

**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

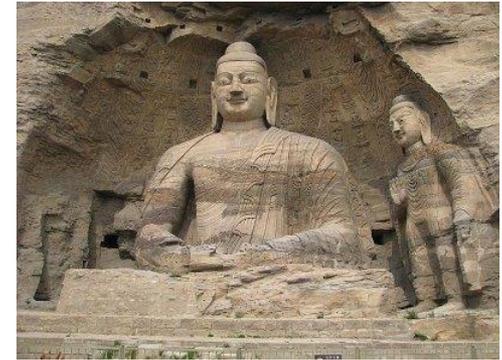
- Became increasingly important
- Administered by Ministry of Rites
  - Jinshi- achievement of highest office
  - Gave special rights; high status for families
  - Standardized for fairness....kind of...
- Birth and family connections were still important though...



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 9<sup>th</sup> 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?



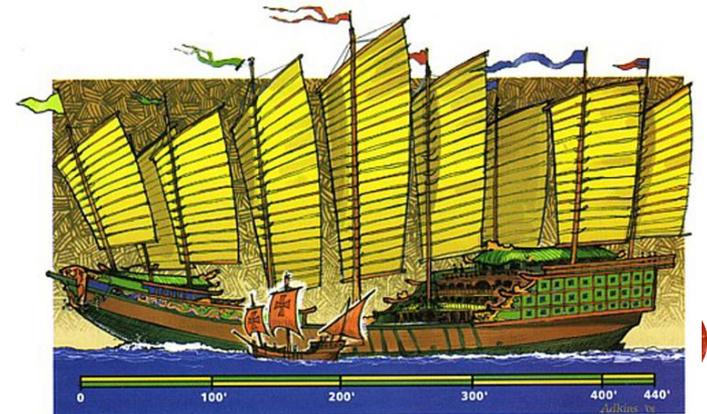
# SONG DECLINE...

- 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?

