Chapter 13

The Spread of Chinese Culture: Japan, Korea, and Vietnam

(A.D. 500 – A.D. 1450)
Industrial Innovation in China
Primary Source Document 5

The Granger Collection, New York
Diverse Traditions of Southeast Asia

- The area was influenced by China and India, but the nations of SE Asia retained unique cultural identities.
- The mainland is separated from India & China by mountains.
- 20,000 islands comprise the second part of SE Asia.
- People from Philippines and Indonesia were ancestors of Polynesians, who migrated widely to avoid depleting resources.
### New Kingdoms and Empires

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PAGAN</th>
<th>KHMER EMPIRE</th>
<th>SRIVIJAYA</th>
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<td>King Anawrata made Pagan a major Buddhist center.</td>
<td>▪ The Khmer people adapted Indian writing, mathematics, architecture, and art.</td>
<td>▪ This trading empire controlled the Strait of Malacca, vital to shipping.</td>
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<td>The capital city had many magnificent <strong>stupas</strong>, or dome-shaped shrines.</td>
<td>▪ Khmer rulers became Hindus, while most ordinary people preferred Buddhism.</td>
<td>▪ Local people blended Indian beliefs into their own forms of worship.</td>
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<td>Conquered by the Mongols.</td>
<td>▪ King Suryavarman II built a great temple complex at Angkor Wat.</td>
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*Note: *Angkor Wat* is a famous temple complex in Cambodia.
Angkor Wat, Cambodia
Trade Routes in the SE Seas

- Monsoons affect trading patterns: ships travel NE in summer and SW in winter.
- Southeast Asian ports became centers of trade, supplying markets in East Asia, the Middle East, and East Africa.
- Divergent cultures, languages, and religions developed.
- Ankor rulers of Cambodia were militarily aggressive.
Women in Southeast Asia

- Women had a greater equality than elsewhere in Asia participating as merchants or rulers.
- Also, they were a matrilineal society, so inheritance was through mothers.
- Women could participate in choosing or divorcing partners.

Apsara relief at Angkor Wat
Vietnam Emerges

- Centered around Red River Delta.
- Irrigated fertile rice *padis* provided food.
  - Probably originated in Vietnam
  - Extremely labor intensive
  - Lead to increased yields
- Women often held positions of authority.
- In 111 B.C., Han armies conquered the region and kept control for 1000 years.
- Adopted Chinese civil service, government bureaucracy, Confucian ideas, Chinese language and characters, Theravada Buddhism, Mahayana beliefs, Daoism.
The Making of Vietnam

 The Viets first appear in recorded history as a group of “southern barbarian” mentioned by Chinese scholars of the Qin in the 220s B.C.E.

 Their kingdom was called Nam Viet, “people of the south.”

 The Viets traded ivory, tortoise shells, pearls, peacock feathers, aromatic woods, and other exotic products from the sea and tropical forests in exchange for silk from China.

 They intermarried with the Khmers of Cambodia.
Early Vietnamese Culture was distinct from Chinese Culture

**Vietnamese Culture**
- Had a strong tradition of village autonomy
- Favored nuclear family
- Never developed clan networks
- Women wore long skirts
- Blackened teeth

**Chinese Culture**
- Had a strong tradition of control by kingdoms or regional warlords
- Favored the extended family household
- Developed clan networks
- Women wore black pants
- Found blackened teeth repulsive
Han rulers made Vietnam a tributary state.

In 111 B.C.E. the Han decided to conquer the Viets.

The Vietnamese elites were drawn into the bureaucracy and attended Chinese-style schools, wrote & read Chinese script and learned Confucius texts.

They adopted Chinese cropping techniques & irrigation technology, which made their agriculture the most successful in SE Asia.

They adopted Chinese political & military organization, which gave them a decisive edge over peoples to the west and south.
Winning Independence

- The Trung sisters, Trung Trac and Trung Nhi, who were children of a deposed local leader, led a revolt against the Chinese in 30 C.E. and set up a simpler government.
- They recruited and trained 80,000 men and women to fight; 36 generals were women.
- They successfully held off the Chinese for three years.
- They committed suicide and were declared martyrs.
Continued Resistance and the Drive South

- In 907, the Vietnamese mounted a massive rebellion during the period of chaos after the fall of the Tang dynasty.
- By 939 the Vietnamese had won political independence from China.
- From the 11th to the 18th centuries they fought a long series of generally successful wars against the Chams in the south, eventually winning their lowland croplands.
- They then clashed with the Khmers, who had begun to move into the Mekong delta region. Much of the upper delta region was occupied by the Vietnamese by the late 18th century when the French arrived in force.
70% of Korea is mountainous. Because farming is difficult in the mountains, most Koreans live along the western coastal plain, Korea’s major farming area.

Korea has a 5,400 mile coastline with hundreds of good harbors. Since earliest times, Koreans have depended on seafood for protein in their diet.

Korea’s location on China’s doorstep has played a key role in its development.
Korea and Its Traditions

As early as Han times, China extended its influence to Korea. Although Koreans absorbed many Chinese traditions, Korea was able to preserve its independence and maintain a separate and distinct culture.

Korea also served as a cultural bridge linking China and Japan.

Between A.D. 300 and 600, powerful local rulers forged three separate kingdoms: Koguryo in north, Paekche in SW, Shilla in SE.

*Amitabha and Eight Great Bodhisattvas*, or “Enlightened Beings,” Goryeo scroll from the 1300s
Korea United

- In 668, with support of Tang empress Wu Zhao, the Shilla kingdom united the Korean peninsula.
- The **Shilla dynasty** ruled from 668 to 918, during which Korea became a tributary state of China.
- Confucian ideas took root and women lost the right to inherit property and hold public roles.
- View developed that Korea was younger brother of China and they respect.
- The **Koryo Dynasty** ruled from 918 to 1392.
- Buddhism reached greatest influence in Korea.
Chinese Influences on Korea

Koreans adapted and modified Chinese ideas.

Examples:

- Koreans used the Chinese civil service examination, but adapted it to fit their own system of inherited ranks.

- Koreans learned to make porcelain from China, but then perfected techniques of making **celadon**—a porcelain with an unusual blue-green glaze.

Example of celadon porcelain
Mongols occupied Korea until 1350s.

Then general Yi Song-gyak set up the Choson Dynasty, which ruled from 1392 to 1910.

They reduced Buddhist influence and set up a government based upon Confucian principles.

Over time, Confucianism greatly influenced Korean life.

In 1443, King Sejong replaced China’s complex writing with hangul, an alphabet using symbols to represent sounds of spoken Korean, greatly increasing literacy rates.
The Emergence of Japan

- The seas allowed Japan to preserve its unique culture while selectively borrowing religious, political, and artistic traditions from China.

- Japan is located on an archipelago, or chain of islands, about 100 miles off the Asian coast.

- The mountainous terrain was an obstacle to unity and caused people to settle in river valleys and along the coast.
The surrounding seas protected and isolated Japan.

Japan was close enough to the mainland to learn from Korea and China, but too far away for the Chinese to conquer.

The seas also served as trade routes for Japan.

Japanese came to fear and respect the sudden tsunamis, killer tidal waves caused by earthquakes.
Mount Fuji, Japan
Early Settlers

- The first people to arrive in Japan probably came from northeast Asia between 30,000 and 10,000 B.C.
- At that time, Japan was connected to the mainland of Asia.
- Wandering groups of people developed the Jomon culture around 5000 B.C.
- The Jomon people settled along the coast of Japan and fished for food.
- Around 300 B.C., the Yayoi people appeared.
- The Yayoi are ancestors of the Japanese people.
- The Yayoi were skilled farmers, potters, and metalworkers.
- Warrior chiefs headed each clan and protected the people in return for a share of the rice harvest each year.
- The Yayoi buried their chiefs in large mounds called kofun.
- According to a Japanese myth, two gods created Japan along with two gods to rule over Earth.
- The children of one of the gods were the first Japanese people.
Early Traditions

- Early Japanese society was divided into uji, or clans. Each clan worshipped their own gods or goddesses.
- Women could also be clan leaders.
- In A.D. 500, the Yamato clan came to dominate a corner of Honshu and set up Japan’s first and only dynasty.
- According to myth, a Yamato leader named Jimmu founded a line of rulers of Japan that has never been broken.
- Yamato clan claimed decent from sun god and chose the Amaterasu, or rising sun, as their symbol.
Japanese language is distantly related to Korean.

Korean artists & metalworkers settled in Japan bringing new skills and technology.

Shinto is the traditional religion of Japan, which is the worship of nature spirits.

Korean missionaries introduced Buddhism, Chinese writing and culture.

The Golden Pavilion, Kinkaku-ji Pavilion, Koyoto
Japan Looks to China

- **Prince Shotoku Yamato** (A.D. 573–621) modeled the law code after China & built a new capital at Nara.
- Adopted Chinese title “Heavenly Emperor.”
- As Buddhism spread, the Japanese adopted pagoda architecture.
- Buddhist monasteries grew rich and powerful.

Prince Shotoku, flanked by his younger brother and 1st son.
Chinese Culture Influenced Early Japan

In the early 600s, Japan began sending students, monks, traders, and officials to China. These visitors returned to Japan eager to spread Chinese thought, technology, and the arts. The Japanese adopted:

- Chinese ideas about government
- Chinese fashion
- Chinese language & characters
- Chinese foods
- Confucian ideas and ethics

The Horyuji temple built by Prince Shotoku
Chinese Culture Influenced Early Japan

In time, enthusiasm for everything Chinese died down. The Japanese kept some Chinese ways but discarded or modified others. This process is known as selective borrowing.

Example: Japan never accepted the Chinese civil service exam to choose officials based on merit. Instead, they maintained their tradition of inherited status through family position.
The Heian Period

From 794 to 1185, the imperial capital was in Heian, present-day Kyoto and a blending of cultures took place.

At the Heian court an elegant and sophisticated culture blossomed. Noblemen and noblewomen lived in a fairy-tale atmosphere. Elaborate rules of etiquette governed court ceremony.

Important literature came out of the Heian period. The Pillow Book by Sei Shongon was a series of anecdotes and observations about court life. The Tale of Genji by Lady Murasaki Shikibu was the world’s first full-length novel. Both were written by women.
Japan’s Feudal Age

As the emperor presided over the splendid courts of Heian, rival clans battled for control of the countryside. Local warlords formed armed bands loyal to them rather than to the emperor. In this way, Japan evolved a feudal system.

In theory, the emperor stood at the head of Japanese feudal society. In fact, he was powerless. Real power lay in the hands of the shogun, or supreme military commander.

The shogun distributed land to vassal lords who agreed to protect them. These great warrior lords were called daimyo. They, in turn, granted land to lesser warriors called samurai.

Bushido, “the way of the warrior,” emphasized honor, bravery, loyalty.
In 1192 Minamoto Yoritomo was appointed Shogun, or supreme military commander. Determined to end feudal warfare, the Tokugawa shoguns:

- Imposed central government control on all Japan from the capital at Edo ending constant warfare.
- Created a unified, orderly society
- Required the daimyo to live in the shogun’s capital every other year
- Created new laws that fixed the social order rigidly in place & upheld a strict moral code
- Imposed restrictions on women
- Oversaw economic growth, the flourishing of trade, and emergence of a middle class
A samurai who betrayed the code of bushido was expected to commit *seppuku*, or ritual suicide.

In 1281, the Mongols tried to invade Japan, but their fleet was destroyed by a typhoon called *kamikaze*, or divine winds.

Zen Buddhism taught that people could seek enlightenment, not only through meditation, but through the precise performance of everyday tasks.
Japanese Artistic Traditions

- **Nō plays** were preformed on a square, wooden stage, without scenery. Each movement had special meaning.

- **Kabuki** was less refined and included comedy or melodrama.

- Puppet plays, called **bunraku**, were popular.
Cities such as Edo and Osaka were home to an explosion in the arts and the theater.

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<th>THEATER</th>
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<th>PAINTING &amp; PRINTMAKING</th>
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<td>Japanese painters were influenced by Chinese landscape</td>
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Culture of Feudal Japan