**CHAPTER 15 – The Resurgence of Empire in East Asia pages 383-409**

Introduction:

Story about Xuanzang and his life’s work to learn about Buddhism in India and promote it’s teachings in China.

China then influenced Korea, Vietnam and Japan respectively.

THE RESTORATION OF CENTRALIZED IMPERIAL RULE IN CHINA

* The Sui Dynasty
  + Establishment of the Dynasty
    - Founded by Yang Jian, a duke from northern China, but lasting only 30-years (589-618 CE).
    - Brought centralized rule back to China: construction, military conquests in Central Asia and Korea, levied high taxes, repaired defensive walls, demanded compulsory labor services
    - The Tang and Song Dynasties followed the Sui Dynasty and brought great economic and cultural development to China
  + The Grand Canal
    - Under Sui Yangdi (the 2nd emperor) the Grand Canal was constructed to facilitate trade between Northern and Southern China.
      1. Bring supplies of rice crops from the Yangzi river valley in the south to the north
      2. Chinese rivers normally travel East to West. Water transport was the only viable means to transport large quantities of agricultural products, hence a canal was needed to move goods north and south.
      3. A series of canals built and connected to older canals (y-shaped).
      4. 2000-kilometers (1240-miles) in length, 40-paces wide with roads running parallel on both sides
      5. Expensive to build, but established an economic foundation for political and social unity for 1000-years.
      6. Still functioning today
* The Tang Dynasty: Founded after Sui Yangdi’s death a new empire was founded called the Tang which lasted for almost 300-years (618-907 CE)
  + Tang Taizong (627-649 CE)
    - Ambitious and ruthless (murdered two brothers and pushed father aside)
    - Once in power he displayed a high sense of duty and tried to provide a stable effective government
    - Saw himself as a Confucius ruler who looked out for his subjects needs
    - “Golden Age of China”
      1. Banditry ended, price of rice remained low, taxes levied amounted to 2.5% rate, required rent payments and compulsory labor remained
      2. Maintained a well-articulated transportation and communication network
      3. Distributed land according to the principles of the equal-field system
      4. Relied on a bureaucracy based on merit
      5. All the above policies originated in the Sui Dynasty but were more systematic and effective under the Tang
  + Transportation and Communications
    - Grand Canal (long distance trade)
    - Tang also maintained an extensive communications network based on roads, horses, and human runners while also maintaining official inns, postal stations and stables for their couriers, travelers and mounts.
    - Could communicate with the most distant points of the empire in 8-days.
  + The Equal-Field System = governed the allocation of agricultural land
    - Its purpose was to ensure equitable land distribution and avoid the land problems that caused social problems during the Han Dynasty.
    - The system allocated land to individuals and their families according to the land’s fertility and the recipients needs
      1. 1/5 of the land became hereditary possession while the rest remained available for redistribution when the original recipients’ needs and circumstances changed.
      2. This system was consistent for about 100-years (very prosperous), but by the 8th century it showed signs of strain
         * Rising population was one such strain
         * Corruption (through favors, bribery and intimidation) allowed families to hold onto land instead of it being redistributed
         * Large parcels of land were acquired for building Buddhist monasteries
  + Bureaucracy of Merit = based on imperial civil service exam (memorization of Confucius classics)
    - Most government officials won their posts through the exams
    - Most were loyal to the government
    - Was so successful this system lasted for the better part of 13-centuries; ended after the collapse of the Qing Dynasty in the early 20th-century
  + Tang Foreign Relations
    - Took possession of Manchuria
    - Silla Kingdom in Korea had to acknowledge the Tang as overlords
    - Conquered the northern part of Vietnam
    - Extended control into Central Asia as far as the Aral Sea
    - Portions of Tibet were brought under Tang control
    - Largest in Chinese history
    - Implemented the practice of tribute; “Middle Kingdom”; bring order to neighboring lands through tributary relationships
      1. Gifts and Kowtow; in exchange for lavish gifts = this helped foster trade, cultural exchanges and diplomacy
  + Tang Decline
    - Negligent emperors
    - 755 An Lushan’s rebellion = both capitals taken by the rebels (Chang’an and Luoyang)
      1. Tang had to invite the Turkish Uighers into China to help them recover the capitals at the cost of the sacking of the cities
      2. Tang never recovered
    - Dwindling tax receipts, deteriorating equal-field system, Turkish encroachments in the late 8th century
    - By the 9th centuries a series of rebellions devastated China. 875-884 Huang Chao’s (Chinese Robin Hood?)
    - To control the rebels more and more power was seeded to local military commanders who had true control of China.
    - Last Tang Emperor abdicated in 907 CE.
* The Song Dynasty (960-1279 CE): Warlords ruled China from the time of the Tang collapse until the rise of the Song Dynasty but the Song were never very powerful militarily due to a distrust of military leaders. Focused instead on administration, industry, education and the arts.
  + Song Taizu (960-976 CE) was the 1st Song emperor. Had a reputation for honesty and effectiveness.
    - Suppressed warlords
    - Vastly expanded bureaucracy based on merit (exam system)
    - Government officials paid and treated well. In charge of military forces.
  + Song Weaknesses
    - Much more centralized government than previous dynasties led to two major problems
      1. Financial burden of such a large bureaucracy
         * Had to raise taxes which led to two major rebellions in the 12th century
      2. Military: Civil servants led the military despite having no expertise.
         * 10th-12th centuries the Khitan seminomadic peoples from Manchuria ruled a large empire from Korea to Mongolia and extracted large tribute from the Song.
         * After the 12th century the nomadic Jurchen conquered the Khitan and overran northern China (including the Song capital) founding the Jin empire. Only the Southern Song dynasty survived.

THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF TANG AND SONG CHINA

The Song developed a China into an economic power of Eurasia (with its beginnings during the Tang Dynasty). This prosperity lasted from 600-1300 CE.

* Agricultural Development: Began with military incursions into Vietnam
  + Fast-Ripening Rice: A new strain of rice (fast-ripening) is discovered in Vietnam and introduced into China. They could now harvest twice a year (doubled?) expanding the food supply.
  + New Agricultural Techniques
    - Increased the use of heaving iron plows
    - Harnessed oxen (in the north) and water buffaloes (in the south)
    - Use of manure and compost as fertilizers
    - Built extensive irrigation systems: reservoirs, dikes, canals, dams
      * Powered pumps and water wheels (human and animal power) to move the water
      * This allowed the cultivation of new lands (including terraced mountainsides); more farmland = more food
  + Population Growth = tied to agricultural development
    - 45-million at the fall of the Han Dynasty (600 CE)
    - 50-million (800 CE)
    - 60-million (1000 CE)
    - 100-million when Jurchen conquered northern China (1127 CE)
    - 115-million (1200 CE)
    - Growth attributed to productivity of the agricultural economy and organization of food distribution through transportation networks built during the Sui and Tang dynasties
  + Urbanization: Increased food led to growth of cities
    - Chang-an was largest city in the world (Tang capital) of 2-million people
    - Song China was the most urbanized land in the world; Hangzhou (Song capital) 1-million people
    - Emergence of commercialized agricultural economy
      * Plentiful and inexpensive rice allowed for farmers to grow vegetables and fruits for sale on the commercial market
      * Regional crops and exported to distant regions: Southern province of Fujian would import rice and instead grow oranges, sugarcane and lychees to export to the north for high prices
  + Patriarchal Social Structures: increased during the Tang and Song dynasties
    - Attempt to preserve family fortunes? Males inherit wealth? Female dowries?
    - Veneration of ancestors (extensive)
  + Foot Binding: spread among privileged classes during the Song
    - Physically (emotionally?) scarred young girls
    - High status
    - Males could control women (daughters and wives)
* Technological and Industrial Development
  + Porcelain: Fine pottery, utensils that were in high demand and exported in high quantities all over the world (southeast Asia, India, Persia and port cities of East Africa). Today fine porcelain is still known as *chinaware.* 
    - Tang discovered new techniques for producing high-quality porcelain (lighter, thinner, adaptable and more aesthetically appealing)
    - Porcelain techniques diffused to other societies; Abbasids
  + Metallurgy: Tang and Song craftsmen improved metallurgical technologies
    - Coke instead of coal to produce superior grades of metal
    - 9-12th centuries production of metal increased (x10). Most went into weapons and agricultural tools.
      * Some went to construction products (bridges and pagodas)
    - Techniques diffused out of China: Nomadic peoples learned the techniques and fashioned their own weapons for use against China!
  + Gunpowder
    - Daoist alchemists learn how to make gunpowder during the Tang dynasty (searching for elixirs to prolong life)
    - Mid-10th century: Bamboo fire-lances
    - 11th century: primitive bombs
    - Quickly diffused throughout Eurasia
    - Late 13th century people of Southwest Asia and Europe were experimenting with metal-barreled cannons
  + Printing
    - Became popular during the Tang dynasty
    - Earliest form was block printing (reverse carved image)
    - Mid-11th century: experimenting with reusable moveable type (on a frame using dyes)
      * Not practical for Chinese language (40,000 characters)
    - Can produce texts quickly, cheaply and in huge quantities
    - Use in distributing pamphlets with effective agricultural techniques
    - Printing Buddhism texts were popular and encouraged
  + Naval Technology: Before the Tang, China did not travel far away from land overseas
    - Iron nails, water-proofed oil and watertight hulls, canvas and bamboo lateen sails, steered by rear-mounted rudders
    - Magnetic compass (south-pointing fixed needle with a glass case; seaworthy and small in size)
    - Chinese mariners had trade routes mostly to Japan and the Malay peninsula but further voyages included: India, Ceylon, Persia and East Africa
    - Chinese technology diffused
* The Emergence of a Market Economy: Govt. bureaucracies played a large role
  + Financial Instruments: Banks, flying cash (letters of credit), promissory notes and checks – all allowed Chinese merchants to do business without copper coins
    - Result was even more economic growth
  + Paper Money: printed notes that clients could redeem for merchandise (paper and printing technology). Sometimes these notes were not honored and led to disorder and riots. Early problems with counterfeits and inflation (printing too much). But in the end it still stimulated the economy.
  + A Cosmopolitan Society
    - With the prosperity of the Song Dynasty and reopening of the Silk roads, many foreigners visited, traded and lived in China. Persians, Arabs, Indians, Malayans.
  + China and the Hemispheric Economy
    - Chinese people developed a taste for imported goods
      * Spices from Southeast Asia
      * Kingfisher feathers and tortoise shells from Vietnam
      * Pearls and incense from India
      * Horses and melons from Central Asia
      * China exported Silk, porcelain and lacquerware
    - China’s economic surge promoted trade and economic growth throughout much of the eastern hemisphere

CULUTURAL CHANGE IN THE TANG AND SONG CHINA

The introduction of Mahayana Buddhism

* The Establishment of Buddhism: Although Buddhism arrived as early as 200 BCE in China, it attracted little interest
  + Foreign religions in China: served foreign merchants but did not attract much interest among the Chinse: Christianity, Islam, Zoroastrianism, etc.
  + Dunhuang: Buddhism arrived on the silk roads. A sizeable Buddhist community had grown in Dunhuang. This helped Buddhism establish a foothold in China.
  + Buddhism in China:
    - Chinese were attracted by: Buddhism’s high moral standards, intellectual sophistication and promise of salvation
    - Buddhist monasteries helped the people in times of need in China
    - Some traditionalist Chinese did not like Buddhism (foreign and paid no taxes)
  + Buddhism and Daoism: Used Daoist teachings to reach Chinese to help explain Buddhist beliefs
  + Chan Buddhism: A syncretic religion (Buddhism and Daoism combined?)
    - Became immensely popular in China. Monasteries in all cities. Many Chinese pilgrims visited India and gained a greater understanding of Buddhism.
  + Hostility to Buddhism: Daoists and Confucianists
  + Persecution: During the 9th century, the Tang Dynasty expelled many foreign religions (including Buddhism) and closed many monasteries (to confiscate their land and possessions). Despite this, popular support allowed it to survive in China.
* Neo-Confucianism: Supported by Song Dynasty
  + Confucians and Buddhism: Neo-Confucianism drew inspiration from Buddhism and didn’t limit themselves to practical issues alone
  + Zhu Xi (1130-1200 CE): wrote *Family Rituals.* Famous Neo-Confucian that included influences from Buddhism.
  + Neo-Confucian Influence: Buddhism was rejected by Confucianism, but it was heavily influenced by it, which in turn influenced Korea, Vietnam and Japan.

CHINESE INFLUENCE IN EAST ASIA

* Korea and Vietnam
  + The Silla Dynasty: Resisted Chinese conquests and became a tributary state.
    - Kowtow
    - Tributary status opened China to Korean merchants
  + Chinese Influence in Korea
    - Political organization (Bureaucracy)
    - New capital patterned after Chang’an
    - Confucian traditions adopted
    - Chan Buddhism becomes popular in Korea (commoners)
    - Korea never adopted examination system and the aristocracy was more powerful than in China
  + China and Vietnam
    - Nam Viet invaded by Tang armies
    - Vietnam adopted Chinese agricultural methods and irrigation systems
    - Opened Chinese style schools (studied Confucianism)
    - Adopted administration techniques (Bureaucracy)
    - Vietnamese merchants traded in Chinese markets
    - Became a tributary state but eventually won their independence from the Tang
    - Buddhism became popular in Vietnam from China and India
    - Women had a more prominent role in Vietnamese society
* Early Japan
  + Nara Japan (710-794 CE): inspired by Tang Dynasty; attempts to implement centralized imperial rule
    - Chinese-style Bureaucracy
    - Implemented an equal-field system
    - Supported Confucianism and Buddhism
    - Moved capital to Nara (copied after Chang’an)
  + Heian Japan (794-1185 CE)
    - Japanese emperors had no political power unlike China
      * Long unbroken line of Japanese imperial family
    - Kept records in Chinese. Japanese written language heavily borrowed from Chinese.
  + The Tale of Genji
  + Decline of the Heian Japan
    - Equal field system fell into disuse and aristocrats gained more land and power.
    - By late-11th century Taira and Minamoto clans dominated
      * Minamoto clan wins war and installs Japan’s first military leader – the Shogun
* Medieval Japan: up until the Tokugawa Shogunate takes power in the 16th century
  + Political decentralization:
    - Kamakura (1185-1333 CE) and Muromachi (1336-1573 CE) periods are part of Japan’s middle ages.
    - Decentralized order
  + The Samurai = mounted warriors; means to serve
    - Feudalism (Daimyo)

**Chronology**

589-618 Sui Dynasty (China)

602-664 Life of Xuanzang

604-618 Reign of Sui Yangdi

618-907 Tang Dynasty (China)

627-649 Reign of Tang Taizong

669-935 Silla Dynasty (Korea)

710-794 Nara Period (Japan)

755-757 An Lushan’s Rebellion

794-1185 Heian Period (Japan)

875-884 Huang Chao’s rebellion

960-1279 Song Dynasty (China)

960-976 Reign of Song Taizu

1024 First issuance of government-sponsored paper money

1130-1200 Life of Zhu Xi

1185-1333 Kamakura period (Japan)

1336-1573 Muromachi period (Japan)