THE RESURGENCE OF EMPIRE IN EAST ASIA
Restoration of Centralized Imperial Rule in China

- After the Han dynasty collapsed in 220 C.E., China spent years in conflict.
- Several regional kingdoms attempted to take control over China, but none were successful.
- War and invasions disrupted society.
- Yang Jian from Sui in northern China led military campaigns in central and southern China.
The Sui Dynasty (589-618)

- Yang Jian imposed tight political discipline on Sui and then the rest of China.
- By 589, the house of Sui ruled all of China.
- He ordered construction of palaces and granaries, repairs of walls, levied high taxes, compulsory labor services.
The Sui Dynasty

- The most elaborate project was **The Grand Canal**.
- The canal would help with trade between northern and southern China.
- It was over 1240 miles long.
- It was worth the cost. (?)
- By 610, rebellions broke out, and Sui Yangdi was assassinated in 618.
The Grand Canal
The Tang Dynasty (618-907)

- A rebel leader seized Chang’an and gained control of China after Sui Yangdi’s death.
- Tang Taizong, the second emperor of this dynasty, was ambitious and ruthless but brought stability and prosperity.
- He used three policies from the Sui dynasty.
The Tang Dynasty

- **Transportation and Communication Network**: roads, horses, human runners, inns, postal stations, stables, and Grand Canal

- **Equal-Field System**: equitable distribution of land based on fertility of land and needs of individuals and families—strained by rising population—and influential families found ways to get more land
The Tang Dynasty

- **Bureaucracy of Merit**: government jobs were given to those who performed well on imperial civil service exams after being taught in their Confucian educational system.

- **Military Expansion**: expanded to the north, south and west
The Tang Dynasty

- **The Tributary System:** China is the “middle kingdom” of civilization. Other kingdoms were inferior and subordinate. Other lands recognized China as overlords, brought tribute, and performed the kowtow.
The Tang Dynasty

- In 755, An Lushan led a rebellion to capture Chang’an and Luoyang which was short-lived, but the Tang never fully recovered.
- The Tang court hired the Uighurs from the north to come in to oust An Lushan. The payment was sacking the cities.
- Many rebellions and loss of control to military leaders led to the end of the dynasty in 907.
The Song Dynasty (960-1279)

- **Song Taizu**, the first Song emperor, put more emphasis on civil administration, industry, education and arts than on the military.
- Government officials were paid well based on merit.
- Result was a more centralized imperial government than seen before.
The Song Dynasty

- **Finance Problem:** rewarding these government officials cost the government too much, peasants had to pay high taxes.

- **Military Problem:** scholarly government officials had little military training or talent, nomads on borders pushed some of the Song states to pay them tribute, the Jurchen took over northern part of Song empire and named it Jin.

- Mongols took over in 1279.
Agricultural Development

- There was a surge in production due to fast-ripening rice from Vietnam that allowed them to produce two crops a year.
- Other changes: heavy iron plows, harnessed oxen or water buffaloes, manure, irrigation systems, terraced mountainsides
- Rapid population growth led to urbanization.
Society

- Veneration of ancestors became more elaborate. This strengthened family ties.
- **Foot binding** spread among the upper class in the Song era. Women of privilege were placed under tight supervision of their husbands or fathers.

[Link to article](http://www.myseveralworlds.com/2007/07/11/suffering-for-beauty-graphic-photos-of-chinese-footbinding/)
Technology

- Porcelain: lighter, thinner, aesthetically pleasing, “china”
- Metallurgy: iron production increased, used for weapons, tools, construction
- Gunpowder: mix of charcoal, saltpeter, sulphur, and arsenic; created flamethrower, bombs, cannon
- Printing: block-printing, movable type, disseminated information
- Naval Technology: waterproof oils, watertight bulkheads, small rockets, and magnetic compass
Market Economy

- Trading of goods, prices set by supply and demand
- Letters of Credit (flying cash), promissory notes (IOUs), checks, paper money due to shortage of copper coins
- Cosmopolitan society: merchants from all over eastern hemisphere, Silk Roads
Buddhism in China

- Confucianism and Daoism didn’t disappear, but Mahayana Buddhism came into China by way of missionaries on the Silk Roads.
- Dunhuang
- Monasteries
- Buddhists used vocabulary of Daoism to explain doctrine. Ex: dharma=dao, nirvana=wuwei
Buddhism in China

- Chan Buddhism was created (Zen in Japanese).
- Pilgrimages to India
- Daoists and followers of Confucius did not like Buddhism which over time led to the closing of monasteries and expulsion of Buddhists during Tang dynasty.
Neu-Confucianism

- The Song dynasty supported Confucianism in hopes of limiting foreign religions.
- Confucians studied Buddhist texts.
- **Zhu Xi**: philosopher who blended traditional Confucius thought with ideas of Buddhism
Chinese Influence in Korea

- China invaded, but Silla kingdom held them off. China became the overlord to Korea (tributary system). Korean merchants could trade in China.
- Tribute embassies brought back many ideas: organization of government, capital city, Chinese writings, Confucianism, Chan Buddhism
- Royalty and aristocrats had much more power and influence in Korea, no bureaucracy based on merit
Chinese Influence in Vietnam

- Tang forces took over Vietnam.
- Vietnamese adopted agricultural methods, irrigation systems, Chinese schools and administrative techniques, Confucianism and examinations, Buddhism.
- They entered into a tributary relationship, but weren’t happy and revolted many times. When Tang dynasty fell, they regained independence.
- Vietnamese women played a prominent role in society in society than Chinese women.
Early Japan

Never invaded by China but strongly influenced

**Nara:** Clan claimed imperial authority, centralized Japanese politics, modeled court after Chinese, equal-field system, supported Confucianism and Buddhism, made capital like Chang’an.

Still practiced their own religion, **Shinto**.
Early Japan

- **Heian**: emperors were just figureheads, the Fujiwara family ruled
- Students learned Chinese, literature in Chinese, court records in Chinese!!!
- *Tale of Genji*: by a woman Murasaki Shikibu, in Japanese, about court life
- Clans got into a war, Minamoto family won and instituted the *shogun*. 
Medieval Japan

- Kamakura and Muromachi periods = medieval period (1185-1573)
- Feudalism: decentralized, warlords and their clans, *samurai*
- This is a deviation from Chinese influence.