

**Tang and Song Dynasties:
The Genius That Was China, Part I**

I. Dynasties

- A. Qin (Ch'in) Dynasty (221 BC —210 BC)
 - 1. Shi Huangdi (Shih Huang Ti) — “First Emperor”
 - 2. Li Si (Li Ssū) — chief minister

- B. Han Dynasty (206 BC–AD 220)

- C. Six Dynasties (AD 220–589)

- D. Sui Dynasty (589–618)
 - 1. Wangdi (589–605)
 - 2. Yangdi (605–618)

- E. Tang (T'ang) Dynasty (618–907)
 - 1. Controlled territory as far west as Central Asia
 - 2. Capital: Changan
 - 3. Poets: 3000 known to us

- F. Five Dynasties (907–960)

- G. Song (Sung) Dynasty (960–1279) — only in south after 1127
 - 1. Height of technological innovation
 - 2. *A Record of Musing on the Eastern Capital* (Hangzhou) (1235)

- H. Jin (Chin) Dynasty (only in north: 1115–1234) — Jurchens

- I. Mongols
 - 1. Control north from 1215
 - 2. Yuan Dynasty (controls both north and south: 1279–1368)

- J. Ming Dynasty (1368–1644)
 - 1. Voyages of Zheng He (Cheng Ho), “the Three-Jeweled Eunuch”
 - 2. Focus on re-endorsing agrarian nature of economy; internal trade

II. The Celestial Empire

A. Intellectual/Cultural/Religious

1. *Tian Ming (T'ien-ming)* — Mandate of Heaven
2. *Qi (Ch'i)* – energy of nature
3. “Three Ways to One Goal”
 - a. Confucianism
 - (1) Confucian Synthesis—Ideology that held the Empire together
 - (2) virtues: benevolence, propriety, righteousness, wisdom, trustworthiness
 - (3) filial piety: to father and emperor
 - b. Taoism – (metaphysics, alchemy)
 - c. Buddhism – revival under Taizong (T'ai-tsung) Emperor (626–649)
 - (1) Xuanzang (Hsuan-tsang) (602?–669)
 - (2) “Empress” Wu (690–705)
4. Four Poets
 - a. Wang Wei (699–759)—Buddhist
 - b. Li Bo (701–762)—Daoist
 - c. Du Fu (712–770)—Confucian
 - d. Bo Qui (772–846)—Confucian
5. Revolt of Neo-Confucianism
 - a. Han Yu (786–824), *Memorial on Buddhism* (819)
 - b. Persecution of Buddhism (840s) — Wuzong Emperor
 - c. Zhu Xi (Chu hsi) (1130–1200) — philosopher

B. Political

1. Emperor
2. Administration
 - a. territories divided into prefectures (*xian [hsien]*) and circuits (*dao [tao]*)
 - b. *xian* and *dao* into 36 provinces (*qun [chün]*)
 - c. dual system of military (*duwei*) and civilian (*taishou*) governors
 - d. formalized civil service system
 - e. Wang Anshi (1021–1086) – “Great Reforms”
3. Army

C. Social

1. Scholar-Administrators (civil-service written exams)
2. Farmers
3. Artisans
4. Merchants

D. Economic

1. based on agriculture (Chen Pu, *The Craft of Farming* [1149])
2. irrigation systems; flood control
3. system of canals and dams begun by Li Bing (ca. 250 BC)
4. salt mines
5. trade (silk, porcelain)

E. Technological Achievements (see handout)