Chapter 13 - Spread of Civilizations in East Asia. (500 - 1650).

(1) Two Golden Ages of China.
(2) Mongol and Ming Empires
(3) Korea and Its Traditions.
(4) Emergence of Japan.
(5) Japan’s Feudal Age.

(1) Two Golden Ages of China.

Setting the Scene.
The Han Empire (210 BC - AD 220), like the Roman Empire, collapses. Others rise to unite China. Two ‘Golden Ages’ follow the Han, namely ‘Brilliant Tang’ (618-901) and ‘Prosperous Song’ (960-1279) dynasties. Peasant revolts end Tang rule but the Song (50 years later) restore order. China (under Song) becomes unified state. Europe becomes same in 1400s.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tang</th>
<th>Song</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>618</td>
<td>907</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>960</td>
<td>1279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>289 years</td>
<td>319 years</td>
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Brilliant Tang.
After collapse of Han (210 BC - AD 220) China had 400 years of division. Buddhism spread. Learning and Arts flourished. AD 618. Tang Dynasty starts. China returns to earlier glory.

Building an Empire.
First Tang emperor is Li Yuan, general. Followed by son, Li Shimin, who takes name Tang Taizong. Tang Taizong becomes China’s most admired emperor.

Government and Economy.
Tang rule includes Empress Wu, Only woman ruler (own name) in China. Tang rule achievements are:

*Restores Han system.
Bureaucracy. Good Government.
*Perflects civil service exams. Recruits Confucian scholars. Government officials have highest status in society.
*Redistributes land to peasants. (Pay taxes. Empower China.)
*Builds canal system. Transport food from south to north cities. Trade and travel introduce China to new products.

Decline.
Prosperity Under Song.
AD 960. Song dynasty starts. Scholarly general reunites China.
1100s. Military setbacks in north make Song move south for
for last 150 years of dynasty.


Chinese Society.
Under Tang and Song China is a well-ordered society. Strata as follows:
- Emperor.
- Gentry. (Wealthy Landowners.)
  Studied Confucian classics for civil service exams.
- Peasantry.
- Merchants.
  Lower status than peasants because riches from labor of others.

Women.
Women had higher status in Tang and early Song than later on.
Families valued boys over girls.
Girls marries. Becomes part of husband’s family.
In late Song times (c. 1200) footbinding custom emerges in imperial court but later spreads
to lower classes. Young girls bind long strips of cloth to make ‘lily-shaped’ foot. Tiny feet
and stilted walk become symbols of nobility and beauty!! Parents fear that they cannot
marry off a daughter with big feet.

Arts and Literature.
Wealthy people bought books, paintings, and other art to decorate home.
- Landscape Painting.
  Landscape painting reaches high point in Song Dynasty. Artists would meditate for days on
a landscape, capture mood, then paint from memory.
  Painting done with brushes and ink on silk. Stress on harmony of nature. (Buddhism
declines during Song dynasty as ‘foreign’; Daoism ascends.)
  See (p. 306) the towering mountain balanced against rushing stream.
- Other Arts.
  Indian stupa becomes Chinese pagoda. Buddha statue: Chinese god!
  Tang artisans perfect the making of porcelain, a hard shiny pottery.
  Literature.
  *Chinese invent printing (post paper and seals) in 700s (Tang).
  *Buddhist monks use block printing to copy sacred texts and prayers.
  *Earliest Buddhist text is "Diamond Sutra" at 868 (Tang).
  Works in philosophy, religion, history.
  Educated people enjoyed reading literature. Especially poetry.
  Poets wrote about human emotions, nature, individual’s place in universe.
  Greatest Tang poet, Li Bo, wrote 2000 poems on nature.
*Chinese started around 1050 (Song) to use movable type in which metal
  pieces are combined to form sentences.
(2) Mongol and Ming Empires.

Setting the Scene.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mongol.</th>
<th>Ming.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1279.</td>
<td>1368.</td>
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<tr>
<td>89 years.</td>
<td>276 years.</td>
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</table>

Building Mongol Empire.
Mongols overrun Song to become the only ‘foreign’ dynasty to rule China.

Kublai Khan (1214-1294) is “Great Khan.”
He becomes emperor of China in 1279 (text). Perhaps earlier. (1271?)
Adopts Chinese civilization. Makes Buddhism the state religion.
Welcomes foreigners to visit court. Hires Marco Polo for 17 years.

Mongol Rule.
Mongols were not oppressive rulers.
Allowed people to live as before if they pay regular tribute.

Mongol Peace.
1200s - 1300s. Pax Mongolia or Mongol Peace.
Mongols controlled great Silk Road, and protected it.
Trade flourished across Eurasia.

China Under Mongol Rule.
After subduing northern and then southern China (Songs) Kublai Khan ruled from his capital (today Beijing) all of China and Korea, Tibet and Vietnam.

Government.
Kublai initially resists Mongols getting absorbed into Chinese civilization.
Decrees only Mongols were allowed in military and high government jobs.
But there were too few Mongols to control so vast an empire.
An uneasy mix of Chinese and foreign ways develops.
Kublai reverses himself. Adopts a Chinese name (Yuan) for his dynasty.
Mongol Dynasty thus becomes Yuan Dynasty in history books!!!
He welcomes outsiders to visit his court. Enter the Polo family.

A Westerner Visitor.
*Marco Polo (1254-1324) was 17 when he accompanied his dad and uncle (merchants)
across Persia and central Asia to reach China when he was 21.
He was 40 years younger than Kublai Khan who hires him to stay 17 years.
Went back to Venice when he was 41 (1295). Was captured and put in prison (1298) where
he wrote ‘Divisament dou Monde’ about wonders of China.
The Ming Restore Chinese Rule.
The Yuan dynasty declines after Kublai’s death (1294).

Important: Chinese always despised foreign Mongol rulers!!

Confucian scholars retreated into own world. Saw little to be gained from barbarians or ‘anyone not Chinese.’ (Dangerous superiority complex!)

1368. A peasant leader pushes Mongols outside Great Wall.
Leader is Zhu Yuanzhang (text) or Hung Wu (prior text).
Founds new Chinese dynasty called Ming (‘ming’ means ‘brilliant’).
Ming dynasty restores civil service exams.
Confucian learning again becomes the road to success.

1644. Ming declines after nearly 300 years.

Economic Revival.
Ming China was immensely productive. Fertile. Well-irrigated plains.
Huge rice crops fed population of 100 million people.
Better fertilizing methods. New crops (1500s): corn and sweet potatoes.
Ming repairs canal system which makes trade better.
Ming improves printing to lead to production of flood of books.

Cultural Flowering.
Revival of arts and literature.
Ming has its own style of landscape painting.
Created blue and white porcelain. Ming vases: Most valuable in world.
Writers compose novels and first detective stories.
Performers develop Chinese opera that combines music, dance, drama.

China and the World.
Early Ming (1400s) sent Chinese on distant expeditions. The most notable were the voyages of Zheng He, admiral of 62 huge ships, 100s smaller ships.

Voyages of Zheng He.
1405. Zheng He commands first of seven expeditions.
His total crew totals 25,000 sailors.
Goal is to promote trade and collect tribute from lesser powers.
Chinese merchants thus set up shop in southeast Asia and India.

Turning Inward.
1433. When Zheng He dies Ming suddenly bans new ships.
China turns inward.
China sees itself as most successful civilization in world.
China starts to weaken itself and become prey to foreign domination.
(3) Korea and Its traditions.

Vocabulary.
celadon - blue-green porcelain.
hangul - Korean alphabet using symbols for sounds.
literacy rate - % people who can read and write.

Setting the Scene.
Korea survives in the shadow of powerful neighbors - China and Japan.
Korea has come to see itself as a “shrimp among whales.”

Geography.
Korea is on a peninsula that juts south from the Asia mainland towards Japan. At the
northern end, mountains and Yalu River separate it from China.

Mountains and seas.
Low but steep mountains make up 70% of Korean peninsula.
Hundreds of good harbors on 5,400 mile coastline.
South Korea (today) is #3 fishing industry in world.

Impact of Location.
Korea’s location on China’s doorstep has played important part in its development. China
has exerted control of Korea at various times.
108 BC. Han emperor Wudi invades Korea and spreads Chinese ideas.
Despite strong ties to China Korean language is not related to Chinese
1443. Korea replaces Chinese with hangul, alphabet phonetic Korean.

Throughout time Korea has been cultural bridge between China and Japan.

Korea United.
AD 300 - 600. Three kingdoms. Forged by local lords.

AD 668 - 1910. Three dynasties.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>250 years.</td>
<td>470 years.</td>
<td>500 years.</td>
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<tr>
<td>668.</td>
<td>918.</td>
<td>1392.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korea independent.</td>
<td>Buddhism Acme.</td>
<td>Reduced Buddhism effect.</td>
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<tr>
<td>But tributary state.</td>
<td>Woodblock printing.</td>
<td>Increased Confucianism.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Adapt Confucianism.</td>
<td>Celadon porcelain.</td>
<td>High literacy rate.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yi Song-gye (general).</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
(4) Emergence of Japan.

**Vocabulary.**
archipelago (Gk. ‘archi’- chief, ‘pelagos’- sea) - chain of islands.
 tsunami (tsoo NAH mee) - killer tidal waves due to underwater earthquakes.
 selective borrowing - kept some Chinese ways but discarded others.  
(e.g., civil service exams).
 kana - phonetic symbols representing syllables ... to revise Chinese system of writing.

**Setting the Scene.**
AD 604. Prince Shotoku in ruling Yamato clan outlined code of behavior for both royal court and ordinary people ... reflecting strong Confucian influence about social order.

Like Korea, Japan felt powerful influence of China early on but kept own distinct culture.

**Geography: Japan: a Land Apart.**
Japan is located on an archipelago or chain of islands 100 miles east of Korean peninsula.

4 main islands are Hokkaido (30,000), Honshu (88,000), Kyushu (14,000), Shikoku (7,000).

**Land and Sea.**
Japan (145,850 sq mi.) is size of Montana (147,046 sq mi.): 80% too mountainous to farm.  
Comparison: Alaska (656,000), Texas (269,000), New York (55,000), New Jersey (8,700).

Mountainous terrain at first was obstacle to unity (as in ancient Greece).

Surrounding seas both have protected and isolated Japan.
* Close enough to Asia mainland (100 mi) to learn from Korea and China... but far enough away for China to conquer it.

**Seas.**
(1) helped preserve Japanese identity.  
(2) served as trade routes.  
(3) offered food. (fishing industry thrived, as in Korea)

**Ring of Fire.**
Pacific region: Japan - Philippines - Indonesia - Australia - South America  
Frequent earthquakes and volcanoes. Underwater earthquakes>tsunami killer tidal waves.

Mount Fuji is snowcapped mountain crater that is symbol of beauty and majesty in nature.

**Early Traditions.**
Migrants from Asia mainland came to Japan around 2,000 years ago and pushed earlier inhabitants, the Ainu, onto the northernmost island of Hokkaido.
Yamato Clan.
Early Japanese society was divided into uji or clans. Each uji had own chief and special god or goddess who was seen as the clan’s original ancestor (sometimes a woman).

AD 500 - Yamato clan came to dominate corner of Honshu, the biggest Japanese island. Next 1000 years Yamato plain was center of Japanese government. Yamato set up Japan’s first and only dynasty. Claim descendants sun goddess (Amaterasu). Symbol ‘rising sun’.

Later Japanese emperors were revered as living gods. Current emperor (not a god) traces his roots back to Yamato clan.

Shinto.
Early Japanese clans honored kami or nature spirits. This worship of the forces of nature became known as Shinto, meaning, “way of the gods.” Shinto never became a religion like Christianity, Buddhism, or Islam but its traditions live on today in shrines dedicated to special sites: mountains, waterfalls, trees, oddly shaped rocks.

The Korean Bridge.
Japanese language is distantly related to Korean but completely different from Chinese. From early on there was continuous contact between Japan and Korea. Korean artisans and metalworkers brought sophisticated skills and technology to Japan.

(Note: Some leading families in Yamato court claimed Korean ancestors.)

AD 500 - missionaries from Korea introduced Buddhism to Japan. ... along which came knowledge of Chinese writing and culture. This opening sparked a sudden urge of Japanese interest in Chinese civilization.

Japan Look to China.
early 600s - Prince Shotoku sends young nobles to study in China (instead of going through Korean sources) ... and this custom lasts for next 200 years into Tang court (618-907).

Imported From China.
Japanese who spent a year or more in China (maybe to trade but assuredly to study) came back with Chinese ideas, technology and arts and, significantly, concept about government:

(1) absolute ruler - Japanese call him “Heavenly Emperor.”
(2) establish bureaucracy.
(3) adopt law code (similar to China).


Imported from China.

* Tea drinking (with its elaborate tea ceremony).
* Buddhist architecture or the pagoda.
* Confucian ideas and ethics (filial piety).
Selective Borrowing.

In time the initial enthusiasm for everything Chinese died down. Japan kept some Chinese ways but discarded or modified others.

The process of picking and choosing is called selective borrowing.

Example: Japan never accepted Chinese civil service exams that chose men on merit (pass the test). Japan instead maintained a tradition of inherited status through family position.

Officials in Japan were educated sons of nobles.

AD 800s. Tang empire began to decline. Japan turned away from its model.

800-1200. Japan took what it learned and created its own civilization.

The Heian Period.

An Elegant Court.

AD 794-1185. Blending of cultures occurred in new imperial court at (present-day) Kyoto.

- Nobles lived in fairy-tale atmosphere.
- Beautiful pavilions, gardens, lotus pools.
- Elaborate rules of etiquette.
- Dress was in multicolored silks.

- Emperor performed religious ceremonies.
- but was political figurehead.

- Wealthy families like Fujiwara held real power.

AD 900. Sei Shonagon, lady-in-waiting for empress, wrote The Pillow Book that provides details on court manners, amusements, decor and dress.

Lady Murasaki

The best known Heian writer was Murasaki Shikibu (978-1031).

She wrote The Tale of Genji which is the world’s first full-length novel that recounts the adventures and loves of Prince Genji and his son. The writers lament that love does not last and the beauty of the world is soon gone ... a feeling of melancholy that is prophetic as rebellion and civil war loomed.
(5) Japan’s Feudal Age.

Vocabulary.
shogun - actual ruler.
daimyo - large landowners.
samurai - fighting aristocracy.
bushido - warrior code of conduct.
kabuki - actors in play.
bunraku - puppet play.
haiku - three-line poem.

Setting the Scene.
The 1400s were a time of political intrigue, rebellions and feudal warfare.

Japanese Feudalism Emerges.
The emperor presides over imperial court in Nara (710-784) and then Heian (from 794) which is Kyoto today. But actual ruler is shogun or top general. * ‘shogun’ is short for ‘sei-i-tai’ or ‘barbarian-conquering supreme general.’

**Emperor.**
(figurehead).

**Shogun.**
(actual ruler).

**Daimyo.**
Large land owners.

**Samurai.**
Warriors loyal to Daimyo.

**Peasants.**
75% population.

**Artisans.**
Made swords and armor.

**Merchants.**
Low status but gradually gain influence.

Emperor was powerless figurehead.
Shogun was supreme military commander.
Daimyo were warrior lords who granted land to lesser lords.
Samurai (‘those who serve’) were fighting aristocracy who develop bushido or ‘way of the warrior’ code of conduct: Honor. Bravery. Absolute Loyalty.
No fear of death. Seppuku is ritual suicide for samurai who betray bushido.

Peasants are 75% of population or the backbone of feudal society.
Artisans provided necessary goods for the samurai to go and do their thing.
Merchants had the lowest rank in feudal society but they buy their way up.
1192. Minamoto Yoritomo was appointed shogun. He sets up Kamakura shogunate (first of three military dynasties).

1274. Kublai Khan (Mongol) attacks Japan from Korea. His fleet (30,000 troops) wrecked by typhoon.


Order and Unity Under Tokugawa.
Tokugawa shoguns impose central government control on Japan and stop local warfare. They require lords to live in Edo (Tokyo) every other year while families of lords reside in Edo all the time.

Economic Growth.

Zen Buddhism and Japanese Culture.
A Buddhist sect from China known as ‘Zen’ wins acceptance from samurai. Zen emphasizes meditation and devotion to duty. Zen offers contradictions: Zen monks are scholars but stress ‘non-knowing.’ Zen say have compassion but fight to kill. Zen favor absolute freedom but like rigid rules.
Zen believes people get ‘enlightenment’ not only through meditation but also through precise performance of everyday tasks (like the tea ceremony).

Changing Artistic Traditions.
Cities like Edo and Osaka are home to an explosion in arts and theater. Urban culture stresses luxury and pleasure: it differs from feudal culture.

Theater.
1300s. Feudal culture has No plays: Men in mask. Chorus and music. Action was slow. Each movement had a special movement.
1600s. Towns give rise to Kabuki: it is less refined than No play. Comedy or melodrama. Actors exaggerate movements. Women are banned from performing on the stage. Bunraku are puppet plays: Narrator tells story while life-size puppets are manipulated. For middle class.

Literature.

Painting.