

The Resurgence of Empire in East Asia

India and the Indian Ocean Basin

- For more than 350 years after the fall of the Han dynasty war, invasion, conquest, and foreign rule disrupted Chinese society.
- Toward the end of the sixth century, centralized imperial rule returned to China. The Sui and Tang dynasties restored order and presided over an era of rapid economic growth in China, especially in the areas of agricultural yields and technological innovation.
- China stood alongside the Byzantine and Abbasid empires as a political and economic anchor of the post classical world.

- In the postclassical era, China interacted with other peoples. Chinese merchants participated in trade networks that linked most regions of the eastern hemisphere.
- Buddhism spread beyond the homeland of India and attracted a large following in China.
- China made its influence felt throughout east Asia, especially in Korea, Vietnam, and Japan.
- In the late sixth century, Yang Jian, embarked on a series of military campaigns that brought all of China again under centralized military rule.

- The Tang dynasty replaced the Sui, and the Song succeeded the Tang. The Tang and Song dynasties organized Chinese society so efficiently that China became a center of exceptional agricultural and industrial production, creating an economy so powerful that it affected much of the eastern hemisphere.
- The Tang dynasty lasted for about 300 years (618-907 C.E.) and Tang rulers organized China into a powerful, productive, and prosperous society.

- Three particular policies helped to explain the success of the early Tang dynasty. They were: a well articulated transportation and communications network, distribution of land according to the principles of the equal field system, and reliance on a bureaucracy based on merit.
- All three of these policies originated in the Sui dynasty, but Tang rulers applied them more systematically and effectively.
- Tang rulers provided for the Grand Canal which served as the principal route for long distance transportation within China.

- Tang rulers also maintained an extensive network of roads and inns, postal stations and stables along these roads.
- The Equal Field System governed the allocation of agricultural land. It was instituted to ensure an equitable distribution of land and to avoid the concentration of landed property.
- The system allotted land to individuals and their families according to the fertility of the land and the needs of the recipient.

- About one-fifth of the land became the hereditary possession of the recipients, and the rest remained available for redistribution.
- During the first half of the Tang dynasty, the system provided a foundation for stability and prosperity in the Chinese countryside.
- The Tang dynasty also relied heavily on a bureaucracy based on merit.

- The Confucian educational system and the related civil service served Chinese government so well that with modifications and an occasional interruption they survived until the collapse of the Quing dynasty in the early twentieth century.
- In 907 the last Tang emperor abdicated his throne, and the dynasty ended.
- After the Tang Dynasty collapsed, warlords ruled China until the Song dynasty imposed centralized imperial rule in the late tenth century.

- The Song dynasty lasted more than 300 years (960-1279), but it never built a very powerful state.
- Song rulers mistrusted military leaders and they emphasized civil administration, industry, education, and the arts instead of military affairs.
- The Song approach to administration resulted in a more centralized imperial government than earlier Chinese dynasties, but it caused two major problems that eventually caused the dynasty to fall.
- The first problem was financial. As the number of bureaucrats and the size of their salaries grew this caused tremendous pressure on the imperial treasury.

- The second problem was military. Bureaucrats were scholars with little aptitude for military affairs, but they led Song armies in the field and made military decisions.
- Nomadic peoples flourished along China's northern border throughout the Song dynasty and in the early 12th century overran northern China.
- They remained a factor until 1279 when Mongol forces ended the Song dynasty.

- The Song dynasty did not develop a strong military capacity, but it featured a remarkable series of agricultural, technological, industrial and commercial developments.
- This economic development originated in the Tang dynasty, but came to fruition in the Song dynasty.
- This economic surge of Tang and Song times stimulated trade and production throughout much of the eastern hemisphere for more than 500 years, from about 600 to 1300.

- A surge in agricultural production produced an economic boom in Tang and Song China.
- Sui and Tang armies marched into Vietnam and discovered new strains of rice that produced two crops per year. They took this rice to southern China and it yielded an expanded supply of food.
- Increased agricultural production brought about rapid population growth.
- By 1200, the Chinese population stood at about 115 million.

- Increased food supplies encouraged the growth of cities.
- As well as increased food production and commercialized agricultural economy, Tang and Song China experienced a tightening of patriarchal social structures.
- During the Song dynasty, the veneration of family ancestors became more elaborate than before.
- Foot binding also spread among privileged classes during the Song dynasty.

- Abundant supplies of food enabled many people to pursue technological and industrial interests. During the Tang and Song dynasties, Chinese crafts workers created technological innovation.
- During Tang times they produced high quality porcelain.
- Tang and Song craftsmen also improved metallurgical technologies that brought out a surge of iron and steel production;. Chinese craftsmen discovered that they could use coke instead of caol in their furnaces and produce stronger and more useful grades of metal.

- Tang and Song craftsmen developed better weapons, gunpowder, printing, and naval technologies.
- Printing also became common during the Tang era.
- By the time of the Song dynasty Chinese seafarers had developed ship technology as well, including watertight bulkheads, canvas and bamboo sails, and the magnetic compass.
- Increased agricultural production, improved transportation systems, population growth, urbanization and industrial production combined to stimulate the Chinese economy.

- Buddhist merchants traveling the ancient silk roads visited China as early as the second century.
- After the fall of the Han dynasty, salvation religions like Christianity, Zoroastrianism and Islam established communities in China.
- These religions mostly met the needs of foreign merchants trading in China and won converts from nomadic societies and did not win a large popular following.
- Mahayana Buddhism found a popular following in Tang and Song China.

- Buddhism appealed to the Chinese because of its high standards of morality, its intellectual sophistication, and its promise of salvation.
- Buddhist monasteries became important factors in the local economies of Chinese communities.
- Because of a difference in local Chinese concerns and Buddhism, Buddhist missionaries sought to tailor their message to Chinese audiences.
- In spite of its popularity, Buddhism met determined resistance from Daoists and Confucians. Daoists felt that the popularity of Buddhism detracted from their own tradition.

- Confucians despised Buddhists' exaltation of celibacy and they denounced the faith as alien superstition.
- The Song emperors didn't persecute Buddhists, but they actively supported native Chinese cultural traditions in hopes of limiting the influence of foreign religions.
- The Song rulers sponsored the studies of Confucian scholars and subsidizing the printing and dissemination of Confucian writings.
- Earliest Confucians had concentrated resolutely on practical issues of politics and morality because they were primarily concerned with establishing social order.

- Confucians of the Song dynasty studied the classic works of their tradition, but they also were inspired by many aspects of Buddhist thought.
- Because Confucian thought during the Song dynasty reflected the influence of Buddhism as well as original Confucian values, it is called neo-Confucianism.
- Like the societies in Byzantium and the dar-al-Islam, Chinese society influenced the development of neighboring lands during postclassical times.

- Chinese armies periodically invaded Korea and Vietnam, and Chinese merchants established commercial relations with Japan as well as with Korea and Vietnam.
- These lands did not become absorbed into China, but instead, maintained distinctive identities.
- These lands also drew deep inspiration from China and built societies that reflected their participation in a larger east Asian society revolving around China.

- During the Tang dynasty, Chinese imperial armies mounted large scale expansion campaigns in Korea and Vietnam.
- In the seventh century, Tang armies conquered much of Korea and Korea became a tributary of China.
- In return for recognizing Chinese supremacy, Koreans received cultural benefits.
- When Tang armies ventured into Vietnam, they encountered spirited resistance from the Viet people.
- The Viets adopted Chinese agricultural methods and irrigation systems, Chinese schools and administrative techniques.

- Chinese armies never invaded Japan, but Chinese traditions deeply influenced Japanese political and cultural development.
- Japan adopted Confucian and Buddhist traditions from China, but the Japanese continued to observe the rites of Shinto, their religion that revolved around the veneration of ancestors and a host of nature spirits and deities.
- Although it took its original inspiration from the Tang empire in China, the Japanese political order developed differently from those of the Middle Kingdom.

- Japan had a place in the larger east Asian society centered on China.
- Japan borrowed Confucian values, Buddhist religion, a system of writing, and the ideal of centralized imperial rule from China.
- These parts of Chinese society survived in Japan, ut also decisively influenced Japanese development over the long term.

Chapter 13

India and the Indian Ocean Basin

- Just as China served as the principal inspiration of a larger east Asian society in the postclassical era, India influenced the development of a larger cultural zone in south and southeast Asia. But China and India played different roles in their individual spheres of influence.

- India was politically disunited during the post classical era, but it remained a coherent and distinct society because of powerful social and cultural traditions-especially in the caste system and Hindu religion.
- Beginning in the seventh century, Islam began to attract a popular following in India, and after the eleventh century Islam deeply influenced Indian society alongside the caste system and Hinduism.

- Indian traditions influenced the political and cultural development of southeast Asia, and the entire Indian Ocean basin moved toward economic integration during the postclassical era.
- From the mid-fourth to the mid-fifth century the Gupta rulers preserve order throughout most of the Indian subcontinent.
- Beginning in 451 White Huns from central Asia invaded India and by the mid-sixth century the Gupta state had collapsed.

- From the end of the Gupta dynasty until the sixteenth century India remained a politically divided land.
- A Turkish people known as the Mughals extended their authority to most of the Indian subcontinent in the sixteenth century.
- After the end of the Gupta dynasty, nomads invaded India and vied for power. Indian also experienced the arrival of Islam and the establishment of Islamic states.
- Islam reached India in several ways. Arab forces entered India as early as the mid-seventh century.

- In 711 a well organized expedition conquered Sind, the Indus River valley in northwestern India, and incorporated it as province of the expanding Umayyad empire.
- In the middle of the eighth century, Sind passed into the hands of the Abbasid caliphs and the region remained under the jurisdiction of the calips until the collapse of the Abbasid dynasty in 1258.
- Muslim merchants took their faith to coastal regions in northern and southern India.

- Muslims dominated trade and transportation networks between India and western lands from the seventh through the fifteenth century.
- Islam also entered India by the migrations and invasions of Turkish speaking peoples from central Asia.
- During the tenth century several Turkish groups encountered Islam through their dealings with the Abbasid caliphate and had converted to Islam.

- The southern part of India also remained politically divided, but it largely escaped the invasions, chronic wars, and turmoil that troubled the north.
- Most Hindu rulers in the south presided over small, loosely administered states and did not fight prolonged or frequent wars.
- Political fragmentation of the Indian subcontinent didn't prevent robust trade between the different states and regions of India.
- Irrigation increased the agricultural productivity of Indian farmers.

- As the population grew, opportunities for specialized work became more numerous. Increased trade resulted from this process as well.
- The political, economic, and social changes of the postclassical era brought a series of challenges for India's caste system.
- Migrations, the growing prominence of Islam, economic development, and urbanization all placed pressures on the caste system as it had developed during the Vedic and classical eras.

- Caste distinctions first became prominent in northern India following the Aryan migrations.
- During the post classical era, the caste system became securely established in southern India.
- The caste system closely reflected changes in Indian society.
- The caste system accommodated the social changes brought about by trade and economic development.
- Besides becoming more complex, the caste system extended its geographic reach.

- After 1000, Hindu and Islamic traditions increasingly dominated the cultural and religious life of India.
- Hinduism predominated in southern India and Islam in the north.
- Hindus had numerous Gods and spirits and Islam was monotheistic.
- Both Hinduism and Islam promised salvation to devout individuals.
- Hinduism benefited from the decline of Buddhism.

- Hinduism became popular because of the growth of devotional cults which promised salvation, especially those dedicated to Vishnu and Shiva.
- Even though Hinduism and Islam were profoundly different religions, they encouraged the cultivation of similar spiritual values that transcended the social and cultural boundary lines of postclassical India.

