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
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
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
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
  o Capital of Japan = Heian (later renamed Kyoto)

• Focus of this period = pursuit of beauty
  o Japanese influenced by Chinese art, literature, calligraphy, poetry, etc.
  o Spent hours each day writing letters and poems
  o Rise of literature → ex: The Tale of Genji
Heian
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

- **Mikado** = emperor
  - Very little power; figurehead

- **Shoguns** = generals and powerful lords
  - Most political and military power

- **Daimyos** = local lords
  - Owned estates
  - Had private armies
  - Always fighting each other

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

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

- **Code of Bushido** = samurai code of honor

- **Seppuku** = ritualistic suicide → belly-slicing
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
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