The Political Development of Imperial China

Content Standards

7.3 Students analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the civilizations of China in the Middle Ages.

7.3.1 Describe the reunification of China under the Tang Dynasty and reasons for the spread of Buddhism in Tang China, Korea, and Japan.

7.3.3 Analyze the influences of aristocracy (p. 179), meritocracy (p. 179), Mandate of Heaven (p. 180), bureaucracy (p. 181), warlord (p. 181), Tang dynasty (p. 182), Confucianism and changes in Confucian thought during the Song and Mongol periods.

7.3.6 Describe the development of the imperial state and the scholar-official class.

Terms Locate as many of the following terms as you can in your Reading or Activity Notes and highlight them. For each term not already in your notes, define and explain its significance on a separate sheet of paper.

aristocracy (p. 179) civil service examinations (p. 182)
meritocracy (p. 179) Song dynasty (p. 183)
Mandate of Heaven (p. 180) Mongols (p. 184)
bureaucracy (p. 181) Kublai Khan (p. 184)
warlord (p. 181) Ming dynasty (p. 184)
Tang dynasty (p. 182)

Essential Questions Consult your Reading Notes and, when necessary, History Alive! The Medieval World and Beyond. For each question below, record notes that prepare you to answer it.

1. What is an imperial government? How did imperial dynasties justify their power? (7.3.6)
2. Which dynasties reunited China after the disunity than followed the Han dynasty? How did these dynasties reunite China? (7.3.1)
3. How did the Tang dynasty use civil service examinations to improve the bureaucracy? (7.3.6)
4. What changes did the Song dynasty implement to create a meritocracy? (7.3.6)
5. During the Song dynasty, what changes happened in Confucian thought? How did Confucianism influence the Song emperors? (7.3.3)
6. What did the Mongols believe about Confucianism? What influence did Confucianism have on the Mongol rulers? (7.3.3)
7. What changes in government did the Mongols make? How did these changes contribute to the collapse of the Mongol dynasty? (7.3.6)
8. Was the civil service system that was revived by the Ming dynasty beneficial or harmful to China? Justify your response. (7.3.6)

Timeline Label and illustrate a timeline with the events listed below. For each event, draw a creative and appropriate symbol near its proper place on the timeline. Write the date the event occurred and an appropriate headline for each event.

Unification of China under the Emperor of Qin
Fall of Han dynasty and breakup of China
Rise of Tang dynasty
Rise of Song dynasty
Mongol capture of China’s capital
Restoration of Chinese rule under Ming dynasty