Post-Classical East Asia

500 CE-1300 CE
Opening Discussion

Question

What do you remember about our study of China so far?
Theravada and Mahayana

- Tantric in Tibet
- Arrives 6th & 7th centuries AD but only gains foothold in 11th century
- Arrives China 1st & 2nd centuries AD
- Arrives Korea 4th & 5th centuries AD
- Arrives Japan around 520 - 550 AD

Starts 500 BC

The Spread of Buddhism
- MAHAYANA
- THERAVADA

India

Bodh Gaya

Burma

Laos

Vietnam

Cambodia

Sri Lanka
CHINA AFTER THE HAN DYNASTY

- The Han Dynasty had collapsed by 220 CE, followed by 369 years of disunity.
- Confucianism lost much of its appeal during this time- Buddhism became more popular. *(why do you think that is?)*
SUI DYNASTY (589-618 CE)

- Re-unified China
- Restored centralized government
- Promoted Buddhism
- Built the Grand Canal - waterway connecting the Yangtze and Yellow rivers (connected the agricultural fields in the south to the cities in the north)
- Repaired the Great Wall
- High taxes, oppressive labor = peasant revolts (end of dynasty)
TANG DYNASTY (618-907 CE)

- Continued centralized government
- Early Tang promoted Buddhism, then the later Tang suppressed it - saw it as foreign, wanted to return to traditional Chinese values (Confucianism)
- Brought back the civil service examination system for China’s bureaucracy
- Imperial expansion - expanded through military conquest north, south, and especially west until they lost to Muslims in 751 in Central Asia
- First woman to take the title of emperor for herself - Empress Wu Zhao
- Ended due to internal rebellions, external attacks - followed by 53 year period of disunity
Empress Wu Zhao
SONG DYNASTY (960-1279 CE)

- Restored centralized government
- Enlarged the bureaucracy
- Continued the civil service examination system
- Strongly supported Confucianism- a new kind of Confucianism arose called Neo-Confucianism- incorporated some aspects of Buddhism and Daoism, making it more spiritual; an attempt to update Confucianism, make it more popular
- Did not try to expand militarily- instead, paid bribes to nomadic tribes on the frontier to keep them out (what consequences would this have?)
SONG DYNASTY (960-1279 CE)

- New rice from Vietnam- **Champa rice**= population growth in China
- Decline:
  - 1100s: Nomads from the north- the Jurchens- took over northern Song territory- created the Jin Empire- drove the Song south (**Southern Song**)
  - 1200s: Mongols gained strength under Genghis Khan- Chinese supported them against the Jurchen- Mongols defeated Jurchen, then took over all of China (establishing the **Yuan Dynasty**- Mongol rule of China)
THE SONG DYNASTY & ITS RIVALS

- 1234: Jurchen Jin falls to Mongols
- 1227: Tangut Xi Xia falls to Mongols
- 1125: Jurchen Jin takes Kaifeng from Northern Song
- 1279: Mongols defeat Song and establish the Yuan dynasty
SOCIETY IN POST-CLASSICAL CHINA

- The civil service exam provided social mobility
- Scholar gentry- people who attained their status through education and civil service positions- replaced the old aristocratic families in terms of influence
- Women:
  - Upper-class women had more restricted, isolated lives- poorer women had to help in the fields
  - Foot binding- the feet of upper-class girls began to be bound in a painful procedure to make them appear smaller and delicate- crippled them for life but showed wealth and prestige for her husband
Process of Foot Binding

1. Soaking in warm water with herbs and animal blood. (Start foot-binding at around 5 years old)
2. Curling the last four toes over to the sole of the foot. (It takes 3 - 4 years to shape the toes under the sole)
3. Binding with cotton bandages
4. Breaking the toes and arch with force

www.chinahighlights.com
Chinese Dynasty Song (sung to the tune of Frère Jacques)

Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han
Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han
Sui, Tang, Sung
Sui, Tang, Sung
Yuan, Ming, Qing, Republic
Yuan, Ming, Qing, Republic
Mao Zedong
Deng Xiaoping
World History Reminders

- This is the final week of the 2nd 6 weeks- grades are due MONDAY!
- Failing? What can you do?
  - Test corrections- Unit 2&3 Test (Classical Civilizations)
  - Test corrections- Byzantine & Islam test
  - Extra credit (ABCs of World History- see website)
  - Complete/correct the Legacy Project- turn in for up to a 70
CHINESE GOLDEN AGE: TANG & SONG DYNASTIES

- Trade along the Silk Road and Indian Ocean trade routes brought prosperity to China
- Tribute system- China expanded its influence- people would offer things to China, had to demonstrate inferior status (*kowtow*)
- Culture flourished- literature, poetry, artwork
- New innovations:
  - Movable type
  - Acupuncture
  - Porcelain
  - Mechanical clock
  - Gunpowder
  - Paper money
A Quiet Night Thought
In front of my bed, there is bright moonlight. It appears to be frost on the ground. I lift my head and gaze at the August Moon, lower my head and think of my hometown.
Movable type
Chinese porcelain
Paper money
CHINA’S INFLUENCE ON EAST ASIA

- China spread the following to East Asia in its sphere of influence:
  - Idea of centralized government
  - Buddhism
  - Confucian influence
  - Chinese art
  - Writing
  - Cooking
  - Gardening
  - Drinking tea
  - Hairdressing
  - Civil service examination system (took hold in Korea, but not in Japan)
WHERE DID THE NAME 'JAPAN' COME FROM?

THE NAME 'JAPAN' COMES FROM THE CHINESE WORD Ri-Ben, WHICH MEANS "ORIGIN OF THE SUN" OR "LAND OF THE RISING SUN"
JAPAN

● Early religion of Japan- Shinto- belief in spirits in nature- later mixed with Buddhism
● By the 5th century, had a leading clan with an emperor (the emperor didn’t have much power- the power was with the clan who ruled in the emperor’s name)
● Later- military governor (shogun) took power, with emperor still ruling in name only
● When central control broke down, **feudalism** resulted- local lords (daimyo) would battle one another for influence using samurai
Shinto

• Unlike most other religions of the world, Shintoism has **NO:**
  • Identifiable founder
  • Body of religious laws.
  • Written scriptures or Holy Text
  • A very loosely organized priesthood
Emperor

He was at the top of Japanese society but had little real power

Shogun

The actual ruler of Japan

Daimyo

were wealthy landowners

Samurai

were Japan's warriors

The largest class

Peasants and artisans

The lowest class because they produced nothing on their own

Merchants
What does this map show us about Southeast Asia during this time period (500-1300)?
Recall: The steppes (grasslands) of Eurasia were home to nomadic people that frequently raided nearby civilizations.
THE MONGOLS

- Nomads like the Mongols raised domesticated animals and moved from place to place.
- Sometimes traded with civilizations, often raided them.
THE MONGOLS

- Steppe nomads lived in kinship groups called clans
- Genghis Khan (born Temujin) would unite the various Mongol clans and make them a powerful force.
- 1206: Temujin took the title Genghis Khan, or “universal ruler”
THE MONGOLS

- Genghis expanded the empire, then his sons and grandsons continued the expansion.
- Created the largest land empire in history.