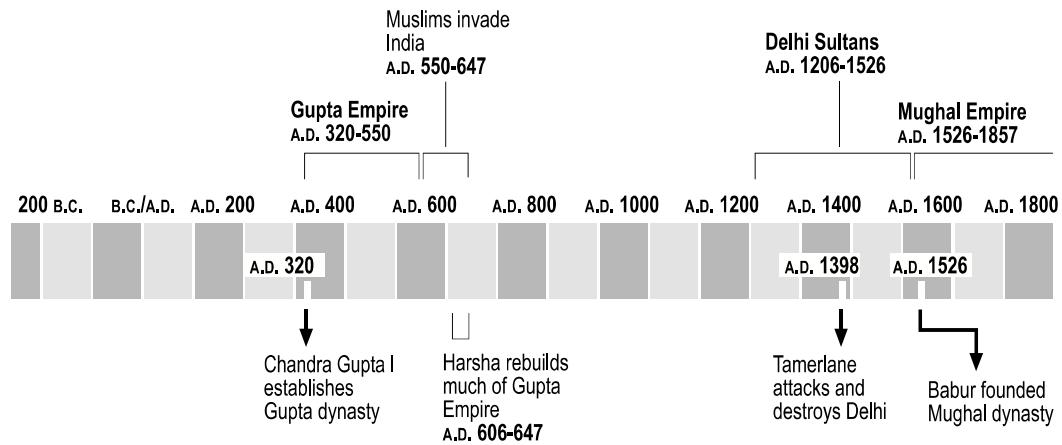


## Empires in India, China, and Japan (220s B.C.-A.D. 1800s)

### Timeline of the Empires in India

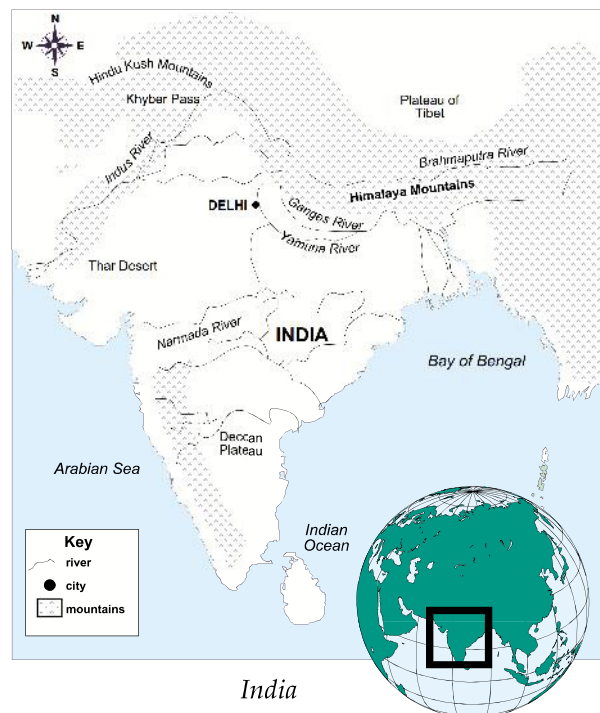


### India

India, a **subcontinent** in the south of Asia, is the location of one of the oldest civilizations known to mankind. Throughout its long history, India was invaded several times. Even though the Himalayan Mountains protect India from invasion in the north, many mountain passes, including one called the *Khyber Pass* in the Hindu Kush Mountains, made it easy for armies to reach India.

### India's Golden Age— The Gupta Empire (A.D. 320-550)

Until about A.D. 320, many groups ruled India. A young leader named Chandra Gupta I established a new dynasty known as the *Gupta dynasty*. The Gupta's Empire controlled much of the land around the Ganges River Valley. As the influence of the Guptas spread, more and



more territory came under their control. Soon the empire included territory in the western part of India. Trade expanded as access to the ports on the east and west coasts of India came under the Gupta rule. There were many cultural contributions made during Gupta rule. The arts and the sciences flourished.

## Gupta Contributions to Civilization

### Architecture, Art, Mathematics, Medicine, and Literature

Gupta leadership led to great achievements in literature, art, mathematics, and science. Great temples with elaborate carvings and murals were built. Indian mathematicians originated the concept of zero and had a symbol for infinity. They also developed the base 10 decimal system, which we still use today. These numerals are now called *Arabic numerals* because the Gupta concept of numerals was carried to the Middle East and Europe by the Arabs.

By Gupta times, Indian doctors had pioneered the use of herbs and other remedies to treat illness. In India's free hospitals, these doctors were the first to give injections and vaccinate people against smallpox, 1,000 years before this practice was used in Europe. Surgeons sterilized their cutting tools, set broken bones, and repaired injured ears and noses using plastic surgery techniques.

Many writers collected and recorded fables and folktales in the Sanskrit language. These Indian fables were carried west to Persia, Egypt, and Greece. Many of these tales traveled to Arabia and became part of the *Arabian Nights*. The greatest Gupta poet and playwright was Kalidasa. His most famous play, *Shakuntala*, was about a king who marries an orphan.

India became the center of learning, and much of its culture spread throughout eastern Asia. The Guptas gave India a long period of peace and prosperity. This is one of the reasons why the Gupta period is often called India's *Golden Age*.



*Indian carving*

### Hinduism

Two religions, Hinduism and Buddhism, played a part in Indian culture. Unlike most other major religions, Hinduism had no single founder and no single sacred text. Hinduism is a collection of religious beliefs that



developed over thousands of years. Hindus worship many gods. Each god represents a form of the universal soul known as *Brahman*.

In order to be one with the universal soul, followers of Hinduism must purify their souls by performing religious duties and living **righteously**. Soul purification requires many lifetimes. Each person's soul experiences rebirths or **reincarnations**. In each lifetime, a person can come closer to achieving union with the universal soul by obeying the law of **karma**.

Karma includes all the events of a person's life that affect his or her fate in the next life. People who live righteously earn good karma and are rewarded by reincarnation into a higher **caste** or class in their next life. Those who do evil deeds acquire bad karma and are reborn into a lower caste or class, or lower lifeform. When an individual's soul finally achieves oneness with the universal soul, he or she is released from the cycle of rebirth.

Hindu teachings are recorded in *sacred texts* known as the Vedas and Upanishads. These sacred books have stories of heroic tales and moral lessons. Throughout India's history, these teachings have influenced the way of life of its people.

## Buddhism

Siddhartha Guatama, the founder of Buddhism, was born to a high-ranking family in northeast India about 566 B.C. He became known as the *Buddha*, or the *Enlightened One*. The Buddha taught that the way to happiness was to avoid attachment to the material pleasures of life. Suffering was caused by desire. A person could eliminate desire by following the *Eightfold Path of righteous living*: right views, right aspirations, right speech, right conduct, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right contemplation. By living righteously, a follower of the Buddha could escape the endless cycle of reincarnation. When people rid themselves of their attachment to worldly pleasures, their souls can enter a spiritual state of peace known as **nirvana**. By 300 B.C., the Buddha's teachings spread throughout India and many other parts of Asia.



*Statue of the Buddha*

## Muslims Invade India (A.D. 550-647)

Around A.D. 550, the power of the Gupta family finally ended. **Nomadic** invaders from central Asia known as the *White Huns* overthrew the empire. In A.D. 606, at the age of 16, Harsha, a distant relative of the Gupta kings, succeeded in rebuilding much of the Gupta Empire during his 41 years of power. However, he left no **heirs** and the empire fell apart after his death in A.D. 647. India was again divided into many independent warring kingdoms.

By the 8<sup>th</sup> century, the Muslims extended their power and spread Islam, their religion, into southern Asia. For more than 1,000 years, Muslim invaders crossed through India's northwest mountain passes and extended their control as far south as the Deccan plateau. The Muslim conquest of India influenced both India's political and cultural development. The Turkish Muslim conquest of northern India led to the destruction of many Buddhist and Hindu temples and monasteries. During these invasions, many Hindus and Buddhists were killed, and cities were looted. Islamic leaders drove the Buddhists from India but not the Hindus. This is why although Buddhism started in India, it mainly exists in the rest of Asia. Under Muslim rule, many Indians **converted** to the Islamic religion.

## Hindu and Muslim Differences

Hinduism, an ancient religion, had many sacred books and was **polytheistic**, with many gods and goddesses. Islam, a newer religion, had a single sacred book called the Quran or the Koran. The followers of Islam were **monotheistic**, believers in one God like Judaism and Christianity. The statues and carvings of gods and goddesses in Hindu temples were offensive to Muslims who worshipped only one God. While Hindus celebrated religious festivals with music and dance, Muslims condemned this practice. Hindus accepted differences in caste status; Muslims taught the equality of all believers before God and had no religious **hierarchy**. Over a long period of time, there was a cultural blending or **merging** of both Hindu and Muslim customs. A new language, *Urdu*, resulted from the blending of Persian, Arabic, and Hindu.

## The Delhi Sultans (A.D. 1206-1526)

The Delhi Sultans ruled India from 1206-1526. An all-powerful Muslim ruler or *sultan* named Aibak conquered India's entire northern plain. He established his capital at the city of Delhi (see map on page 243). Many

other cities were built as later sultans extended Islamic power to the south. Trade between India and the rest of the Islamic world flourished. New ideas were brought to and from India.

Muslim rulers condemned Hinduism as idol worship. They also persecuted Hindus and tried to encourage people to convert to the Islamic faith. However, Hinduism survived as the religion of the majority in India. By the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the Delhi Sultanate became weak. It was soon divided into smaller independent states, which were ruled by Muslim rulers. In 1398, a Mongol warrior named Tamerlane attacked and destroyed Delhi. He slaughtered 100,000 people, both Hindus and Muslims. Mongol invasions and rivalries among its leaders weakened the Delhi Sultan's empire and led to its decline after 320 years.

### **The Mughal Empire (A.D. 1526-1857)**

By 1526 Mongol invaders led by Babur marched through the mountain passes of northern India and the city of Delhi. Babur founded the Mughal dynasty (Mughal is the Persian word for Mongol), which ruled from 1526-1857. Babur was a Muslim and a **descendent** of the famous Mongol warriors Genghiz Khan and Tamerlane. Under the leadership of the early Mughal rulers, both Hindu and Muslim tradition blended together and eventually became the Mughal culture.

Akbar the Great, the grandson of Babur, conquered additional territory in India. The area he conquered stretched from the Himalayas to the Deccan plateau. Although a Muslim, Akbar encouraged religious harmony through tolerance of the many faiths in India, including Hindus, Buddhists, and Christians. He won support through his policy of tolerance. Many converted to Islam, but India maintained its Hindu traditions, and the majority of its people practiced the Hindu religion. Akbar was as skilled a **negotiator** as he was a military leader. He was able to make **alliances** with the many **diverse** people within his empire.

He and his heirs strengthened their empire in many ways. He made codes of law that applied equally to all of his people. He also ended the practice of taxing non-Muslims and appointed many Hindus to high government positions. The Mughals encouraged learning, especially in the arts, architecture and literature. The Mughal Empire lasted until the mid-1800s. It began to decline when frequent wars, heavy taxes, and tension between Muslims and Hindus increased. The weakening of the Mughal Empire eventually led to European nations gaining control of India.

## Mughal Influences on India

### Art, Architecture, and Literature

The Mughals built **mosques** (Muslim houses of worship), palaces, and tombs. The Taj Mahal is a magnificent marble building built by a Mughal



*The Taj Mahal is a beautiful white marbled building built as a tomb for an emperor's wife of the Mughal Empire. Legend says that when his wife lay dying, she asked the emperor to build for her a tomb of such perfect proportions and purity that anyone who saw it would sense the power of love. The emperor did just that. The Taj Mahal is considered to be one of the most beautiful buildings in the world.*

emperor as his wife's tomb. The tomb has white marble spires and domes etched with beautiful patterns decorated with gold, silver, and precious jewels. It stands as perhaps the greatest monument of the Mughal Empire.

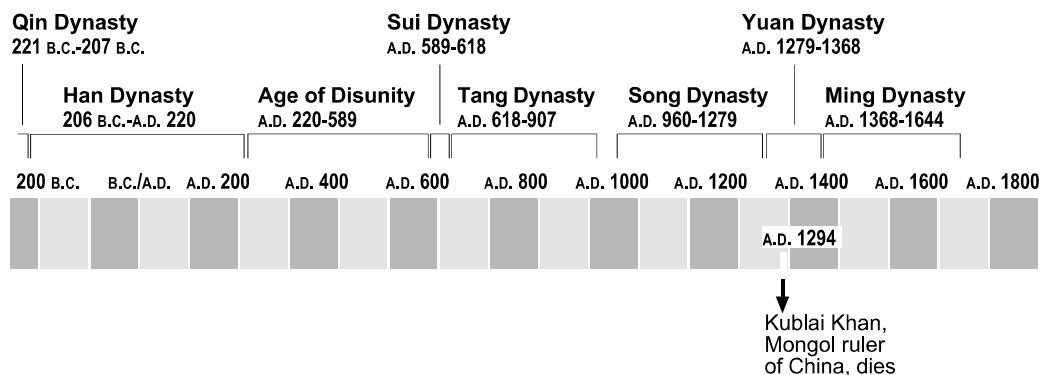
Many Mughal rulers encouraged the combining of Hindu and Muslim traditions in literature and art. Hindu works of literature such as the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata* were translated into the Mughal language. Indian and Persian influences are demonstrated in much Mughal art. Painting included portraits, nature scenes, and depictions from religious and literary works.

## China

China, the largest country in the world, is located in Asia. Chinese civilization is rich in **tradition**. The progressive nature of Chinese civilization became known in Europe after the explorer Marco Polo returned home to Italy. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, he had spent 20 years learning about the Chinese.

Geography has played a very important role in the history of China. The Chinese civilization developed along the fertile Huang He in the north and the Yangzi River Valleys in central China. Natural **barriers** such as mountains, deserts, and plateaus prevented invasions on all sides of China but the north and west. The north of China is covered by the Gobi Desert and Mongolian Plateau, which is located in the region known as Mongolia. To the west lay the Takla Makan Desert and the Plateau of Tibet (see map on page 265).

### Timeline of the Empires in China



### Qin (Ch'in) Dynasty (221 B.C. -207 B.C.)

Towards the end of the Zhou dynasty (see Unit 4), a new warlike dynasty rose in the northwest region of what is today China. The Qin (Ch'in) dynasty overthrew the last of the Zhou rulers in 256 B.C. They conquered the surrounding lands and **unified** China. By 221 B.C., the Qin created a dynasty from which modern day China takes its name (see chart on page 266).

### The First Emperor

The Qin ruler Zheng defeated all of his rivals and declared himself Shi Huangdi or *first emperor*. He reorganized the government, putting everything under his control. Nobles and rulers of small kingdoms had to



*ancient Chinese coin*

move to the capital under the watchful eye of the emperor. He built new roads and required cart axles to be the same width so that the wheels ran in the same ruts on all Chinese roads. The First Emperor introduced a standardized money system and replaced the diverse coins of the Zhou dynasty with Qin coins. The Chinese writing system was also made simpler.

The government Zheng created was **authoritarian**; that is, it held complete control over the government and its people. The emperor killed, jailed, or tortured anyone who opposed his rule. Because Qin leaders believed that other ideas were dangerous to the state, they had all the literature and philosophy books from earlier dynasties destroyed, including the writings of the famous Chinese scholar, Confucius. Only books on medicine and agriculture were spared. The book burnings were a form of **censorship**. Censorship is the control of citizens' access to public information or free speech. By destroying these books, Shi Huangdi hoped to stop the spread of ideas he believed challenged his authority.

### The Great Wall of China

To protect his empire from invaders, Shi Huangdi began the construction of the Great Wall of China. This was the greatest example of Chinese architecture. About one million peasants were forced to work on building the Great Wall. They put earth and stone into a wall that was almost 25 feet tall and 15 feet wide. When it was completed, it stretched for more than 1,400 miles across China, dividing their civilized world from the nomadic bands north of the wall.



*A woodblock print of the Great Wall of China. The Great Wall, the world's longest wall fortification, is located in the northern part of China. Construction, begun in the Qin dynasty to defend China against invasion, was mostly completed during the Ming dynasty.*



## The Decline of the Qin Dynasty

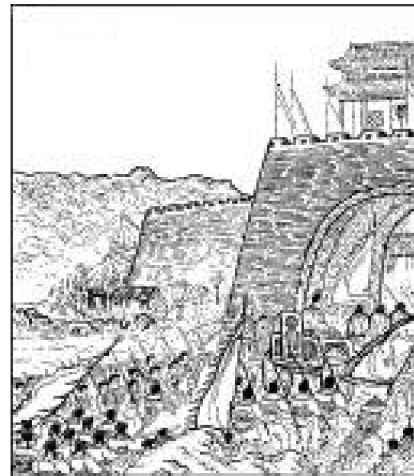
Although Shi Huangdi transformed his country into a strong unified nation, the people were unhappy under his harsh rule. Soldiers and peasants rebelled. Four years after the death of Shi Hunagdi in 210 B.C., the Qin dynasty was overthrown.

Liu Bang, an illiterate peasant leader, defeated the rival armies and claimed the Mandate of Heaven (see Unit 4). He began the Han dynasty, named after the river where he had been stationed when he was in the army. Lui Bang took the title Gao Zu, meaning chief ancestor, and set about restoring order and justice to his empire. He abolished the harsh laws of the Qin dynasty and was a just ruler. The Chinese think of the Han years as a time of glory, unity, and peace. Han China made such tremendous advances in so many fields that the Chinese later called themselves *the people of the Han*.

## Qin Contributions to Civilization

### Measurements, Roads, Canals, and Architecture

In order to unify China, the Qin dynasty set up a uniform system of weights and measures and built a network of tree-lined roads and canals. The dynasty completed the Great Wall of China, which is one of the few human-made features on Earth that is visible from space. Although the Qin dynasty under Shu Huangdi built the earlier unified wall, the wall existing today dates from the Ming dynasty.



*the Great Wall of China*

### Han Dynasty (206 B.C-A.D. 220)

The Han dynasty lasted about 400 years and created an empire about the size of the continental United States. The first goal of the Han dynasty was to stop the invasions from the north. This was the only way to preserve the Chinese way of life. Their second goal was to expand China's borders. In order to establish a strong and effective government, Han rulers

encouraged the return to the teachings of Confucius. Confucius was a famous Chinese philosopher from an earlier period in Chinese history. He taught that tradition and respect for authority were necessary in order to keep an orderly society. The Han rulers wanted an educated workforce that would be obedient to government authority. They began the practice of giving examinations based on the teachings of Confucius to all those interested in government jobs. These civil service exams were given to all those who wished to hold a government position. This practice resulted in the teachings of Confucius becoming a permanent part of Chinese thinking.



*Confucius*

The most famous Han emperor, Wudi, reigned from 141 B.C. to 87 B.C. He strengthened the government and economy. Wudi earned the title of the Warrior Emperor because of his endless struggles to secure and expand China's borders. Like Gau Zu, he chose officials from Confucian scholars.

## **The Fall of the Han Dynasty**

As the Han dynasty aged, barbarian invasions, peasant revolts, heavy taxes, and a series of weak and ineffective government leaders led to the downfall of the Han dynasty. Over four centuries of warfare followed the end of the Han dynasty. China was again divided into several kingdoms. These newcomers eventually became part of the Chinese civilization. During this period, Buddhism took root in China.

### **The Age of Disunity (A.D. 220-589)**

After the Han dynasty collapsed in A.D. 220, China remained a divided land for nearly 400 years. Constant warfare caused great hardships for the people of China. The collapse of the Han dynasty came to be known as a *time of trouble* because this period of history plunged China into disorder.

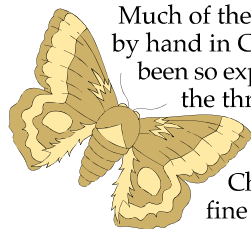
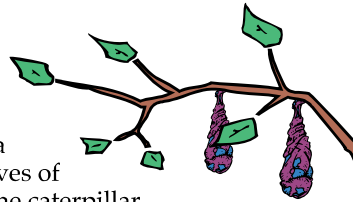
## Han Contributions to Civilization

### Silk Trade

During the Han dynasty, the borders of China were expanded, and China became a huge, united empire. A flourishing trade in silk and spices was established with Europe and other parts of Asia. Silk became China's most famous export. The technology of silk making was a closely guarded secret. The Silk Road became the main route to the western world. It stretched for 2,500 miles. Caravans took silk as far west as the Roman Empire.

#### How Silk Is Made

The secret of silk making begins when a female moth lays an egg. The caterpillar, which takes about a month to develop, feeds on the leaves of the mulberry tree. After a month, the caterpillar begins to spin the cocoon. It ejects a silken strand from its body which hardens on exposure to air. The cocoon is then killed by steam or hot air, and the cocoons are placed in hot water to soften the gum that binds the silk. Usually strands from five to eight cocoons are unwound together to form a long thread of raw silk.



Much of the work of silk making has always been done by hand in China, which is why the cloth has always been so expensive. It is estimated that workers must gather the thread from over 600 cocoons to make one silk blouse. Today, silk is made in factories with the use of machines to wind strands together. China still produces more than half of the world's fine silk.

### Technology and the Arts

The Chinese thought that China was the center of the world and that they were the only truly civilized people in the world. They made many advances in all areas of learning that slowly reached Europe hundreds of years later. The Chinese invented a method of making paper from wood pulp that is still used today. Advances in medicine included diagnosing diseases, experimenting with herbal remedies and other drugs, and the development of anesthetics. Some doctors explored the uses of acupuncture by inserting needles under the skin to relieve pain or treat various illnesses.

Han scientists wrote books on chemistry, botany, zoology, and other subjects. Astronomers measured the movements of the heavenly bodies which helped them develop a more accurate calendar and method of keeping time.

The Chinese also pioneered advanced ways of building ships, and they invented the rudder for steering. Other inventions included bronze and iron stirrups, fishing reels, wheelbarrows, suspension bridges, and chain pumps. Many of these ideas did not reach Europe for hundreds of years.

Artisans made delicate jade and ivory carvings and fine ceramic figures. Bronze workers and silk makers improved on earlier techniques, setting high standards for future generations.

## **Sui Dynasty (A.D. 589-618)**

At the end of the Age of Disunity, a military dictatorship named Yan Chien **seized** control of northern China and conquered southern China. He also conquered areas of Asia in the southeast and central parts. The emperors of the Sui dynasty built canals to promote north-south transportation and trade between northern cities and rice-producing areas of China. There were only two rulers during this 30-year reign and the greatest accomplishment of the second ruler was the Grand Canal, which cut across the center of China, connecting the Huang He and the Yangzi rivers. Tired of constantly going to war, being forced to work on the canals, rebuilding the Great Wall, and paying 10 years' taxes in advance, the people rebelled against the Sui rule.

## **Sui Contributions to Civilization**

### **The Grand Canal**

Under the Sui, the building of canals to promote trade and transportation flourished in China. The largest of these canals, known as the *Grand Canal*, linked together the Huang He and the Yangzi rivers. At this time in history, this canal was the longest waterway ever built by human labor.

## Tang Dynasty (A.D. 618-907)

In the year A.D. 618, the Tang dynasty came to power. Under the Tang dynasty, China began what has been called a *Golden Age*. Tang rulers restored the Han system of an organized government throughout China. They sought only the most educated and talented officials trained in the Confucian philosophy to serve in government. They also developed standardized schools that taught the same subject matter throughout the country and helped people prepare for the civil service exams. Under the Golden Age of Tang rule, the government was stable; the people were prosperous, and the quality of life in China improved. During this time, the Tang dynasty forced the neighboring lands of Vietnam, Tibet, and Korea to become **tributary states**. Although these tributary states were independent, they had to acknowledge Chinese supremacy and pay **tribute** or send money to the Tang emperor.

### The Decline of the Tang Dynasty

Like many dynasties in China, the Tang eventually weakened and was overthrown. Following the collapse of the Tang dynasty, the Chinese found themselves once again fighting both internally among themselves and against external invasions. Four weak dynasties followed the Tang dynasty.

### Tang Contributions to Civilization

#### Literature, Art, and Technology

Great achievements were made in literature and art. Chinese **artisans** invented a system of woodblock printing. They cut the Chinese letters onto a block of wood and, using black ink, pressed a sheet of paper against the inked block. With this method, the Chinese were able to make printed copies of Confucius' writings and other works of literature. Four other Chinese inventions—printing, gunpowder, mechanical clocks, and the magnetic compass—originated during the Tang dynasty and were destined to have a revolutionary impact on the world.



Confucius

## Song Dynasty (A.D. 960-1279)

In the year A.D. 960, another great dynasty emerged. It came to be known as the *Song Dynasty*. The Song rulers set up their royal court in the city of Hangzhou. This dynasty gave China a long period of economic prosperity, political **stability**, and cultural achievement. During this time, new crops were introduced from Southeast Asia. The introduction of tea and a faster-growing rice plant strengthened China's economy and increased China's trade. The Song also started many public works projects. They built canals, sea walls, and irrigation ditches.

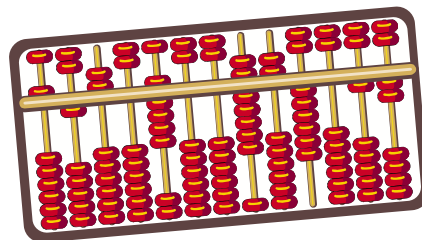
Finally, during the Song dynasty, China was very prosperous. Artists and educators were welcomed in the cities, where they taught others. Trade with foreign countries increased. Paper money replaced copper coins, which were in short supply. The Song capital at Hangzhou was beautiful. Palaces, shops, restaurants, and wide streets made up the city. The streets were paved, and sanitation was very good.

By the year 1279, the Song dynasty was overthrown. From the north, the Mongols invaded China with their armies and set up their own dynasties. But in spite of the invasions, and in spite of internal warfare among the feudal lords, Chinese culture continually improved. Furthermore, throughout this period, China managed to establish an excellent system of government based on the civil service system.

## Song Contributions to Civilization

### Technology, Mathematics, and Literature

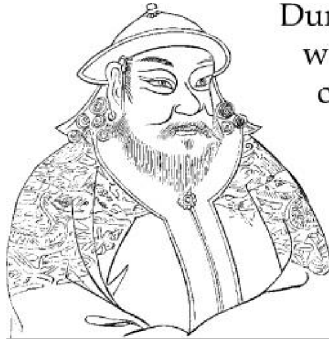
Achievements of the Song dynasty were many. Although gunpowder, printing, mechanical clocks, and the magnetic compass were invented during the Tang dynasty, they were fully developed during the Song dynasty. The Chinese made improvements in the sciences as well. They introduced the **abacus** for doing arithmetic. The abacus is still in use today. Finally, historians during the Song dynasty wrote about actual events. Their writing was based upon fact, not folklore.



*The abacus is a simple calculating instrument. The abacus is made of a wooden frame containing parallel rods divided into upper and lower portions with beads representing numbers. Addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division problems can be solved quickly in the hands of a skilled operator.*



## Yuan Dynasty of the Mongols (A.D. 1279-1368)



Kublai Khan

During the last years of the Song dynasty, a strong and well-organized group of invaders began to seize control of China. These invaders were called *Mongols*, and had leaders known as **khans**. They were ruled first by Genghiz Khan and then by his grandson, Kublai Khan, who founded the dynasty called *Yuan dynasty*. First, they defeated the northern Chinese emperor. Then in 1279, the Song emperor was defeated. Kublai Khan ruled a united China until 1294.

The Mongols were a powerful people. At one time, they ruled China, Russia, Persia, and Central Asia. It was during the rule of Kublai Khan that Marco Polo came to China. Marco Polo was well-liked by the Mongol rulers and spent 17 years there. When he returned home, he wrote a book called *A Description of the World* that tells about the magnificent wealth and culture he saw in China. His writings sparked interest among Europeans in China and its products but did not receive widespread circulation until the Renaissance and the invention of the printing press.

## Yuan Contributions to Civilization

### Roads, Canals, Technology, and Art

Chinese life was prosperous during Mongol rule. The Great Wall of China was completed. Kublai Khan encouraged other Mongols to learn Chinese ways. He established extensive postal, road, and canal networks and developed trade with the West. The Chinese products of gunpowder, porcelain, and playing cards were introduced to Europe. Kublai Khan also built hospitals, fed the poor, kept food supplies in case of **famine**, and ran an **efficient** government.

## Ming Dynasty (A.D. 1368-1644)

Nevertheless, the Mongols were not Chinese. Many Chinese resented the Mongols and considered them to be barbarian invaders. After Kublai Khan's death in 1294, the Mongol Empire declined. In the year 1368, the Mongols were defeated. Beijing was captured and a new dynasty was created, called the *Ming dynasty*. Once again, the Chinese were ruled by their own people. Ming rulers wanted to assert Chinese greatness after

many years of foreign rule. Lesser powers in east Asia were forced to pay money and goods as tribute to Ming leaders in return for their protection.

One of the Ming's goals was to restore Chinese culture. The Ming restored the civil service exams and the teachings of Confucius. The Ming also improved the **productivity** of the Chinese farmers. Better methods of farming and fertilizing helped to improve farming in China. Chinese cities were the center of many different industries.

## Ming Voyages

The Ming sailed to many parts of Asia and Africa. These voyages helped promote an interest in trade with China. China's influence spread throughout parts of Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Asia. It was also during this period that European traders came to China as well.

Then the Ming rulers began to isolate their country from the rest of the world. Chinese ships were forbidden to travel the open seas. When the voyages ended, so did China's contact with the outside world end. The ending of commerce and travel started a long period of decline in Chinese influence in the world. In the 1600s, rebellions and invasions led to the overthrow of the Ming dynasty. A nomadic people known as the *Manchus* set up their own dynasty.



Ming emperor

## Ming Contributions to Civilization

### Art, Literature, and Medicine

Under the Ming dynasty, art and literature flourished. In the arts, the Ming developed its own style of landscape painting and created beautiful blue and white porcelain vases. Porcelain is shiny, hard pottery fired at high temperatures. Ming pottery is still considered among the finest ever made. Chinese artists also made cloisonné and lacquerware. Cloisonné is slender wire applied to metal and filled with brightly colored enamels. Durable lacquerware was created by painting up to 35 thin coats of varnish on a wooden object. Ming writers wrote poetry and novels, and were the first to write detective stories. Better methods of printing led to

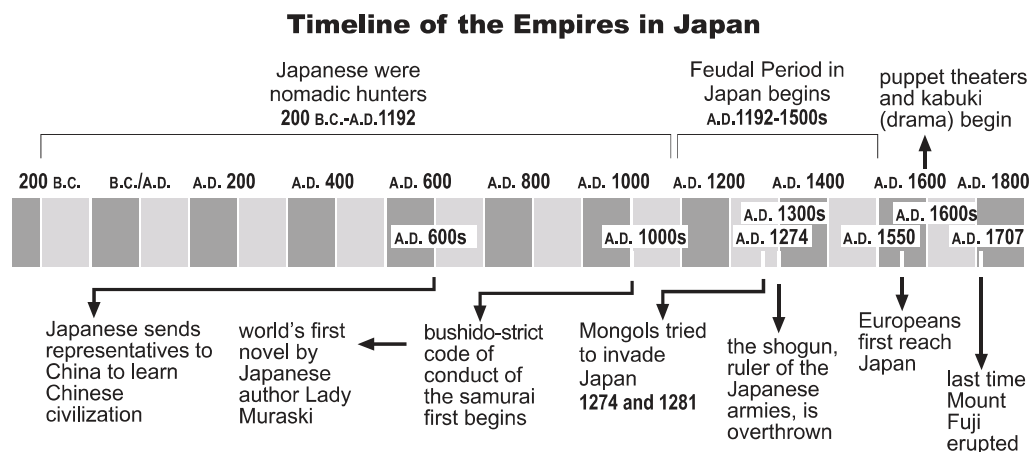
the production of many books. Two thousand Chinese scholars developed a huge encyclopedia of over 11,095 volumes of subjects that included science, medicine, art, geography, and history. Other books set forth advances in medicine and even described the practice of vaccinating against smallpox and uses of iodine.



Early Chinese Dynasties		
DYNASTY	LEADERS	CONTRIBUTIONS
<b>Qin</b> 221-207 B.C.	united China after a period of local wars and led the shortest and cruelest dynasty	built the Great wall of China; set up uniform system of weights and measures; built a network of tree-lined roads and canals
<b>Han</b> 206 B.C.-A.D. 220	expanded China south to Vietnam and west to Central Asia; collapse of Han empire became known as the Age of Disunity	silk trade flourished; made advancements in medicine and ways of building ships, bronze and iron stirrups, fishing reels, wheelbarrows, suspension bridges, and chain pumps
<b>Sui</b> A.D. 589-618	a military dictator took control of northern China, southern China, and areas of Asia in the southeast and central parts	built canals to promote trade and transportation
<b>Tang</b> A.D. 618-907	began the Golden Age; organized and stabilized the government	developed a system of woodblock printing; invented gunpowder, mechanical clocks, and magnetic compass
<b>Song</b> A.D. 960-1279	long period of economic prosperity, political stability, and cultural achievement	introduced the abacus for doing arithmetic; wrote history based on facts instead of folklore
<b>Yuan</b> A.D. 1279-1368	Mongols ruled a united China until 1294; Mongols at one time ruled China, Russia, Persia, and Central Asia	finished the Great Wall; established extensive postal, road, and canal networks; developed trade with the West; introduced gunpowder, porcelain, and playing cards; built hospitals; fed the poor
<b>Ming</b> A.D. 1368-1644	Chinese again ruled China, restored the civil service exams	developed porcelain, cloisonné, lacquerware; introduced detective stories and an encyclopedia of many subjects; made advances in medicine

## Japan

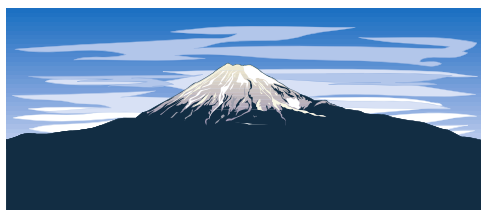
Japan is actually a group of islands, or an **archipelago**, about 100 miles off the Asian mainland and separated from mainland China by 500 miles of ocean. In addition to its four main islands, Japan includes over 3,000 smaller islands. As an island nation, the surrounding seas have protected and isolated Japan. Japan was close enough to the Asian mainland to be influenced by the Koreans or Chinese, but it was also too far away for the Chinese to conquer.



Over three-quarters of the land area of Japan is mountainous, with only one-fifth of the land suitable for farming. Japanese farmers must make the most of the limited **arable** or farmable land. They have had to overcome the scarcity of farmland by harvesting the fish from the surrounding seas (see map on page 278).

### Natural Disasters Affect Japanese Culture

The forces of nature have had a major impact on Japan's history and culture. Earthquakes shake the islands and violent winds known as



*Mount Fuji, the highest mountain in Japan (12,388 feet), is a volcano that last erupted in 1707 and has long been considered sacred by the Japanese.*

**typhoons** or tropical hurricanes have destroyed its cities. Huge tidal waves caused by earthquakes have also pounded Japan's shores. Japan also has 30 active volcanoes that could erupt at anytime. The Shinto religion was originally based on the belief that the royal family was descended from the sun-goddess Amaterasu Omikami and grew out

of the Japanese respect for and fear of the forces of nature. Shintoism's followers believe that spirits are found in all parts of nature, such as rivers, mountains, and winds.

Followers of Shintoism pray to the spirits that control the forces of nature, respect their ancestors, and are expected to be loyal to their family and nation.

## History of Japan (200 B.C.-A.D. 1192)

As far back as 200 B.C., while the Chinese were building the Great Wall of China, the Japanese were nomadic hunters. All advances in civilization are learned from older more advanced civilizations. Japanese leaders adopted the ideas and ways of the more advanced civilization of China.

During the 7<sup>th</sup> century A.D., the Japanese sent representatives to China to learn about Chinese civilization. When the travelers returned to Japan, they brought with them new knowledge in the fields of philosophy, religion, art, written language, and government. The Japanese developed their own culture, but it was heavily influenced by Chinese culture.

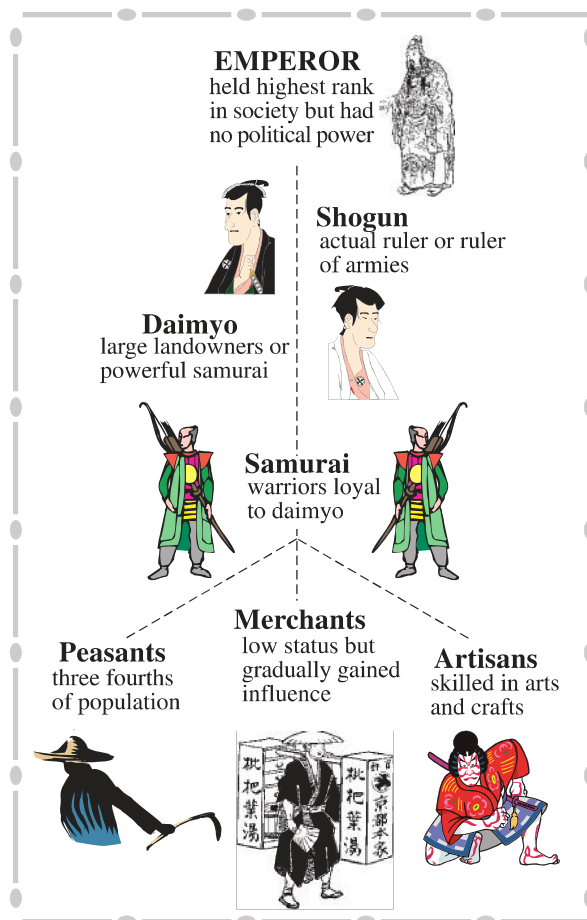
A major religion also came to Japan from China. Buddhism, which originated in India, spread to China and eventually came to exist in Japan. Like the Chinese, the Japanese absorbed this new faith into their culture. Soon Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines could be found throughout Japan.

## The Feudal Period (1192-1500s)

Society in Japan during the Middle Ages was organized into a rigid class system much like European feudalism during the Middle Ages. The kind of job people had depended on the social class into which they were born. People were not allowed to move from one social class to another.

Japanese **feudalism** was very similar to European feudalism. The highest social class consisted of nobles or feudal lords who were the wealthy landowners. They socialized at the emperor's palace, but they did not have very much power. The next highest class was the *samurai*, who were the *land-owning warrior class*. The next class was the lowest class, the peasants. Social class was so important that even the type of clothing worn was dependent upon one's social class. Regardless of one's social class, the father was the head of the family.





In feudal Japan, the *shogun*, or *general*, was the most powerful feudal lord. The shogun was the ruler of the armies and was appointed by the emperor to govern the country as a whole. The emperor had very little power during the Middle Ages in Japan. He did little more than serve as religious leader and a symbol of Japanese unity. As leader of the most powerful family in Japan, the shogun had all of the real power. The *shogunate* or *military government* was run by the ruling shogun.

### The Japanese Warrior

The most powerful landowner-warriors in the countryside were called

samurai, and the most powerful samurai were called *daimyo*, meaning *great name*. Like the knights of feudal Europe who pledged their loyalty to their feudal lord, samurai pledged their loyalty and military service to their daimyo. Peasants farmed the daimyo's land, and in return, the daimyo provided the farmers with protection.

The strict code of conduct of the samurai, called *bushido*, meaning the *way of the warrior*, came into being in the 12<sup>th</sup> century in Japan. Bushido was everything to the samurai. How the samurai dressed, spoke, talked, ate, married, and died were spelled out in their code. Samurai were taught that their greatest honor was to defend their lords and each other. If necessary, they were expected to die for their lord. The code of bushido stressed following a strict code of honor, bravery, self-discipline, and loyalty. Every samurai wore armor. Their chief possession was their

sword. They fought on horseback with their bows, arrows, and swords. If a samurai was dishonored or defeated, he was expected to commit *seppuku* or *ritual suicide*.

In 1274 and again in 1281, the Mongols tried to invade Japan. When a typhoon destroyed the Mongol fleet, the Japanese believed it was sent by the gods to destroy their enemies. The Japanese called these winds *kamikaze* or the *divine wind*. The heavy costs of defending themselves against the Mongols weakened the feudal system in Japan. In the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the shogun was overthrown. Succeeding rulers were weaker and unable to rule the entire country of Japan. Rival feudal lords fought with each other for control of Japan. There was almost constant disorder and warfare during the feudal period.



Japan, 1200-1600

## Europeans Reach Japan (Mid 1500s-1800s)

In the mid-1500s, European ships arrived in Japan at a time when rival feudal armies were constantly at war. Some daimyo welcomed the

Portuguese traders and missionaries into their country. Others did not. Contact with the Europeans brought Christianity to Japan, but it also introduced the Japanese to European guns. While missionaries spread this new religion rapidly throughout the country, Japanese craftsmen also learned how to make guns of their own. The shoguns feared that foreign influences in Japan would be a threat to their power.

Because of the growing influence of the Christian missionaries in Japan, the government decided to ban Christianity in Japan. Christians were often arrested, tortured, and executed. Eventually, Japan decided to limit trade with the Europeans. The Japanese people could no longer travel abroad or build ocean-going ships. From this time until the 1800s, the Japanese kept foreign influences out of Japan. Japan was kept apart from cultural developments that were influencing the rest of the world. Because of this policy of isolation, Japan fell behind the rest of the world in technology and sciences.

## Japanese Years of Isolationism

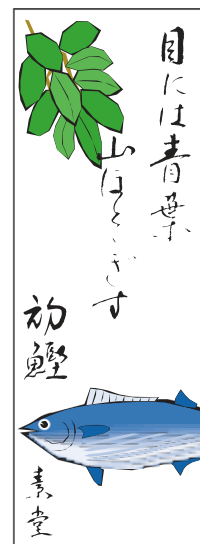
During the years of Japanese isolation, Japan experienced a long period of peace and stability. A form of Buddhism in Japan called *Zen Buddhism* had a big influence on Japanese culture. Followers of Zen Buddhism believed they could achieve spiritual enlightenment through meditation and strict discipline of their mind and body.

Japanese artists followed a style of painting that emphasized a love of nature and meditation. The Japanese culture that flourished during Japan's period of isolation had a lasting influence on its history. For 200 years, Japan developed its own distinctive culture with little foreign influence.

## Japanese Contributions to Civilization

### Literature, Art, and Architecture

One of the world's most famous works of this period is the 11<sup>th</sup> century *Tale of Genji* by Lady Murasaki. It was about a legendary prince and his many romances. This was considered the world's first novel. Another important and popular form of Japanese writing was poetry, such as tanka and haiku. The tanka is a five-line poem with a set pattern of syllables on such subjects as love, nature, and pride in



haiku

country. The haiku has a traditional Japanese verse form consisting of three lines with five, seven, and five syllables. A typical haiku uses an image, often drawn from nature, to bring out a mood or feeling.

The Nō drama developed in Japan. These plays were performed on a square, wooden stage without scenery by two main characters, with poetic passages chanted by a chorus. These ancient Nō plays are still performed today. The 1600s saw the beginning of puppet theaters and a new form of drama called *kabuki*. Kabuki included comedies or melodramas with themes of family or historical events and could run from morning till night. Kabuki kept the attention of the audience through its stories, music, and dance. Musical theater remains a popular art form in many cultures today.



*kabuki actor*



*puppeter*

Another glory of Japan was its paintings. Beautiful landscape, action-packed scenes of battle, and humorous drawing of people and animals were the chief subjects. Many were painted on scrolls, some that were 15 feet or 15.6 meters long. Three other Japanese arts that were perfected were flower arrangement, tea ceremonies or *chanoyu*, and landscape gardening. The tea ceremony followed a precise series of rituals and could take up to four hours.

The Japanese also created distinctive home and family customs. Japanese homes and furnishings were simple. Floors were covered with straw mats and were protected by the custom of taking off sandals and clogs before entering a house. The Japanese built one-story homes able to withstand the earthquakes that frequently occurred. They made sliding panels of heavy paper on wooden frames to make rooms either smaller or larger. The heat came from a large earthenware pot, the *hibachi*.

Houses had large tubs for very hot water and, whether rich or poor, everyone bathed daily. People washed thoroughly before entering the tub because the bath was mainly for relaxation.

## Review

India, a subcontinent in the south of Asia, is home to one of the world's oldest civilizations. This civilization began over 4,000 years ago. Throughout its long history, India was invaded several times, even though it is protected in the north by the Himalayan Mountains. Many groups ruled in India until about A.D. 320, when Chandra Gupta established a new dynasty called the Gupta dynasty. Many cultural advances occurred under Gupta rule. Arts and sciences flourished. The Guptas gave India a long period of peace and prosperity. The Gupta period is called India's Golden Age. Gupta control of India ended around A.D. 550. Harsha, a ruler who took control in A.D. 606, succeeded in rebuilding much of the Gupta Empire. This empire fell apart after his death in A.D. 647.

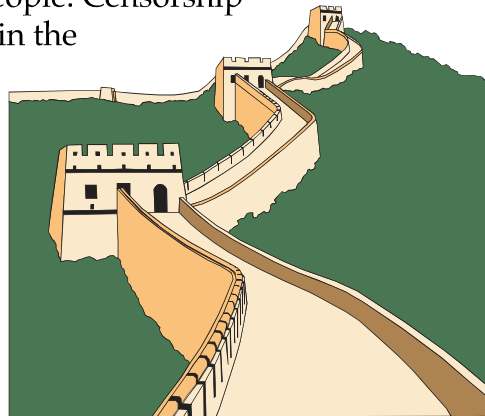
Of all the invading groups, the Muslims were the most powerful. They converted many Indians to their religion. Most Indians were of the Hindu faith while others were practicing Buddhists. Hindus believed in reincarnation. Hinduism taught people that the way they behaved in this life would determine the kind of life they would have in the next life. Buddhism taught that the way to happiness was to avoid attachment to the material pleasures of life. After the Muslim invasions, there was a cultural blending or merging of both Hindu and Muslim customs.

Another Muslim group to rule India was known as the Delhi Sultans. During their rule, Muslim influence extended throughout India. Trade between India and the rest of the Muslim world flourished. However, these new Muslim rulers condemned Hinduism as idol worship. Although many Hindus were persecuted, Hinduism survived as the religion of the majority in India.

Hindu and Muslim traditions blended together under the rule of the Mongols. Mongol leaders encouraged religious harmony in their Indian Empire. Alliances were made with the many diverse people in their empire.

The Mongol empire ruled India until the mid 1800s. During their leadership, the arts, architecture, and literature combined Hindu, Muslim, and Persian influences.

China is the largest country in the world. Like India, it is part of Asia. Chinese civilization developed along the fertile Huang He and Yangzi River Valleys. Geography played an important part in the history of China. Natural barriers such as mountains, deserts, and plateaus prevented invasions on all sides of China but the north. The history of China is a history of ruling families called dynasties. Although the Qin (Chi'n) dynasty lasted for a short time, they achieved the unification of China. Their rule was authoritarian. It had complete control over the government and the people. Censorship of all written works and ideas resulted in the burning of all books that challenged the emperor's authority. During Qin rule, the Great Wall of China was built. The Han dynasty followed and further expanded China's borders. The Han are best known for creating a strong and effective government and establishing the silk trade with Europe. The teachings of Confucius became a permanent part of Chinese thinking.



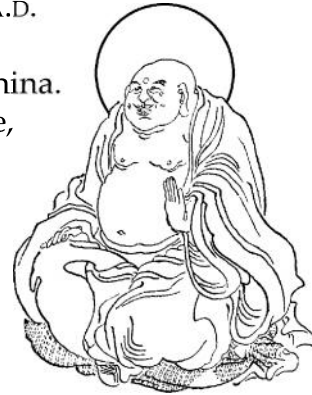
*Great Wall of China*

Over 300 years of conflict followed the end of the Han dynasty in A.D. 220, as feudal lords fought for power. The Sui dynasty followed the Age of Disunity. The emperors of the Sui dynasty built a system of canals, the largest called the Grand Canal, to promote trade. They forced peasants to work on the rebuilding of the Great Wall. This dynasty lasted only for only 29 years. Then the Tang dynasty came to power in A.D. 618. This was China's Golden Age. Art and literature flourished. Woodblock printing was invented. Tang rulers had an organized and efficient government. Only the most educated and talented officials trained in the ideas of Confucius served in government.

The next great dynasty was the Song dynasty, founded in A.D. 960. Achievements under the Song dynasty were many. Gunpowder, mechanical clocks, the magnetic compass, and the abacus were invented. Cities prospered as trade with foreign countries increased. Towards the end of the Song dynasty, invaders from the north called Mongols seized control of China. In 1279, they defeated the last Song emperor. Kublai Kahn, the Mongol leader of the Yuan dynasty, ruled China until A.D. 1294. It was during the time of Kublai Khan that the Italian explorer Marco Polo journeyed to China. Marco Polo was impressed with the magnificence of the Chinese civilization.



The native Chinese finally defeated the Mongols in A.D. 1368. The new dynasty that followed was called the Ming dynasty. Once again their own people ruled China. The Ming's goal was to restore Chinese art, literature, and culture to China. Chinese scholars developed encyclopedias of Chinese knowledge. During the early days of the Ming dynasty, the Ming sailed to many parts of Asia and Africa. China's influence spread and eventually European traders came to China. Then the Ming rulers isolated their country from the rest of the world. Chinese contact with the outside world ended. In the 1600s, the Manchus overthrew the Ming.



*Chinese deity*

Japan is an archipelago, approximately 100 miles off the coast of Asia and 500 miles off the west coast of China. Japan was influenced by the Korean and Chinese cultures but was too far away to be conquered by the Chinese. The forces of nature have influenced Japan's history. Earthquakes, typhoons, tidal waves, and active volcanoes were a constant threat. These natural disasters played an important part in the development of the Shinto religion, which is based on the belief that spirits control the forces of nature and human lives.

Society in Japan during the Middle ages was organized into rigid social classes. The social classes were the nobles or feudal lords, warriors (called samurai), and the lowest classes, the peasants. The man with the most power was the shogun or general. He controlled the armies and was appointed by the emperor to govern the country as a whole. The emperor had very little power. He was the religious leader and symbol of Japanese unity.

The strict code of conduct known as bushido taught that the greatest honor for a samurai was to die for his leader. The code stressed such ideals as honor, bravery, self-discipline, and loyalty. A form of Buddhism known as Zen Buddhism influenced Japanese culture. It taught that spiritual enlightenment could be achieved through meditation and strict discipline of the mind and body. Europeans also influenced Japanese culture. Missionaries brought Christianity to Japan and along with it other western influences. The Japanese, fearing the loss of authority over their people, eventually closed their country to Europeans. When Japan isolated itself from the rest of the world, it fell behind in technology and sciences.