

Topic 1.1: Developments in East Asia from c. 1200 to c. 1450

Unit 1B: Global Tapestry

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Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson and the completion of your reading homework, you should be able to answer the following questions.

- Explain the systems of government employed by Chinese dynasties and how they developed over time.
- Explain the effects of Chinese cultural traditions on East Asia over time.
- Explain the effects of innovation on the Chinese economy over time.

Historical Developments

Empires and states in Afro-Eurasia and the Americas demonstrated continuity, innovation, and diversity in the 13th century. This included the Song Dynasty of China, which utilized traditional methods of Confucianism and imperial bureaucracy to maintain and justify its rule.



Historical Developments

Chinese cultural traditions continued, and they influenced neighboring regions.

Cultural traditions:

- Filial piety in East Asia
- Influence of Neo-Confucianism and Buddhism in East Asia
- Confucian traditions of both respect for and expected deference from women
- Chinese literary and scholarly traditions and their spread to Heian Japan and Korea

Buddhism and its core beliefs continued to shape societies in Asia and included a variety of branches, schools, and practices.

Branches of Buddhism:

- Theravada
- Mahayana
- Tibetan



Historical Developments



The economy of Song China became increasingly commercialized while continuing to depend on free peasant and artisanal labor.

The economy of Song China flourished as a result of increased productive capacity, expanding trade networks, and innovations in agriculture and manufacturing.



Technological innovations:

- Champa rice
- Transportation innovations like the Grand Canal expansion
- Steel and iron production
- Textiles and porcelains for export

State formation in this era demonstrated remarkable continuity, innovation, and diversity in various regions.

- In Afro-Eurasia, some states attempted, with differing degrees of success, to preserve or revive imperial structures, while smaller, less centralized states continued to develop.
- The expansion of Islam introduced a new concept — the Caliphate — to Afro-Eurasian statecraft.
- Pastoral peoples in Eurasia built powerful and distinctive empires that integrated people and institutions from both the pastoral and agrarian worlds.
- In the Americas, powerful states developed in both Mesoamerica and the Andean region.

Empires collapsed and were reconstituted; in some regions new state forms emerged.

- ❖ Following the collapse of empires, most reconstituted governments, including the Byzantine Empire and the Chinese dynasties — Sui, Tang, and Song — combined traditional sources of power and legitimacy with innovations better suited to the current circumstances.

Commercial growth was also facilitated by state practices.

- Including the Inca road system; trading organizations including the Hanseatic League; and state-sponsored commercial infrastructures, including the Grand Canal in China.

Increased cross-cultural interactions resulted in the diffusion of literary, artistic, and cultural traditions, (examples of literary, artistic, and cultural traditions: spread of Christianity throughout Europe, influence of Neoconfucianism and Buddhism in East Asia, spread of Hinduism and Buddhism into Southeast Asia, spread of Islam in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia, influence of Toltec/Mexica and Inca traditions in Mesoamerica and Andean America) as well as scientific and technological innovations. (Ex of diffusion of scientific and technological innovations: influence of Greek and Indian mathematics on Muslim scholars, return of Greek science and philosophy to Western Europe via Muslim al-Andalus in Iberia, spread of printing and gunpowder technologies from E. Asia into the Islamic empires and Western Europe)

Succession of Chinese Dynasties

HAN (ended 220 CE)

SUI (589-618) - reunited China

TANG (618-907) - “golden age”

SONG (960-1279) - economic revolution

YUAN (1271-1368) - Mongol rule

MING (1368-1644) - Chinese rule resumed

Dynastic Cycle in China

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graph TD; A[New dynasty gains power, restores peace and order, and claims to have Mandate of Heaven.] --> B[Strong dynasty establishes peace and prosperity; it is considered to have Mandate of Heaven.]; B --> C[In time, dynasty declines and becomes corrupt; taxes are raised; power grows weaker.]; C --> D[Disasters such as floods, famines, peasant revolts, and invasions occur.]; D --> E[Old dynasty is seen as having lost Mandate of Heaven; rebellion is justified.]; E --> A;
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New dynasty gains power, restores peace and order, and claims to have Mandate of Heaven.

Strong dynasty establishes peace and prosperity; it is considered to have Mandate of Heaven.

In time, dynasty declines and becomes corrupt; taxes are raised; power grows weaker.

Disasters such as floods, famines, peasant revolts, and invasions occur.

Old dynasty is seen as having lost Mandate of Heaven; rebellion is justified.

Dynasty is overthrown through rebellion and bloodshed; new dynasty emerges.



Southeast Asia, 900–1200



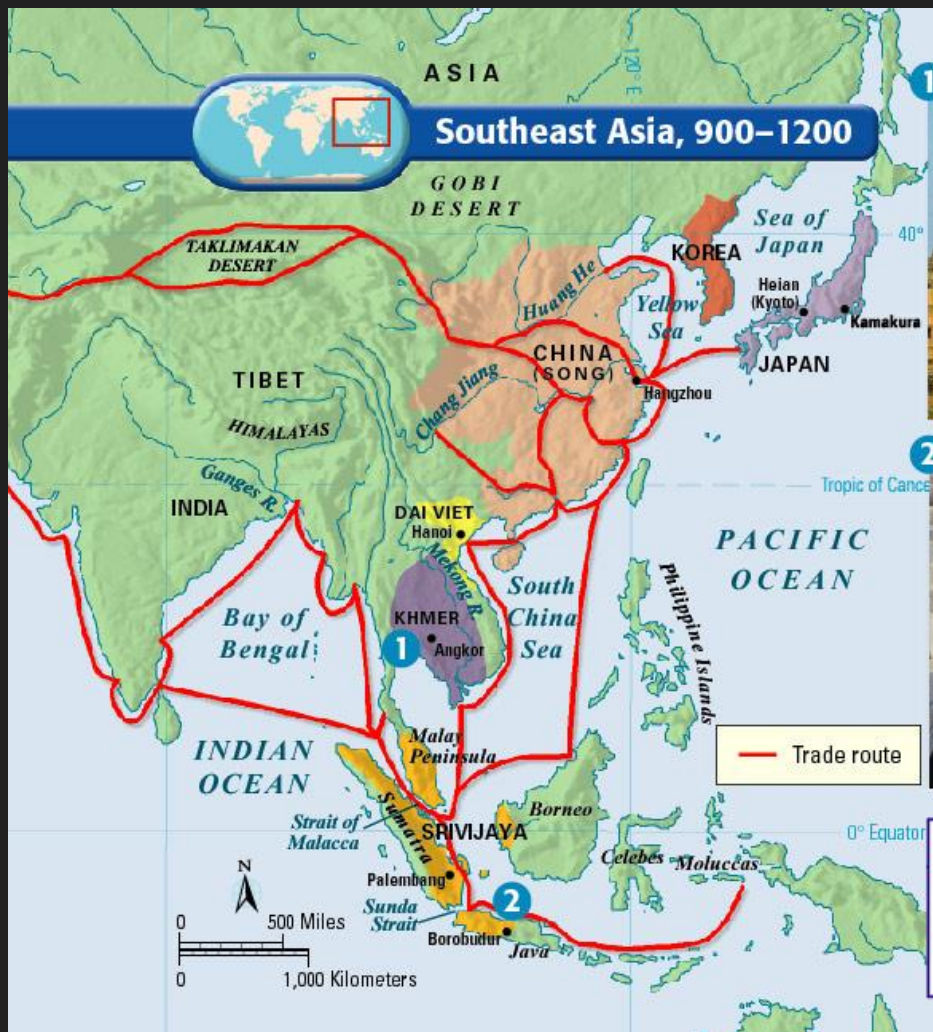
▲ Built in the 1100s, Angkor Wat is the world's largest religious structure.

◀ The temple at Borobudur has 92 statues of Buddha on its top level.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

1. Location Where is the Strait of Malacca and why was it important to trade?

2. Movement Name one way Chinese culture might have spread around Southeast Asia.



Third-Wave Civilizations - China

- Massive & powerful
- Widely imitated by adjacent peoples
- China-centered “world order” encompassing most of E. Asia
- Extended borders deep into Central Asia
- Attracted visitors from all over Eurasia
- N. nomads (“barbarians”) posed a threat
- Buddhism takes root in China
- Trade brings social, cultural, and economic changes

Reemergence of a Unified China

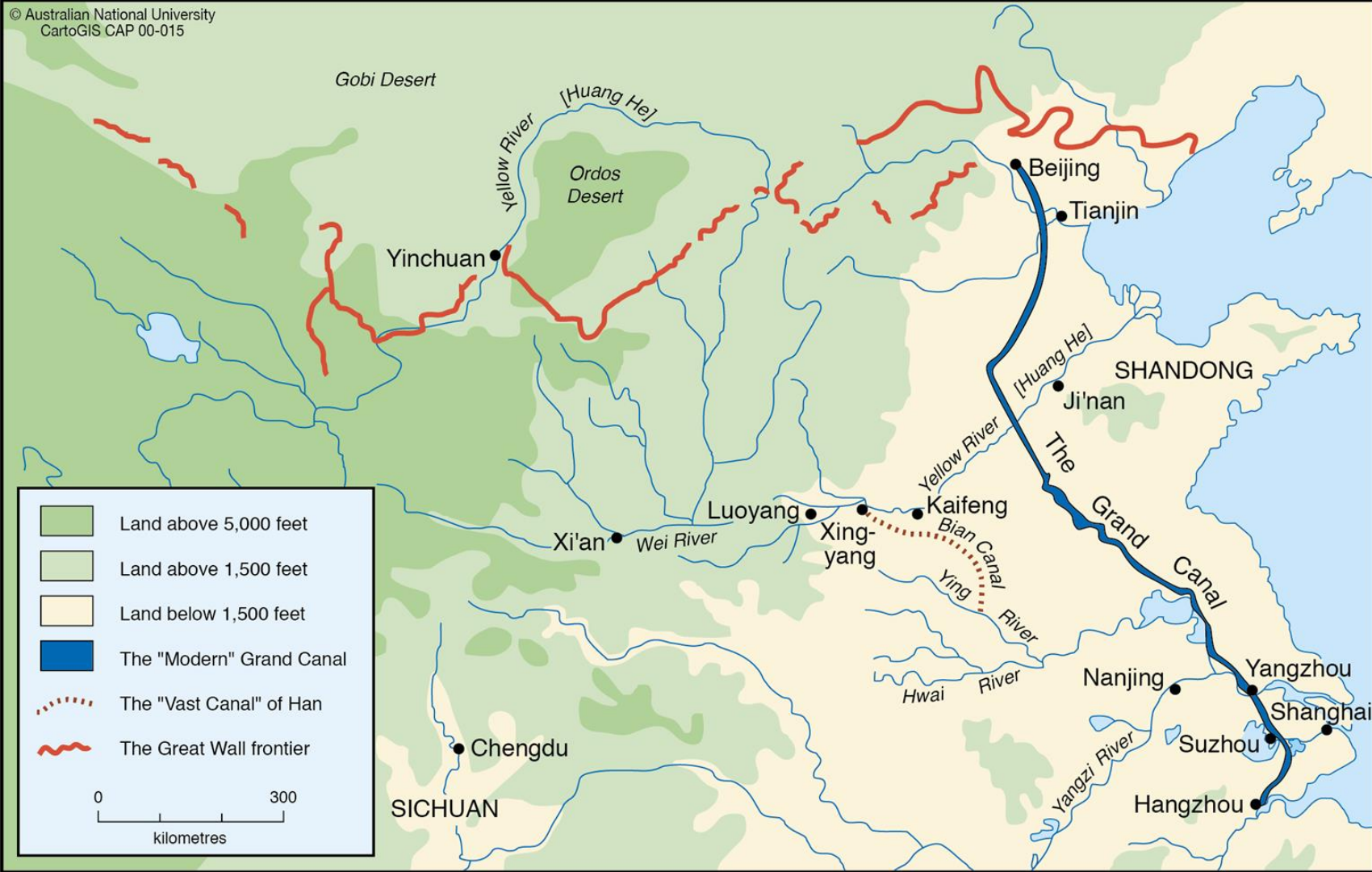
Just an overview...

- 220 CE - Han dynasty collapsed
 - three centuries of political fragmentation
 - rise of powerful aristocratic families
 - invasions of northern nomads
- Migration S to Yangtze Riv Valley
 - 60% of population by 1000 CE
 - destruction of environment in south due to increased agriculture



“Golden Age” of Chinese Achievement

- Fall of W Roman Empire was permanent - but China reunited under the Sui dynasty (589-618)
- Sui emperors solidified unity w/ extension of canal system (1,200 miles in length) the Grand Canal
 - Linked N & S China → increased economic prosperity
- Ruthless Sui emperors & futile military campaign to conquer Korea exhausted state resources
- Led to overthrow of Sui dynasty



Rise of the Tang (618-907)

- Built on Sui foundations of unity
- Established patterns of Chinese life that endured into 20th century
- “Golden age” of art, science, literature
- Rise of Neo-Confucianism
 - revived Confucian thinking while incorporating aspects of Buddhism and Taoism
 - shows the growing influence and importance of Buddhism!!



Tang
Art

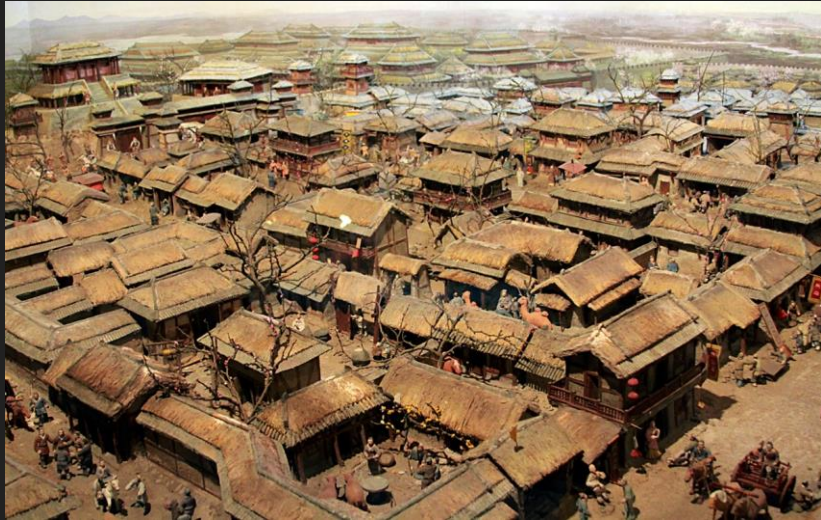
Tang & Song Government Organization

- 6 major ministries: personnel, finance, rites, army, justice, and public works
- Large bureaucracy
- Revived Civil Service Exam
 - more elaborate thanks to ability to print books for the first time
 - Tested over Confucian texts like the *Analects*
- Schools & colleges helped students prepare for the exams
- Exams = central feature of upper-class life
- Officials selected based on merit (and sometimes sons of the privileged)
- Challenge to established aristocrat families' hold on public office
 - This essentially weakened the power of aristocrats



Key Concept: Increased Economic Productive Capacity & Its Consequences

- Changes in trade networks resulted from and stimulated increasing productive capacity, with important implications for social and gender structures and environmental processes.
- Productivity rose in both agriculture and industry.
- Rising productivity supported population growth and urbanization but also strained environmental resources and at times caused dramatic demographic swings.
- Shifts in production and the increased volume of trade also stimulated new labor practices, including adaptation of existing patterns of free and coerced labor.
- Social and gender structures evolved in response to these changes.



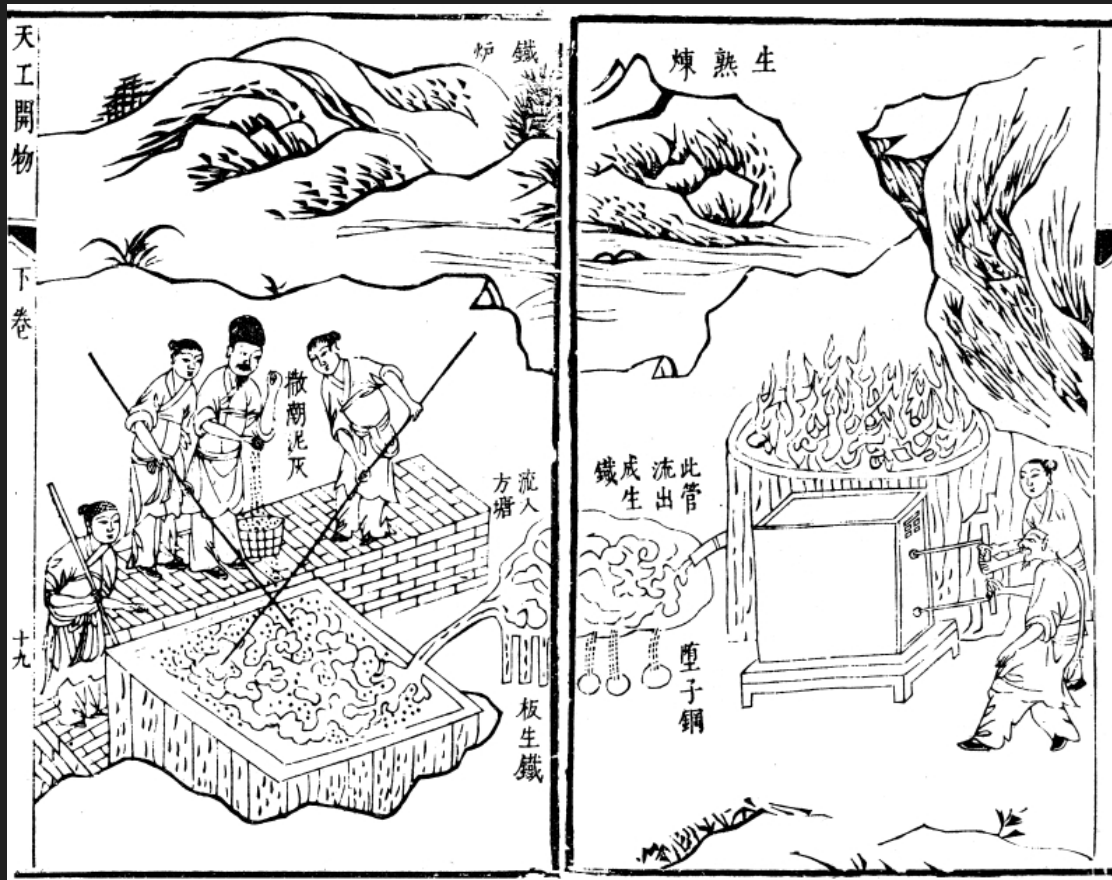
Urbanization in China

- Dozens of cities numbered over 100,000
- Song dynasty capital of Hangzhou was home to more than one million people
- Population jumped from 50 million during the Tang dynasty to 120 million by 1200 CE
- Cities had specialized markets and restaurants
- Various inns appealing to different groups
 - Some served only wine!
- Marco Polo called Hangzhou in the 13th century “beyond dispute the finest and noblest city in the world.”

Demand for foreign luxury goods increased in Afro-Eurasia. Chinese, Persian, and Indian artisans and merchants expanded their production of textiles and porcelains for export; industrial production of iron and steel expanded in China.

Chinese Iron Industry

- Large and small-scale enterprises
 - Hundreds of workers, some with backyard furnaces
- By 11th century (1000s), it was providing the gov't w/ 32,000 suits of armor & 16 million iron arrowheads per year
- Also metal for: coins, tools, construction, and bells in Buddhist monasteries
- Industrial growth fueled by coal

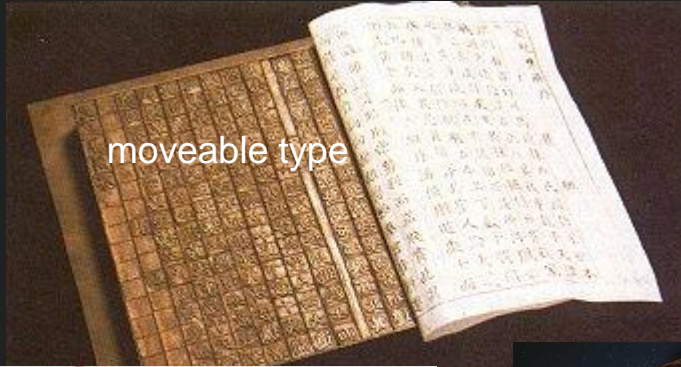


Song Dynasty Cultural & Political Achievements



- rapid population growth thanks to champa rice
 - champa rice = fast-ripening, drought-resistant rice from Vietnam
- Most urbanized country in the world
 - dozens of Chinese cities numbered over 100,000
 - Song dynasty capital of Hangzhou had more than a million residents
- Network of internal waterways (canals, rivers, lakes) - more than 300,000 miles - provided cheap transportation that unified the country

Significant Chinese Innovations



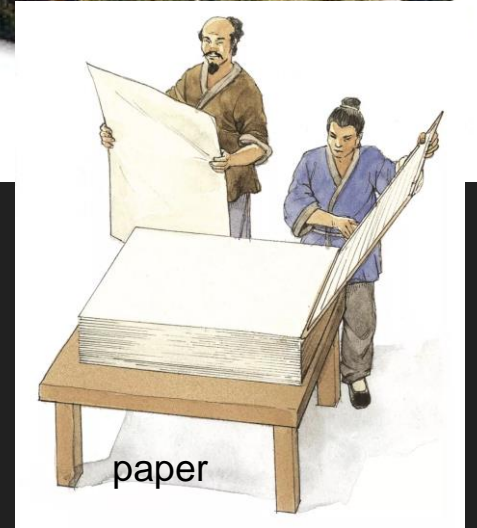
moveable type



gunpowder



compass



paper

Song Dynasty Cultural & Political Achievements

- Industrial production increased
- Iron industry dramatically increased output
- Technological innovation flourished
 - woodblock & movable type = world's first printed books
 - invention of gunpowder

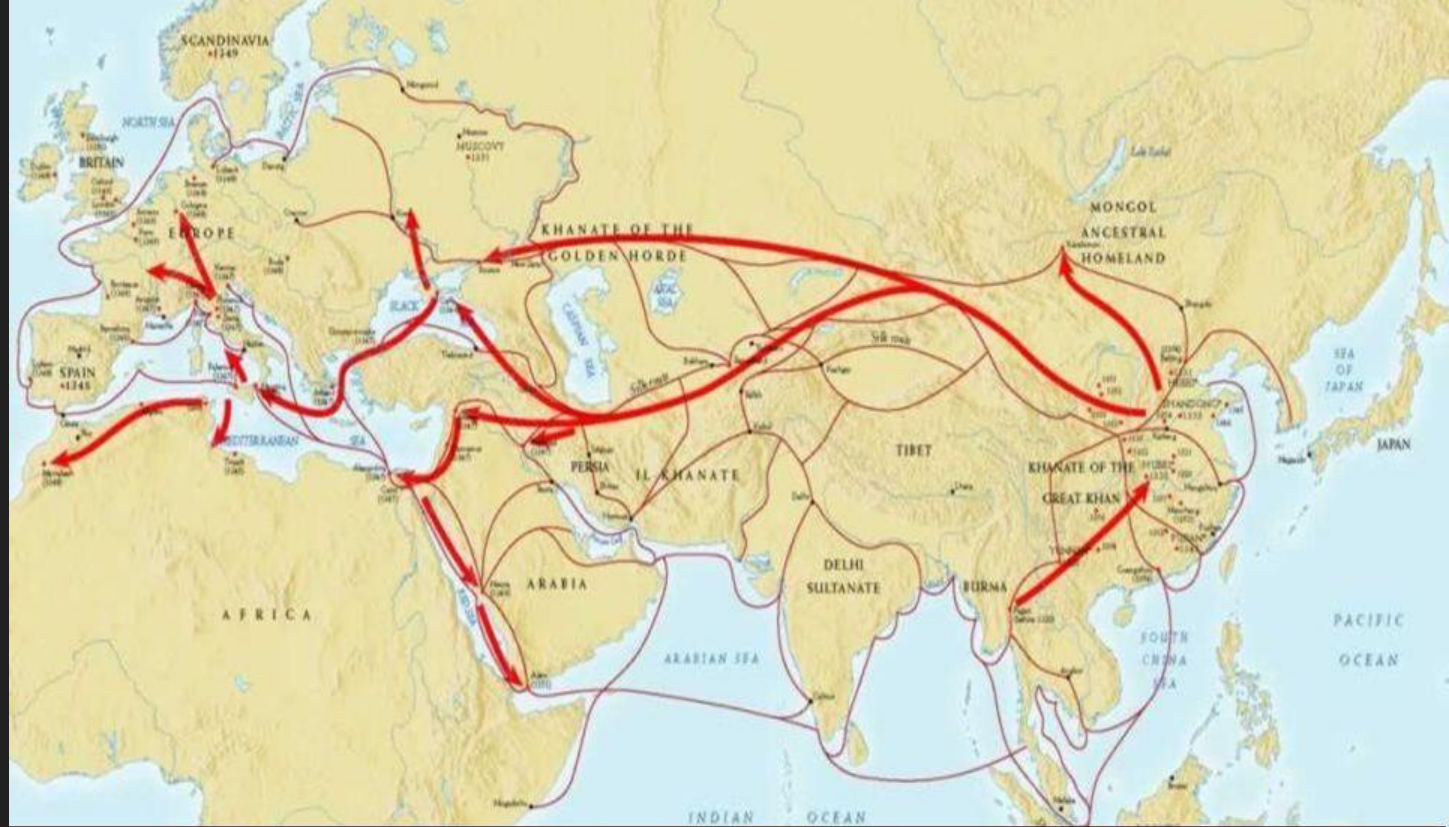


“Output increased, population grew, skills multiplied, and a burst of inventiveness made Song China far wealthier than ever before--or than any of its contemporaries.”

One of the world's oldest printing techniques, wooden movable-type printing is maintained in Rui'an County, Zhejiang Province.



and then move a special coir brush
on the paper, to and fro,



Chinese technologies like **gunpowder** and the magnetic **compass** reached Europe; this would later help the Europeans when they began exploring and conquering other parts of the world

Chinese Gunpowder

TED-Ed Talk

1. Why was gunpowder originally invented?
2. How did the Chinese use gunpowder?
3. When did gunpowder technology reach Europe?

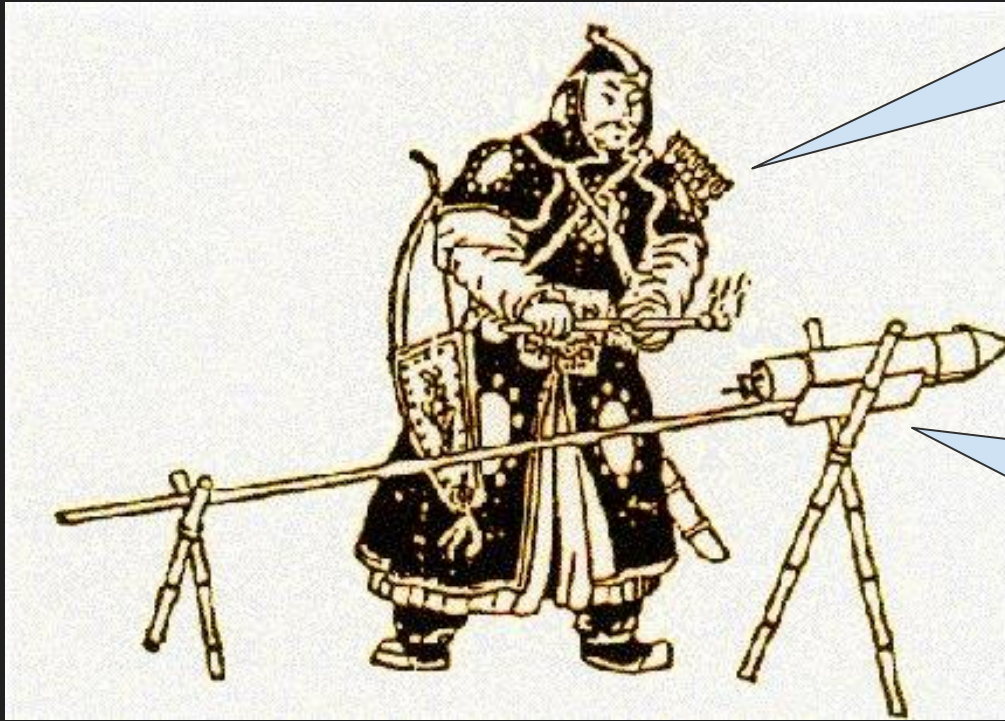


Gunpowder is a mix of saltpeter (sodium nitrate), sulfur, and charcoal, discovered accidentally by Daoist alchemists.

The Chinese referred to it as *huo yao* or “fire drug.”

Used during the Song dynasty to produce “Thunderclap Bombs” to scare and disorient opposing troops.

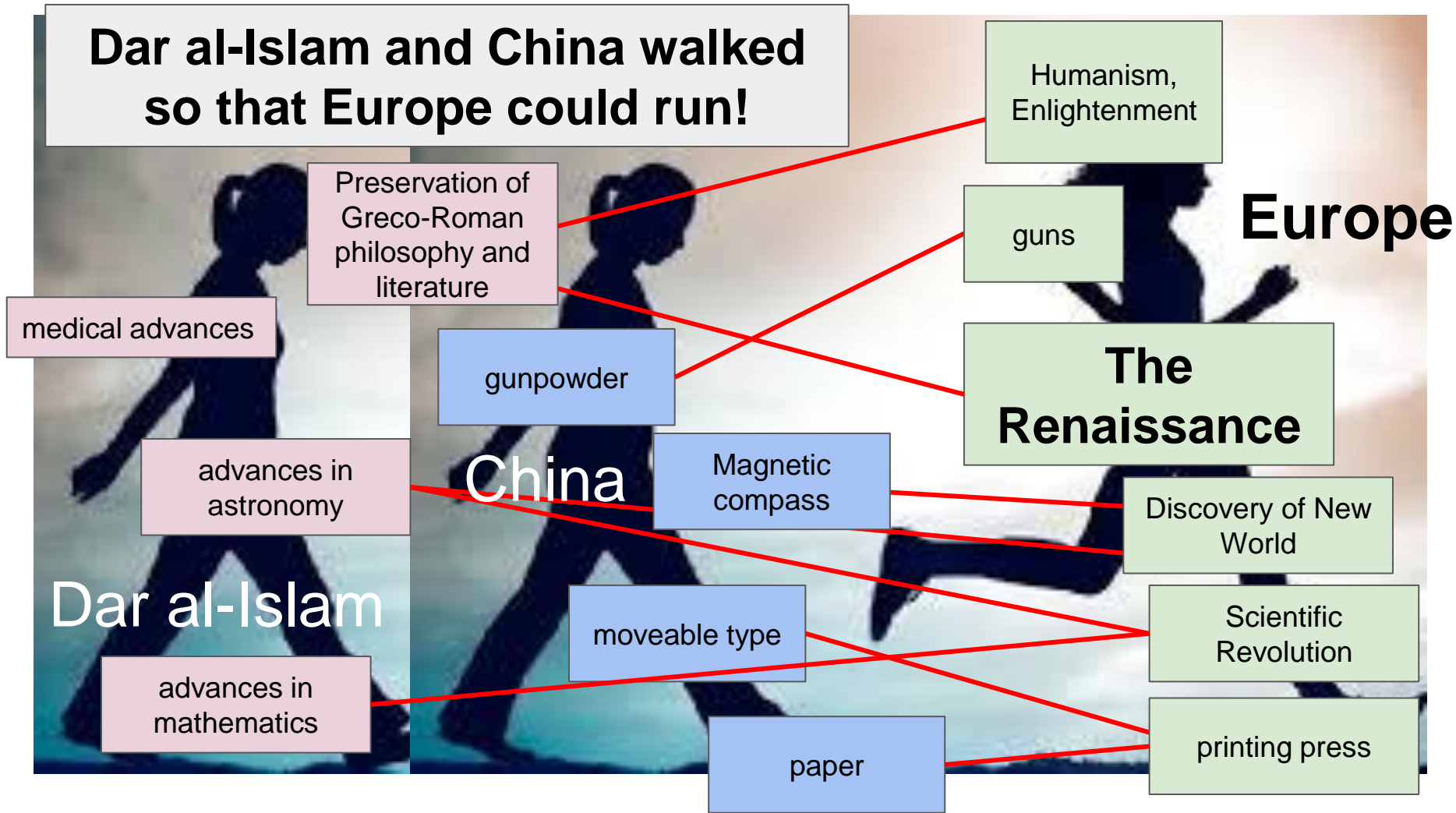




After the Mongol conquest, they continued to develop gunpowder technology for use in warfare in the 13th century (1200s)

Developed powerful bombs with names like: "Match for Ten Thousand Enemies Bomb" and the "Bone-Burning and Bruising Fire Oil Magic Bomb."

Dar al-Islam and China walked so that Europe could run!



Song Dynasty Art



Song Dynasty Art



Women in the Song Dynasty

- Tang Dynasty = women had more rights thanks to influences from steppe nomads
- Song Dynasty = return of Confucianism = tightening of patriarchal restrictions on women
 - returned Han images of female submission & passivity

“The boy leads the girl, the girl follows the boy; the duty of husbands to be resolute and wives to be docile begins with this.” - Sima Guang (1019-1086)

Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, and Neo-Confucianism were adopted in new regions and often led to significant changes in gender relations and family structure. (*Ex. of changes in gender relations and family structure: divorce for both men and women in some Muslim states, the practice of foot-binding in Song China; female monastic orders in Christianity and Buddhism*).

Women in the Song Dynasty

- most compelling expression of patriarchy = foot binding
- **foot binding** = Chinese practice of tight wrapping of young girls' feet, breaking of foot bones
- began with dancers and courtesans in the 10th or 11th century CE
- during Tang dynasty, foot binding widely spread among elite families and became more widespread in Chinese society
- associated with new images of female beauty and eroticism - emphasized small, delicate - reticence
- kept women restricted



Women in the Song Dynasty

- rapidly commercializing economy undermined the position of women in the textile industry
- urban workshops and state factories were run by men and took work from rural women
- however, women could still run restaurants, sell food in the market, work as maids, cooks, and dressmakers
- property rights expanded in Song dynasty – some could control their own dowries and inherit property
- Song dynasty offered mixture of tightening restrictions and new opportunities

China & Northern Nomads

- For over 2,000 years, pressure from the steppes and the intrusion of nomadic peoples were steady in China's historical development
- N. nomads could not practice agriculture, but herded animals instead
- Needed grain and other products from China
- Drawn to China - trading, raiding, and extorting to obtain resources (even luxury goods)
- Great Wall was built to keep N. nomads out
- Chinese NEEDED nomads for horses, skins, furs, hides, and amber
- Nomads also controlled most of the Silk Road trading networks



1. Xiongnu, 4-5 cent. BCE
2. European Hun, 4-5 cent. CE



Xiongnu - nomads who dominated the Asian steppe from the late 3rd century BC for more than 500 years. According to sources, one of the ancestors of the Mongols were the Xiongnu.

Great Wall of China

- 220 - 206 BCE - most famous section was built by Qin emperor Qin Shi Huangdi (emperor → united China)
- Additions added from time to time
- Most of what remains today was built during the Ming dynasty (1368-1644)



Buddhism in China

May have arrived as early as the 200 BCE period, as the Qin Emperors rejected it.



Following the collapse of empires, imperial states were reconstituted in some regions, including the Byzantine Empire and the Chinese dynasties (Sui, Tang, and Song), combining traditional sources of power and legitimacy (*like the patriarchy, use of religion, and land-owning elites*) with innovations better suited to their specific local context (*like new methods of taxation, tributary systems, and the adaptation of religious institutions*)

Tribute System

- Chinese saw themselves as “civilized” in contrast to primitive N. nomads
- Educated Chinese saw themselves as self-sufficient while “barbarians” sought access to China’s wealth and wisdom
- Tribute system = set of practices that required non-Chinese authorities to acknowledge Chinese superiority and their own subordinate place in a Chinese-centered world order
- Outsiders seeking access to China had to send delegation to Chinese court
 - would perform rituals of bowing and prostrations - and present tribute
- In return, emperor would give permission for outsiders to trade in China’s markets and provide them with gifts

Tribute System

- Tribute system regulated Chinese relationships with N. nomads, neighboring states of Korea, Vietnam, and Japan (After 1500, w/European “barbarians” from “across the sea”)
- Some “tributes” → protection \$ from the Chinese to the nomadic empires
 - A Chinese emperor gave a Xiongnu (nomadic) leader a princess to marry to stop devastating attacks
 - Gifted large quantities of grain, wine, and silk
 - Were called “gifts” but were really bribes

Steppe nomads were not interested in conquering China, it was easier and more profitable to extort goods from a functioning Chinese state!!



The Tribute System: *This Qing dynasty painting shows an idealized Chinese version of the tribute system. The Chinese emperor receives barbarian envoys, who perform rituals of subordination and present tribute in the form of a horse..*

Kowtow, also spelled kotow, the act of supplication made by an inferior to his superior by kneeling and knocking his head to the floor. This prostration ceremony was most commonly used in religious worship, by commoners who came to make a request of the local district magistrate, and by officials and representatives of foreign powers who came into the presence of the emperor.

To representatives of foreign countries seeking trade and relations with China, performance of the kowtow before the emperor signified their countries' acknowledgement of the Chinese emperor as the "son of heaven" (*tianzi*) and of China as the Central Kingdom (Zhongguo) in the world.





Korea & Chinese Influence

- Chinese conquest of N. Korea during Han dynasty & colonization by Chinese settlers = way for Chinese culture → spread of Buddhism
- Bitter rivals
- Generally maintained political independence
- Tribute system with China
- Copied Chinese administrative techniques
- Korean students studied Confucianism in China
- Negative impact on Korean women esp. after 1300 (had more rights before Chinese Confucian influences arrived)
- Examination system never caught on

Korea & Chinese Influence

- Korean women originally had children and stayed with their families
 - This was against Confucian ideals that women join the husband's family
- Other rights eroded due to Confucianism:
 - Remarriage of divorced or widowed women
 - Female inheritance of property
 - Plural marriages for men
- Chinese culture had little influence outside of the aristocracy
- Korea had many slaves, 1/3rd of the population in 1100 CE
- Buddhist monasteries used slaves to cultivate land
- Developed a phonetic alphabet called hangul for writing
 - Very different from Chinese writing





Map 8.3

Strayer, *Ways of the World with Sources for AP, 3e*, © 2016 Bedford /St. Martin's



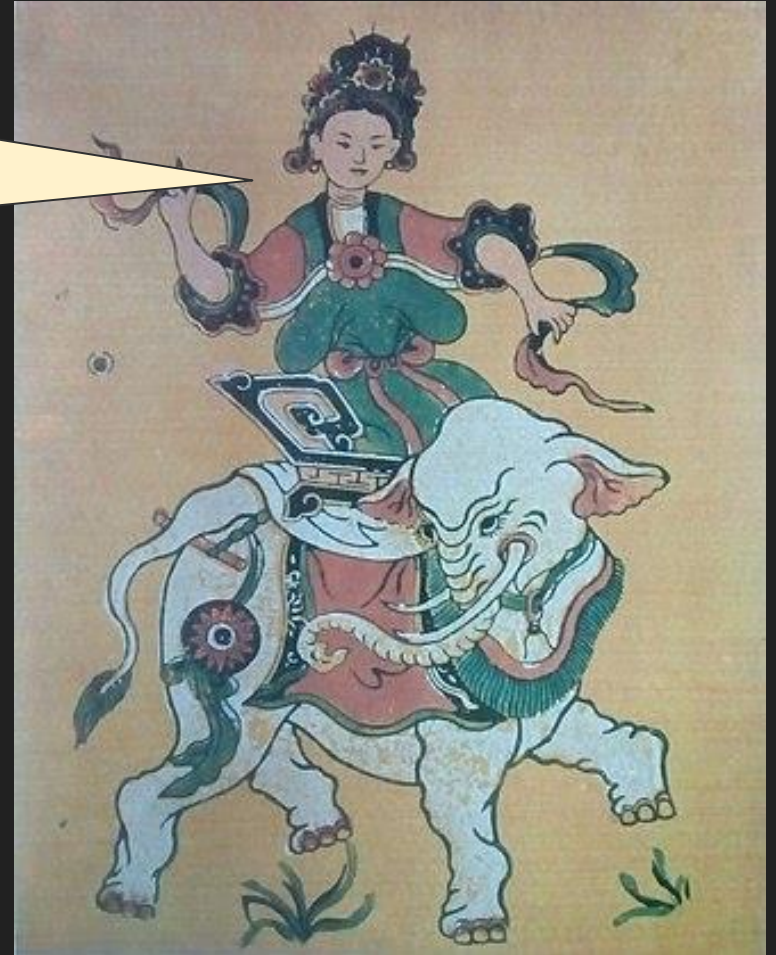
Vietnam & Chinese Influence

- Borrowed heavily from China
- Adopted Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, administrative techniques, examination system, artistic & literary styles
- Political independence through **tribute system**
- Unlike Korea, they were ruled by Chinese officials for 1,000 years (111 BCE - 939 CE)
- Regarded by the Chinese as “southern barbarians”
- China expected Vietnam to fully assimilate into China politically and culturally

I'd like to ride storms, kill sharks in
the open sea, drive out the
aggressors, reconquer the
country, undo the ties of serfdom,
and never bend my back to be the
concubine of whatever man.

-Lady Triệu

Lady Triệu (226–248 CE) was a female warrior in 3rd century Vietnam who managed, for a time, to resist the Chinese state of Eastern Wu during its occupation of Vietnam



Vietnam & Chinese Influence



- Chinese styles, language, and clothing = mandatory
- Chinese-style irrigated agriculture introduced
- Vietnamese officials educated as Confucian scholars
- Chinese became language for official business
- Periodic Vietnamese rebellions
- Became a separate, independent state after 938
- Vietnamese dynasties continued to use Chinese government systems
- Utilized the Mandate of Heaven
- still had unique language & greater role for women in social & economic life

Asian Languages

As you can see, Asian countries all developed their own unique writing systems and languages despite the influence of Chinese culture and politics.

THE GUIDE FOR ASIAN LANGUAGES
Japanese, Korean and Chinese are very different

JAPANESE

have **curvy**, little cute symbols

丸らしく、小さく、可愛い文字

KOREAN

have **equary** face-like symbols with circles

곡선과 **사각형** 얼굴과 같은 기호

CHINESE

have **BIG**, scary symbols

大的 恐怖的符號

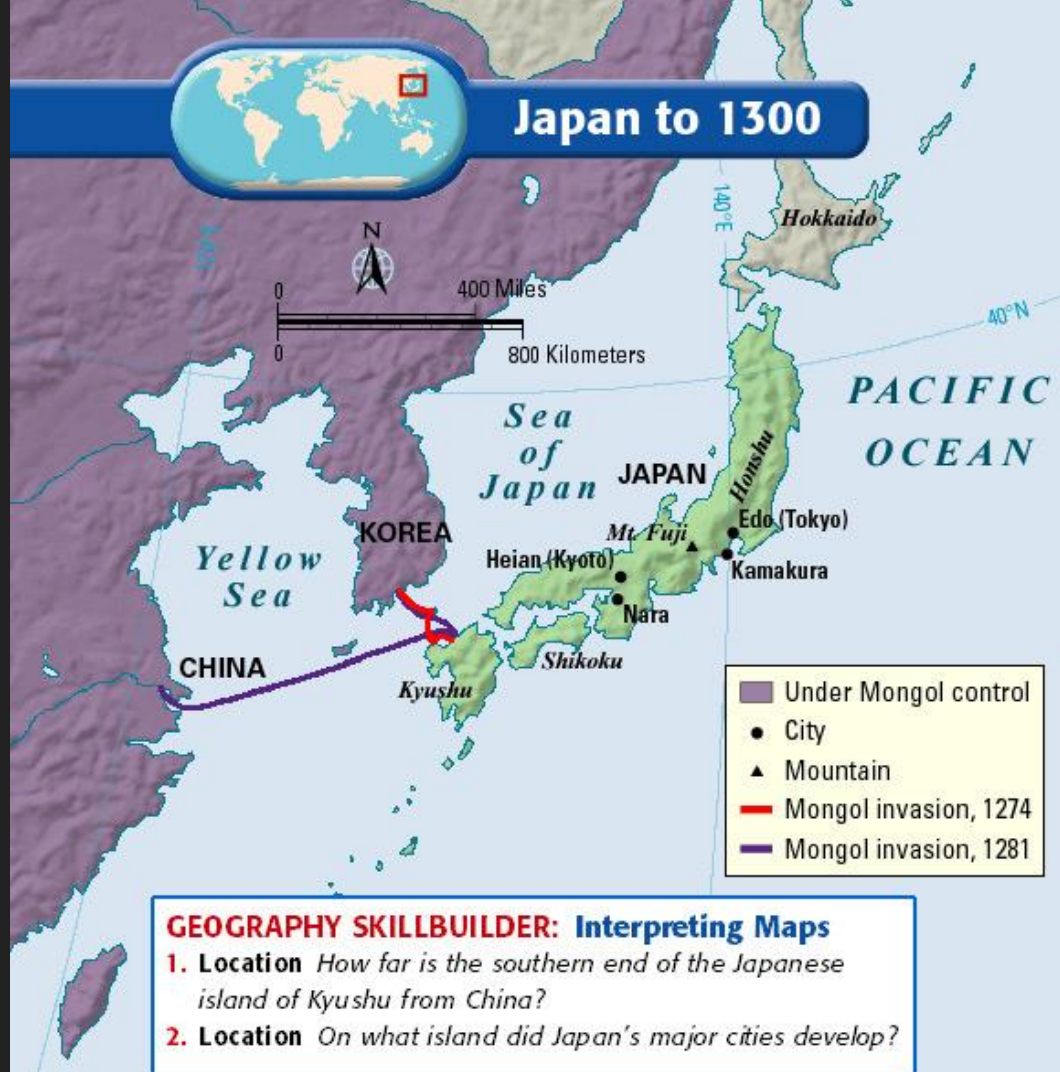


JAPAN

600 CE- 1450 CE



Japan to 1300



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER: Interpreting Maps

- 1. Location** How far is the southern end of the Japanese island of Kyushu from China?
- 2. Location** On what island did Japan's major cities develop?

Some states synthesized local and borrowed traditions. (*Examples: Persian traditions that influenced Islamic states, Chinese traditions that influenced states in Japan*)

New forms of coerced labor appeared, including serfdom in Europe and Japan and the elaboration of the mit'a in the Inca Empire. Peasants resisted attempts to raise dues and taxes by staging revolts. The demand for slaves for both military and domestic purposes increased, particularly in central Eurasia, parts of Africa, and the eastern Mediterranean

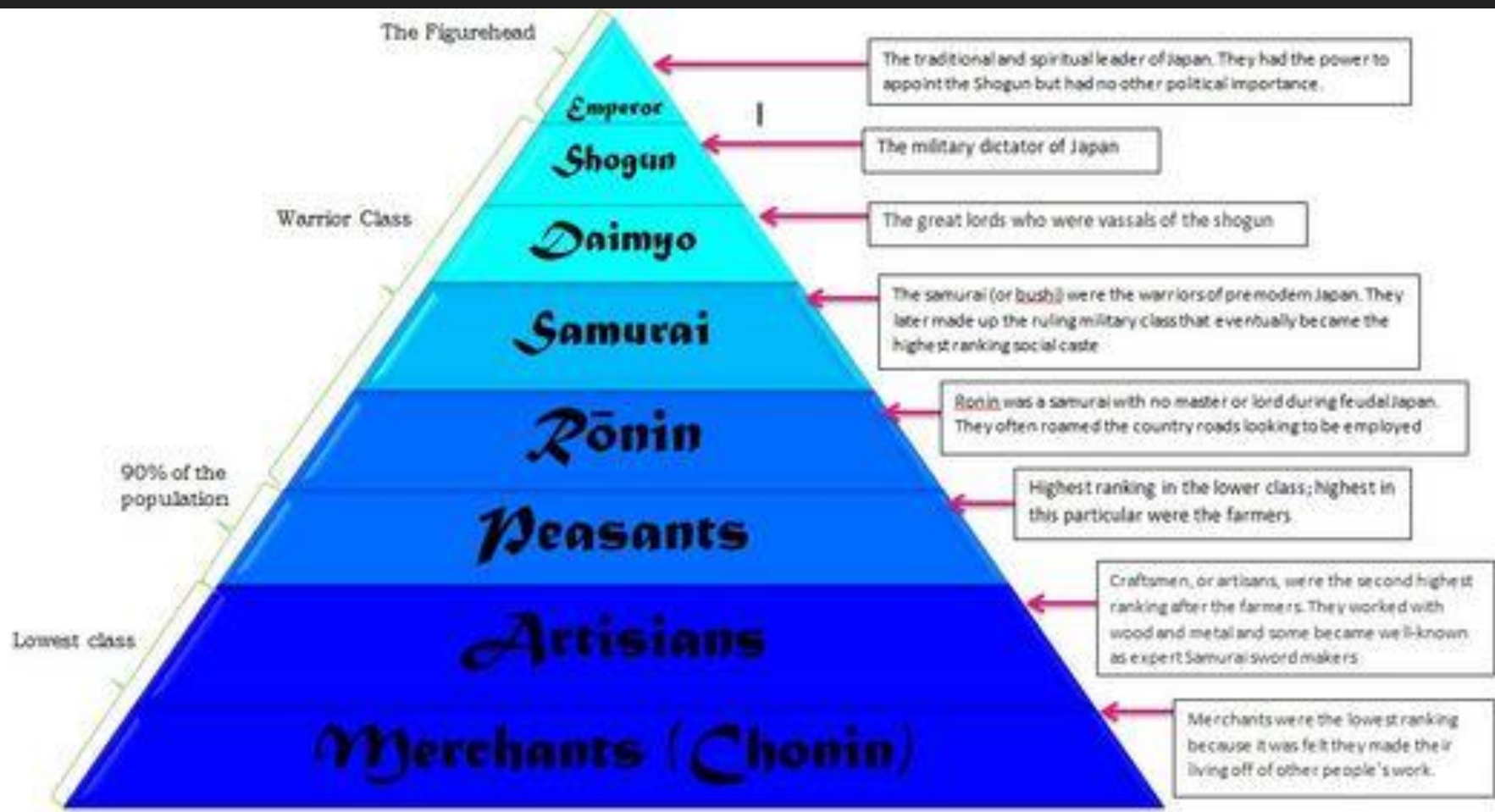
In some places, new forms of governance emerged, including those developed in various Islamic states (*Abbasids, Muslim Iberia, Delhi Sultanates*), the Mongol khanates, new Buddhist states in South, East, and Southeast Asia, city-states (*Italian peninsula, East Africa, SE Asia*), and decentralized government (feudalism) in Europe and Japan

Japan & Chinese Influence

- Separated by 100 miles of ocean
- Never successfully invaded or conquered by China
- Borrowing from Chinese civilization was voluntary
 - Height of borrowing = 7th - 9th centuries CE
- 100s of monks & scholars visited China - brought back ideas
- Adopted Chinese-style court rituals, court rankings, calendar
- Encouraged Buddhism & Confucianism
- No threat = selective in their borrowing

Japan & Chinese Influence

- Never succeeded in creating effective centralized & bureaucratic state to match China
- Court & emperor remained an important ceremonial & cultural role - real political authority → aristocratic families (at court & in provinces)
- Decentralization = local authorities developed their own military power = samurai (warrior class of Japanese society)
- Buddhism never completely replaced original Japanese beliefs (Shintoism)
- FEUDALISM (compare to Medieval Europe)





Buddhism in Japan
by 500 CE / 6th century



Shintoism in Japan

Shintoism is Japan's native animist religion. **Animist** religions believe in nature spirits (of mountains, trees, animals, etc). Shintoism is still practiced in Japan today in conjunction with Buddhism.





Samurai

Samurai

- Bushido - "way of the warrior"
- Unwritten law code for samurai
- Began in 9th century CE
- stressed frugality, loyalty, martial arts mastery, and honor until death
- born from Neo-Confucianism and Confucian texts during the Tokugawa-era
 - also influenced by Shinto and zen Buddhism
- Seven virtues: rectitude, courage, benevolence, respect, honesty, honor, loyalty



As in the previous period, social structures were shaped largely by class and caste hierarchies. Patriarchy continued; however, in some areas, women exercised more power and influence, most notably among the Mongols and in West Africa, Japan, and Southeast Asia.

Women in Medieval Japan

- Most of what we know about medieval Japanese court life comes from the writings of Japanese noblewomen
 - Ex. The Pillow Book by Sei Shonagon and The Tale of Genji by Murasaki Shikibu
 - *The Pillow Book* overlapped *The Tale of Genji* → same court environment. Sei Shonagon, like Murasaki Shikibu, was a lady-in-waiting to an empress, too. (older, retired Empress Sadako - more relaxed court)
 - Very different temperament and different product than that being written by Lady Murasaki.
 - They knew one another well enough for Lady Murasaki criticized Sei Shonagon in her own dairy.
- Upper-class women escaped oppressive features of Confucianism.
(prohibition of remarriage for widows, seclusion within the home, and foot binding)
 - Most powerful borrowing came during the Tang Dynasty when Chinese women actually did have more freedoms
- Japanese women could inherit property
- Married couples often lived apart or with the wife's family
- Marriages were easily made and broken
- Began to lose status after the 12th century (1100s)
 - Had less to do with Confucianism and more to do with warrior/samurai culture





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