Middle Ages Asia: China

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

Sui Dynasty
- 598 – 618 C.E.
- Last of the Pre Golden Age Dynasties, Many public works projects
  - After a long period of disunion the empire was again reunified
  - 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
  - Emperor 604-618 C.E.
  - Reconquered Northern Vietnam, Xinjiang, parts of Mongolia
  - 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
  - Restored foundations of China
  - Megalomaniac
    - Peasants hated him
      - Tax
    - Soldiers hated him
      - Too many deaths
    - Nobles hated him
      - Power
  - Assassinated
    - Heirs swept away

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