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lowlands. The steppe region had long been inhabited by mounted nomads, and from the central steppes they could reach all areas of the Asian continent. The northern part of the continent covering much of Siberia was also inaccessible to steppe nomads due to the dense forests and tundra. These areas of Siberia were very sparsely populated. The center and periphery were kept separated by mountains and deserts. The Caucasus, the Himalayas, the Karakum Desert and the Gobi Desert formed barriers that the steppe herds could only cross with difficulty. While technologically and culturally urban dwellers were more advanced, they could do little militarily to defend themselves against the steppen's mounted hordes. However, the lowlands did not have enough open grassland to support a large horse-tied force. Thus, the nomads who conquered states in the Middle East were soon forced to adapt to local communities. The spread of Islam beckoned the Islamic Golden Age and the Timurian Renaissance, which later influenced the age of Islamic gunpowder. Asia's history has major developments seen in other parts of the world, as well as events that have affected these other regions. These include trade in the Silk Road, which spreads cultures, languages, religions and diseases throughout Afro-Eurasian trade. Another major advance was the innovation of gunpowder in medieval China, later developed by gunpowder empires, mainly by Mughals and Safavids, which led to advanced warfare through the use of guns. Prehistory Main article: Prehistory in Asia A report by archaeologist Rakesh Tewari at Lahuradewa, India shows new C14 datetings that range between 9000 and 8000 f.Kr associated with rice, making Lahuradewa the earliest Neolithic site in all of South Asia. [1] The prehistoric Beufidi site near Yixian in Hebei China, contains relics of a culture simultaneously with cishan and Xinglongwa cultures of about 8000-7000 f.Kr., Neolithic cultures east of the Taihang Mountains, filling an archaeological gap between the two northern Chinese cultures. The total excavated area is more than 1,200 square meters, and the collection of Neolithic finds on site consists of two phases. [2] About 5500 f.Kr. The Halafian culture appeared in Lebanon, Israel, Syria, Anatolia and northern Mesopotamia, based on dry land agriculture. In southern Mesopotamia, the alluvial plains of Sumer and Elam. Since there was little precipitation, irrigation systems were needed. Ubaid culture flourished from 5500 f.Kr Ancient Bronze Age Main article: Ancient Near East A map of Bronze Age collapse, about 1200 f.Kr. The calcolithic period (or copper age) began around 4500 f.Kr., then the Bronze Age began around 3500 f.Kr. Indus Valley Civilization (IVC) was a Bronze Age civilization (3300-1300 f.Kr.; mature period 2600-1900 f.Kr.), which was mostly centered in the western part of the Indian subcontinent; it is considered that an early form of Hinduism was performed during this civilization. Some of the major cities of this civilization include Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, which had a high level of urban planning and art. The cause of the destruction of these regions around 1700 f.Kr. is debatable, although there is evidence that it was caused by natural disasters (especially floods). [3] This era marks the Vedic period in India, which lasted from about 1500 to 500 f.Kr. During this period, the Sanskrit language developed, and the Vedas were written, epic hymns that told stories of gods and wars. This was the basis of the Vedic religion, which would eventually sophisticated and develop into Hinduism. [4] China and Vietnam were also centres of metalworking. Dating back to the Neolithic age, the first bronze drums, called Dong Son drums have been uncovered in and around the Red River Delta regions of Vietnam and southern China. These relate to the prehistoric Dong Sun Culture in Vietnam. Song Since bronze drum surface, Dong Sun culture, Vietnam I Ban Chiang, Thailand (Southeast Asia), bronze artifacts have been discovered dating to 2100 f.Kr. In Nyaunggan, Burma bronze tools have been excavated along with pottery and stone artifacts. Dating is still currently wide (3500-500 f.Kr.). This section must be expanded. You can help by adding to it. (December 2009) Iron and Axial Age Main article: Iron Age Additional Information: Axial Age Iron Age saw widespread use of iron tools, weapons and armor throughout the great civilizations of Asia. Middle East The first Persian Empire in its largest scale, some 500 f.Kr. Achaemenid Dynasty of the Persian Empire, founded by Cyrus the Great, ruled an area from Greece and Turkey to the Indus River and Central Asia in the 6th century. Persian policy included a tolerance of other cultures, a significant infrastructure development. Later, in darius the Great's government, the areas were integrated, a bureaucracy was developed, nobility was assigned military posts, tax collection was carefully organized, and spies were used to ensure the loyalty of regional officials. The primary religion of Persia at this time was Zoroastrianism, developed by the philosopher Zoroaster. It introduced an early form of monotheism to the area. Religion prohibited animal sacrifice and the use of intoxicants in rituals; and introduced the concept of spiritual salvation through personal moral action, an end-time and both general and special judgment with a heaven or hell. These concepts would greatly affect later emperors and masses. More importantly, Zoroastrianism would be an important precursor to Abrahamic religions like Christianity, Islam, or Judaism. The Persian Empire was successful in bringing peace and stability throughout the Middle East and was a major influence on art, politics (influencing Hellenistic leaders), and religion. Alexander the Great conquered this dynasty in the 4th century. He was unable to provide stability, and after his death, Persia broke into small, weak dynasties, including the Seleucid Empire, followed by the Parthians. By the end of the classical era, Persia had been reconsolidated into the Sassanid Empire, also known as the Second Persian Empire. The Roman Empire would later control parts of Western Asia. The Seleucid, Parthians and Sassanid dynasties of Persia dominated Western Asia for centuries. India See also: Greater India Maurya and Gupta empires are called the Golden Age of India and were marked by extensive inventions and discoveries in science, technology, art, religion and philosophy, crystallized the elements of what is commonly known as Indian culture. The religions hinduism and Buddhism, which began on the Indian subcontinent, were an important influence on South, East and Southeast Asia. Expansion of Hinduism in Southeast Asia With 600 f.Kr, India had been divided into 17 regional states that would occasionally feud among themselves. In 327 f.Kr., Alexander the Great came to India with a vision of conquering the whole world. He crossed northwestern India and created the province of Bactria, but could not move on because his army wanted to go back to their family. Shortly before, the soldier Chandragupta Maurya began to take control of the Ganges River and soon established the Maurya Empire. The Maurya Empire (Sanskrit: मौर्य राजवंश, Maurya Rājavamśa) was the geographically extensive and powerful empire of ancient India, ruled by the Moorish dynasty from 321 to 185 f.Kr. It was one of the world's greatest empires of its time, stretching to the Himalayas in the north, what is now Assam in the east, probably beyond modern Pakistan in the west, and annexing Balochistan and much of what is now Afghanistan, on its Extent. South of the Mauryan Empire, Tamilakam was an independent country dominated by three dynasties, the Pandiyans, Cholas and Cheras. The government established by Chandragupta was led by an autocratic king who primarily relied on the military to assert his power. [5] It also used the use of a bureaucracy and even sponsored a postal service. [5] Chandragupta's grandson, Ashoka, greatly expanded the empire by capturing most of modern India (except the southern tip). He eventually converted to Buddhism, though, and began a peaceful life in which he promoted religion as well as humane methods throughout India. The Maurya empire would disintegrate shortly after Ashoka's death and was captured by kushan invaders from the northwest and established the Kushan Empire. Their conversion to Buddhism caused religion to be associated with foreigners, and therefore a decrease in its popularity took place. [5] The Kushan Empire would fall apart by CE 220, creating more political turmoil in India. Then in 320, the Gupta Empire (Sanskrit: गुप्त राजवंश, Gupta Rājavansha) was established and covered much of the Indian subcontinent. Founded by Maharaja Sri-Gupta, the dynasty was the model of a classical civilization. Gupta kings united the area primarily through the negotiation of local leaders and families as well as strategic marriage. [6] Their rule covered less land than the Maurya Empire, but established the greatest stability. [6] In 535, the empire ended when India was overrun by Hunas. Classical China Zhou Dynasty Main Article: Zhou Dynasty Population concentration and boundaries of the Western Zhou Dynasty in China Since 1029 f.Kr., Zhou Dynasty (Chinese: 周朝; pinyin: Zhōu Cháo; Wade-Giles: Chou Ch'ao [tʃóu tʃhǎu], had existed in China, and it would continue until 258 f.Kr. [7] The Zhou Dynasty had used a feudal system by giving power to local nobility and relying on their loyalty to control its vast territory. [7] As a result, at that time the Chinese government tended to be highly decentralised and weak, and there was often little the emperor could do to solve national problems. Nevertheless, the government was able to maintain its position with the creation of heaven's mandate, which could establish an emperor as divinely elected to rule. Zhou also discouraged the human sacrifices of the previous eras and united the Chinese language. Finally, the Zhou government encouraged the settlers to move into the Yangtze River Valley, thus creating the Chinese middle kingdom. But at 500 f.Kr., its political stability began to decline due to repeated nomadic intrusions[7] and internal conflicts emanating from the struggling princes and families. This was diminished by the many philosophical movements, starting with Confucius's life. His philosophical writings (called Confucianism) on respect for the elderly and the state would later be popularly used in the Han Dynasty. In addition, Laozi's concepts of Taoism, yin and yang and the innate duality and balance between nature and the universe, became popular throughout this period. Nevertheless, the Zhou dynasty eventually disintegrated, when the local nobles began to gain more power, and their conflict developed into the warring states, from 402 to 201 f.Kr. [8] Qin Dynasty Main article: Qin Dynasty A leader eventually came on top, Qin Shi Huang (Chinese: 始皇帝, Shǐhuángdì), who overthrew the last Z kejserhou and established the Qin Dynasty. [7] The Qin Dynasty (Chinese: 秦朝; pinyin: Qín Cháo) was the first ruling dynasty in imperial China, lasting from 221 to 207 f.Kr. [9] The new emperor abolished the feudal system and directly designated a bureaucracy that would trust him as power. Huang's imperial forces crushed any regional resistance, and they promoted the Chinese Empire by expanding down to the South China Sea and northern Vietnam. Larger organization brought a uniform tax system, a national census, regulated road building (and carriage width), standard measurements, standard coins, and an official written and spoken language. [10] Further reforms included new irrigation projects, encouragement of silk making,[10] and (most famously) the beginning of the construction of the Great Wall of China – designed to keep out the nomadic robbers who constantly badgered the Chinese people. But Shi Huang was notorious for his tyranny, forcing workers to build the wall, ordering heavy taxes, and severely punishing anyone who opposed him. He oppressed Confucians and promoted legalism, the idea that people were inherently evil and that a strong, strong government was necessary to control them. Legalism was infused with realistic, logical views and dismissed the joy of educated conversation as frivolous. All this made Shi Huang extremely unpopular with the people. When Qin began to weaken, various factions began fighting for control of China. Han Dynasty Main article: Han Dynasty Silk Road in Asia Han Dynasty (Simplified Chinese: 汉朝; traditional Chinese: 漢朝; pinyin: Hān Cháo; 206 f.Kr. – 220 CE) was the second imperial dynasty in China, followed by the Qin Dynasty and followed by the Three Kingdoms (220-265 CE). Spanning four centuries, the period of the Han Dynasty is considered a golden age in Chinese history. One of the Han Dynasty's greatest emperors, Emperor Wu of Han, established a peace throughout China comparable to the Pax Romana seen in the Mediterranean a hundred years later. [10] To this day, China's majority ethnic group refers to itself as han people. The Han Dynasty was established when two peasants managed to ascend against Shi Huang's considerably weaker successor-son. The new Han government retained the centralisation and bureaucracy of Qin, but greatly reduced the repression that had been seen before. They expanded their territory to Korea, Vietnam and Central Asia, creating an even bigger empire than Qin. He developed contacts with the Persian The Middle East and the Romans, through the Silk Road, as they were able to trade many raw materials, mainly silk. Many ancient civilizations were influenced by the Silk Road, which connected China, India, the Middle East and Europe. He emperors like Wu also promoted Confucianism as the national religion (although it is debated by theologians about whether it is defined as such or as a philosophy). Shrines devoted to Confucius were built and Confucian philosophy was taught to all scholars who entered the Chinese bureaucracy. Bureacracy was further improved by the introduction of an exam system that selected high-value scholars. These bureaucrats were often upper class people educated in special schools, but whose power was often controlled by the lower class brought into the bureaucracy through their skills. The Chinese imperial bureaucracy was very efficient and highly respected by everyone in the kingdom and would last over 2,000 years. The han government was very organized, and it commands the military, judicial law (which used a system of courts and strict laws), agricultural production, the economy, and the general life of its people. The government has also promoted intellectual philosophy, scientific research and detailed historical records. But despite all this impressive stability, the central power began to lose control at the turn of the common era. As the Han Dynasty fell, many factors continued to pummel it into submission until China was left in a state of chaos. At 100 CE, philosophical activity slowed, and corruption ran rampant in the bureaucracy. Local landlords began to take control as the scholars neglected their duties, and this resulted in a heavy taxation of the peasants. Taoists began to gain considerable ground and protested the decline. They began to proclaim magical powers and promised to save China with them; The Taoist Yellow Turban rebellion of 184 (led by rebels in yellow scarves) failed but was able to weaken the government. The aforementioned females combined with diseases killed up to half the population and officially ended the Han Dynasty with 220. The ensuing period of chaos was so terrible that it lasted for three centuries, when many weak regional rulers and dynasties failed to establish order in China. This period of chaos and attempted order is commonly known as the Six Dynasties. The first part of this included the Three Kingdoms, which started in 220 and describe the short and weak successor dynasties that followed Han. In 265, the Jin Dynasty in China was started, and this soon split into two different empires in control of northwest and southeast China. In 420, the conquest and abdication of these two dynasties resulted in the first of the Southern and Northern dynasties. The northern and southern dynasties passed through until finally, in 557, the Northern Zhou dynasty ruled the North and the Chen dynasty ruled the south. medieval in this period, the Eastern empires continued to expand through trade, migration and conquests of neighbouring areas. Gunpowder was widespread as early as the 1100s, and they used flyable pyreprinting five hundred years before Gutenberg created his press. Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism were the dominant philosophies of the Far East. Marco Polo was not the first Westerner to travel to the Orient and returned with fantastic stories about this different culture, but his accounts published in the late 1300s and early 1400s were the first to be widely read throughout Europe. Western Asia (Middle East) Main article: Medieval Middle Eastern Byzantine and Sassanian empires in 600 e.Kr. The Arabian Peninsula and surrounding Middle East and Middle East regions experienced dramatic changes in the medieval era caused primarily by the spread of Islam and the establishment of the Arab empires. In the 21st century, the Middle East was divided into small, weak states; the two most prominent were the Sasan empire of the Persians in what is now Iran and Iraq, and the Byzantine Empire of Anatolia (modern Turkey). The Byzantines and Sassians fought with each other all the time, a reflection of the rivalry between the Roman Empire and the Persian Empire seen over the previous five hundred years. Fighting weakened both states, leaving the stage open to a new power. Meanwhile, the nomadic Bedouin tribes that dominated the Arabian desert saw a period of tribal stability, greater trade networks and a knowledge of Abrahamic religions or monotheism. While the Byzantine Roman and Sassanid Persian empires were both weakened by the Byzantine-Sasan war of 602-628, a new power in the form of Islam grew in the Middle East under Muhammad in Medina. In a series of swift Muslim conquests, the Rashidun army, led by caliphs and skilled military commanders such as Khalid ibn al-Walid, swept through most of the Middle East, taking more than half of the Byzantine territory in the Arab-Byzantine wars, completely engulfing Persia in the Muslim conquest of Persia. It would be medieval Arab caliphates that would first unite the entire Middle East as a separate region and create the dominant ethnic identity that continues today. These caliphates included the Rashidun caliphate, the Umayyad caliphate, the Abbasid caliphate and later the Seljuq Empire. The early Muslim conquests, 622-750 After Muhammad introduced Islam, Middle Eastern culture jumped into an Islamic golden age, inspiring achievements in architecture, reviving ancient advances in science and technology and the formation of a distinct way of life. Muslims rescued and spread Greek advances in medicine, algebra, geometry, astronomy, anatomy and ethics, which later found it all the way back to Western Europe. The dominance of the Arabs suddenly came to an end in the mid-12th century with the arrival of the Seljuq Turks migrating south from the Turkish homelands of Central Asia. The Persia, Iraq (captured Baghdad in 1055), Syria, Palestine and Hejaz. This was followed by a series of Western Christian Christian invasions. The fragmentation of the Middle East made it possible to enter the region, mainly from England, France and the fledgling Roman Empire. In 1099, the knights of the first crusade conquered Jerusalem and founded the Kingdom of Jerusalem, which survived until 1187, when Saladin retook the city. Minor crusader fiefdoms survived until 1291. In the early 1200s, a new wave of invaders, the armies of the Mongolian Empire, swept through the region, fired Baghdad into the siege of Baghdad (1258) and moved as far south as the border with Egypt in what became known as the Mongolian conquests. The Mongols eventually withdrew in 1335, but the chaos that followed throughout the empire deposed the Seljuq Turks. In 1401, the region was further plagued by Turko-Mongol, Timur, and his violent raids. At that time, another group of Turks, the Ottomans, had also emerged. Central Asia's main article: The Medieval Central Asia Mongol Empire Turco-Mongol remaining states and domains of the 14th century The Mongolian Empire conquered much of Asia in the 1200s, an area stretching from China to Europe. Medieval Asia was khansriqet. Never before had any person controlled as much land as Genghis Khan. He built his power unite separate Mongolian tribes before expanding his kingdom south and west. He and his grandson, Kublai Khan, controlled rural areas in China, Burma, Central Asia, Russia, Iran, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. Estimates are that the Mongolian armies reduced the population of China by almost a third. Genghis Khan was a pagan who tolerated almost every religion, and their culture often suffered the harshest treatment from Mongolian armies. Khan's armies moved as far west as Jerusalem before being defeated in 1260. South Asia / Indian subcontinent India Main article: Medieval India Delhi Sultanate. The Indian Early Middle Ages, 600 to 1200, are defined by regional realms and cultural diversity. When Harsha of Kannauj, who ruled much of the Indo-Gangetic Plain from 606 to 647, tried to expand south, he was defeated by chalukya ruler of Deccan. When his successor tried to expand eastward, he was defeated by the Pala King of Bengal. When the Chalukyas tried to expand south, they were defeated by Pallavas from further south, which in turn was thwarted by Pandyas and Cholas from even further south. Cholas could under Raja Raja Cholas rule defeat their rivals and rise to a regional power. Cholas expanded to the north, defeating eastern Chalukya, Kalinga and Pala. During Rajendra Chola cholas created the first remarkable fleet of Indian subcontinent. The Chola fleet extended chola's empire's influence to Southeast Asia. During this time, pastoral people whose land had been cleared to make way for the growing agricultural economy were community, as were new non-traditional ruling classes. [11] The Muslim conquest on the Indian subcontinent took place mainly from the 12th century onwards, although previous Muslim conquests include the limited inroads in modern Afghanistan and Pakistan and the Umayyad campaigns in India, during the Rajput Kingdoms of the 8th century. Major economic and military powers, such as the Delhi Sultanate and the Bengal Sultanate, were seen to be established. The search for their wealth led Voyages by Christopher Columbus. East Asia Main article: History of East Asia China Main article: Medieval China China saw the rise and fall of Sui, Tang, Song, and Yuan dynasties and therefore improvements in its bureaucracy, the spread of Buddhism, and the rise of Neo-Confucianism. It was an unrivalled era for Chinese pottery and painting. Medieval architectural masterpieces great south gate in Todajii, Japan, and Tien-ning Temple in Beijing, China are some of the surviving constructions from this era. Sui Dynasty Main article: Sui Dynasty A new powerful dynasty began to rise in the 580s, among the divided factions of China. This was started when an aristocrat named Yang Jian married his daughter in the Northern Zhou dynasty. He proclaimed himself Emperor Wen of Sui and appeased the nomadic military by abandoning the Confucian scholar-a gentry. Emperor Wen soon led the conquest of the Southern Chen Dynasty and reconnected China during the Sui Dynasty. The emperor lowered taxes and constructed granaries, which he used to prevent famine and control the market. Later, Wen's son would assassinate him to the throne and declare himself Emperor Yang of Sui. Emperor Yang revived the Confucian scholars and bureaucracy, much to the wrath of the aristocrats and the nomadic military leaders. Yang became an overly leader who overused China's resources for personal luxury and perpetuated exhaustive attempts to conquer Goguryeo. His military failures and neglect of the empire forced his own ministers to assassinate him in 618 and ended the Sui dynasty. Tang Dynasty Main Article: Tang Dynasty Battle of Talas between the Tang dynasty and the Abbasid caliphate circa 751 Fortunately, one of Yang's most respectable advisers, Li Yuan, was able to claim the throne quickly and prevent a chaotic collapse. He proclaimed himself Emperor Gaozu, and established the Tang Dynasty in 623. The seaweed saw an expansion of China through conquest to Tibet in the west, Vietnam in the South and Manchuria in the north. Seaweed emperors also improved the training of researchers in the Chinese bureaucracy. A ministry of Rites was established, and the study system was improved to better qualify researchers for their jobs. [12] In addition, Buddhism became popular in China with two different tribes between the peasants and the elite, pure land and zen tribes, respectively [13] Greatly supporting the spread of Buddhism was Empress Wu, who also claimed an unofficial Zhou dynasty and China's tolerance of a female ruler, which was rare at the time. But Buddhism would also experience some setbacks, especially from Confucianists and Taoists. This would normally involve criticism about how it cost the state money, since the government was unable to tax Buddhist monasteries, and also sent many grants and gifts to them. [14] The Tang Dynasty began to fall under the rule of Emperor Xuanzong, which began to neglect the economy and the military and caused unrest among court officials because of the excessive influence of his concubine, Yang Guifei, and her family. [15] This eventually triggered a rebellion in 755. [15] Although the rebellion failed, it required suppressing its involvement with unruly nomadic tribes outside China and distributing more power to local leaders - leaving the government and economy in a deteriorating state. The Tang Dynasty officially ended in 907 and various factions led by the aforementioned nomadic tribes and local leaders would fight for control of China during the five dynasties and ten kingdoms period. Liao, Song and Jin Dynasties Main Articles: Liao Dynasty, Song Dynasty, and Jin Dynasty (1115-1234) By 960, most of China had properly been reunited during the Song Dynasty, although it lost territories in the north and could not defeat one of the nomadic tribes there-Liao dynasty of the heavily syndicated Khitan people. From then on, The Song should pay tribute to the invasion, thus setting a precedent for other nomadic kingdoms to oppress them. The song also saw the revival of Confucianism in the form of neo-Confucianism. This had the effect of giving confucian scholars a higher status than aristocrats or Buddhists and also intensifying the reduction of power in women. The notorious practice of foot binding developed during this period as a result. Eventually, the Liao dynasty in the north was overthrown by the Jin dynasty by the Manchu-related Jurchen people. The new Jin kingdom invaded northern China, leaving Song to flee further south and create the Southern Song Dynasty in 1126. Cultural life flourished. Yuan Dynasty Main article: Yuan Dynasty Map of Marco Polo's travels By 1227, the Mongols had conquered the Western Xia Empire northwest of China. Soon the Mongols held at the Jin Empire of Jurchens. Chinese cities were soon besieged by the Mongolian hordes, who showed little mercy for those who resisted, and the Southern Song Chinese were rapidly losing territory. In 1271 the current great khan, Kublai Khan, claimed himself emperor of China and officially established the Yuan Dynasty. In 1290, all of China was under the control of the Mongols, marking the first time they were ever completely captured by a foreign invader; the new capital was established in Khanbalik (present-day Beijing). Kublai Khan separated Mongolian culture from Chinese culture by counteracting the interaction between the two peoples, separating living spaces and places of and reserve top mongols, thus preventing Confucian scholars from continuing the bureaucratic system. Nevertheless, Kublai remained fascinated by Chinese thinking surrounding himself with Chinese Buddhist, Taoist or Confucian advisers. Mongolian women showed a contrasting independent character compared to the Chinese women who continued to be oppressed. Mongolian women often rode out on hunts or even at war. Kubini's wife, Chabi, was a perfect example of this; Chabi advised her husband on several political and diplomatic matters; she convinced him that the Chinese should be respected and treated properly to make them easier to govern. [16] However, this was not enough to affect the position of Chinese women, and the increasingly neo-Confucian successors of Kublai further oppressed Chinese and even Mongolian women. The Black Death, which would later ravage Western Europe, had its beginnings in Asia, where it wiped out large populations in China in 1331. Korea Main article: Medieval Korea Three kingdoms of Korea Korean Peninsula in 476 AD. There are three kingdoms and Gaya Union in the picture. This image shows the heyday of Goguryeo The three kingdoms of Korea involve Goguryeo in the north, Baekje in the southwest, and Silla in the Southeast Korean peninsula. These three kingdoms were like a bridge of cultures between China and Japan. Thanks to them, Japan was able to accept Chinese splendid cultures. Prince Shōtoku of Japan had been taught by two teachers. One was from Baekje, the other was from Goguryeo. When Japan invaded Silla, Goguryeo helped Silla defeat Japan. Baekje met the earliest heyday of them. Its heyday was the fifth century e.Kr. The capital was Seoul. During its heyday, the kingdom made colonies abroad. Liaodong, China and Kyushu, Japan were the colonies of Baekje during its brief heyday. Goguryeo was the strongest kingdom of all. They sometimes called themselves an empire. Its heyday was the 6th century. King Gwanggaeto expanded his territory to the north. So Goguryeo dominated from the Korean peninsula to Manchuria. And his son, King Jangsu expanded his territory to the south. He occupied Seoul and moved the capital to Pyeongyang. Goguryeo nearly occupied three-quarters of the South Korean peninsula thanks to King Jangsu, who expanded the kingdom's territory to the south. Silla met the recent heyday. King Jinheung went north and occupied Sull. But it was short. Baekje got stronger and attacked Silla. Baekje occupied more than 40 towns in Silla. So Silla could hardly survive. China's Sui dynasty invaded Goguryeo and the Goguryeo-Sui War erecing between Korea and China. Goguryeo won against China and the Sui dynasty fell. Then the Tang dynasty reinvaded Goguryeo and helped Silla unify the peninsula. Because Silla was the weakest of all, so it asked Tang for help. Goguryeo, Baekje and Japan helped each other against the Tang-Silla alliance, but Baekje and Goguryeo fell. Unfortunately, the Tang Dynasty betrayed Silla in order to the entire Korean peninsula. Under Silla-Tang-Silla-Tang people of fallen Baekje and Goguryeo helped Silla against Chinese invasion so that Silla could beat China and unite the peninsula. This war helped the Korean people to unite mentally. North-South states Period Balhae in the north, Later Silla in south Goryeo ware, which shows the beautiful culture of Goryeo in medieval Korea. The rest of the Goguryeo people established Balhae and won the war against Tang in later the 7th century e.Kr. Balhae is the northern state, and later Silla was the southern state. Balhae was a pretty strong kingdom, as their ancestor Goguryeo did. Finally, the Emperor of the Tang Dynasty admits Balhae as a strong country in the east. They liked to do business with Japan, China and Silla. Balhae and Later Silla sent a slew of international students to China. And Arab merchants entered the Korean peninsula, so Korea became known as 'Silla' in Western countries. Silla improved Korean writing system called Idu letters. Idu influenced Katakana from Japan. The Liao dynasty invaded Balhae in the early 1000s, so Balhae fell. Later three kingdoms of Korea The United Korean Kingdom, Silla later split into three kingdoms again because of the corrupt central government. It later involves Goguryeo (also known as Taebong), Later Baekje, and Later Silla. The general of Later Goguryeo, Wang Geon took the throne and changed the name of the kingdom of Goryeo, which was derived from the old strong kingdom, Goguryeo, and Goryeo reunited the peninsula. Goryeo Main Article: Goryeo The First King of Goryeo, known as the Taejo of Goryeo (918-943) Goryeo reunited the Korean Peninsula in the later three kingdoms period and called himself the 'Empire'. But today Goryeo is known as a kingdom. The name 'Goryeo' comes from Goguryeo, and the name Korea comes from Goryeo. Goryeo adopted people from fallen Balhae. They have also expanded their territory to the north by defending the Liao dynasty and attacking the Jurchen people. Goryeo developed a great culture. The first metal type printed book Jikji was also from Korea. Goryeo-ware is one of the most famous heritage of this kingdom. Goryeo imported chinese government and evolved into their own ways. During this period, the laws were codified and a public administration system was introduced. Buddhism flourished and spread throughout the peninsula. Tripitaka Koreana is 81,258 books in total. It was done to keep Korea safe against the Mongolian invasion. It is now a UNESCO world heritage site. Goryeo won the battle against the Liao Dynasty. Then invaded the Mongolian Empire of Goryeo. Goryeo did not disappear, but had to obey Mongols. In the 19th century, the Mongolian dynasty of Yuan lost power, King Gongmin tried to liberate himself from Mongolian, although his wife was also Mongolian. In the 19th century, the Ming Dynasty wanted Goryeo to obey China. But Goryeo didn't. They decided to invade China. Going to China, the general in Goryeo, Lee Sung-Gae came back and destroyed Goryeo. In 1392 he then established new Joseon. And he became Taejo of Joseon, which means the first king of Joseon. Japan Main Article: Medieval Splinter Sculpture of Prince Shōtoku Asuka period Japan's medieval history began with the Asuka period, from about 600 to 710. The time was marked by the Taika reform and imperial centralisation, both of which were a direct result of growing Chinese contact and influences. In 603, Prince Shōtoku of the Yamato dynasty began significant political and cultural changes. He issued the seventeen-article constitution in 604, centralizing power against the emperor (under the title tenno, or heavenly sovereign) and removing the power to collect taxes from provincial masters. Shōtoku was also a patron of Buddhism, and he called for building temples competitively. [17] The Nara period moved Shōtoku's reforms, Japan to the Nara period (c. 710 to about 794), with the relocation of the Japanese capital to Nara in Honshu. This period was the culmination of Chinese style writing, etiquette, and architecture in Japan along with Confucian ideals[18] to complement the already current Buddhism. The peasants admired both Confucian scholars and Buddhist monks. But in the wake of the 735-737 Japanese smallpox epidemic, Buddhism gained the status of state religion and the government ordered the construction of numerous Buddhist temples, monasteries and statues. [17] The lavish expenses, combined with the fact that many aristocrats did not pay taxes, placed a heavy burden on peasants who caused poverty and famine. [17] Eventually, the Buddhist position got out of control and threatened to seize imperial power, prompting Emperor Kanmu to move the capital to Heian-kyō to avoid a Buddhist takeover. [18] This marked the beginning of the Heian period and the end of the Taika reform. Heian period With Heian period (from 794 to 1185) came a decrease in imperial power. Chinese influence also declined because of its association with imperialist centralisation and the celestial mandate, which was considered ineffective. In 838, the Japanese court suspended its embassies in China. only traders and Buddhist monks continued to travel to China. Buddhism itself came to be considered more Japanese than Chinese, and continued to be popular in Japan. Buddhist monks and monasteries continued their attempts to gather personal power in the courts, along with aristocrats. One particularly noble family that dominated the influence of the imperial bureaucracy was the Fujiwara clan. During this time cultural life in the imperial court flourished. There was a focus on beauty and social interaction and writing and literature was considered refined. Noblewomen were cultivated the same as noblemen, dabbling in creative works and politics. A good example of both Japanese literature and the role of women in high-class culture at this time was The Tale of Genji, written by lady-in-waiting Murasaki Shikibu. Popularization of wooden palaces and sliding doors among the nobility also took place. Loss of power also led to the emergence of provincial warrior elites. Little gentlemen began to function independently. They administered laws, monitored public construction projects and collected revenue for themselves instead of the imperial court. Regional gentlemen also began to build their own armies. These warriors were loyal only to their local masters and not the emperor, although the imperial government increasingly called them in to protect the capital. The regional warrior class evolved into the samurai, which created its own culture: including specialized weapons such as katana and a form of chivalry, bushido. The imperial government's loss of control during the second half of the Heian period allowed bandits to grow, requiring both feudal lords and Buddhist monasteries to provide warriors for protection. As imperial control over Japan fell, feudal lords also became more independent and detached from the empire. These feudal states squandered the peasants who live in them, reducing farmers to an almost life-long status. The peasants were also strictly limited from rising to samurai class, physically set off by dress and weapons restrictions. As a result of their oppression, many peasants turned to Buddhism as a hope of reward in the afterlife for upright behavior. [19] With the rise of feudal, families in the imperial court began to depend on alliances with regional masters. The Fujiwara clan fell from power, replaced by a rivalry between the Taira clan and the Minamoto clan. This rivalry grew to the Genpei War in the early 1180s. This war saw the use of both samurai and peasant soldiers. For the samurai, the battle was ritual, and they often easily cut down poorly trained peasants. The Minamoto clan proved successful because of their rural alliances. When the Taira was destroyed, Minamoto established a military government called the shogunate (or bakufu), centered in Kamakura. Kamakura period The end of the Genpei War and the establishment of the Kamakura shogunate marked the end of the Heian period and the beginning of the Kamakura period in 1185, solidifying feudal Japan. Southeast Asia Main article: Medieval Southeast Asian Khmers The Hindu-Buddhist temple of Angkor Wat. In 802, Jayavarmn II consolidated his rule over the surrounding people and declared himself chakravartin, or universal ruler. The Khmer Empire effectively dominated the entire Southeastern Mainland from the early 1800s to the 1400s, where they developed a sophisticated monumental architecture with the most exquisite expression and mastery of composition in Angkor. Early Modern Additional Information: Early Modern Period A 1796 map of Asia (or the Eastern World), which also included the Australian continent (then known as New Holland) within its kingdom. The Russian Empire began to expand into Asia from the 1600s and would eventually take control of all of Siberia and most of Central Asia at the end of The Ottoman Empire controlled The Middle East, North Africa and the Balkans from the 1500s onwards. In the 19th century, Manchu conquered China and established the Qing Dynasty. In the 19th century, the Mughal empire controlled large parts of India and ushered in the second golden age for India. China was the largest economy in the world for most of the time, followed by India until the 1700s. Ming China In 1368, Zhu Yuanzhang had claimed himself hongwu emperor and established the Ming Dynasty in China. Immediately, the new emperor and his followers drove the Mongols and their culture out of China and beyond the Great Wall of China. [20] The new emperor was somewhat suspicious of the scholars who dominated China's bureaucracy, for he had been born a peasant and was uneducated. [20] Nevertheless, Confucian scholars were necessary for China's bureaucracy and were re-established, as well as reforms that would improve exam systems and make them more important to get into the bureaucracy than ever before. Exams became stricter, cut back on cheating, and those who excelled were more highly rated. Finally, Hongwu also sought more power against the emperor's role in order to put an end to the corrupt influences of bureaucrats. The community and economy of hongwu emperor, perhaps for his sympathy for the common-people, had built many irrigation systems and other public projects that provided help to the peasants. [21] They were also allowed to cultivate and claim uncultivated land without having to pay any taxes and work requirements were lowered. [21] None of this, however, was able to stop the rising landlord class, which received many privileges from the government and slowly gained control of the peasants. Money lenders foreclosed on pawn debt in exchange for mortgages and bought up farmer land, forcing them to become landlords' tenants or to wander elsewhere to work. [22] During this time, neo-Confucianism intensified even more than the previous two dynasties (Song and Yuan). Focusing on elders' superiority over youth, men rather than women and teachers rather than students resulted in less discrimination against the inferior classes. Art grew in the Ming era, with enhanced techniques in brush painting that depicted scenes of court, city or country life; people such as scholars or travelers; and the fact that they were not able to do so, or the beauty of mountains, lakes or marshes. The Chinese novel fully developed in this era, with such classics written as Water Margin, Journey to the West, and Jin Ping Mei. Economics grew rapidly in the Ming Dynasty as well. The introduction of U.S. crops like corn, sweet potatoes and peanuts allowed the cultivation of crops in infertile soil and helped prevent famine. The population boom that began in the Song Dynasty accelerated until China's population went from 80 or 90 million to 150 million in three centuries, culminating in 1600. [23] This was parallel to the market economy that grew both internally and externally. Silk, tea, ceramics and was produced by artisans who traded them in Asia and for Europeans. Westerners began trading (with some Chinese-assigned borders), mainly in the port cities of Macau and Canton. Although merchants benefited from this, land remained the primary symbol of wealth in China and traders' riches were often set to acquire more land. [23] Therefore, some of these riches were used in private companies that could have enabled China to develop the market economy that often accompanied the highly successful Western countries. Foreign Interest A view of Fort St George in 18th century Madras. For the sake of national glory, the Chinese began sending impressive junk ships

over the South China Sea and Indian Ocean. From 1403 to 1433, the Yongle Emperor ordered expeditions led by Admiral Zheng He, a Muslim eunuch from China. Chinese junks carrying hundreds of soldiers, goods and animals to zoos, traveled to Southeast Asia, Persia, southern Arabia, and East Africa to show Chinese power. Their skill exceeded that of the present Europeans at the time, and if these expeditions were not completed, the world economy may be different from today. [24] In 1433, the GOC decided that the cost of a fleet was an unnecessary expense. The Chinese navy was slowly dismantled and the focus on internal reforms and military defense began. It was China's long-standing priority that they protected themselves from nomads, and they have therefore returned to it. The growing limits of the Chinese navy would make them vulnerable to foreign invasion at sea later. Here is a Jesuit, Adam Schall von Bell (1592-1666), dressed as an official in the Chinese Ministry of Astronomy. As was inevitable, Westerners arrived on the east coast of China, mainly Jesuit missionaries who reached the mainland in 1582. They tried to convert the Chinese people to Christianity by first converting the top of the social hierarchy and allowing the lower classes to subsequently convert. To further gain support, many Jesuits adopted Chinese dress, customs and language. [25] Some Chinese researchers were interested in certain Western teachings and especially in Western technology. In the 1580s, Jesuit scholars like Matteo Ricci and Adam Schall baffled the Chinese elite with technological advances such as European clocks, improved calendars and guns, and the exact prediction of eclipses. [25] Although some of the scholarly gentry converted, many were suspicious of Westerners whom they called barbarians and even hated them for the embarrassment they received at the hand of Western correction. Nevertheless, a small group of Jesuit scholars remained at the court to impress the emperor and his advisers. Built in what is now North Jakarta Near the end of the 1500s, the extremely centralised government that gave so much power to the emperor was beginning to fail as more incompetent rulers took Together with these rulers came more and more corrupt officials who took advantage of the decline. Once again, public projects fell into disrepair due to the neglect of bureaucracy and resulted in floods, droughts and famines that shook farmers. The famine quickly became so terrible that some peasants resorted to selling their children into slavery to save them from starvation, or to eat bark, faeces of geese, or other people. [26] Many landlords abused the situation by building large estates where desperate farmers would work and be exploited. In return, many of these farmers resorted to flight, bandits and open rebellion. All this corresponded to the usual dynastic decline in China seen before, as well as the growing foreign threats. In the mid-1500s, Japanese and ethnic Chinese pirates began plundering the south coast, and neither the bureaucracy nor the military were able to stop them. [27] The threat from northern Manchu people also grew. Manchu was an already large state north of China when a local leader named Nurhaci in the early 1600s suddenly united them under the eight banners - armies in which the warring families were organized. Manchus adopted many Chinese customs, specifically taking after their bureaucracy. Nevertheless, Manchus still remained a Chinese vassal. In 1644, the Chinese government became so weak that on 16 December 1944, the Chinese government became weak. He soon hanged himself in the imperial gardens. [27] For a short time, the Shun dynasty was claimed until a loyalist Ming official called on the support of Manchus to bring down the new dynasty. The Shun dynasty ended within a year, and Manchu was now within the Great Wall. Taking advantage of the situation, Manchus marched towards the Chinese capital, Beijing. Within two decades, all of China belonged to Manchu and the Qing dynasty was established. Korea: Joseon Dynasty (1392-1897) Main article: Joseon Gyeonghoeru of Gyeongbokgung, Royal Palace of the Joseon Dynasty. In early modern Korea, the 500-year-old kingdom, Goryeo fell and new dynasty Joseon rose in August 5th, 1392. Taejo of Joseon changed the country's name from Goryeo to Joseon. The fourth king, Sejong the Great created Hangul, the Korean alphabets of themselves in 1443. He also improved science technology when Koreans invented sun clocks, water clocks, rain measurement system, star maps, Korean maps and detailed records of Korean small villages. He has even expanded the area to the north. So today 'Korean territory formed at that age. He even attacked Japanese pirates on Tsushima Island, who had attacked Korea a lot. So he is considered the best king ever in the history of Korea. The ninth king, Seongjong performed the first complete Korean law code in 1485. So the culture and people's lives improved again. In 1592, Japan under Toyotomi invaded Korea. That war is Imjin war. In that war, Joseon was in a long peace like PAX ROMANA. So Joseon wasn't ready for the war. Joseon had lost again and again. The Japanese army captured Seoul. The entire Korean peninsula was in danger. But Yi Sun-sin, the most famous general in Korea, defeated Japanese navy in the south Korea coast even 13 ships VS 133 ships. This incredible battle is called battle of Myeongnyang. Then Ming dynasty helped Joseon, and Japan lost the battle. Then Toyotomi Hideyoshi's campaign in Korea failed, and Tokugawa Shogunate has since begun. Korea was wounded a lot in the Imjin war. Not long after, Manchurian invaded Joseon again. It's called Qing invasion of Joseon. First invasion was for the money. Because Qing was at war between Ming, Ming's alliance threatened Joseon. And the second invasion was for Joseon to obey Qing. Then Qing defeated Ming and took the entire Chinese territories. Joseon also had to obey Qing because Joseon loses the second war against Qing. After the Qing invasion, the princes of the Joseon dynasty lived their childhoods in China. The son of King Injo met Adam Schall in Beijing. So he wanted to introduce Western technologies to Korean people when he becomes king. Unfortunately, he died before he took the toss. After that, the alternative prince became the 17th king of the Joseon dynasty, Hyojong, in an attempt to avenge his kingdom and the fallen Ming dynasty to Qing. Later, kings like Yeongjo and Jeongjo tried to improve their people's lives and stop the unfair competition of governors. From the 1600s to the 1700s, Joseon sent diplomats and artists to Japan more than 10 times. This group was called 'Tongshinsa'. They were sent to Japan to teach Japan about advanced Korean cultures. Japanese people liked to receive poems from Korean nobles. At the time, Korea was stronger than Japan. But the relationship between Joseon and Japan was reversed after the 19th century. Because Japan became more powerful than Korea and China, either. So Joseon sent diplomats called 'Sooshinsa' to learn Japanese advanced technologies. After king Jeongjo's death, some noble families controlled the entire kingdom in the early 1800s. At the end of this period, western people invaded Joseon. In 1876, Joseon was set free from Qing so that they did not have to obey Qing. But the Japanese empire was happy because Joseon became a perfect independent kingdom. So Japan could intervene more in the kingdom. Then Joseon traded with the United States and sent 'Sooshinsa' to Japan, 'Youngshinsa' to Qing and 'Bobingsa' to the United States and Europe. These groups took many modern things to the Korean peninsula. Japan: Tokugawa or Edo period (1603-1867) Main article: Edo period The Great Wave off Kanagawa, circa 1830 by Hokusai, an example of art thriving in the Edo period In early modern Japan after the Sengoku period of warring states, the central government had largely been re-established by Oda Nobunaga and Toyotomi Hidey Azuchi-Momoyama period. After the Battle of Sekigahara in 1600, the central authority fell to Tokugawa Ieyasu, who completed this process and received the title shōgun in 1603. The community of the Japanese Tokugawa period (see Edo community), unlike shōgunates before it, was based on the strict class hierarchy originally established by Toyotomi Hideyoshi. Daimyōs (feudal lords) were on top, followed by the samurai warrior caste, with the peasants, craftsmen, and merchants ranked below. The country was strictly closed to foreigners with few exceptions with Sakoku policy. Literacy increased in the isolation of the two centuries. [28] In some parts of the country, especially smaller regions, daimyōs and samurai were more or less identical, as daimyōs could be trained as samurai, and samurai could act as local masters. Otherwise, the largely inflexible nature of this social stratification system triggered disruptive forces over time. Taxes on farmers were set at lump sums which did not account for inflation or other changes in the monetary value. As a result, tax revenue collected by samurai landowners was worth less and less over time. This often led to numerous confrontations between noble but poor samurai and well-to-do peasants. None, however, turned out to be convincing enough to seriously challenge the established order until foreign powers. [29] India Main Articles: Mughal Empire and Maratha Empire Mughal Ambassador Khan'Alam in 1618 negotiate with Shah Abbas the great in Iran. In the Indian subcontinent, the Mughal Empire ruled most of India in the early 1700s. Under the rule of Emperor Shah Jahan and his son Aurangzeb, the empire reached its architectural and economic peak and became the world's largest economy.[30] worth over 25% of the world's GDP and signalled proto-industrialization. [31] After major events such as Nader Shah's invasion of the Mughal empire, the Battle of Plassey, the Battle of Buxar, and the long Anglo-Mysore wars, most of South Asia was colonized and ruled by the British Empire, establishing the British Raj. [32] The classical period ended with the death of Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb.[33] although the dynasty continued for another 150 years. During this period, the empire was characterised by a highly centralised administration linking the different regions. All the significant monuments of the Moguls, their most visible heritage, date to this period, which was characterized by an expansion of Persian cultural influence in the Indian subcontinent, with brilliant literary, artistic and architectural achievements. The Maratha Empire was located in the southwest of present-day India and expanded considerably under peshwas, the prime ministers of the Maratha Empire. In 1761, the Maratha Army lost the third Battle of Panipat against Ahmad shah Durrani king of Afghanistan, which halted imperial expansion, and the empire was then divided into a confederation of States. British and Dutch colonization Main articles: Dutch East India Company and East India Company The European economic and naval powers pushed into Asia, first to do trade, and then to take over large colonies. The Dutch led the way, followed by the British. Portugal had arrived first, but was too weak to preserve its small holdings and was largely pushed out, keeping only Goa and Macau. The British set up a private organisation, the East India Company, which handled both trade and imperial control over large parts of India. [34] The commercial colonisation of India began in 1757, After the Battle of Plassey, when Nawab of Bengal surrendered his supremacy to the British East India Company,[35] in 1765, when it received diwani, or the right to collect income, in Bengal and Bihar.[36] or in 1772, when it established a capital in Calcutta, appointed its first Governor-General, The Warren of Hastings, and became directly involved in governance. [37] Robert Clive and Mir Jafar after the Battle of Plassey, 1757 by the Francis Hayman Maratha Wars, eventually lost to the British East India Company in 1818 with the Third Anglo-Maratha War. The rule lasted until 1858, when, after the Indian uprising of 1857 and under the Government of India Act 1858, the British Government took on the task of directly administering India in the new British Raj. [38] In 1819, Stamford Raffles established Singapore as an important trading post for Britain in their rivalry with the Dutch. But their rivalry cooled in 1824 when an Anglo-Dutch treaty bounded their respective interests in Southeast Asia. From the 1850s onwards, the pace of colonization shifted to a significantly higher gear. The Dutch East India Company (1800) and the British East India Company (1858) were dissolved by their respective governments, who took over the direct administration of the colonies. Only Thailand was spared the experience of foreign rule, although Thailand itself was also heavily influenced by the power politics of the Western powers. Colonial rule had a profound impact on Southeast Asia. While colonial powers profited greatly from the region's vast resources and large market, colonial rule developed the region to varying degrees. [39] Late Modern Additional Information: Modern History § Late Modern Period Central Asia: The Great Game, Russia vs. Great Britain Political cartoon depicts the Afghan Emir Sher Ali with the rival friends of the Russian Bear and British Lion (1878) The Great Game was a political and diplomatic confrontation between Britain and Russia over Afghanistan and neighboring areas of Central and South Asia. It lasted from 1828 to 1907. There was no war, but there were many threats. Russia was afraid of British commercial and military inroads into Central Asia, and Britain was afraid that Russia was threatening its largest and most important possession, India. This resulted in an atmosphere of distrust the constant threat of war between the two empires. Britain made it a high priority to protect all approaches to India, and the great game is primarily how the British did this in terms of a possible Russian threat. Historians with access to the archives have concluded that Russia had no plans for India, as the Russians have repeatedly said. [40] The Great Game began in 1838, when Britain decided to take control of the Emirate of Afghanistan and make it a protectorate, and to use the Ottoman Empire, the Persian Empire, the Khanate of Khiva and the Emirate Bukhara as buffer states between both empires. This would protect India and also important British maritime trade routes by preventing Russia from gaining a port in the Persian Gulf or the Indian Ocean. Russia proposed Afghanistan as the neutral zone, and the end result was to dive into Afghanistan with a neutral zone in the middle between Russian territories in the north and British in the south. Important episodes included the failed first Anglo-Afghan War in 1838, the first Anglo-Sikh War in 1845, the second Anglo-Sikh War in 1848, the second Anglo-Afghan war in 1878 and Russia's annexation of Kokand. [41] The 1901 novel Kim by Rudyard Kipling popularized the term and introduced the new implication of great power rivalry. It became even more popular after the advent of the Soviet-Afghan War in 1979.[42] Qing China Main article: The Qing Dynasty The Qing Empire in 1820 marked the time when Qing began to rule these territories. By 1644, the Northern Manchu people had conquered the Ming Dynasty and established a foreign dynasty - the Qing Dynasty - again. Manchu Qing emperors, especially Confucian scholar Kangxi, remained largely conservative-preserving the bureaucracy and scholars of it, as well as Confucian ideals present in Chinese society. However, there were also changes in the economy and new attempts to solve certain problems. These included increased trade with Western countries that brought large quantities of silver into the Chinese economy in exchange for tea, porcelain and silk textiles. This allowed for a new grocery class, compradors, to develop. In addition, repairs were carried out on existing diaries, canals, roads and irrigation works. This, combined with lowering taxes and the government assigned labor, should calm farm unrest. But Qing failed to control the growing landlord class, which had begun to exploit the peasants and abuse their position. In the late 1700s, both internal and external issues began to arise in Qing China's politics, society and economy. The exam system assigned to researchers in the bureaucracy became more and more corrupt; bribery and other forms of cheating allowed inexperienced and inept scholars to enter the bureaucracy, and this ultimately caused rampant neglect by peasants, the military, and the previously mentioned infrastructure projects. Poverty and bandits rose steadily, especially in mass migrations looking for work throughout China took place. The ever-Conservative government refused to implement reforms that would solve these problems. Opium War Main article: First Opium War China saw its status reduced by what it perceived as parasitic trade with Westerners. Initially, European traders were disadvantaged because the Chinese did not take care of their goods, while European demand for Chinese goods such as tea and porcelain only grew. To tip the trade imbalance in their favor, British merchants began selling Indian opium to the Chinese. Not only does this sap Chinese bullion reserves, it also led to widespread drug abuse among the bureaucracy and society in general. A ban was put on opium as early as 1729 by the Yongzheng emperor, but little was done to enforce it. In the early 1800s, under the new Daoguang emperor, the government began serious efforts to eradicate opium from Chinese society. At the forefront of this effort were respected scholar officials, including Imperial Commissioner Lin Zexu. After Lin destroyed more than 20,000 coffins of opium in the summer of 1839, Europeans demanded compensation for what they saw as unwarranted Chinese interference in their affairs. When it was not paid, the British declared war later that year and began what became known as the First Opium War. The outdated Chinese junkies could not man the advanced British gunboats, and soon the Yangzi River region was threatened by British bombardment and invasion. The emperor had no choice but to sue for peace, resulting in the exile of Lin and the manufacture of the Treaty nanking, which severed British control over Hong Kong and opened up trade and diplomacy with other European countries, including Germany, France and the United States. Inner Manchuri Additional information: Northeast China and [[:P artist of a series on the history of Manchuri's earlier period Early tribes Dangun Joseon Gija Joseon Wiman Joseon Yan Han dynasty Sushen Donghu Wuhuan Xianbei state Cao Wei (Yan) Buyeo Go Guryeo Sima Jin dynasty Yuwen Former Qin Later Yan Northern Yan Kumo Xi Khitan Northern Wei Shiwei Medieval Tang Protectorate Balhae Liao Dynasty Jurchen Jin Dynasty Yuan rule northern Yuan Dynasty Ming rule Qing rule Modern Period Republic of China (Fengtian Clique) Russian Empire Far East Republic Green Ukraine Korean People's Association in Manchurian Manchukuo Soviet Union PR China (northeast China) Russia (Outer Manchuri) vie]] Northeast China came under the influence of Russia with the construction of the Chinese Eastern Railway through Harbin to Vladivostok. [43] Japan's Empire replaced Russian influence in the region as a result of the Russian-Japanese War of 1904-1905, and Japan laid the South Manchurian Railway in 1906 for Port Arthur. During the warlord era in China, Zhang Zuolin established himself in northeast China but was assassinated by the Japanese to be too independent. The former Chinese emperor, Puyi, was then on the throne to lead a Japanese puppet state of Manchukuo. [44] In August 1945, the Soviet Union invaded the region. From 1945 to 1948, northeastern China was a base for Mao Zedong's People's Liberation Army in the Chinese Civil War. With encouragement from the Kremlin, the area was used as a staging post during the civil war for the Chinese Communists, who prevailed in 1949 and have controlled ever since. [45] Joseon Gojong (1852-1919), the 26th king of the Joseon dynasty and the first emperor of the Korean Empire. Deoksungung, the castle where Emperor Gojong established the Korean Empire. When it was the 1800s, the king of Joseon was powerless. Because the noble family of the king's wife took power and ruled the country by their way. King of the Joseon dynasty, Gojong's father, Heungseon Daewongun wished the king to be powerful again. Even he wasn't the king. As the father of the young king, he destroyed noble families and corrupt organizations. So the royal family got back to power. But he wanted to rebuild gyongbokgung palace to show the royal power to people. So he was criticized by people because he spent huge money and inflation arose because of it. To his son, the real King Gojong, gained power. Korean Empire The 26th King of Joseon, Gojong, changed the nation's name to Daehan Jukguk. That means the Korean Empire. And he also promoted himself as emperor. The new empire accepted more Western technology and strengthened military power. And the Korean Empire would become a neutral nation. Unfortunately, in the Russian-Japanese War, Japan ignored this, and eventually Japan won against russian empire, and began to invade Korea. Japan first stole the right to diplomacy from the Korean Empire illegally. But all Western countries ignored this invasion because they knew Japan became a strong country when they defeated the Russian Empire. So Emperor Gojong sent diplomats to a Dutch town known as The Hague to let everyone know that Japan stole the empire's right illegally. But it failed. Because the diplomats couldn't go into the meeting room. Japan kicked Gojong out on the grounds that this reason. 3 years later, in 1910, the Korean Empire became part of the Empire of Japan. It was the first time ever after the invasion of the Han Dynasty in 108 f.Kr. Contemporary additional information: Modern history Map of Asia in the early 1900s The European powers had control over other parts of Asia in the early 20th century. The big game between Russia and Britain was the battle for power in the Central Asian region in the nineteenth century. The Trans-Siberian Railway, which crossed Asia by train, was completed in 1916. Parts of Asia remained free of European control but not influence, such as Persia, Thailand and most of China. In the twentieth century, imperial Japan expanded to China and Southeast Asia during World War II. After the war, Asian countries became independent of European powers. During the Cold War, the northern parts of Asia were communist controlled by the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China, while Western allies formed pacts such as CENTO and SEATO. Conflicts such as the Korean War, the Vietnam War and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan were fought between Communists and anti-communists. In the decades after World War II, a massive restructuring plan drove Japan to become the world's second-largest economy, a phenomenon known as the Japanese postwar economic miracle. The Arab-Israeli conflict has dominated much of the Middle East's recent history. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, there were many new independent nations in Central Asia. China Main Articles: History of the Republic of China and History of the People's Republic of China Prior to World War II, China is facing a civil war between Mao Zedong's Communist Party and Chiang Kai-shek's nationalist party; nationalists seemed to be in the lead. But when the Japanese invaded in 1937, the two sides were forced to form a temporary ceasefire to defend China. The nationalists faced many military failures that caused them to lose territory and subsequently respect from the Chinese masses. In contrast, the Communists' use of guerrilla warfare (led by Lin Biao) proved effective against the conventional methods of Japan and put the Communist Party at the top in 1945. They also gained popularity for the reforms they were already seeking in controlled areas, including land redistribution, education reforms and widespread health care. For the next four years, the nationalists would be forced to retreat to the small island east of China, known as Taiwan (formerly known as Formosa), where they remain today. In mainland China, the People's Republic of China was established by the Communist Party, chaired by Mao Zedong. The Communist government of China was defined by the party's cadres. These hard-line officers controlled the People's Liberation Army, which itself controlled large amounts of bureaucracy. This system was further controlled by the Central Committee, which also supported the State Chairman, who was considered to be the head of the government. The People's Republic's foreign policy included the suppression of secessionist efforts in Mongolia and Tibet and support for North Korea and North Korea in the Korean War and the Vietnam War respectively. In addition, in 1960 China began to cut off its relations with the Soviet Union due to border disputes and a growing Chinese sense of superiority, especially the personal feeling of Mao over the Russian prime minister, Nikita Khrushchev. Today, China plays an important role in the world economy and policy. China today is the world's second largest economy and the second fastest growing economy. Korea The third inter-Korean summit held in 2018 between South Korean President Moon Jae-in and the North Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un. It was a historic event that symbolized peace in Asia. During the korean war, Korea split into north and south. Singman Rhee became South Korea's first president, and Kim Il-sung became North Korean supreme leader. After the war, South Korea's president, Syngman Rhee tries to become a dictator. As the April Revolution took place, in the end Syngman Rhee was banished from his country. In 1963, Park Chung-hee was authorized to join a military coup. He sent the Republic of Korea's army to the Vietnam War. And at this age, the economy of South Korea in addition to that of North Korea. Although Park Chung-hee improved the country's economy, he was a dictator, so people didn't like him. Eventually he is murdered by Kim Jae-gyu. In 1979, Chun Doo-hwan was authorized by another coup d'état by the military. He suppressed the resistance in the city of Gwangju. This event is called the 'Gwangju Uprising'. Despite the Gwangju uprising, Chun Doo-hwan became president. But the people resisted again in 1987. The movement is called 'June Struggle'. As a result of the Gwangju uprising and the June struggle, South Korea finally became a democratic republic in 1987. Roh Tae-woo (1988-1993), Kim Young-sam (1993-1998), Kim Dae-jung (1998-2003), Roh Moo-hyun (2003-1998), Lee Myung-bak (2008-2013), Park Geun-hye (2013-2017), Moon Jae-in (2017-) was elected president after 1987. In 1960, North Korea was far richer than South Korea. But in 1970, South Korea began to run away from the North Korean economy. In 2018, South Korea is ranked as #10 world GDP ranking. See also Ancient Asian History History of Southeast Asia List of history journals § Asia Prehistoric Asia References ^ Second preliminary report of excavations at Lahuradewa district (PDF). Archaeology Directorate (U.P, India). Archived from the original (PDF) on 2011-06-13. ^ New Archaeological Discoveries and Researches in 2004 – The Fourth Archaeology Forum of CASS. Department of Archaeology - Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. Filed from the original on 2011-05-12. Retrieved 2007-09-18. ^ The Indus Valley Civilization. ThinkQuest. 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