Golden Ages in China: Tang & Song Dynasties



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

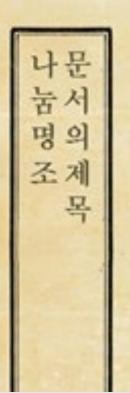
The Tang Dynasty would emerge in 618 & would restore China

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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-governoring 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



Song Dynasty

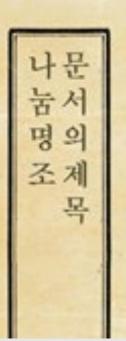
The Song Dynasty would rise from the chaos but would face issues of Mongol invaders

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



People in Society

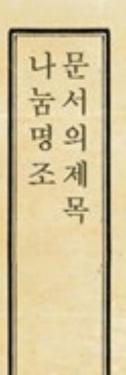
The Gentry stood at the top of society & would take exams for government positions

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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



Culture of Tang & Song

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



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Daoist traditions created Chinese landscape painting



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