

Tang and Song Civilization

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Time Period: (Tang 618-907) (Song

Started: (Tang 618) (Song 960)

Peaked: (Tang 683-727)

Length of Rule: (Tang 289y) (Song 319)

Ended: (Tang 907) (Song 1279)



Tang's Geographic Impact on society

Location: China

Modern day location: Southeast China

Effect of geography on civilization: Yangtze river allowed for agriculture the production of crops, mainly including rice

Location compared to others: Song dynasty south of Jin dynasty

Bodies of water near the Civilization: Pacific ocean, Yangtze river

Political System and Impact on Society

Type of Rulership: Monarchy

How were they organized: Three way administration, dealing with Finance, Army, and Secretariat

What types of laws did they have: The Tang Code (A group of laws created by emperor Gaozu that would be used across all of the territory)

What were their courts like: Respected court. Court assigned judicial, military, transportation, and monopoly intendants

Economic System and Impact on Society

Trade's role in the civilization: Trade in both dynasties helped further develop the economy

Major products for trade: Silk and Porcelain

How did geography affect trade: Geography helped trade because of the flat land (Dynasty was also involved in the silk road)

Was the economy based on division of social classes: Yes, often lower positions in the culture like farmers were poorer

Beliefs and Religious Impact on Culture

- Allowed free practice of religion, including Buddhism, Christianity, Taoism, and Confucianism during Taizong's reign
- Buddhism was one of most popular religions
- Since there were many different religions some were polytheistic and some were monotheistic

The Rise of the Tang and Song Dynasty's

What caused these civilizations to rise:

The Tang dynasty grew as a result of the assassination of the previous emperor, ending the yang dynasty, and creating the tang dynasty after Li Yuan took power

The Song dynasty was founded by Zhao Kuangyin after nearly a century of strife, and was a completely new addition to China

Art and Architecture

Role of arts in the civilization: Art such as painting was highly regarded as one of the best forms of expression of the Chinese mind

Main forms of art: Painting, sculpting, and ceramics

What was architecture like: described as magnificent, symmetrical, elegant (using resources such as stone, iron, wood, and bamboo)

What can we learn about them from their art: They were a very hard working and creative group of people

Writing System and Written History

What forms of communication did they have: Language, writing, body language

Type of Writing: Chinese

Can we read it today and why did it develop: Yes, most of it is read like normal chinese but there are some major differences

Was it used by other civilizations: No

Major Technological Advances

- Gunpowder
- The Compass
- Clocks (Modern)
- Water pumps

Golden Age (Tang)

How long did it last: 683-727 (44y)

Why did it end: Waves of violence and economic failure ended the golden age abruptly and eventually led to the downfall of the dynasty as a whole

What caused it: The golden age started as a result of the success in trade and the flourishing arts, culture and science

Famous Citizens and Achievements

Who do we remember from this civilization: Du Mu

What did they do to earn their legacy: He created many poems based on romance

Slavery

Were cities built by forced labor: Some roads were created by slave labor

Was slavery based on race: No, many people were born into slavery, and many were sold into slavery, perhaps to pay off a debt

Was it permanent: Tang dynasty tried to discourage slavery, yet once their rule ended, slavery rose

Fall of Tang and Song Civilization

Were they conquered: (Tang, No(A rebellion was created that took down the emperor and started a new dynasty)) (Song, Yes)

How many times were they conquered: Once

Could they have stayed in power if their geographical location was different:
Most likely not... the Song dynasty was taken over by the Jin dynasty which had a very strong army

Worldwide Contributions

Major contributions to the world: Helped develop a language, code of laws, and writing system that would eventually be used in modern day China

Lasting contributions to the planet: Created gunpowder which changed the world as we know it due to the inventions of extremely powerful military weapons (guns) which are used in most military related attacks

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