

Middle Ages Asia: China

Background

- After Dynasty China slipped into era of disunity
- Buddhism revival
 - o Connection with India
 - India was in Golden Age
- Northern Wei controlled northern china from 386-534
 - o Barbarians controlled most of rest of China

Sui Dynasty

- 598 – 618 C.E.
- Last of the Pre Golden Age Dynasties, Many public works projects
 - o After a long period of disunion the empire was again reunified
 - o Equaled Qin dynasty in amount of public works
 - Roads
 - Rebuilt Great Wall
 - Grand Canal
 - Started during Wu Dynasty
 - Largest Canal in World
 - Built for North South Transportation
- Yang Ti
 - o Emperor 604-618 C.E.
 - o Reconquered Northern Vietnam, Xinjiang, parts of Mongolia
 - o Goguryeo-Sui Wars
 - 598-614 C.E.
 - Started as small border conflicts between Sui and Goguryeo
 - 4 wars in total
 - Was a humiliating defeat for Sui forces
 - o Restored foundations of China
 - o Megalomaniac
 - Peasants hated him
 - Tax
 - Soldiers hated him
 - Too many deaths
 - Nobles hated him
 - Power
 - o Assassinated
 - Heirs swept away



Tang Dynasty

- 618 – 907 C.E.
- Start of Golden Age
- Construction of canals
 - o allowed for economic advancements
- Land distribution
 - o Based on family size and potential taxation
- Expanded Administration
- Technology Advancements
 - o Farming
 - Night Soil

- Widespread drinking of tea
 - Gunpowder Mentioned in 850 CE in Taoist book
 - earlier forms mentioned
 - Made by combination of Saltpeter, Charcoal, and Sulfur
 - Used for.....fireworks ☺
- Military advances
 - Had to reclaim lands lost after Sui
 - Tibet added as Tributary state
 - Expeditions to West
 - Helped spread of Chinese technology
 - Paper, Crossbows, compass, wheelbarrows, paper currency, porcelain
 - Cavalry in North
 - Infantry in South
- Goguryeo-Tang Wars
 - 645-668 C.E.
 - First Goguryeo-Tang War
 - Tang Forces invaded and initially has success
 - Had to retreat because of winter and supply issues
 - Second Goguryeo-Tang War
 - Revenge for First, Tang defeated in almost every battle
 - Third Goguryeo-Tang War
 - Goguryeo defeated by combined Tang and Silla Army
 - Korean peninsula added as tributary state
- 683 C.E.
 - Empress Wu
 - Only true female emperor in China
- Chinese Golden Age
 - 710 – 755 C.E.
 - Economics and Government stabilized
 - Suppression of Buddhism
 - Buildup of Daoism and Confucius
 - Census taken
 - Development of poetry
 - Li Po and Tu Fu
 - Rising importance of alcohol, tea, and salt
 - Ended by military uprising
 - 875 C.E.
 - Discontent with drought
 - Spread due to dynasties un-popularity
 - 907 C.E. Dynasty dissolved

Sung Dynasty

- 960 – 1279 C.E.
- Capital of Kaifeng
- End of Aristocratic domination in Government
 - Lessened influence of eunuchs
- Northern China Conquered
 - Jin/Jurchen take control of North
 - South remains under song control
- Economic Growth based on Trade
- Military isolation
 - Pulled out of Tibet, Mongolia, Vietnam, Manchuria
 - Too Expensive



- Kept Korea as tributary
- Built up Great Wall
- Renaissance of China
 - Confucian Revival
 - Printing Press
 - Developed around year 1000 C.E.
 - Allowed printers to arrange letters on frames to create pages to be reproduced
 - Prior forms include scrolls
 - Foot Binding
 - Beautification process
 - Golden Lotus
 - About 3 inches
- Overthrown in 1279 C.E. by Mongols
 - Criticized for not being able to defend empire



Yuan Dynasty

- 1279 – 1368 C.E.
- Beginning of the breakup of China
 - Mongol Horse Archers = Awesome
 - China un-united
 - With help of...GUNPOWDER!
 - And Naptha
- Established under Kublai Khan
- Sought to expand empire built by Grandfather Ghengis Khan
 - Once done with China sought to expand to Japan and South of Himalayas
- Policies of Yuan
 - Four Social Classes
 - Mongolians
 - Semu – Allies and Inner-Asians
 - Han – Northern Chinese
 - Nan – Southern Chinese
 - Less strict taxation and penal codes the higher up you were
- Travels of Marco Polo
 - 1271 C.E.
 - Venetian Trader
 - Traveled with Father and Uncle to Cathay
 - Invited to participate in Yuan Court
 - Polo worked as semi-official ambassador for Khan
 - Traveled all over the Kingdom

