

EAST ASIA IN THE POST-CLASSICAL PERIOD

TIME PERIODS

581-618 CE	Sui Dynasty	Capital: Chang'an
618-906 CE	Tang (T'ang) Dynasty	Capitals: Chang'an and Luoyang
907-960 CE	Five Dynasties Period	
960-1279	Song (Sung) Dynasty	
	Northern Song (960-1127)	Capital: Bianjing (present-day Kaifeng)
	Southern Song (1127-1279)	Capital: Lin'an (present-day Hangzhou)
1279-1368	Yuan Dynasty	The reign of the Mongol empire; Capital: Dadu (present-day Beijing)
1368-1644	Ming Dynasty	Re-establishment of rule by Han ruling house; Capitals: Nanjing and Beijing

THE SUI DYNASTY

Sui Yangdi unified China through violence and repression after the period of the three kingdoms

Constructed the Grand Canal uniting the Yellow, and Yangtze Rivers

Conscripted peasants in order to build the canal and work on part of the Great Wall

Downfall brought upon by complaints of high taxes for military escapades, eventually leading to his assassination in 618 C.E.



TANG DYNASTY

Lasted till 907 C.E.

Made the nation the center of the Tributary system, including the Silla Kingdom, and parts of Vietnam

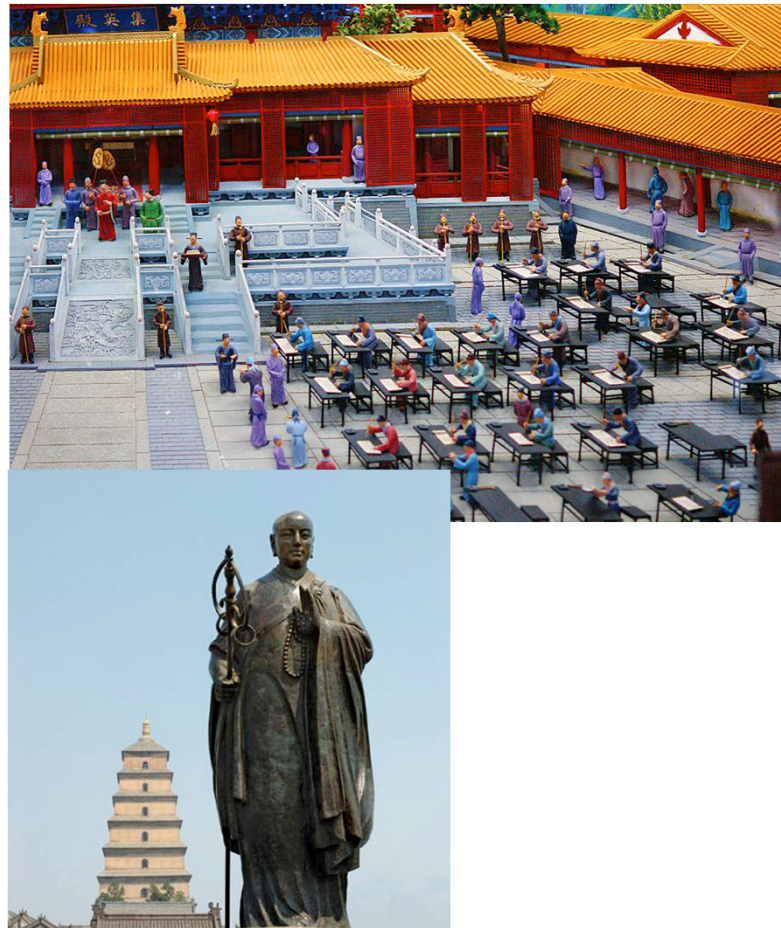
Also made all representatives preform the kowtow, basically bowing your head until it reaches the floor to demonstrate China's superiority



MORE TANG!

Tang Tailing (627-649) Expanded the bureaucracy, transportation, and re-introduced the civil-service exam. Similar pride for someone passing the exam is like someone making it to the olympics in a community

Xuanzang went to India to study Buddhism. He brought back texts and translated them into Chinese which helped grow Buddhism



AND THE EVENTUAL FALL

Emperor Huan Tsung, was distracted by his favorite concubine and a military leader named An Lushan created a rebellion

Also an army of Uighurs, people from Central Asia took back their land.

These two wars around the same time was one of the most devastating wars in human history with death and disease killing maybe 10's of millions. The Tang survived, but never regained it's power



SONG DYNASTY

Began in 960 lasting till 1279

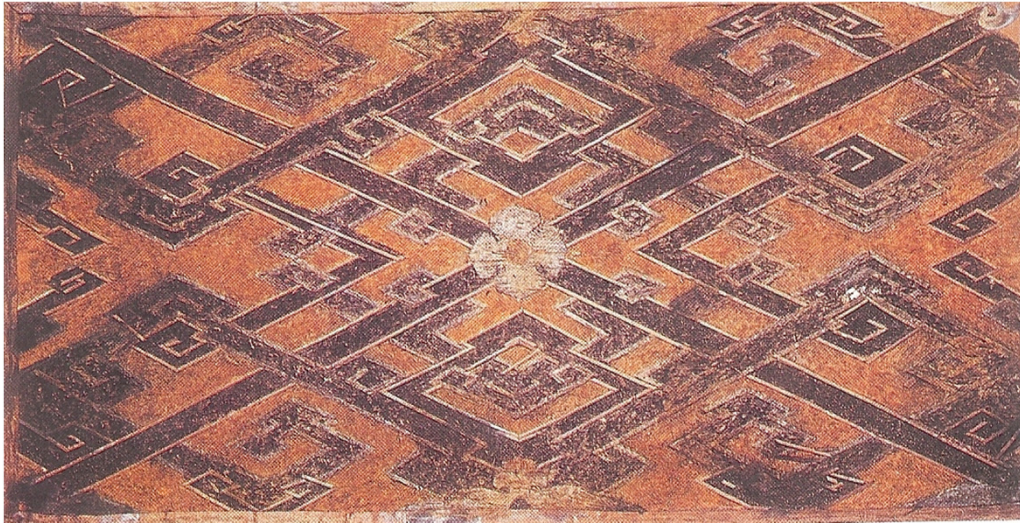
Expanded the number of government positions and expanded educational opportunities for the civil service exams

This contributed to the dynasty's weakness as government officials were known as the *scholar gentry*

Eventually taken over by the Mongols after paying tribute to them to stave off the eventual attack



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS: LAND REFORM



Tang re-introduced the *equal-field system*, which attempted to ensure that all Chinese families had a parcel of land to cultivate

Wanted to lessen the power of the aristocracy

Lasted for 100 years, and did increase rural wealth

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY

Under the Tang Dynasty they grew fast-ripening rice, introduced from Vietnam

Allowed peasants in South China to grow two crops a year, helping land-redistribution

Because of the Grand Canal, North China could benefit from the crops in the south

Produced more non-agricultural goods than any other civilization before, porcelain and silk

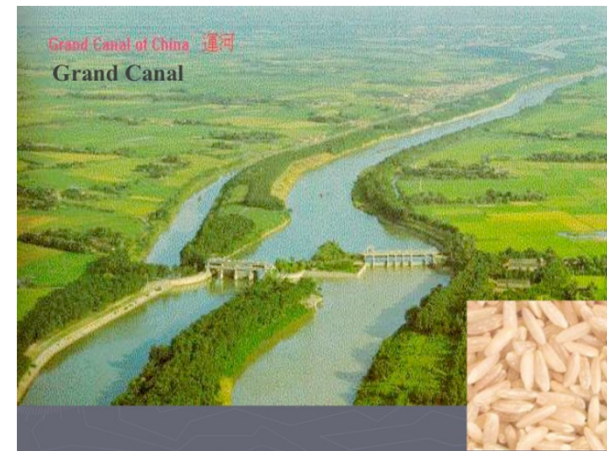


URBANIZATION AND TAX

City of Hangzhou was home to about one million people, but not the largest, Chang'an had two million

Prospered as it's merchants imported and exported goods

Paid people to work on public projects, increasing money in circulation and promoting economic wealth



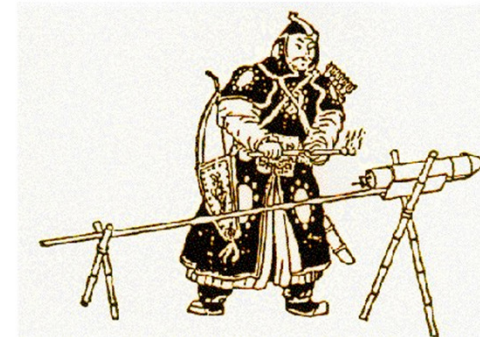
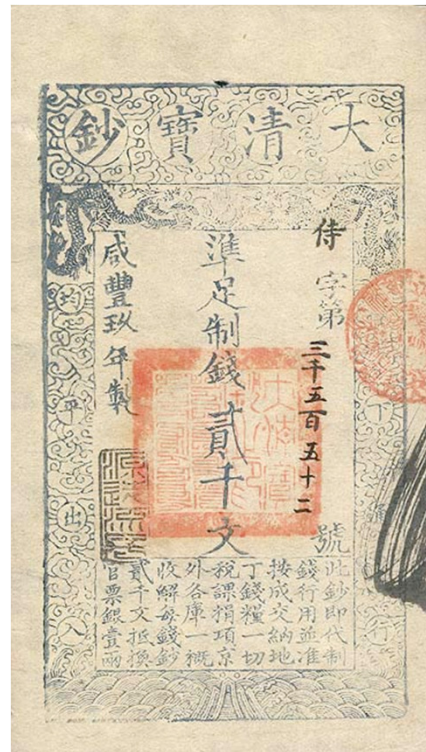
TRADE AND GUNS

Created gunpowder first used for fireworks and Song Dynasty invented guns

China exported porcelain, tea, and silk, including exchanging ideas like paper, the magnetic compass, and gunpowder

Created a system of flying cash, using paper money, could deposit money in one location, and deposit in another

Chinese ship junk, can be over 400 feet long used for trading



SOCIAL STRUCTURES

Created the new class of the scholar gentry, soon outnumbered the aristocracy

Farmers, artisans, and craftsman came after them, with the merchants at the bottom because they didn't produce anything, but often quite wealthy

Women assumed subordinate roles with wealthy women practicing foot-binding since small feet were a sign of beauty and social status



INTELLECTUAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

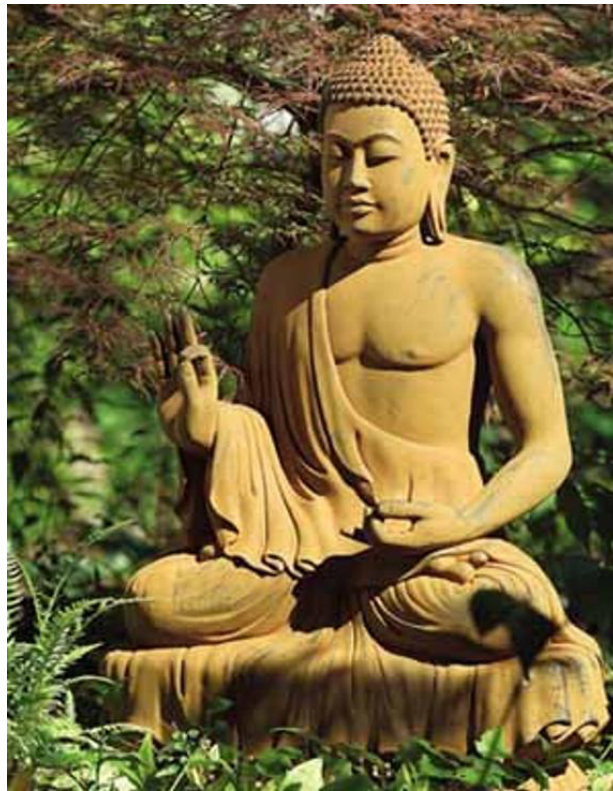
Developed a system of printing called *wood-block printing*, aka carving out a block of wood the coating it in ink and pressing a page against it

Most Chinese were illiterate, but the privileged classes could read more books leading to the world's first Renaissance men

Chinese Poets wrote about their lives and their secular background



RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY IN CHINA



Taoism and Confucianism existed alongside each other, but not Confucians and Buddhists

Buddhism became popular during the Tang Dynasty thanks to Buddhist monk Xuanzang, who studied in India for 20 years, translated Buddhist text and brought them back to China

Combination of Buddhist beliefs and Daoist principles led to *Zen Buddhism*

Popularity of Buddhism led the Tang Dynasty to close monasteries, but Buddhism remained popular

BUDDHISM AND NEO-CONFUCIANISM

Song Dynasty was friendlier towards Buddhism

Another syncretic faith evolved between 770 and 840 called Neo-Confucianism

- Not a religious belief, but a philosophy
- Combines rational thought with metaphysics of Taoism and Buddhism, became very popular in Japan, Korea, and Vietnam



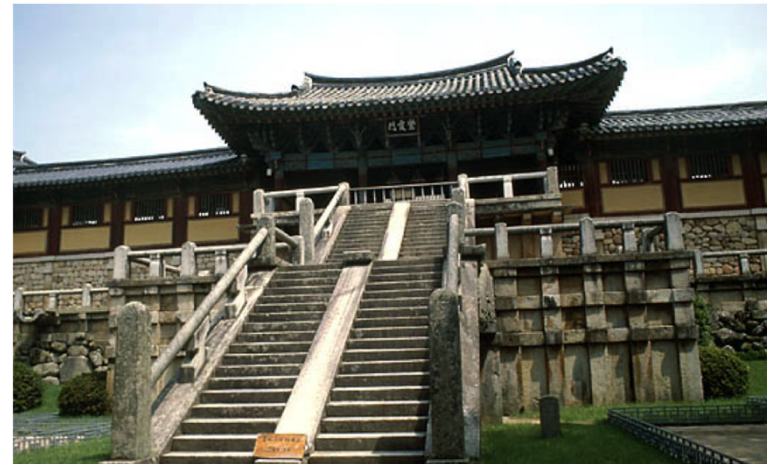
KOREA

Much more direct relationship with China than Japan

Representatives of the Korean Silla Kingdom performed the ritual kowtow when meeting the Chinese Emperor

Korea modeled its capital city, Kumsong, after Chang'an

Because of the power of the aristocracy, some Chinese reforms were never implemented, there were no Korean civil service exams



JAPAN AND IT'S FEAR OF CHINA

Known as the Middle Kingdom, China's presence in Korea worried Japan

Prince Shotoku Taisi in the Yamamoto region, attempted to implement Chinese practices in Japan, sent Japanese nobility to study Chinese Culture in China

The Taika Reforms after Taisi, put all farmland under government ownership, not the feudal lords



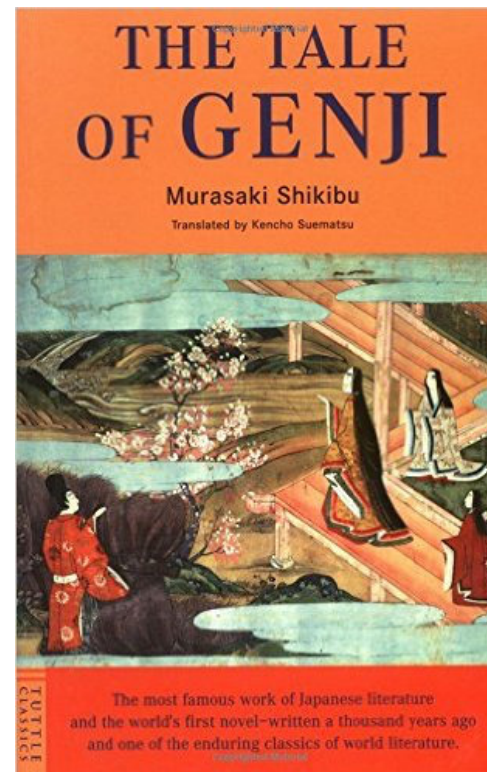
RETURN TO DECENTRALIZED GOVERNMENT

794 the Emperor moved the capital back to Heian, which began the Heian Period (794-1185) where the nobility was strengthened due to the civil service exam not being open to all social classes

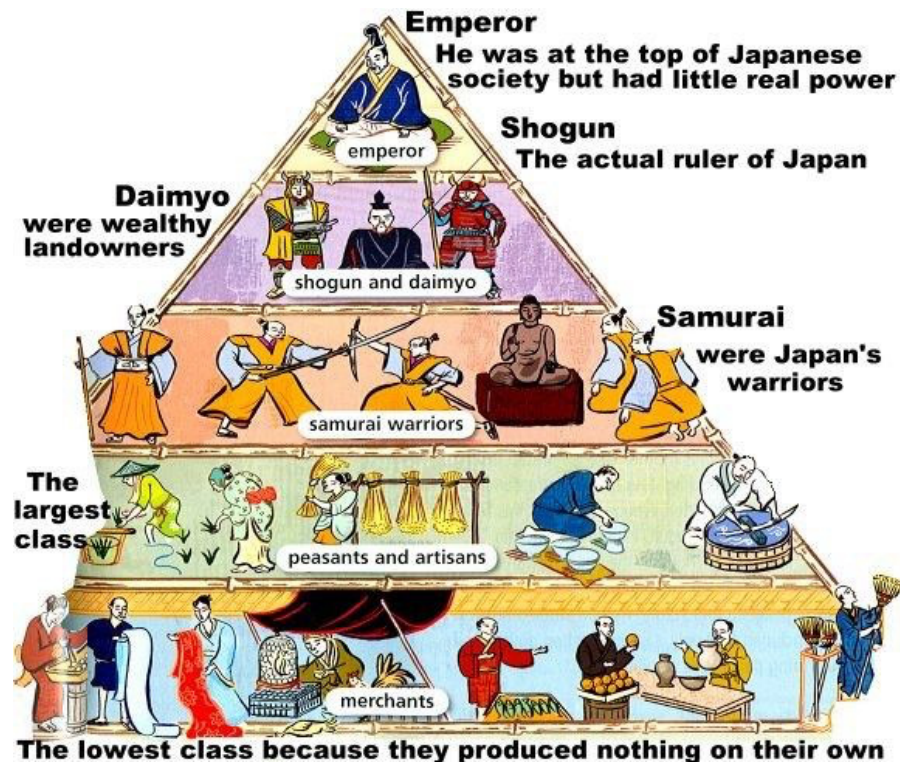
The Tale of Genji, arguably the world's first novel was written by Murasaki Shikibu

Military rule took over when the Minamoto clan most to power who installed shoguns to rule

Nobles recruited samurai, who for their help received food, clothing, and shelter from the landlord



JAPANESE FEUDALISM



The *Daimyo*, were the landowning aristocrats who battled for supreme power

VERY SIMILAR to European feudalism

Japanese samurai were held to a code known as *bushido*, stressed frugality, loyalty, martial arts, and honor unto death

VIETNAM

Had a very adversarial relationship with China

Traded tortoise shells, ivory, peacock feathers, and pearls with China

Where China lived in extended families, Vietnam preferred *nuclear families*, just husband, wife, and kids

Also never went for *Sinification*, or assimilation of Chinese traditions

Vietnamese scholar-officials showed more loyalty to the village peasants, rather than the emperor

At the fall of the Tang Dynasty, Vietnamese rebels waged *guerrilla warfare*, to drive out the Chinese

