

Chapter 8—China and the World: East Asian Connections, 500–1300

Seeking the Main Point

Chinese history has often been viewed in the West as impressive, perhaps, but largely static or changeless and self-contained or isolated. In what ways might the material in this chapter counteract such impressions?

Download and save this document so you can return to it as you take notes and for studying. As you read the chapter, fill in the chart below to remind you of the important examples of change and interaction with the rest of the world that China experienced between 500 and 1300. If you copy and paste from the text, make sure to put quotation marks around the copied material; however, if you can think of a way to put it into your own words, you should do so.

	Examples of Change	Examples of Interaction
Together Again: The Reemergence of a Unified China	•	•
A “Golden Age” of Chinese Achievement	•	•
Women in the Song Dynasty	•	•
China and the Northern Nomads: A Chinese World Order in the Making	•	•
The Tribute System in Theory	•	•
The Tribute System in Practice	•	•
Cultural Influence across an Ecological Frontier	•	•
Coping with China: Comparing Korea, Vietnam, and Japan	•	•
Korea and China	•	•
Vietnam and China	•	•
Japan and China	•	•
China and the Eurasian World Economy	•	•
Spillovers: China’s Impact on Eurasia	•	•
On the Receiving End: China as Economic Beneficiary	•	•
China and Buddhism	•	•
Making Buddhism Chinese	•	•
Losing State Support: The Crisis of Chinese Buddhism	•	•

Reflections: Why Do Things Change?	•	•
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After you have read the chapter, use your notes to compose an essay based on the following prompt:

Make the case that, between 500 and 1300, China was neither static nor isolated.

Be sure to include an opening, introductory paragraph in which you state your thesis. Then use the body of your essay to provide evidence from the chapter to support that thesis. End by writing a clear conclusion to your essay.