Chapter 12: Empires in East Asia, 600-1350

Essential Question
How did the development of kingdoms and empires in East Asia help spread religions, culture, trade, and technological innovations?

What You Will Learn
In this chapter you will learn how the cultures of East Asia influenced one another, as belief systems and ideas spread through both peaceful and violent means.

SECTION 1 Tang and Song China
Main Idea During the Tang and Song dynasties, China experienced an era of prosperity and technological innovation.

SECTION 2 The Mongol Conquests
Main Idea The Mongols, a nomadic people from the steppe, conquered settled societies across much of Asia.

SECTION 3 The Mongol Empire
Main Idea As emperor of China, Kublai Khan encouraged foreign trade.

SECTION 4 Feudal Powers in Japan
Main Idea Japanese civilization was shaped by cultural borrowing from China and the rise of feudalism and military rulers.

SECTION 5 Kingdoms of Southeast Asia and Korea
Main Idea Several smaller kingdoms prospered in East and Southeast Asia, a region influenced by China and India.

Previewing Themes
- RELIGIOUS AND ETHICAL SYSTEMS: Buddhism, which had reached China from India, spread from China to Japan. Both Hindu and Buddhist missionaries from India spread their religions across Southeast Asia.
- Geography: Why might the Khmer Empire, rather than Korea or Japan, be more open to influence from India?
- EMPIRE BUILDING: The Tang Dynasty built China into the most powerful and advanced empire in the world. Later, China fell to another group of empire builders, the Mongols.
- Geography: Locate the Great Wall on the map. Why do you think the Chinese constructed the wall along their northern border?
- CULTURAL INTERACTION: Chinese culture spread across East Asia, influencing Korea, Japan, and much of mainland Southeast Asia. The Mongol conquests led to interaction between settled and nomadic peoples across Asia.
- Geography: Why would China tend to exert a strong influence over other parts of East Asia?

Visual Summary

East Asian Interaction with China

- CHINA
  - Buddhism
  - Writing system
  - Civil service
  - Conquest of China
  - Spread of Chinese ideas through Mongol Empire across Eurasia
  - Buddhism
  - Writing system
  - Civil service
  - Printing
  - Porcelain

- JAPAN
  - Buddhism
  - Writing system
  - Civil service
  - Other areas: spread of ideas through migration and trade

- MONGOLS
  - Buddhism
  - Writing system
  - Civil service
  - Printing
  - Porcelain

- KOREA
  - Buddhism
  - Writing system
  - Civil service
  - Other areas: spread of ideas through migration and trade

- SOUTHEAST ASIA
  - Dai Viet: Buddhism, strong central government
  - Other areas: spread of ideas through migration and trade
Dynasties of China, 500–1400

500 A.D. - SUI
- Tang Taizong becomes emperor.

627
- Empress Wu Zhao assumes throne.

751
- Chinese lose Battle of Talas.

850
- Gunpowder invented.

1024
- Government issues paper money.

1040
- Movable type invented.

1126
- Song Dynasty retreats to south.

1215
- Genghis Kahn invades northern China.

1260
- Kublai becomes Great Khan.

1275
- Marco Polo reaches China.

Birds and flowers were favorite subjects for Song painters.

Primary Source

The same moon is above Fuzhou tonight;
From the open window she will be watching it alone,
The poor children are too little to be able to remember Ch'ang-an.
Her perfumed hair will be dampened by the dew, the air may be too chilly
on her delicate arms.
When can we both lean by the wind-blown curtains and see the tears dry on
each other's face?

Tu Fu, "Moonlight Night"

Movable Type

The trays allowed the typesetter to quickly find the characters. The
typescript would then order the characters in a tray that would be used
to produce the printed pages. The two wheels held about 60,000 characters.
# Inventions of Tang and Song China

## Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Invention</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Impact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Porcelain</td>
<td>Bone-hard, white ceramic made of a special clay and a mineral found only in China</td>
<td>Became a valuable export—so associated with Chinese culture that it is now called chine, technology remained a Chinese secret for centuries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mechanical clock</td>
<td>Clock in which machinery (driven by running water) regulated the movements</td>
<td>Early Chinese clocks short-lived; idea for mechanical clock carried by traders to medieval Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Printing</td>
<td>Block printing: 700s Movable type: 1040</td>
<td>Printing technology spread to Korea and Japan; movable type also developed later in Europe</td>
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<tr>
<td>Explosive powder</td>
<td>Made from mixture of saltpeter, sulfur, and charcoal</td>
<td>First used for fireworks, then weapons; technology spread west within 300 years</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paper money</td>
<td>Paper currency issued by Song government to replace cumbersome strings of metal cash used by merchants</td>
<td>Contributed to development of large-scale commercial economy in China</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magnetic compass (for navigation)</td>
<td>Floating magnetized needle that always points north-south; device had existed in China for centuries before it was adapted by sailors for use at sea</td>
<td>Helped China become a sea power; technology quickly spread west</td>
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## Skillbuilder: Interpreting Charts

1. **Making Inferences** Which inventions eventually affected warfare and exploration?
2. **Forming and Supporting Opinions** Which of these inventions do you think had the greatest impact on history? Why?
**Kublai Khan 1215–1294**

As ruler of both China and the Mongol Empire, Kublai Khan straddled two worlds. He built luxurious palaces, dressed as a Chinese emperor, and supported the work of Chinese artists. However, he remained a Mongol warrior at heart. The Great Khan is said to have planted a plot of grass from the steppe in the gardens at Beijing to remind himself of his home. He also loved to hunt and enclosed a large hunting ground at his palace at Shangdu.

**Marco Polo 1254–1324**

The man who described Kublai Khan to Europeans left behind very little information about himself. According to Polo, Kublai recognized his “merit and worth” and sent him on special missions around the empire. His impressions of China became the basis of his book, but he described few actual events about his life. Since his book first appeared, people have debated whether Polo even visited China. He is not mentioned in Chinese accounts of this time. His tales also fail to mention such common features of China as tea, acupuncture, or foot binding. On his deathbed, Polo was asked if his travels were true. He replied that he had told barely half of what he had seen.

**Genghis Khan 1162–1227**

Temujin, according to legend, was born with a blood dot in his fist. In his lifetime, his hands were often covered with the blood of others. When Temujin was about nine, the Tatars, a rival people, poisoned his father. For a time, he and his family lived in extreme poverty, abandoned by their clan. When in manhood he fought and defeated the Tatars, he slaughtered every male taller than a cart axe.

While driven by revenge, Genghis also loved conquest. He once remarked to his personal historian:

*Man’s greatest good fortune is to chase and defeat his enemy, seize his total possessions, leave his married women weeping, and waiting, and ride his horse.*
Helmets were made from iron plates to repel sword blows.

An iron mask was sometimes worn not only to protect the face, but to frighten the samurai’s enemy as well.

Samurai swords were made by skilled artisans. The curvature of the blade makes the weapon more effective when slashing.

Individual iron plates provided protection and freedom of movement when in combat. As you can see, a samurai’s armor was often richly decorated.

Female Samurai
Samurai were not always men. Here, Lady Taniye Gozen, a famous female warrior of the 1180s, enters bravely into battle.

Japanese Samurai
Samurai were members of Japan’s warrior class. Early samurai protected local aristocratic landowners. In the late 1100s, however, the warrior class secured national power and dominated Japanese government until 1868.

Samurai warriors followed an unwritten code that emphasized honor, bravery, and loyalty. This code came to be known as Bushido. Their reputation as fearsome warriors has become legendary.

Geography
- Japan is an archipelago, a chain of four main islands.
- Pacific in East, Sea of Japan in West
- Water has provided protection; Led to isolation
- Moderate temperatures
- Mountainous; most people live near water
Tang and Song China

Terms and Names

Tang Taizong  Great emperor of the Tang Dynasty
Wu Zhao  Tang ruler and only woman in China ever to assume the title of emperor
movable type  Wood or metal blocks, each with a single character, that can be arranged to make up a page for printing
gentry  Powerful upper class

The Mongol Conquests

Terms and Names

pastoralist  Person who herds tamed animals
clan  Large group of people related to a common ancestor
Genghis Khan  Leader who brought together the Mongol clans
Pax Mongolica  "Mongol Peace," a period from mid-1200s to mid-1300s when Mongols imposed order across much of Eurasia

The Mongol Empire

Terms and Names

Kublai Khan  Mongol leader and Chinese emperor
Marco Polo  Traveler from Venice who served Kublai Khan for 17 years

Feudal Powers in Japan

Terms and Names

Shinto  Japan’s earliest religion, based on respect for nature and worship of ancestors
samurai  Japanese warrior who served a lord
Bushido  Code that samurai lived by—"the way of the warrior"
shogun  Highest military commander in feudal Japan, ruling in the name of the emperor

Kingdoms of Southeast Asia and Korea

Terms and Names

Khmer Empire  Empire that ruled what is now Cambodia
Angkor Wat  Temple complex of the Khmer Empire
Koryu Dynasty  Dynasty that ruled Korea from 935 to 1392