobs



- What did women do instead?
  - Operated restaurants
  - Sold fish and vegetables
  - Maids, cooks, dressmakers
  - Concubines
  - Courtesans
  - Entertainers
  - Prostitutes



# Positive Trends for Women



- Property rights expanded
  - Controlled own dowries
  - Inherited family property
- Promotion of further education for women
  - To raise sons effectively
  - To increase family's fortune

# China & the Northern Nomads



- Most enduring and intense interaction
- Nomads = pastoral and semi-agricultural people in the northern steppe
- Relationship began as a result of TRADE
- Began a centuries-long relationship filled with trading, raiding, and extortion

# The Nomads' Point of View



- Nomads thought the Chinese were a threat
  - Built the Great Wall to keep them out
  - Directed their military towards them occasionally
  - Made trading more difficult than it had to be
- In reality: the Chinese needed the nomads
  - Needed horses for their military
  - Needed other goods like: furs, hides, amber
  - Many important parts of the Silk Road network were in nomad territories

# China's Point of View



- Nomads = barbaric and primitive
- Chinese = sophisticated and civilized
- Chinese = felt superior to ALL non-Chinese cultures/people, not just the nomads
- This resulted in the Chinese tribute system



versus



# The Tribute System in Theory



- Acknowledgement of Chinese superiority by foreigners and non-Chinese authorities
- Foreigners would go to the Chinese court and:
  - Perform a series of ritual bowings and gestures
  - Present their tribute = valuable goods/products from their homeland
- In return, the Chinese emperor would:
  - Grant them permission to stay & trade in China
  - Provide them with gifts or “bestowals”





# The Tribute System in Reality



- China = dealing with large nomadic empires (like the Xiongnu) that had powerful militaries
- Reality = tribute system in reverse
  - China = gave the nomads “gifts” of wine, silk, grains, and other goods
  - In return = the nomads promised to not invade or attack China



# China and Korea



- Initial outlet for Chinese influence = temporary conquest of Korea by China during Han dynasty
  - Korean resistance urged China to withdraw its military presence in 688
  - Tribute system & trading relationship still existed
- Chinese cultural elements adopted by the Koreans:
  - Buddhism
  - Confucianism
  - Government set-up
  - Chinese models of family life and female behavior



# Impact on Korean Women



- No longer allowed to live and raise her children in her parents' home with her husband
- Practices that faded away:
  - Husband buried with the wife's family
  - Remarriage of widowed or divorced women
  - Female inheritance of property
  - Plural marriages for men



# China and Vietnam



- Vietnam was part of the Chinese state for over 1000 years (111 BCE to 939 CE)
- Chinese cultural elements adopted by the Vietnamese:
  - Confucianism
  - Daoism
  - Buddhism
  - Administrative techniques
  - Examination system
  - Artistic and literary styles



# China and Vietnam



- Chinese elements *forced* upon the Vietnamese:
  - Confucian-based schools
  - Chinese = official language for businesses
  - Chinese clothing and hairstyles = mandatory
  - Chinese-style irrigated agriculture
- Result = Vietnamese resistance and rebellion
  - Several failed rebellions → Ex: the Trung sisters
  - Successful rebellion = 10<sup>th</sup> century when Tang dynasty weakened in China





# China and Vietnam



- Uniquely Vietnamese cultural elements that remained in Vietnam despite Chinese influences:
  - Distinct Vietnamese language
  - Cockfighting
  - Chewing betel nuts
  - Greater role for women in social and economic life



# China and Japan



- Unlike Korea and Vietnam – Japan is physically separated from China
- Result = Japan was never successfully invaded or conquered by China
- Result = any Chinese cultural elements adopted by Japan = 100% voluntary
- Result = Japan will retain a very unique & distinct culture

# Japan



- Early Japan = organized around family-based clans that controlled certain regions
- Each family descended from a different common ancestor
  - Each clan worshipped this ancestor as a special kami = spirit
- Shinto = belief that kamis live within all people, animals, and nature



# Japan

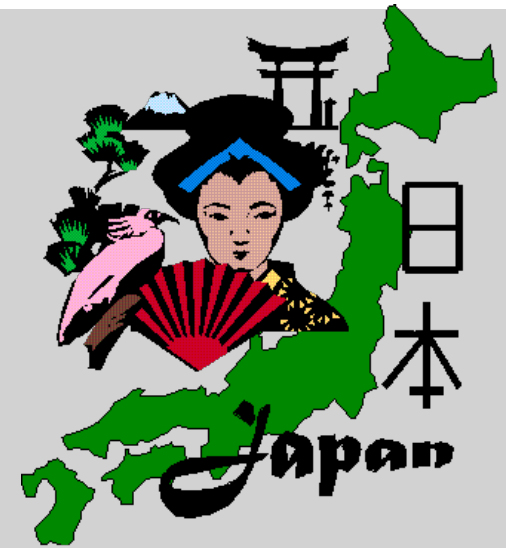


- As these clans began to unify into a Japanese “state”, Japan began to model itself after China in some ways
- Elements adopted from China:
  - Buddhism and Confucianism
  - Chinese-style court rituals and court rankings
  - Chinese calendar
  - Chinese-based taxation systems
  - Chinese-style law codes and government departments
  - Chinese-style writing system

# Japan



- Heian Period = 800 – 1200
  - Capital of Japan = Heian (later renamed Kyoto)
- Focus of this period = pursuit of beauty
  - Japanese influenced by Chinese art, literature, calligraphy, poetry, etc.
  - Spent hours each day writing letters and poems
  - Rise of literature → ex: *The Tale of Genji*



源氏物語  
The Tale of Genji





# Heian



# Japan



- In their “search for beauty” during the Heian period, governmental responsibilities were neglected
  - Centralized government broke down
  - Emperor lost power
  - Gave way to “feudal” Japan

# Feudal Japan



Shoguns = generals and  
powerful lords  
Most political and military  
power

Mikado = emperor  
Very little power; figurehead

Code of Bushido  
= samurai code  
of honor

Daimyos = local lords  
Owned estates  
Had private armies

Always fighting  
each other

Samurai = warriors  
Loose-fitting armor  
Fought with swords AND on  
horseback with bows & arrows

Seppuku =  
ritualistic  
suicide →  
belly-slashing

Peasants → worked on the land; paid heavy taxes;  
received protection in return

# Japanese Samurai



# Japanese Women



- Escaped the more oppressive features of Chinese Confucian culture; could:
  - Inherit property
  - Live apart from their husbands
  - Get divorced easily
  - Remarry if widowed or divorced





# Major Chinese Influences on Eurasia



- Two major Chinese innovations that would impact the world for centuries to come:
  - Printing and books
  - Gunpowder



# Printing and Books



- Effects of printing and books in the future:
  - Mass literacy
  - Increased education and scholarship
  - Spread of religion
  - Exchange of information



# Gunpowder



- Effects of gunpowder in the future
  - Cannons and firearms
- “Gunpowder Revolution” = when “gunpowder” empires started and grew as a result of their use of firearms, cannons, and other explosives

