

## 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)

**Khitans/ 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)