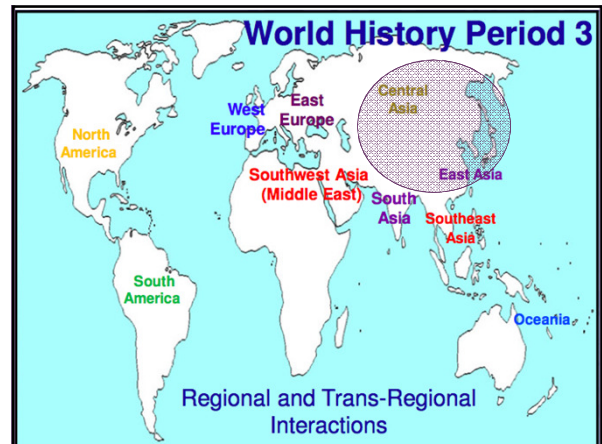


Chapter 12

Reunification and Renaissance in Chinese Civilization: The Era of the Tang and Song Dynasties

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The End of the Sui Dynasty

- Laid foundations necessary for political unification and economic prosperity
- Started construction of canals
- Collapsed because of over-extravagance and rebellion
- Struggle followed and led into Tang Dynasty

Restoration in Tang Dynasty

- First Tang armies conquered deep into Central Asia: expanded empire
- Completed repairs of the Great Wall
- Established world's largest bureaucracy
- Empire larger than previous Han Empire
 - Extended to Tibet, Vietnam, Manchuria

Rise in Education

- Test were administered by the Ministry of Rites
 - Given to students from government schools and ones recommended by scholars
- Highest offices were gained by those who passed test
 - Called Jinshi; became dignitaries
- Bright commoners could reach political offices
- However, family background was still more important (corrupt)

Religion

- After the fall of the Han Buddhist sects proliferated in China
- Pure Land
 - Widespread conversions by general population
- Chan
 - Called Zen in Japan; appealed to higher class
- Buddhism was a strong political, economic and social force at the time of Tang unification

Anti-Buddhist Backlash

- Confucians and Daoists envied the success of Buddhism
- Persecution of Buddhism
 - Buddhist's monasteries and shrines destroyed
- Buddhism stopped being a dominant influence

Tang Decline and Rise of Song

- Military weakness
- Revolts by the people
- Split up empire rule into regions with separate rulers (breaking apart)
- Pressure from nomadic groups
- Song dynasty forms to reunite China

Song Politics and Confucianism

- Civil officials were governors to prevent military commanders from gaining control
- Educated scholars ruled over aristocrats and Buddhists
- Confucianism became dominant religion again

Song Decline and Reform

- Nomads invade again
- Rebellion from within
- Oversized army was hard to control
- Reform: agricultural expansion, higher taxes, well trained mercenary forces

Tang and Song Prosperity

- Construction of Grand Canal: linked Northern China and Southern China
 - Promoted exchanges between China and Buddhists
 - Trading with the Islamic in the west
 - Exported to southeast Asia

More Prosperity

- Junks: giant, sturdy ships
 - Dominant force in Asian seas east of Malayan peninsula
 - Could travel to Africa and Mediterranean
- First use of paper money
- Flying Money: acted like credit voucher
 - Early form of the check
 - Made robbery less likely
- Urbanization and Suburbanization: rapid growth of cities

Country Life

- Military to protect new settlements
- Irrigation and embankment systems
- Introduction of new seeds
- New farming techniques
 - Soil preparation
 - Weeding
 - Irrigation

Social Order

- Eliminate the powerful aristocracy
- Created stable social order
- Numbers of free peasantry increased
- Turned into an imperial bureaucracy
- Increased size and elegance of Tang and Song Dynasties
- Gentry families had high rank

Family and Society

- Male-dominated hierarchy
- Authority of elders and males
- Extended-family households were preferred
- Harsh punishments for disrespect
- Marriage
 - Woman's family gave dowry
 - Bride and groom usually about the same age because of Confucian beliefs
 - Allowed divorce with mutual consent

The Female Role

- Homemaker and mother
 - Men wanted male children
- Virginity for young brides was emphasized
- Discouraged widows from remarrying
- Not favored in divorce, inheritance, and familial interaction
- Excluded from education
- Foot binding
 - Extent of possibilities for self-fulfillment

Invention

- Science, technology, literature, and fine arts
- New tools
- Production techniques
- Weapons – explosive power, grenades, bombs
- Creation of banks and paper money
- Created basic bridge styles
- Habit of drinking tea
- Coal began to be used as fuel
- Abacus- ancestor of the calculator
- Printing with movable types

Literature and Fine Arts

- Literary creativity
- Composing songs
- Poetry and short stories
- Landscape paintings
 - To teach moral lessons
 - Explore philosophical ideas
- Advanced brush techniques