

China and the World

500 - 1300



AP WORLD HISTORY NOTES
CHAPTER 9

China after the Han Dynasty



- Political disunity following the collapse of the Han dynasty
- During this time, many Chinese people began to migrate south
 - Partly a natural migration
 - Partly due to the nomads from the north creeping in
 - Result = by 1000 CE, about 60% of China's population was in southern China
 - Result = the Chinese destroyed forests and land in southern China as they brought their intense agriculture with them

The Reunification of China



- China regained its unity under the Sui dynasty (589-618)
- Reunified China with the construction of the Grand Canal
- Short-lived dynasty
 - Ruthless emperors = unpopular
 - Failed attempt to conquer Korea → wasted resources and upset people
 - Sui dynasty = overthrown



The Grand Canal



The Reunification of China



- Sui dynasty was followed by: the Tang dynasty (618-907) and the Song dynasty (960-1279)
- Both used the same state structure:
 - Centralized government
 - 6 major departments = personnel, finance, rites, army, justice, and public works
 - Censorate = agency that watched over the rest of government to make sure everything ran smoothly
 - Government officials chosen based on a revived Confucian-based examination system

Tang and Song Dynasties

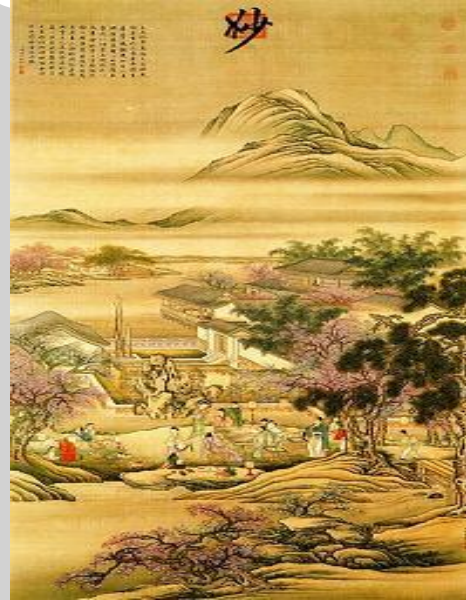


Map 9.1 Tang and Song Dynasty China
Chapter 9, *Ways of the World: A Brief Global History with Sources*, First Edition
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Page 381

The “Golden Age” of China



- Focus on arts and literature
- Excellence in poetry, landscape painting, and ceramics
- Neo-Confucianism = revival of Confucianism mixed with Buddhist and Daoist elements



The “Economic Revolution” of China



- Advancements in agriculture
- Most important = adoption of a fast-ripening and drought-resistant strain of rice from Vietnam
- Result = rapid population growth
 - Jumped to 120 million people by 1200 CE

The Urbanization of China



- Many people began to move to cities
- Dozens of Chinese cities numbered over 100,000 people
- Capital of Song dynasty = Hangzhou
 - Had over 1 million people



Modern picture of Hangzhou

Chinese Industrial Production

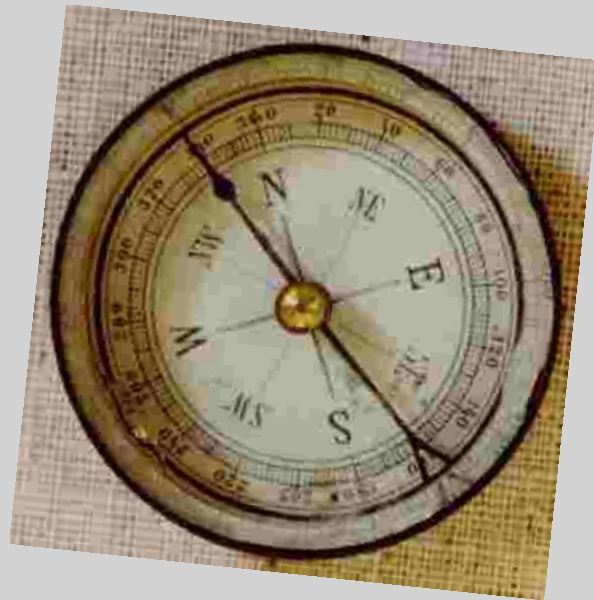


- Iron industry boomed
- Used to make: suits of armor, arrowheads, coins, tools, bells in Buddhist monasteries, etc.

Chinese Innovations



- Woodblock and moveable type → led to the first printed books
- Larger ships and magnetic compass
- Gunpowder



Women in the Song Dynasty



- Chinese women HAD been enjoying a looser patriarchal system
- With Song dynasty = major revival of Confucianism = belief in female subordination
- Patriarchal restrictions began to tighten again

Foot Binding



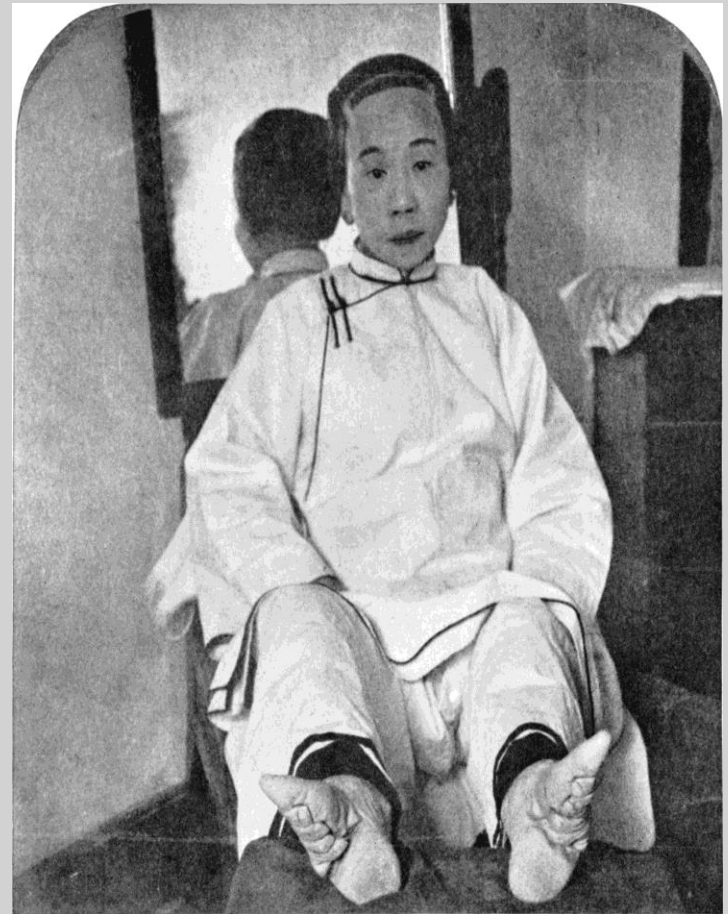
- Began between the ages of 4 and 7
- Involved the tight wrapping of young girls' feet
 - Broke the bones and caused intense pain
 - Goal = to make the feet small and delicate
- Sign of female beauty
- Kept the women at home
- Began with just elite women, but soon became a common practice with all classes



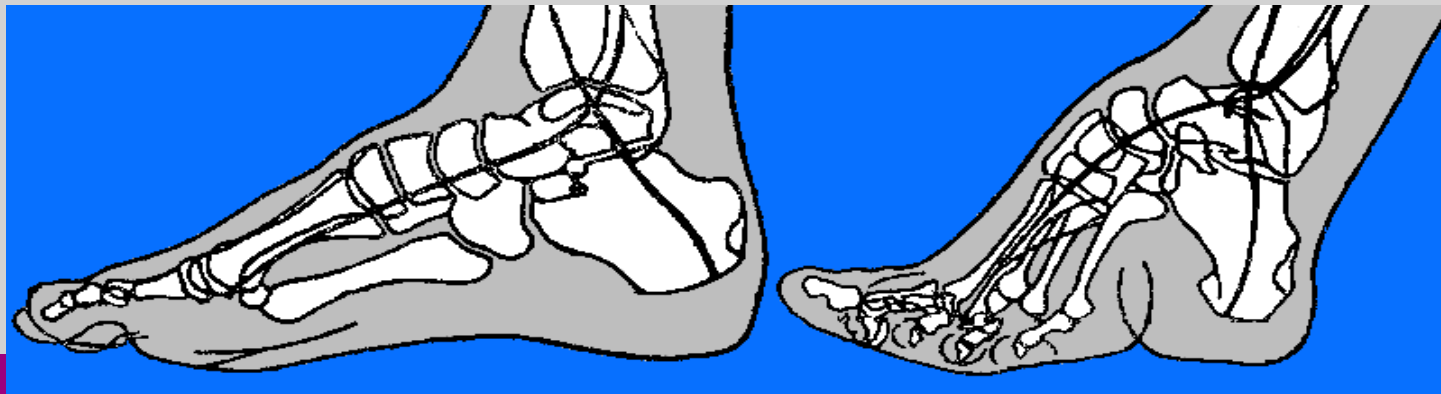
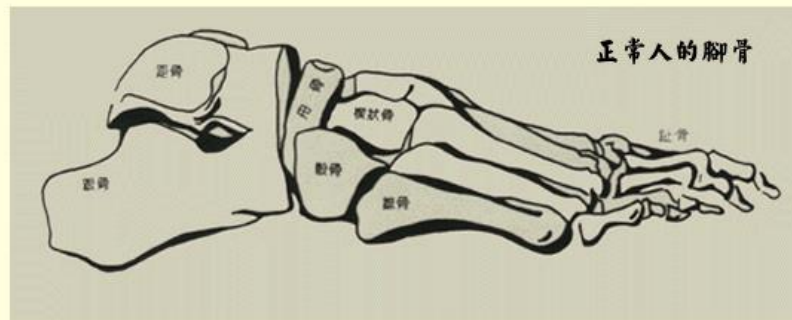
Foot Binding



Foot Binding



Foot Binding



Women and the Economy: Textiles



- China's economy became more commercial
- More factories and workshops → less home-made products
 - Workshops and factories run by men
 - Factories now used to produce silk and other textiles
 - Takes this job away from women

Women and the Economy: Other Jobs



- What did women do instead?
 - Operated restaurants
 - Sold fish and vegetables
 - Maids, cooks, dressmakers
 - Concubines
 - Courtesans
 - Entertainers
 - Prostitutes

Positive Trends for Women



- Property rights expanded
 - Controlled own dowries
 - Inherited family property
- Promotion of further education for women
 - To raise sons effectively
 - To increase family's fortune

China & the Northern Nomads



- Most enduring and intense interaction
- Nomads = pastoral and semi-agricultural people in the northern steppe
- Relationship began as a result of TRADE
- Began a centuries-long relationship filled with trading, raiding, and extortion

The Nomads' Point of View



- Nomads thought the Chinese were a threat
 - Built the Great Wall to keep them out
 - Directed their military towards them occasionally
 - Made trading more difficult than it had to be
- In reality: the Chinese needed the nomads
 - Needed horses for their military
 - Needed other goods like: furs, hides, amber
 - Many important parts of the Silk Road network were in nomad territories

China's Point of View



- Nomads = barbaric and primitive
- Chinese = sophisticated and civilized
- Chinese = felt superior to ALL non-Chinese cultures/people, not just the nomads
- This resulted in the Chinese tribute system



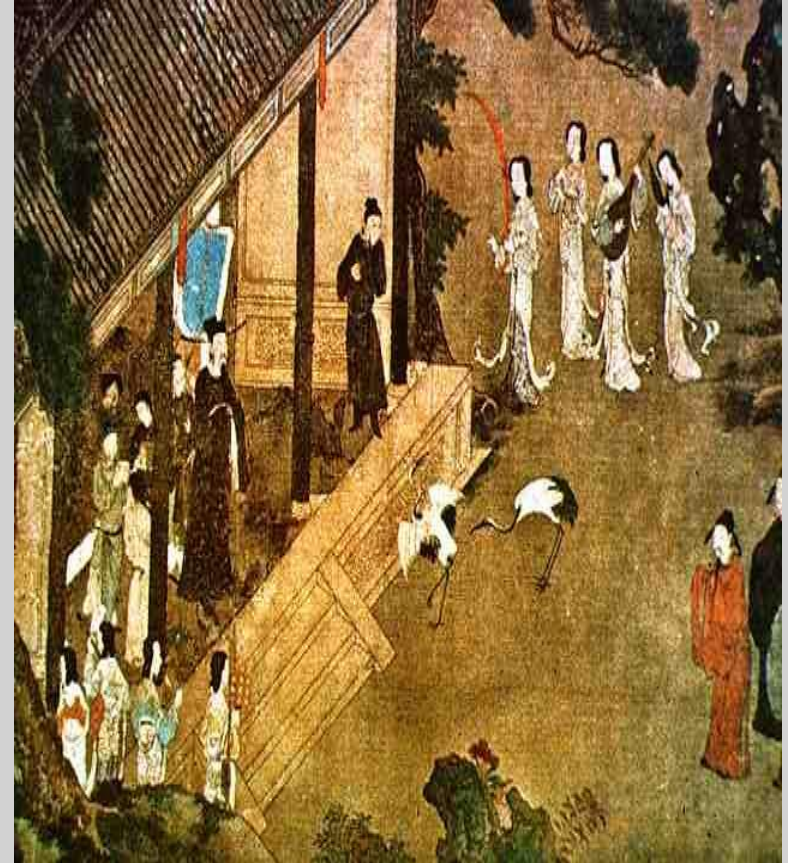
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The Tribute System in Theory



- Acknowledgement of Chinese superiority by foreigners and non-Chinese authorities
- Foreigners would go to the Chinese court and:
 - Perform a series of ritual bowings and gestures
 - Present their tribute = valuable goods/products from their homeland
- In return, the Chinese emperor would:
 - Grant them permission to stay & trade in China
 - Provide them with gifts or “bestowals”



The Tribute System in Reality



- China = dealing with large nomadic empires (like the Xiongnu) that had powerful militaries
- Reality = tribute system in reverse
 - China = gave the nomads “gifts” of wine, silk, grains, and other goods
 - In return = the nomads promised to not invade or attack China

China and Korea



- Initial outlet for Chinese influence = temporary conquest of Korea by China during Han dynasty
 - Korean resistance urged China to withdraw its military presence in 688
 - Tribute system & trading relationship still existed
- Chinese cultural elements adopted by the Koreans:
 - Buddhism
 - Confucianism
 - Government set-up
 - Chinese models of family life and female behavior



Impact on Korean Women



- No longer allowed to live and raise her children in her parents' home with her husband
- Practices that faded away:
 - Husband buried with the wife's family
 - Remarriage of widowed or divorced women
 - Female inheritance of property
 - Plural marriages for men



China and Vietnam



- Vietnam was part of the Chinese state for over 1000 years (111 BCE to 939 CE)
- Chinese cultural elements adopted by the Vietnamese:
 - Confucianism
 - Daoism
 - Buddhism
 - Administrative techniques
 - Examination system
 - Artistic and literary styles



China and Vietnam



- Chinese elements *forced* upon the Vietnamese:
 - Confucian-based schools
 - Chinese = official language for businesses
 - Chinese clothing and hairstyles = mandatory
 - Chinese-style irrigated agriculture
- Result = Vietnamese resistance and rebellion
 - Several failed rebellions → Ex: the Trung sisters
 - Successful rebellion = 10th century when Tang dynasty weakened in China



China and Vietnam



- Uniquely Vietnamese cultural elements that remained in Vietnam despite Chinese influences:
 - Distinct Vietnamese language
 - Cockfighting
 - Chewing betel nuts
 - Greater role for women in social and economic life



China and Japan



- Unlike Korea and Vietnam – Japan is physically separated from China
- Result = Japan was never successfully invaded or conquered by China
- Result = any Chinese cultural elements adopted by Japan = 100% voluntary
- Result = Japan will retain a very unique & distinct culture

Japan



- Early Japan = organized around family-based clans that controlled certain regions
- Each family descended from a different common ancestor
 - Each clan worshipped this ancestor as a special kami = spirit
- Shinto = belief that kamis live within all people, animals, and nature



Japan



- As these clans began to unify into a Japanese “state”, Japan began to model itself after China in some ways
- Elements adopted from China:
 - Buddhism and Confucianism
 - Chinese-style court rituals and court rankings
 - Chinese calendar
 - Chinese-based taxation systems
 - Chinese-style law codes and government departments
 - Chinese-style writing system

Japan



- Heian Period = 800 – 1200
 - Capital of Japan = Heian (later renamed Kyoto)
- Focus of this period = pursuit of beauty
 - Japanese influenced by Chinese art, literature, calligraphy, poetry, etc.
 - Spent hours each day writing letters and poems
 - Rise of literature → ex: *The Tale of Genji*



源氏物語
The Tale of Genji



Heian



Japan



- In their “search for beauty” during the Heian period, governmental responsibilities were neglected
 - Centralized government broke down
 - Emperor lost power
 - Gave way to “feudal” Japan

Feudal Japan



Shoguns = generals and powerful lords
Most political and military power

Mikado = emperor
Very little power; figurehead

Daimyos = local lords
Owned estates
Had private armies

Always fighting each other

Code of Bushido = samurai code of honor

Samurai = warriors
Loose-fitting armor
Fought with swords AND on horseback with bows & arrows

Seppuku = ritualistic suicide → belly-slashing

Peasants → worked on the land; paid heavy taxes; received protection in return

Japanese Samurai



Japanese Women



- Escaped the more oppressive features of Chinese Confucian culture; could:
 - Inherit property
 - Live apart from their husbands
 - Get divorced easily
 - Remarry if widowed or divorced



Major Chinese Influences on Eurasia



- Two major Chinese innovations that would impact the world for centuries to come:
 - Printing and books
 - Gunpowder



Printing and Books



- Effects of printing and books in the future:
 - Mass literacy
 - Increased education and scholarship
 - Spread of religion
 - Exchange of information



Gunpowder



- Effects of gunpowder in the future
 - Cannons and firearms
- “Gunpowder Revolution” = when “gunpowder” empires started and grew as a result of their use of firearms, cannons, and other explosives

