

Strayer 9, China and the World: People, Places and Things

An Lushan: Foreign-born general who led a major revolt against the Tang dynasty in 755–763, perhaps provoking China's turn to xenophobia. (*pron.* ahn loo-shahn)

bushido: The “way of the warrior,” referring to the military virtues of the Japanese samurai, including bravery, loyalty, and an emphasis on death over surrender. (*pron.* boo-SHEE-doh)

Chinese Buddhism: Buddhism was China's only large-scale cultural borrowing before the twentieth century; Buddhism entered China from India in the first and second centuries C.E. but only became popular in 300–800 C.E. through a series of cultural accommodations. At first supported by the state, Buddhism suffered persecution during the ninth century but continued to play a role in Chinese society.

chu nom: A variation of Chinese writing developed in Vietnam that became the basis for an independent national literature; “southern script.” (*pron.* choo nom)

foot binding: Chinese practice of tightly wrapping girls' feet to keep them small, begun in the Tang dynasty; an emphasis on small size and delicacy was central to views of female beauty.

hangul: A phonetic alphabet developed in Korea in the fifteenth century (*pron.* HAHN-gool)

Hangzhou: China's capital during the Song dynasty, with a population of more than a million people. (*pron.* hong-joe)

Heian: Japan's second capital city (now known as Kyoto), modeled on the Chinese capital of Chang'an; also used to describe the period of Japanese history from 794 to 1192 C.E. (*pron.* HIGH-an)

Jurchen: A nomadic people who established a state that included parts of northern China (1115–1234).

kami: Sacred spirits of Japan, whether ancestors or natural phenomena; their worship much later came to be called Shinto. (*pron.* KAHM-ee)

Khitan: A nomadic people who established a state that included parts of northern China (907–1125). (*pron.* kee-tahn)

Koryo: Korean dynasty (918–1392). (*pron.* KAW-ree-oh)

Kumsong: The capital of Korea in the medieval era, modeled on the Chinese capital of Chang'an. (*pron.* KOOM-song)

Murasaki Shikibu: Perhaps Japan's greatest author, a woman active at the Heian court who is best known for *The Tale of Genji*, which she wrote around 1000 C.E. (*pron.* moo-rah-SAH-kee shee-KEE-boo)

Nara: Japan's first capital city, modeled on the Chinese capital of Chang'an. (*pron.* NAH-rah)

Neo-Confucianism: A philosophy that emerged in Song-dynasty China; it revived Confucian thinking while adding in Buddhist and Daoist elements.

Pure Land Buddhism: A school of Buddhism that proved to be immensely popular in China; emphasized salvation by faith in the Amitabha Buddha.

samurai: Members of Japan's warrior class, which developed as political power became increasingly decentralized. (*pron.* SAM-oo-rye)

Shotoku Taishi: Japanese statesman (572–622) who launched the drive to make Japan into a centralized bureaucratic state modeled on China; he is best known for the Seventeen Article Constitution, which lays out the principles of this reform. (*pron.* show-TOE-koo tie-EESH-ah)

Silla dynasty: The first ruling dynasty to bring a measure of political unity to the Korean peninsula (688–900). (*pron.* SILL-ah or SHILL-ah)

Song dynasty economic revolution: A major economic quickening that took place in China under the Song dynasty (960–1279); marked by rapid population growth, urbanization, economic specialization, the development of an immense network of internal waterways, and a great increase in industrial production and innovation. (*pron.* soong)

Sui dynasty: Ruling dynasty of China (581–618) that effectively reunited the country after several centuries of political fragmentation. (*pron.* sway)

Tang dynasty: Ruling dynasty of China from 618 to 907; noted for its openness to foreign cultural influences. (*pron.* tahng)

tanka: Highly stylized form of Japanese poetry that has been a favored means of expression for centuries. (*pron.* TAHN-kah)

tribute system: Chinese method of dealing with foreign lands and peoples that assumed the subordination of all non-Chinese authorities and required the payment of tribute—produce of value from their countries—to the Chinese emperor (although the Chinese gifts given in return were often much more valuable).

Trung sisters: Two Vietnamese sisters who launched a major revolt against the Chinese presence in Vietnam in 39 C.E.; the rebellion was crushed and the sisters committed suicide, but they remained symbols of Vietnamese resistance to China for centuries. (*pron.* troong)

Uighurs: Turkic empire of the steppes; flourished in the eighth century C.E. (*pron.* WEE-gers)

Wendi, Emperor: Sui emperor (r. 581–604) who particularly patronized Buddhism. (*pron.* WEN-dee)

Xiongnu: Major nomadic confederacy that was established ca. 200 B.C.E. and eventually reached from Manchuria to Central Asia. (*pron.* SHE-OONG-noo)

Yi: Korean dynasty (1392–1910). (*pron.* yee)