

# 9.2

## **Golden Ages in China: Tang & Song Dynasties**

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## **As a Young Historian, I will be able to...**

- Summarize how the Tang dynasty reunified China.
- Explain how the Song dynasty grew rich and powerful despite military setbacks.
- Understand how China created an ordered society.
- Describe the major cultural developments in the Tang and Song dynasties.

# The Tang Dynasty

After the fall of the Han dynasty in 220, China broke apart but saw advancement

The Tang Dynasty would emerge in 618 & would restore China

General Li Yuan & his son Li Shimin would lead a revolt against the Sui Dynasty & take over.

Li Shimin would take the thrown & name himself **Tang Taizong**. The first beloved & successful ruler of the Tang Dynasty

**Tributary States**- Neighboring self-governing states that had to recognize China & send tribute

# Strength & Decline

**Economy & education would inspire the people & emperors began land reform.**

**Land Reform-** The system of breaking up large agricultural holdings & distributing land to peasants

**This weakened the wealthy's power & increased revenue.**

**Eventually the Dynasty would decline & chaos would erupt in the country**

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# **Song Dynasty**

**The Song Dynasty would rise from the chaos but would face issues of Mongol invaders**

**The Dynasty would see a boom of agriculture & economy as they could produce fast & sell more crops**

**China would trade spices & special woods with the world & the [Silk Road](#) was developed**

**The Song Dynasty would see a golden age in science in agriculture, astronomy, maps, medicine, & military**

**Advancement in chemistry created gunpowder & the invention of the compass improved travel**



# Ordered Society

Emperors would rule the dynasties & oversaw the **gentry**- wealthy landowners & peasants

Emperors would set up bureaucracy to collect taxes & government revenue.

People would gain an education to oversee specific departments in medicine, astronomy, & math

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# People in Society

**The Gentry stood at the top of society & would take exams for government positions**

**People used **Confucian** thought to help make decisions on society & order**

**Peasants would work lower jobs but would opportunities to manage their own lives & move up in society**

**Merchants were lower than peasants but controlled economic policy**

# Women in China

Women had a little power but had to run family affairs & would watch the family finances

Men had to take a **dowry**- payment a woman brings to a marriage, but the women couldn't use it or remarry

Foot binding became popular as it was seen noble & beautiful, but was VERY painful for women

Women who had to work fields would not take part in this tradition

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# Culture of Tang & Song

**Painting & calligraphy were essential skills as they sought balance & harmony**

**Daoist traditions created Chinese landscape painting**

**The Chinese perfected techniques in making porcelain, hence the term “fine china”**

**Poetry, & short stories appeared in Chinese culture that reflected life & social issues**