**Asia Vocabulary**

1. Bureaucracy- A system of government in which most of the important decisions are made by state officials rather than by elected representatives.

2. Grand Canal- 1,1000 mile waterway linking the Yellow and the Yangzi River. Completed during the Sui Dynasty (581–618 AD). It was built to enable successive Chinese regimes to transport surplus grain from the agriculturally rich [Yangtze](https://www.britannica.com/place/Yangtze-River) and [Huai](https://www.britannica.com/place/Huai-River) river valleys to feed the capital cities and large standing armies in northern China.

3. Tang Dynasty- Imperial dynasty following Sui. Ruled by Li family. Inner Asian precedent for using Buddhism in govt. mostly Mahayana. diverse empire. Tang law code = model for later dynastic law codes. Turmoil= backlash against "foreigners". Buddhists were foreigners to Confucians.

4. Tributary system- Independent countries (East and Southeast Asia) acknowledged China's supremacy and paid tribute and gave China access to their trade networks; outsiders performed the “kowtow” to Chinese

5. Song Dynasty- Imperial dynasty following the Tang from 960 to 1279. Advances in tech, med, astronomy, math. First in world history to issue [banknotes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Banknote) or true paper money nationally and the first Chinese government to establish [a permanent standing navy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Naval_history_of_China). First known use of [gunpowder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gunpowder), as well as the first discernment of [true north](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/True_north) using a [compass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Compass). Fractions used to describe moon phases. Precise calendar based on moon. Junk ship. The population of China doubled in size= new urban centers. Very skilled engineers. Iron mass production. Class distinctions mean less. Recruited people for nobility based more on talent than status. Test preparation took a lot of time so peasant boys didn't compete. Reinvigorated [Confucianism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confucianism) with new commentary, infused with [Buddhist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism) ideals, and emphasized a new organization of classic texts that brought out the core doctrine of [Neo-Confucianism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neo-Confucianism). Conquered by [Mongol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mongols)-led [Yuan dynasty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yuan_dynasty).

6. Junk- A very large flat bottom sailing ship produced in the Tang, Song, and Ming Empires, specially designed for long-distance commercial travel.

7. Eunuchs- Castrated palace servants who were powerful political players in the Chinese imperial court/government.

8. Neo-Confucianism- Song and later versions of Confucian thought. Zhu Xi most important philosopher. Although critical of Taoism and Buddhism, the two did have an influence on the philosophy, and they borrowed terms and concepts. It was an attempt to create a more rationalist and secular form of [Confucianism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confucianism) by rejecting superstitious and mystical elements of [Taoism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taoism) and [Buddhism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhism) that had influenced Confucianism. Spread to Korea, Japan, and Vietnam.

9. Movable Type Printing- Type of printing made of porcelain materials and was invented around 1040 in China during Northern Song Dynasty. Replaced woodblock. Printing cheaper. Individual character is cast on separate piece of metal.

10. Monasticism- A religious way of life in which one renounces worldly pursuits to devote oneself fully to spiritual work

11. Tax farming- Selling rights to collect taxes to individuals. Collected max amount and sent min amount to the gov.

12. Syncretism- The combining of different beliefs, while blending practices of various schools of thought.

13. Champa rice- Fast maturing rice that originated in India but was brought to Song China as a tribute gift by the Champas (largely now Southern Vietnam). Song officials gave this rice to peasants across China in order to boost yields, and its distribution was crucial in feeding the population of over 100 million in China.

14. Koryo- Unified Korean kingdom founded in 918 and ruled until 1392. Golden age of Buddhism in Korea. Commerce flourished, with merchants coming from as far as the Middle East. Became a semi-autonomous "[son-in-law nation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goryeo_under_Mongol_Rule)" of the Mongol [Yuan dynasty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yuan_dynasty) through [royal intermarriage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_intermarriage) and blood ties.

15. Joseon- [Korean](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koreans) dynastic kingdom that lasted for approximately five centuries (1392- 1897). During its reign, Joseon encouraged the entrenchment of [Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_culture) Confucian ideals and doctrines in Korean society. [Neo-Confucianism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neo-Confucianism) was installed as the new dynasty's state ideology. [Buddhism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korean_Buddhism) was accordingly discouraged and occasionally faced persecutions by the dynasty.

16. Fujiwara- Aristocratic family that dominated the Japanese imperial court between the ninth and twelfth centuries.

17. Heian Japan- Period in Japanese history from 794 to 1185 that saw a great flourishing in Japanese culture from literature to paintings and a general decline of Chinese influences; real power was in the hands of the Fujiwara Clan who had intermarried with Japan’s imperial family.

18. Feudal Japan- Era in Japan that took place from the 12th through 19th centuries. During that period local rulers, either powerful families or military warlords, dominated the land, while the emperor was merely a figurehead and not a significant political presence.

19. Shogun- The [military dictator](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_dictatorship) of [Japan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan) during the period from 1185 to 1868 (with exceptions). In most of this period, they were the [de facto](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/De_facto) rulers of the country, although nominally they were appointed by the [Emperor](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emperor_of_Japan) as a ceremonial formality. They held almost absolute power over territories through military means.

20. Daimyos- (in feudal Japan) one of the great lords who were vassals of the shogun.

21. Buddhism- A religion originating in ancient India sometime between the 6th and 4th centuries BCE. Grew out of the teaching of Siddhārtha Gautama that suffering is inherent in life and that one can be liberated from it by cultivating wisdom, virtue, and concentration. Two major branches are Theravada and Mahayana. Today world’s 4th largest religion.

22. Bodhisattva- (in Mahayana Buddhism) a person who is able to reach nirvana but delays doing so out of compassion in order to save suffering beings.

23. Daoism (Taoism)- Shunned political and military ambitions; guided followers toward nature for comfort and understanding; emphasized acceptance and individual retreat from society. Differs from [Confucianism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confucianism) by not emphasizing rigid rituals and social order, but is similar in the sense that it is a teaching about the various disciplines for achieving "perfection" by becoming one with the unplanned rhythms of the universe called "the way" or "Tao".

24. Confucianism- Emphasized the importance of hierarchical, harmonious relationships in the creations of an orderly society (everyone has a place in society); family is the foundation of society and serves as a model for benevolence/duty

25. Filial Piety- Notably in Confucianism, a virtue of respect for one's parents, elders, and ancestors.

26. Mandate of Heaven- The emperor had the support of the heavens as long as he was good ruler.

27. Forbidden City- Former Chinese imperial palace from the [Ming dynasty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ming_dynasty) to the end of the [Qing dynasty](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Qing_dynasty) (the years 1420 to 1912). Served as the home of [emperors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Emperor_of_China) and their households as well as the ceremonial and political center of Chinese government for almost 500 years. Located in central Beijing.

28. Imperial Examinations- series of tests to select candidates for the state bureaucracy; exams were based on knowledge of the classics and literary style, not technical expertise. This common culture helped to unify the empire and the ideal of achievement by merit gave legitimacy to imperial rule, while leaving clear problems resulting from a systemic lack of technical and practical expertise.

29. Silk Road- Network of trade routes which connected the [East](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_world) and [West](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_culture), and was central to the economic, cultural, political, and religious interactions between these regions from the 2nd century BCE to the 18th century. Many goods and ideas were exchanged, including religions ([especially Buddhism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silk_Road_transmission_of_Buddhism)), [syncretic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syncretic) philosophies, sciences, and technologies like [paper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paper) and [gunpowder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gunpowder). Economic AND cultural trade. Diseases, most notably [plague](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plague_%28disease%29), also spread along the route.

30. Delhi Sultanate- Islamic empire based in Delhi that stretched over large parts of the Indian subcontinent (1206- 1526). One of the few powers to repel an attack by the Mongols. Saw a synthesis of Indian civilization with that of Islamic civilization. Conquered and succeeded by the Mughal Empire.

31. Khmer Empire- Predecessor state to modern Cambodia. Greatest legacy is Angkor (fall of Angkor in 15th century)

32. Angkor Wat- Religious temple built in the early 12th century in the capital of the Khmer Empire in Southeast Asia (present day Cambodia); Originally dedicated to the Hindu god Vishnu, it was converted to a Buddhist temple.

33. Bhakti Movement- Emerged in medieval Hinduism (swept over east and north India from 15th century onwards). Later revolutionized in Sikhism. Provided an individual-focused alternative path to spirituality regardless of one’s caste or gender.