

CH 13

China



SUI RISE AND FALL...

- Wendi-589CE
 - Lowered taxes and established granaries
 - People loved him!
- Yangdi takes over (Wendi's son)
 - Murdered his father to reach the throne
 - \$\$ on education and Confucian ideals (really? See previous bullet point)
 - Spends lots of \$\$ on construction
 - **Grand Canal** connecting N and S (1200 miles long)
 - Reintroduced the scholar-gentry to the Chinese bureaucracy
 - Tried to take over Korea but failed
 - The people revolted and he was strangled (by his own ministers) in 618CE



TANG DYNASTY 618-907

- Li Yuan takes over and creates the Tang
- Increased borders
- Assimilated Turks
- Repaired the Great Wall
- Took over part of Korea
 - Silla (more on this later)
- Utilized Confucian ideas
- Power of aristocracy declines
- Bureau of Censors kept
An eye on officials....
- Capital at Changan



CIVIL SERVICE EXAM

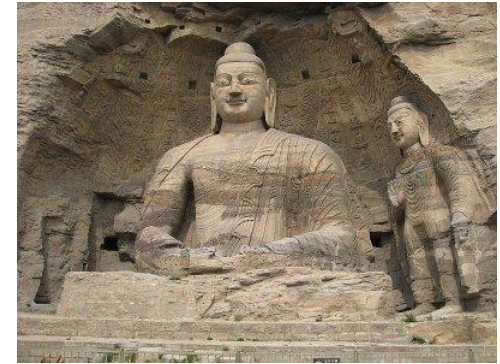
- Became increasingly important
- Administered by Ministry of Rites
 - Jinshi- achievement of highest office
 - Gave special rights; high status for families
 - Standardized for fairness....kind of...
- Birth and family connections were still important though...



Chinese officials compose essays on a Confucian text under the Emperor's supervision. (Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris)



BUDDHISM



- Threatened by Confucius ideals/followers
- Many Tang rulers (Empress Wu) still patronized Buddhism
 - Endowed monasteries
 - 50,000 monasteries by the 9th century
 - Statues of Buddha everywhere
- Many thought Buddhism threatened the economic state of the empire. why?
- By 841, Emperor Wuzong persecuted Buddhist; many monasteries were closed and/or destroyed
- Buddhist land was divided between nobles
- Confucianism emerges the “victor”



TANG-AT IT'S HEIGHT OF POWER

- **Emperor XuanZong (713-756)**
 - Advanced political and economic reforms
 - Patronized the arts and other luxuries
 - Was a gifted musician himself
 - Yang Guifei-infatuated with her
 - She put her relatives in high positions within the government
- **An Lushan Revolt in 755-it was put down**
 - XuanZong was ordered to kill her (Yang Guifei)
 - This was the beginning of the end for Tang
 - Last Emperor forced to resign 907



SONG DYNASTY

- Founded by Taizu in 960-1279
- Reunited China, but smaller than Tang
- Tribute with enemies to the North (silver, silk, tea) but to no avail...
- Couldn't beat the Khitan (Liao Dynasty)...this set a precedent for troubles with nomads in the future...



SONG POLITICS

- Didn't match Tang in political or military strength
- Promoted the scholar-gentry over the aristocratic class
- Increased salaries
- Standardized civil service exam again



SONG AND CONFUCIANISM

- Revival of Confucianism too
 - Dug out the old text
 - Studied the classics
- Neo-Confucianism-what is it?
 - Revival of old ways
 - The importance of applying philosophical principles to everyday life
 - The cultivation of personal morality was the highest human goal
 - Elitist attitude...will lead to isolation...what's going on with the rest of the world in the late 1400's-1500's?



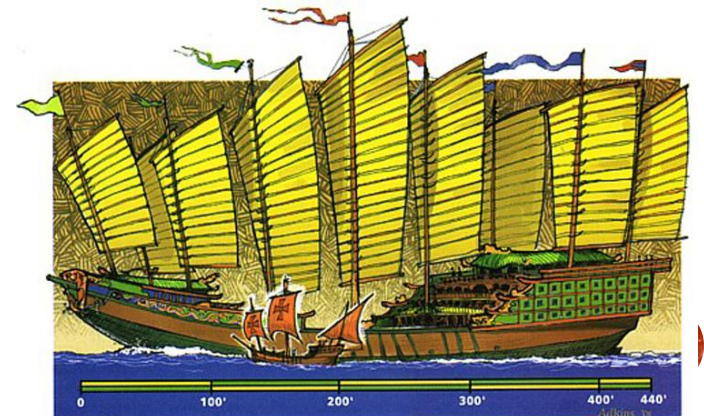
SONG DECLINE...

- Nomads were establishing kingdoms in the North b/c Song wasn't doing anything to stop them (them: the Jurchens)
- Song paid these people tribute to keep them from attacking
 - This drained the Song economy
- Wang Anshi (Chief Minister) tried to revive the dynasty
 - Used legalist principles (what is legalism again?)
 - Revived economics
 - Worked for a while...but then the emperor supporting him died and so did these changes
- 1279: Mongols take over and start the Yuan Dynasty



ECONOMICS IN BOTH DYNASTIES

- Trade with Islam and the world
 - As the Tang declined, they lost control over the Silk Rd and began trading on the Indian Ocean (two way Cultural Diffusion)
- Ship building (junks)
- Used paper money (during Tang)
- Supervised markets (guilds formed)
- Banks were established
 - Vouchers-flying money
 - Reduced robbery



LIFE IN THE TANG AND SONG . . .

- Urban surge (population rises)
 - Beautiful cities
 - Tang-Capital-Changan
 - Song Capital-Hangzhou
 - With a lot to do/many visitors
- Women
 - Life was OK under the Tang-but declined under the Song
 - Women could divorce if both agreed
 - Married those of the same age group
 - Few rights
 - Due to Neo-Confucian beliefs
 - foot binding
 - High fashion
 - Kept women at home (no jobs)
 - Similar to what in Islam?
 - Did peasants do this?
 - Some women had rights
 - Complimentary husbands ☺ but only the \$\$\$ had these



FOOTBINDING (END OF SONG DYNASTY)



INVENTION AND THE ARTS

■ Tang-Song

- Remembered for their contribution to the arts, science, technology, and literature
 - Agricultural techniques
 - Compass for sea navigation-1100's
 - Dams/dikes
 - Bridge building
 - Gunpowder (led to bombs, grenades, cannons)-800's
 - Coal for fuel
 - Tea
 - Abacus
 - Mechanical Clocks-700's
 - Paper money-1020
 - Porcelain-late 700's
 - Kites
 - Moveable type
 - Li Bo (male; Tang dynasty)
 - Poems
 - Beautiful art work with symbolism (emphasis on Landscape)
 - Typically written on scrolls
 - Men who were painters, etc. were valued
 - Long fingernails in the scholar-gentry....why?

