Chapter 14

East & South Asia

Central Asia

- The basic unit of social organization was the tribe, divided into kin-related clans
- Central Asians were nomadic herders of goats and sheep who lived off the products of their animals
  - "Visited" settled agricultural cities & acquired grain & metal for weapons
- Leaders were elected free men who held dominant position in leadership gained through showing courage

Seljuk Turks

- 800 AD – Abbasid rulers (Islamic caliphate) hired Turkish warriors to fight in their army
- Gained power over the Abbasid government
- 1000 AD – Turks moved from central Asia into the Middle East
- Used their wealth from trade to build an empire

Seljuk Turks, 1100

- 1071 - Defeated the Byzantines
- 1095 – Pope Urban II calls for the Crusades to drive the Seljuk Turks out of Jerusalem
- Skilled warriors but not strong rulers
- Weakened by fighting each other for control of land
- Became prey to a new nomadic invader from central Asia, the Mongols

The Mongols

- The Mongols were the most formidable nomadic challenge to the sedentary civilizations since the 1st century
- Mongol males were trained from youth to ride, hunt, and fight, their powerful short bows fired from horseback were devastating weapons
  - "Parthian Shot" – ability of archers to shoot from or back from iron stirrups
Temuchin, AKA Genghis Khan (1167-1227)

- Through fighting, diplomacy & determination, Temuchin was bestowed the title of Genghis Khan, “Universal Ruler”
- Built the army into a formidable fighting force

Mongol War Machine

- The Mongol forces were divided into armies made up of basic fighting units consisting of 10,000 warriors.
- The speed and mobility of the Mongol armies made them the world’s best, included both heavy and light cavalry
  - Every warrior traveled with 3-8 horses & could cover 300 miles in a day!

Mongol Army

- Spies were employed
- Secured accurate information for campaigns
- Discovered new weapons, gunpowder and cannons
- Communication during attacks
  - Smoke signals, colored flags & messengers
- Harsh discipline, brought punishment and rewards for conduct
  - Formal code - execution of a warrior that deserted his unit

Conquest Under Genghis Khan

- Genghis Khan set out to conquer the known world
- The Mongols developed new tactics for capturing urban centers, cities that resisted were destroyed and their inhabitants were killed or made slaves
- Cities that submitted were required to pay tribute, ensuring safety
- Mongols are portrayed as destructive conquerors, but generally people lived in peace, enjoyed religious tolerance, and had a unified law code.

Mongol Empire
Death of Genghis Khan and the Division of the Empire

- In 1226 he fell ill from an injury.
- Before he died in 1227, he divided the vast territories into 4 khanates:
  - Great Khan – East Asia
  - Changhadai – Turkestan
  - Perisa – il-Khans
  - Golden Horde – Volga River
- His third son, Ogedei, a talented diplomat, was chosen as grand khan.
- He presided over further Mongol conquests for the next decade

4 Khanates

Kubilai Khan (1215-1294)

- Genghis’ grandson invaded China and by 1271 his dynasty became the Yuan (“Original dynasty”).
- 1279 – Conquest of entire country
- All top positions were held by Mongols; Chinese could hold only lower posts
- Kubilai forbade the Chinese from learning Mongol script, intermarriage was forbidden, and he refused to reestablish exams for civil service.
- Chinese were distrusted – could not hold firearms & were punished more harshly than Mongols

Pax Mongolica

- Despite restrictions, Kubilai was fascinated with Chinese civilization and adopted much of their culture into his court.
- Created an imperial library
- Issued paper money of universal validity
- Granted trade opportunities to non-Chinese – thriving Silk Route trade
  - Marco Polo visited and worked in the service of Kubilai Khan and wrote about him:
    - 4 principal wives each with 10,000 attendants
    - 30-40 concubines
    - Traveled via elephant
- Pax Mongolica – Great Khan & emperor of China extended empire from the Pacific Ocean through Turkestan & Tibet to Russia

Marco Polo

The Brief Ride of Timur

- Just when the people of Eurasia began to recover from the effects of the Mongol expansion, a new leader, Turk Timur-i-Lang brought new nomadic expansion
- Timur, a highly cultured individual from a noble clan, moved to conquest Persia, the Fertile Crescent, India, and southern Russia
  - Wanted to restore Genghis Khan’s empire
- Timur outdid the Mongols in their ferocity for barbaric destruction of conquered land.
- Unlike the Mongols, his rule did not increase trade, and after his death in 1405, the empire fell apart
China
- After the fall of the Han dynasty, China lingered in political chaos for 350 years
- Li Yuan led a successful revolt against a weak dynasty to establish the Tang Dynasty (618-907)
- Changan – capital with 2 million population
- Imperial civil service exams were reinstated

Trade
- Revival of silk route trade
- Foreign visitors were welcomed at the capital
- Things Europe got from China: crossbow, gunpowder, compass, use of coal as a fuel, wheelbarrow, paper currency, silk, tea
- Things China got from the world: Buddhism, Christianity & Islam

Empress Wu Chao
- The only female Empress in China’s history who ruled alone.
- Strong & effective but ruthless (killed enemies) ruler who promoted Buddhism
  - Financed the building of many Buddhist temples.
  - Searched for outstanding individuals to attract to her court.
  - Construction of new irrigation systems.

Buddhism in China
- Came slowly to China via trade
- Contrary to Chinese modes of thought – escape from social responsibility & denies family obligations through monastic ideals
- Commoners embraced a religion that promised an answer to suffering and comfort in a time of constant war
- Adapted in China

Buddhism in China, Wei Period
End of the Tang
- By 762, the empire relied more & more on the help of foreign troops; one general after another became powerful until the dynasty dissolved in 907
- Rome, anyone?
- 907-960 – confused period

Foot Binding in Tang Dynasty
- Broken toes by 3 years of age.

Foot Binding
- Mothers bound their daughters’ feet.

Foot Binding
- For upper-class girls, it became a new custom.

Results of Foot Binding

Southeast Asia
- Present-day countries of Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, Indonesia and the Philippines
- Cultural exchange with India through trade
The Khmer

- 802 – Cambodia established a Hindu-Buddhist empire with its capital at Angkor
- Height in 1100 AD
- Rice production was main source of income
- Massive building projects
  - Temples
  - Roads
  - Irrigation, canals, harbors
  - Hospitals

Khmer

- Suryavarman II – king during height of kingdom
- Built Angkor Wat, a temple covering almost a square mile
- The cost was so much that he weakened the kingdom
- Infighting between royal family members further weakened the kingdom, and they were conquered by their neighbors

Angkor Wat

Vietnam

- East of Cambodia; south of China
- Culturally similar to China
  - Confucianism, Buddhism & Daoism
  - Chinese writing
  - Chinese government
- Fought Chinese & gained independence in 939 AD during the Tang dynasty's decline

Korea & Japan
Korea
- Korean peninsula is set off from mainland with mountains along its NW base adjacent to Manchuria
- Koreans probably originated from E. Siberia & N. Manchuria
- Spoken language is unrelated to Chinese
- Adopted much from China but added its own innovations & identity
- Determined to maintain political independence
- Rice, wheat, metals, written characters, paper, printing, lacquer & porcelain were imported during Han dynasty
- Chinese-style government arose during Han dynasty, as well
- Gained independence from China after the fall of the Han (220 CE)

Korean Kingdoms after 220
- By 669 CE – Silla conquered the other Korean kingdoms & repelled the Tang efforts at re-conquest
- Silla ruled during golden age
- 1392 – Yi dynasty came to power
- Adopted Neo-Confucianist beliefs
- Able to hold off Japan attempts at invasion

Japan
- Closely tied to Korea
- 4 main islands off the tip of Korea – protected & isolated from the mainland
  - 120 miles separating – Strait of Tsushima
  - Advantage: Separate identity of cultural & linguistic homogeneity
- Covered in mountains – densely populated between cities of Tokyo & Osaka – coastal plain
  - Stunted economic development & political unification until very late (1600s)
  - 20% of land is suitable for farming; food from the sea

Jomon & Yayoi Periods
- Jomon Period (13000 – 300 BCE)
  - Hunters-gathers, fishers, hunters
- Yayoi Period (300 BCE – 300 CE)
  - Population growth – Korea
  - Agriculture – rice was imported
  - With agriculture, social classes began to emerge & wealthy landowners became rulers
  - Iron tools – skipped bronze & copper
  - Shintoism – worship of political rulers & spirits of nature
    - God of Rice
    - Simple religion

First Written Accounts
- Japanese written accounts – 7th century CE
  - Not reliable
  - Attempt to make their history as old as China
  - Contradictory myths
- Chinese written accounts of Japan – 290 CE – Account of the Three Kingdoms
  - Japan as an arm of Korea
  - Trade routes from Korea to Japan
  - Japanese as law-abiding people who depended on agriculture & fishing
  - “hairy sea dwarfs”
Yamato Period

- Uji – 5th c. clan ruled by a hereditary chief; numerous clans in the tribal society
  - Chinese said they were a “hundred countries”
- Yamato family consolidated numerous uji
- Both uji & Yamato rulers combined religious and political functions
  - Early Japanese rulers acted as priests & merged animism to worship a mythical sun goddess, Amaterasu

Prince Shotoku: 573-621

- Sent official embassies to China – students, scholars & Buddhists, not traders
- Greatest transfer of culture in world history
- Tried to transform the government into a Chinese administration
- Issued 17 Article Constitution
  - Supremacy of the rulers
  -官職官職 based on ability
  - Central government
  - Ranks for officials
    - Replaced the hereditary ranks of the uji
  - Reverence for Buddhism & praised Confucian values – a combination that exists to modern times

Heian Period Culture

- Court culture flourished
- Elegant lifestyle of court was reserved for the wealthy – NOT how majority of people lived
- Code of behavior
- Poetry was valued art form
  - Japanese script was simplified version of Chinese writing
- Music & dance imported from the Tang court (and remains today)
- “Japanese” tea ceremony & architecture were copied directly from the Tang

Heian Court Dress

Heian Art & Gardens

- Complex of palaces, gardens & aesthetic life
- Art began to distance itself from Chinese
- Simple line drawing on flat surfaces, often telling a story
- Architecture became lighter with more open pavilions with “natural” settings of ponds, gardens & trees
- Bonsai – art of artificially dwarfing trees & shrubs grown in pots through careful pruning
Heian Literature

- Court women were generally educated, unlike the majority of Japanese society
- Several women wrote books & kept diaries
  - *Pillow Book*, 1000 CE
- Murasaki Shikibu, AKA Lady Murasaki (c. 978-1015) – *Tale of the Genji*
  - Praised as chief masterpiece of all Japanese literature
  - Details about manners, dress & court politics through the life of a prince & his interactions with court ladies

Heian Government

- Japanese rulers played a ceremonial & symbolic role rather than an everyday political role
- Real power was held by the aristocratic families at court
- Two families, the Taira & the Minamoto struggled for control; the Minamotos were victorious
- The emperor bestowed the title of “shogun” (chief military commander) to the head of the Minamoto family

Warrior Elite

- Some powerful ruling families built up their own armies, samurai, who were trained in the art of war
- Monasteries, court officials & private families all hired samurai
- Developed a code that stressed family honor & death rather than defeat
- Created a feudal system like medieval Europe

Samurai Sword

Early Mounted Samurai Warriors
Feudal Society

The emperor reigned, but did not always rule!

Feudalism
A political, economic, and social system based on loyalty, the holding of land, and military service.

Zen Buddhism
- A Japanese variation of Buddhism, which came from India through China.
  - Taught the individual had to live in harmony with nature and this harmony could be achieved through deep religious understanding called enlightenment
  - Key role in maintaining the arts among the elite
  - Zen monasteries were key locations for renewed contacts with China