

## Honors World History

- ▶ Unit 6 – Empires in Asia/Indian Ocean Trade 500 C.E. to 1500 C.E.
- ▶ Chapter 12 - Pages 320-344.

### The Restoration of Centralized Imperial Rule in China

- ▶ Toward the end of the sixth century, centralized imperial rule returned to China and persisted for almost 700 years under the Sui, Tang, and Song dynasties (589–1279 C.E.).
- ▶ This period witnessed unprecedented economic prosperity for China.
- ▶ In addition, China, as the "Middle Kingdom," made its influence felt throughout the surrounding territories, creating a larger East Asian society centered on China.
- ▶ The rule of the Sui:
  - ▶ Construction of palaces and granaries.
  - ▶ Repairing the Great Wall.
  - ▶ High taxes and compulsory labor services.
  - ▶ Military expeditions in central Asia & Korea.
- ▶ Grand Canal:
  - ▶ Series of artificial waterways that ultimately reached from Hangzhou in the south to the imperial capital of Chang'an in the west to a terminus near modern Beijing in the north.
  - ▶ The reason for the construction of the canal was to facilitate trade between northern and southern China.
  - ▶ Why build a canal when China had several major rivers?
    - ▶ \_\_\_\_\_.
    - ▶ Now, abundant amounts of rice and other food crops from the Yangzi River valley was available to residents of northern regions.
    - ▶ Created economic and cultural unity.
    - ▶ Grand Canal is still used today, however, other modes of transportation have diminished its significance.
  - ▶ The fall of the Sui:
    - ▶ High taxes and forced labor generated hostility among the people.
    - ▶ Military reverses in Korea.
    - ▶ Revolt against Sui rule.
    - ▶ Rebellions broke out in north China beginning in 610.
    - ▶ Sui Yangdi was assassinated in 618, the end of the dynasty.

### The Economic Development of Tang and Song China

- ▶ A rebel leader seized Chang'an and proclaimed a new dynasty, the Tang.
- ▶ Tang Taizong (627-649 C.E.), the second Tang emperor; ruthless but extremely competent.
- ▶ Era of unusual stability & prosperity.
- ▶ Extensive networks of transportation and communications based on roads, horses, and sometimes human runners.
- ▶ Tang officials maintained inns, postal stations, couriers, and their mounts.
- ▶ Relay teams of 9,600 runners.
- ▶ Equal-field system--land allotted according to needs.
- ▶ Purpose was to ensure an equitable distribution of land and to avoid the concentration of landed property that had caused problems in the Roman Empire.
- ▶ By the early 8th century, however, the system showed signs of strain.
- ▶ Rapidly rising population placed pressure on the land available for distribution.
- ▶ Favors, bribery, or intimidation of officials, families found ways to retain land scheduled for distribution.
- ▶ Bureaucracy of merit through civil service exams.

- ▶ Recruited government officials from the ranks of candidates who had progressed through the Confucian educational system and had mastered the classic works of Chinese literature and philosophy.
- ▶ Foreign relations.
- ▶ Political theory: China was the Middle Kingdom, or the center of civilization.
- ▶ In the north, Tang forces brought Manchuria under imperial authority.
- ▶ They forced the Silla kingdom in Korea to acknowledge the Tang emperor as overlord.
- ▶ To the south, Tang armies conquered the northern part of Vietnam.
- ▶ Tributary system became diplomatic policy.
- ▶ Neighboring lands and peoples would recognize Chinese emperors as their overlords.
- ▶ Envoys from these states would regularly deliver gifts to the court and would perform the kowtow – a ritual prostration during which subordinates knelt before the emperor and touched their foreheads to the ground.
- ▶ Tang decline:
- ▶ Casual and careless leadership led to dynastic crisis.
- ▶ Rebellion of An Lushan in 755 weakened the dynasty.
- ▶ The equal-field system deteriorated.
- ▶ Dwindling tax receipts failed to meet dynastic needs.
- ▶ A large-scale peasant rebellion led by Huang Chao lasted from 875 to 884.
- ▶ He routinely pillaged the rich and distributed a portion of the plunder to the poor.
- ▶ In an effort to control the rebellion, regional military commanders gained power and were beyond control of the emperor.
- ▶ The last Tang emperor abdicated his throne in 907.
- ▶ Following the Tang collapse, warlords ruled China until the Song dynasty reimposed centralized imperial rule in the late tenth century.
- ▶ Song Taizu (reigned 960-976 C.E.) was the founder.
- ▶ Song rulers mistrusted military leaders, and they placed much more emphasis on civil administration, industry, education, and the arts than on military affairs.
- ▶ In Vietnam, the Chinese encountered new strains of fast-ripening rice.
- ▶ Enabled farmers to harvest two crops per year.
- ▶ Result: surplus of food.
- ▶ New agricultural techniques increased production.
- ▶ Heavy iron plows.
- ▶ Harnessed oxen in the north.
- ▶ Water buffaloes in the south.
- ▶ Enriched the soil with manure and composted organic matter.
- ▶ Water wheels.
- ▶ Dams.
- ▶ Terraced mountainsides.
- ▶ Increased food supply encouraged the growth of cities.
- ▶ Chang'an – 2 million people.
- ▶ Hangzhou – 1 million people.
- ▶ Scores of Chinese cities boasted populations of 100,000 or more.
- ▶ These people supported:
- ▶ Restaurants
- ▶ Teahouses
- ▶ Brothels
- ▶ Music halls
- ▶ Theaters
- ▶ Markets
- ▶ Taverns

- ▶ Craft shops.
- ▶ Specialty stores dealing in silk, gems, porcelain, lacquerware, and other goods.
- ▶ Li Bo – Chinese poet – social life of these Chinese cities were one of his principle themes.
- ▶ Another result of increased food production was the emergence of a commercialized agricultural economy.
- ▶ Because of fast-ripening rice, farmers could raise vegetables and fruits for sale on the commercial market.
- ▶ Patriarchal social structure.
- ▶ Ancestor worship became more elaborate.
- ▶ Families diligently sought graves of ancestors.
- ▶ Whole families traveled great distances to attend rituals.
- ▶ Popularity of footbinding.
- ▶ Privileged class during the Song era.
- ▶ Impractical for peasants or lower-class working women in the cities.
- ▶ Why?
- ▶ Enhance their attractiveness.
- ▶ Display their high social standing.
- ▶ Fathers increased control over girls behavior.
- ▶ Technological and industrial development.
- ▶ Porcelain (chinaware).
- ▶ Gunpowder was used in primitive weapons and diffused through Eurasia.
- ▶ Printing developed from wood block to movable type.
- ▶ Naval technology: "south-pointing needle"--the magnetic compass.
- ▶ The emergence of a market economy:
- ▶ Financial instruments: "flying cash" (letters of credit) and in 1024 first paper money printed under government auspices.
- ▶ Problem: printed too much resulted in inflation.
- ▶ Economic surge in China promoted economic growth in the eastern hemisphere.
- ▶ Chinese consumers developed a taste for exotic items.

#### Turkish Migrations and Imperial Expansion

- ▶ Nomadic economy and society:
- ▶ Turkish peoples were nomadic herders; organized into clans with related languages.
- ▶ Central Asia's steppes: good for grazing, little rain, few rivers.
- ▶ Nomads and their animals; few settlements.
- ▶ Nomads drove their herds in migratory cycles.
- ▶ Took account of the seasons and local climatic conditions.
- ▶ Lived mostly on animal products.
- ▶ Yurts – large wool tents.
- ▶ Kumiss – alcoholic drink fermented from mare's milk.
- ▶ Also produced limited amounts of millet, pottery, leather goods, iron.
- ▶ Nomads and settled peoples sought trade, usually on a small scale.
- ▶ Traded goods to satisfy short-term needs.
- ▶ Familiarity with area, they were prominent on caravan routes.
- ▶ Two social classes: nobles and commoners.
- ▶ Fluid class system – could move up or down.
- ▶ Nobles: Charismatic leaders, usually did very little governing.
- ▶ During times of war, increased authority.
- ▶ Leaders could pass noble status to their heirs.
- ▶ Could lose their status if they failed to provide leadership.
- ▶ Commoners could become nobles if they could win recognition.
- ▶ Courageous behavior during war.

- ▶ **Autonomous clans and tribes.**
- ▶ **Religions:**
- ▶ **shamans – religious specialists who possessed supernatural powers.**
- ▶ **Communicated with the gods and nature spirits.**
- ▶ **Invoked divine aid on behalf of their communities.**
- ▶ **Informed their companions of their gods' will.**
- ▶ **Turkish nomads became attracted to the religions they encountered when trading with peoples of settled societies.**
- ▶ **Buddhism.**
- ▶ **by tenth century, Islam.**
- ▶ **Manichaeism.**
- ▶ **Nestorian Christianity:**
- ▶ **Christian doctrine held by Nestorius, patriarch of Constantinople.**
- ▶ **Took the position that he "could not imagine God as a little boy" and that Christ's true nature was divine.**
- ▶ **The Patriarch of Alexandria opposed this viewpoint and in league with the Byzantine Emperor Theodosius II, declared Nestorius anathema and banished him to Egypt.**
- ▶ **Followers of Nestorius seceded from the Byzantine Church and fled to Persia.**
- ▶ **In 486 the bishops of the East declared that they were Nestorian and that Christ was "one divine nature only, in three perfect persons."**
- ▶ **By 497, Nestorianism had become the official doctrine of Christian Asia.**
- ▶ **Nestorian merchant-missionaries carried its beliefs, and also its art, into China where the first Nestorian church was consecrated at Xian in 638.**
- ▶ **It reached there via the northern branch of the Silk Road.**
- ▶ **Nestorian communities grew up in many of the oases towns.**
- ▶ **Because so many Nestorians were merchants as well as missionaries, this religion also spread along the caravan routes of Chinese Central Asia and reached as far south as Tibet.**
- ▶ **Marco Polo records coming into contact with many Nestorians at Kashgar and Khotan when he visited these cities at the end of the 13th century.**
- ▶ **Today the Nestorian Church is found in small communities in Syria, Iraq, Iran, and India.**
- ▶ **Military organization:**
- ▶ **Khan ("ruler") organized vast confederation of individual tribes for expansion.**
- ▶ **Outstanding cavalry forces, formidable military power.**
- ▶ **Nomadic warriors learned to ride horses as children.**
- ▶ **Arrows flew with deadly accuracy.**
- ▶ **Units of warriors coordinated their movements.**
- ▶ **Few armies were able to resist these nomadic warriors.**
- ▶ **When they found themselves at a disadvantage, they retreated.**
- ▶ **Turkish empires in Persia, Anatolia, and India.**
- ▶ **Saljuq Turks and the Abbasid empire.**
- ▶ **Accepted Sunni Islam.**
- ▶ **Lived on borders of the Abbasid realm, mid-eighth to mid-tenth centuries.**
- ▶ **Moved further in and served in Abbasid armies thereafter.**
- ▶ **Overshadowed the Abbasid caliphs by the mid-eleventh century.**
- ▶ **In 1055 the Abbasid caliph recognized the Saljuq leader Tughril Beg as sultan ("chieftain").**
- ▶ **Extended Turkish rule to Syria, Palestine, and other parts of the realm.**
- ▶ **Seljuk Turks can be regarded as the ancestors of Western Turks (today's Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan).**

- ▶ They and their descendants (i.e., the Ottoman Empire) played a major role in medieval times by setting a barrier against the Mongol onslaught.
- ▶ Saljuq Turks and the Byzantine empire.
- ▶ defended the Islamic world against Crusaders and brought an end to the Byzantine Empire.
- ▶ Defeated Byzantine army at Manzikert in 1071.
- ▶ Migrated in large numbers to Anatolia, early eleventh century.
- ▶ Transformed Anatolia into an Islamic society.
- ▶ Ghaznavid Turks dominated northern India through sultanate of Delhi.

#### The Mongol Empires

- ▶ Chinggis Khan:
  - ▶ Temujin was born in 1167 into a noble family.
  - ▶ Rivals poisoned his father and destroyed an alliance among several Mongol clans.
  - ▶ Late 12th century, he made an alliance with a prominent Mongol clan leader.
  - ▶ Mastered the art of steppe diplomacy.
  - ▶ Displays of personal courage.
  - ▶ Intense loyalty to allies.
  - ▶ Willingness to betray allies or superiors to improve one's position.
  - ▶ The ability to entice previously unaffiliated tribes into cooperative relationships.
  - ▶ Conquered rival contenders for power.
  - ▶ In 1206 an assembly of Mongol leaders recognized his supremacy by proclaiming him Chinggis Khan ("universal ruler").
  - ▶ Chinggis Khan's policies greatly strengthened the Mongol people.
  - ▶ Mistrusted the Mongols' tribal organization.
  - ▶ Broke up the tribes.
  - ▶ Forced men of fighting age to join new military units.
  - ▶ Chose high military leaders loyal to him.
  - ▶ Established a capital at Karakorum.
  - ▶ Built a luxurious palace.
  - ▶ Capital symbolized that Mongol authority was superior to any clan or tribe.
  - ▶ Most important institution of the Mongol state was the army.
  - ▶ Mongol strategy:
    - ▶ Horsemanship.
    - ▶ Archers.
    - ▶ Mobility.
    - ▶ Psychological warfare.
    - ▶ If enemies surrendered without resistance, the Mongols usually spared their lives.
    - ▶ Resistance = slaughter.
    - ▶ Once the Mongols were united, they attacked Turkish peoples in Tibet, northern China, Persia, and the central Asian steppes.
    - ▶ Mongol conquest of northern China.
      - ▶ Controlled north China by 1220 C.E.
      - ▶ South China was still ruled by the Song dynasty.
    - ▶ Mongol conquest of Persia (Iran):
      - ▶ Chinggis Khan tried to open trade and diplomatic relations with Saljuq leader Khwarazm shah, the ruler of Persia, 1218.
      - ▶ Upon being rejected, Chinggis Khan led forces to pursue the Khwarazm.
      - ▶ Mongol forces destroyed Persian cities.
      - ▶ Chinggis died in 1227, laid foundation for a mighty empire.
  - ▶ Legacy:
    - ▶ United the Mongols.
    - ▶ Established Mongol supremacy in central Asia.
    - ▶ Extended Mongol control to northern China and Persia.

- ▶ He was a conqueror, not an administrator.
- ▶ Ruled through control of the army.
- ▶ Chinggis Khan did not establish a central government in conquered lands.
- ▶ Assigned Mongol overlords to supervise local administrators.
- ▶ The Mongol empires after Chinggis Khan:
- ▶ Division of the Mongol empires: heirs divide into four regional empires.
- ▶ Khubilai Khan.
- ▶ Chinggis Khan's grandson, consolidated Mongol rule in China.
- ▶ Conquest of southern China.
- ▶ Khubilai extended Mongol rule to all of China.
- ▶ Song capital at Hangzhou fell in 1276.
- ▶ Yuan Dynasty founded by Khubilai Khan in 1279.
- ▶ Ruled China until its collapse in 1368.
- ▶ Unsuccessful conquests of Vietnam, Burma, Java, and Japan.
- ▶ Mongol forces did not adapt well to the humid, tropical jungles of southeast Asia.
- ▶ Pasturelands were inadequate.
- ▶ Mongol horsemen were unable to cope with guerrilla tactics.
- ▶ Twice attempted a seaborne invasion of Japan.
- ▶ On both occasions typhoons thwarted his plans.
- ▶ Storm of 1281 destroyed 4,500 Mongol vessels.
- ▶ Japanese defenders attributed their continued independence to the *kamikaze* ("divine winds").
- ▶ The Golden Horde:
- ▶ Group of Mongols overran Russia between 1237 and 1241.
- ▶ Led by Khubilai's cousins and brothers.
- ▶ Further overran Poland, Hungary, and eastern Germany, 1241-1242.
- ▶ Never occupied Russia.
- ▶ Maintained hegemony in Russia until the mid-fifteenth century.
- ▶ The ilkhanate of Persia:
- ▶ Khubilai's brother, Hülegü, captured Baghdad in 1258.
- ▶ Looted the city.
- ▶ Executed the caliph.
- ▶ Massacred more than 250,000 residents.
- ▶ Ilkhan Ghazan converted to Islam, 1295.
- ▶ massacres of Christians and Jews followed.
- ▶ Signaled the return of Islam.
- ▶ Absorption of Mongols into Persian Muslim society.
- ▶ Mongol rule in China:
- ▶ Mongol overlords disliked the Chinese.
- ▶ Viewed them as mere farmers.
- ▶ Outlawed intermarriage between Mongols and Chinese.
- ▶ Forbade Chinese from learning the Mongol language.
- ▶ The Mongols and trade:
- ▶ Mongols worked to secure trade routes and ensure safety of merchants.
- ▶ Long distance trade became less risky.
- ▶ Elaborate courier network with relay stations.
- ▶ Maintained good order for traveling merchants, ambassadors, and missionaries.
- ▶ Decline of the Mongols in Persia and China:
- ▶ In Persia, excessive spending.
- ▶ Failure of the ilkhan's paper money.
- ▶ Rather than accept worthless paper money, merchants closed their shops.
- ▶ The last ruler died without an heir; the ilkhanate collapsed.
- ▶ Decline of the Yuan dynasty:

- ▶ Paper money issued by the Mongol rulers lost value.
- ▶ Inflation.
- ▶ Power struggles, assassinations, and civil war weakened Mongols after 1320s.
- ▶ Bubonic plague in southwest China in 1330s, spread through Asia and Europe.
- ▶ Facilitated by trade and communications throughout Eurasia.
- ▶ Bubonic Plague ppt.
- ▶ Played a key role in the collapse of Yuan Dynasty.
- ▶ In the 1340s southern China became a hotbed of peasant rebellion and banditry.
- ▶ By 1368, the Chinese drove the Mongols back to the steppes.
- ▶ The khanate of Chaghatai continued in central Asia.
- ▶ The Golden Horde survived until the mid-sixteenth century.
- ▶ Mongols brought about greater integration among Eurasian people by all of the following means:
  - ▶ Increased trade.
  - ▶ Diplomatic missions.
  - ▶ The establishment and maintenance of a courier network.
  - ▶ Resettlement of conquered peoples.
  - ▶ Resettlement:
    - ▶ Mongols needed skilled artisans and educated individuals from other places.
    - ▶ Often resettled them in different locations to provide services.
    - ▶ Uighur Turks served as clerks, secretaries, and administrators
    - ▶ Arab and Persian Muslims also served Mongols far from their homelands
    - ▶ Skilled artisans were often sent to Karakorum; became permanent residents
  - ▶ After the Mongols:
    - ▶ Tamerlane the Whirlwind (1336-1404) built central Asian empire.
    - ▶ The lame conqueror, Timur was self-made.
    - ▶ rose to power in 1360s.
    - ▶ established capital in Samarkand.
    - ▶ Tamerlane's conquests:
      - ▶ First conquered Persia and Afghanistan.
      - ▶ Next attacked the Golden Horde.
      - ▶ At the end of the fourteenth century, invaded northern India.
      - ▶ Ruled the empire through tribal leaders who relied on existing bureaucrats to collect taxes.
    - ▶ Tamerlane's heirs struggled and divided empire into four regions.
  - ▶ The foundation of the Ottoman empire.
  - ▶ Osman (founder).
  - ▶ Large numbers of nomadic Turks migrated to Persia and Anatolia.
  - ▶ Osman, a charismatic leader, carved out a small state in northwest Anatolia.
  - ▶ Claimed independence from the Saljuq sultan in 1299.
  - ▶ Ottoman conquests in the Balkans in 1350s.
  - ▶ Sultan Mehmed II sacked Constantinople in 1453, renamed it Istanbul.
  - ▶ Absorbed the remainder of the Byzantine empire.
  - ▶ During the 16th century, extended to southwest Asia, southeast Europe, and north Africa.

#### Cultural Change in Tang and Song China

- ▶ Buddhism in China:
  - ▶ Attraction - moral standards, intellectual sophistication, and salvation.
  - ▶ Monasteries became large landowners, helped the poor and needy.
- Neo-Confucianism:
  - ▶ Buddhist influence on Confucianism.
  - ▶ Early Confucianism focused on practical issues of politics and morality.

- ▶ Confucians began to draw inspiration from Buddhism in areas of logic and spiritualism.

### Chinese Influence in East Asia

- ▶ Korea and Vietnam.
  - ▶ The Silla dynasty of Korea (669-935 C.E.).
  - ▶ Korea entered into a tributary relationship with China.
  - ▶ China's influence in Korea.
  - ▶ Tributary embassies included Korean royal officials and scholars.
  - ▶ The Silla kings built a new capital at Kumsong modeled on the Tang capital.
  - ▶ Korean elite turned to neo-Confucianism.
  - ▶ Peasants turned to Chan Buddhism (majority) (personal salvation).
  - ▶ Korean monarchy sponsored Chinese schools.
  - ▶ Confucian examination system.
  - ▶ China and Vietnam.
  - ▶ Relations were far more tense than with Korea.
  - ▶ Tang armies encountered heavy resistance.
  - ▶ Eventually, Chinese took control of the Red River region.
  - ▶ Viet people adopted Chinese agriculture, schools, and thought.
  - ▶ Tributary relationship with China.
  - ▶ When Tang fell, Vietnam gained independence.
  - ▶ Difference between Vietnam and China.
  - ▶ Women played more prominent roles in Vietnam than in China.
  - ▶ Chinese influence in Vietnam: bureaucracy and Buddhism.
  - ▶ Nara Japan (710-794 C.E.).
  - ▶ The earliest inhabitants of Japan were nomadic peoples from northeast Asia.
  - ▶ Inspired by the Tang example, one clan claimed imperial authority over others.
  - ▶ Built a new capital (Nara) in 710 C.E., modeled on Chang'an.
  - ▶ Adopted Confucianism and Buddhism, but maintained their Shinto rites.
  - ▶ Shinto:
  - ▶ Monotheistic.
  - ▶ No founder or sacred book.
  - ▶ "Shinto gods" are called kami.
- Chinese Influence in East Asia They are sacred spirits which take the form of things and concepts important to life, such as wind, rain, mountains, trees, rivers and fertility.
- ▶ Humans become kami after they die and are revered by their families as ancestral kami.
  - ▶ Shinto is an optimistic faith, as humans are thought to be fundamentally good, and evil is believed to be caused by evil spirits.
  - ▶ Consequently, the purpose of most Shinto rituals is to keep away evil spirits by purification, prayers and offerings to the kami.
  - ▶ Japanese Feudalism:
  - ▶ Emperor.
  - ▶ Shogun.
  - ▶ Daimyo - used to refer to the leading figures of such clans, also called "lord".
  - ▶ Emperor/Shogun gave land to the daimyo in exchange for military protection.
  - ▶ The samurai:
  - ▶ Professional warriors of provincial lords (daimyo).
  - ▶ Valued loyalty, military talent, and discipline.
  - ▶ Observed samurai code called bushido.
  - ▶ To preserve their honor, engaged in ritual suicide called seppuku.

### Production and Trade in the Indian Ocean Basin

Cross-cultural trade in Indian Ocean basin.



- ▶ Dhows (Indian), junks (China)--large ships involved in maritime trade in Indian Ocean.
- ▶ Indian port cities were clearinghouses of trade and cosmopolitan centers.
- ▶ Trade goods:
  - ▶ Spices from southeast Asia.
  - ▶ Incense and horses from Arabia and southwest Asia.
  - ▶ Gold, ivory, and slaves from east Africa.
  - ▶ The kingdom of Axum was a Christian empire centered in Ethiopia.
  - ▶ Resisted pressures of Islam; stayed prosperous through trade in the Indian Ocean basin.

#### The Meeting of Hindu and Islamic Traditions

- ▶ Hinduism predominated in southern India, Islam in the north.
- ▶ Decline of Buddhism benefited Hinduism.
- ▶ The growth of Vishnu and Shiva cults (and other gods associated with them).
- ▶ Devotional cults: to achieve mystic union with gods as a way of salvation.
- ▶ Ramanuja: philosopher (eleventh and twelfth centuries) believed that understanding of ultimate reality was less important than devotion.
- ▶ Devotee of Vishnu.
- ▶ Islam and its appeal:
  - ▶ Conversion to Islam occurred in a slow and gradual way.
  - ▶ Some converted for improving their lower social statuses.
  - ▶ Often an entire caste or sub-caste adopted Islam en masse.
  - ▶ By 1500, about 25 million Indian Muslims (1/4 of population).
- ☐ Sufis:
  - ▶ The most effective missionaries, they had a devotional approach to Islam.
  - ▶ Permitted followers to observe old rituals and venerate old spirits.
  - ▶ Emphasized piety and devotion.
  - ▶ The bhakti movement:
    - ▶ Sought to erase distinction between Hinduism and Islam.
    - ▶ Guru Kabir (1440-1518), important bhakti teacher, taught that Shiva, Vishnu, and Allah were one deity.

#### The Influence of Indian society in southeast Asia

- ▶ Indian merchants brought their faiths to southeast Asia.
- ▶ Ruling elite of southeast Asia adapted some Indian political traditions.
- ▶ The states sponsored Hinduism and Buddhism.
- ▶ Showed no interest in Indian caste system.
- ▶ Funan - 1st to 6th century C.E. in the lower reaches of Mekong River - Cambodia/Vietnam.
- ▶ Drew enormous wealth by controlling trade.
- ▶ Adopted Sanskrit as official language.
- ▶ Angkor (889-1431 C.E.).
  - ▶ Kingdom built by Khmers at Angkor Thom, later Angkor Wat.
  - ▶ The city was a microcosmic reflection of Hindu world order.
  - ▶ Turned to Buddhism during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries.
  - ▶ Thais invaded the capital in 1431, and Khmers abandoned it.
- ▶ The arrival of Islam in southeast Asia.
  - ▶ Conversion to Islam was slow and quiet.
  - ▶ Ruling elite converted in cities while rural residents retained their traditions.
  - ▶ Islam was not an exclusive faith in southeast Asia.
  - ▶ Sufis appealed to a large public in these countries.
- ▶ Melaka was powerful Islamic state during fifteenth century.