**Asia Vocabulary (pre-Mongols)**

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 CE). 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- (618-907 CE) Imperial dynasty following Sui. Inner Asian precedent for using Buddhism in government, mostly Mahayana. Empress Wu Zetian. 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. Did the Kowtow before Chinese to show inferiority/subordination.

5. Song Dynasty- Imperial dynasty from 960-1279 following the Tang. Advances in tech, med, astronomy, engineering, and 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). Precise calendar based on moon. Used the junk. Lots or iron and coal production. Iron mass production. Imperial test preparation took a lot of time so peasant boys didn't compete. Reinvigorated [Confucianism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confucianism) with [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). The population of China doubled during the 9th- 11th centuries.

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. Foot Binding- Historical Chinese custom among the upper class of applying tight binding to the feet of young girls to modify the shape and size of their feet; gradually became popular among the elite during the Song Dynasty. It was not until the early 20th century that foot binding began to die out as a result of anti-foot-binding campaigns. By 2007, there were only a few surviving elderly Chinese women known to have bound feet.

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 Period- Last period of classical Japanese history, running from 794 to 1185. Period in Japanese history when Buddhism, Daoism, and other Chinese influences were at its height. Considered the peak of the Japanese imperial court and noted for its art, poetry, and literature. Although the Imperial House of Japan had power on the surface, the real power was in the hands of the Fujiwara clan.

18. Kamakura Shogunate- The first of Japan’s decentralized military governments (1185- 1333). The heads of the government were the shoguns.

19. 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.

20. 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.

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

22. 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 it is the 4th largest religion in the world.

23. 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.

24. 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.

25. 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.

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

27. Angkor Wat- Temple complex in modern day Cambodia. Largest religious monument in the world. Originally a Hindu temple dedicated to the god Vishnu for the Khmer Empire, it was gradually transformed into a Buddhist temple towards the end of the 12th century.

28. 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.

29. Sati- Historical practice found chiefly among elite Hindus in the northern and pre-modern regions of South Asia, in which a widow sacrifices herself by sitting atop her deceased husband’s funeral pyre. There is no indication that it was especially widespread, the earliest known attempt by a government to stop the practice took place during the Delhi Sultanate in the 14th century.

30. Empress Wu Zetian- (624-705) Chinese sovereign who ruled unofficially as empress consort, power behind the throne, and late officially as regent, empress dowager, and empress regnant during the Tang Dynasty. Elevated the status of Buddhism during her reign, reaching its height and influence in China.