

CHAPTER 8 QUESTIONS – East Asian Connections

Direction: Answer the questions in their entirety . . . make sure you address all parts to each question. (you can answer these questions on your own piece of paper)

1. Why are the centuries of the Tang and Song dynasties in China sometimes referred to as a “golden age”? (pg 366)
2. In what ways did women’s lives change during the Tang and Song dynasties? (pg 371)
3. How did the Chinese and their nomadic neighbors to the north view each other? (pg 373)
4. What assumptions underlay the tribute system? (pg 373)
5. How did the tribute system in practice differ from the ideal Chinese understanding of its operations? (pg 374)
6. In what ways did China and the nomads influence each other? (pg 376)
7. In what ways did China have an influence in Korea, Vietnam, and Japan? In what ways was that influence resisted? (pg 377)

8. In what different ways did Japanese and Korean women experience the pressures of Confucian orthodoxy? (pg 383)

9. In what ways did China participate in the world of Eurasian commerce and exchange, and with what outcomes? (pg 385)

10. What facilitated the rooting of Buddhism within China? (pg 388)

11. What were the major sources of opposition to Buddhism within China? (pg 391)

CHAPTER 8 BIG PICTURE QUESTIONS

Direction: Answer the questions in their entirety . . . make sure you address all parts to each question. (you can answer these questions on your own piece of paper)

1. How can you explain the changing fortunes of Buddhism in China?
2. How did China influence the world of the third-wave era? How was China itself transformed by its encounters with a wider world?
3. How might China's posture in the world during the Tang and Song dynasty era compare to its emerging role in global affairs in the twenty-first century?
4. In what ways did Tang and Song dynasty China resemble the earlier Han dynasty period, and in what ways had China changed?

WHAT'S THE SIGNIFICANCE?

bushido: The “way of the warrior,” referring to the military virtues of the Japanese samurai, including bravery, loyalty, and an emphasis on death over surrender. (*pron.* boo-SHEE-doh)

Chinese Buddhism: Buddhism was China’s only large-scale cultural borrowing before the twentieth century; Buddhism entered China from India in the first and second centuries C.E. but only became popular in 300–800 C.E. through a series of cultural accommodations. At first supported by the state, Buddhism suffered persecution during the ninth century but continued to play a role in Chinese society.

chu nom: A variation of Chinese writing developed in Vietnam that became the basis for an independent national literature; “southern script.” (*pron.* choo nom)

economic revolution: A major economic quickening that took place in China under the Song dynasty (960–1279); marked by rapid population growth, urbanization, economic specialization, the development of an immense network of internal waterways, and a great increase in industrial production and innovation. (*pron.* soong)

Emperor Wendi: Sui emperor (r. 581–604) who particularly patronized Buddhism. (*pron.* WEN-dee)

foot binding: Chinese practice of tightly wrapping girls’ feet to keep them small, begun in the Tang dynasty; an emphasis on small size and delicacy was central to views of female beauty.

hangul: A phonetic alphabet developed in Korea in the fifteenth century (*pron.* HAHN-gool)

Hangzhou: China’s capital during the Song dynasty, with a population of more than a million people. (*pron.* hong-joe)

Khitan/ Jurchen people: A nomadic people who established a state that included parts of northern China (907–1125). (*pron.* kee-tahn); A nomadic people who established a state that included parts of northern China (1115–1234).

Shotoku Taishi: Japanese statesman (572–622) who launched the drive to make Japan into a centralized bureaucratic state modeled on China; he is best known for the Seventeen Article Constitution, which lays out the principles of this reform. (*pron.* show-TOE-koo tie-EESH-ah)

Silla dynasty: The first ruling dynasty to bring a measure of political unity to the Korean

peninsula (688–900). (*pron.* SILL-ah or SHILL-ah)

Sui dynasty: Ruling dynasty of China (581–618) that effectively reunited the country after several centuries of political fragmentation. (*pron.* sway)

Tang dynasty: Ruling dynasty of China from 618 to 907; noted for its openness to foreign cultural influences. (*pron.* tahng)

tribute system: Chinese method of dealing with foreign lands and peoples that assumed the subordination of all non-Chinese authorities and required the payment of tribute—produce of value from their countries—to the Chinese emperor (although the Chinese gifts given in return were often much more valuable).

Xiongnu: Major nomadic confederacy that was established ca. 200 B.C.E. and eventually reached from Manchuria to Central Asia. (*pron.* SHE-OONG-noo)