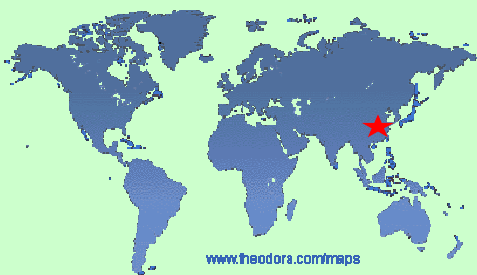


Chapter 12

Tang vs Song

By: Brooke Steinberg, Jonathan
Greenfield, and Robert Appel





Vocabulary

- **Li Yuan** – the first emperor of the Tang dynasty
- **Ministry of Rites** – administered examinations to students from Chinese government schools or those recommended by scholars
- **Jinshi** – title granted to the students who passed the most difficult Chinese examination; became eligible for high office
- **Pure land Buddhism** – emphasized salvationist aspects of Chinese Buddhism; popular among masses of Chinese society
- **Chan/Zen Buddhism** – stressed meditation and appreciation of natural and artistic beauty; popular with members of elite Chinese society

Vocabulary

- **Empress Wu** – Tang ruler in China; tried to elevate Buddhism to state religion
- **Wuzong** – Chinese emperor of Tang dynasty who openly persecuted Buddhism; reduced influence of Chinese Buddhism in favor of Confucian ideology
- **Zhao Kuangyin** – founder of Song dynasty; failed to overcome northern Liao dynasty
- **Liao dynasty** – founded by nomadic Khitan people; maintained independence from Song dynasty
- **Tangut** – rulers of Xi Xia kingdom of northwest China; one regional kingdoms during southern Song period

Vocabulary

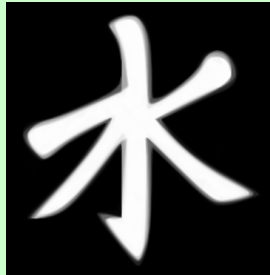
- **Jin** – Kingdom north of the Song Empire
- **Grand Canal** – built during Sui dynasty; designed to link original centers of Chinese civilization on the north China plain with the Yangtze river
- **Junks** – Chinese ships with watertight bulkheads, sternpost rudders, compasses, and bamboo fenders
- **Flying money** – Chinese credit instrument that provided credit vouchers to merchants to be redeemed at the end of the voyage

Tang Dynasty

- Emperor
- Elite families
- Scholars
- Soldiers
- Merchants
- Peasants
- Patriarchic society

Confucianism

- Confucian ideas played roles in rebuilding bureaucracy
- Emperors trained state officials and educated them in Confucianism



Invasions

- Chen Kingdom split because of attacks by Wendi's armies forming the Tang Dynasty
- Nomadic people seized large sections of north China plain
- Tang armies conquered into Central Asia as far as Afghanistan
- New capital at Chang'an

Political System and Power

- Well educated bureaucracy
- Tang tried to rebuild and expand the bureaucracy
- Aristocratic control declined and their role in history reduced
- Power was shared by a succession of imperial families and bureaucrats
- Executive department ran empire

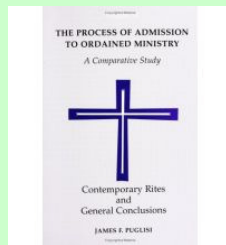
Economics

- Established granaries
- Tang armies recruited from Turkic nomads
- Taxes were lowered
- Peasants were taxed with a portion of their crops



Education

- Tang were educated hoping to adapt Chinese culture
- Ministry of Rites



Buddhism

- During the Tang dynasty, it had political and social influence
- New forms of Buddhism:
 - Zen (Japan): stressed meditation and appreciation of artistic beauty
 - Chan (China): stressed meditation and appreciation of artistic beauty
 - Pure Land: stressed salvationist aspects
- Buddhists began to set up monasteries



Buddhism (cont.)

- Daoists and Confucian rivals became upset with the popularity of Buddhism
- Confucian scholars said Buddhism posed a fundamental economic problem to the imperial order
- Religious lands and workers cannot be taxed
- Emperor Wuzong openly persecuted Buddhists, destroyed shrines, and forced monks to return to civilian lives

Collapse of Tang

- General weakening of the imperial control
- Tang emperor delegated resources and political power to regional commanders
- Nomads used the political divisions to gain entry to the empire and overtake large areas
- Bad economic conditions led to many revolts, most led by peasants

Restoration of Empire

- 960 - Zhao Kuangyin tried to unite China under a single dynasty
- Founded Song Dynasty
- Paid tribute for protection to Liao dynasty
- In order to prevent the diffusion of power, only civil officials could govern and military commanders were rotated

Education of Song Dynasty

- An importance was put on education in the Song dynasty
- Every 3 years exams were given at 3 levels: district, provincial, imperial
- A revival of Confucian ideas had scholars trying to recover long lost texts and setting up libraries

Song Ideas

- Adapted the idea of mutual divorce and arranged marriages
- Created junks from the Islamic boats
- Developed painting and poetry
- Started using flying money
- Gave cheap loans



Invasions

- The Tangut tribe established a kingdom on the northern border
- Paid tribute for protection
- Jin invaded and overthrew the Tangut
- Forced the Song into southern China
- Divided northern and southern China
- Discovered fertile land



Economic Growth

- Developed the grand canal
- Started producing rice
- Silk routes reopened
- Offered peasants equal land opportunities
- Population started to grow



Political Reform

- Wang Anshi created multiple reforms
- Encouraged agricultural expansion and taxes
- Reason for economic growth and development
- Emperor changed and reforms were thrown out
- Empire started to decline

Collapse

- Population grew too rapidly
- Army became too expensive
- Paid for scholastics instead of fortifications
- Growing power of the Jin
- Expensive world exploration

AP Questions

1. The era of the Tang and Song rule is called the “golden age” of China because...
 - a) It is the only period of Chinese rule in which foreign trade and ideas had little influence
 - b) The Chinese abandoned naturalistic subjects like landscapes in favor for more “modern” abstract, non-representational art
 - c) The Chinese government seized the wealth and land controlled by Buddhist monasteries
 - d) **This was the era of the discovery of explosive powder, the abacus, moveable type, and the first use of coal for energy**

AP Questions

2. The primary function of the scholar-gentry class in Tang and Song China was...
 - a) To teach the Confucian-based university system
 - b) To spy on the land-based elites in the distant provinces
 - c) **To administer the imperial, provincial and local governments**
 - d) To create innovative scholarship, artwork and technology advances

AP Questions

3. Why did Buddhism become a significant belief system in Tang China?
- a) Confucian scholars preferred it to Islam, which was banned as a foreign religion
 - b) The scholar-gentry class embraced it as a means of insuring their dominance over women
 - c) It offered social opportunities to commoners, to women, easily mixed with Daoist and Confucian ideas, and had royal patronage**
 - d) It was brought into China by humble slaves whose behavior the Chinese admired

AP Questions

4. Tang military expansion into central Asia...
- a) Led to constant warfare between the Chinese and the Muslims
 - b) Promoted renewed commercial contacts between China and west Asia**
 - c) Obtained land to settle large Chinese population surpluses
 - d) Was easily defeated by the Turks and other pastoral nomads

AP Questions

5. What were the long-term consequences of new maritime technological advances such as the sea-going "junk" and the magnetic compass?
- a) A renewed focus on engineering and scientific work in the universities
 - b) Combined with the Grand Canal, they dramatically increased north-south trade within China
 - c) They facilitated dramatic increases in overseas trade in the eastern hemisphere**
 - d) The scholar-gentry class became worried about the power of the rising merchant-class in the coastal urban areas

AP Questions

6. The Tang rulers were able to control potential nomadic threats to China by...
- a) Bribery
 - b) Playing one nomadic group against another**
 - c) Settling the nomads within the Chinese borders on land to farm
 - d) Inter-marriage between the nomadic and Chinese ruling families

AP Questions

7. Which sect of Buddhism became popular in China for its focus on prayer and personal salvation?
- a) Pure Land**
 - b) Chan
 - c) Tibetan
 - d) Mahayana
