

## Tang and Song China: Primary Source Document Packet

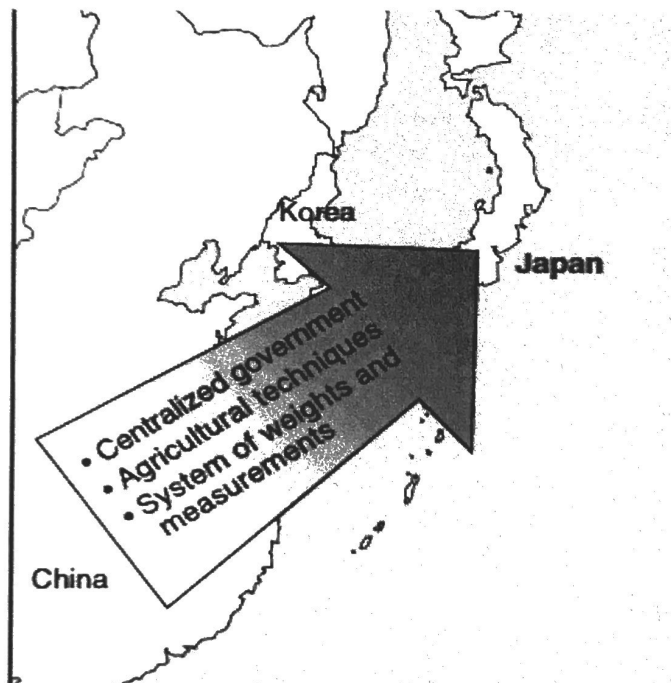
*Directions: Read documents 1 through 9 carefully and answer the question, or questions, after each document. Be sure to address all parts of each question. This is designed to test your ability to work with and analyze historical documents.*

### Historical Background

The Tang and Song dynasties covered the time period from 618 to 1279 CE, a period of more than 600 years. Not only did these dynasties last a very long time, but they are also considered to be among the most outstanding and innovative of Chinese dynasties. The Tang and Song dynasties are considered a “golden age” in Chinese history. While these dynasties experienced problems from time to time, overall they managed very well to maintain unity among China’s diverse people.

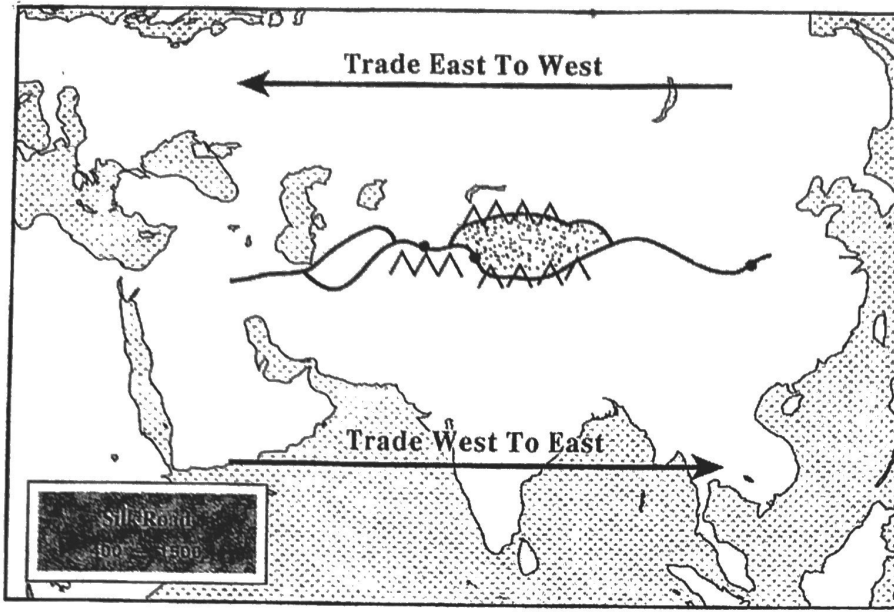
### Document 1

Cultural Diffusion from China: 500 – 1000 CE



1. Using the title and illustration above, explain the meaning of cultural diffusion.
2. How does the illustration above support the idea that Tang and Song China experienced a golden age during this time period?

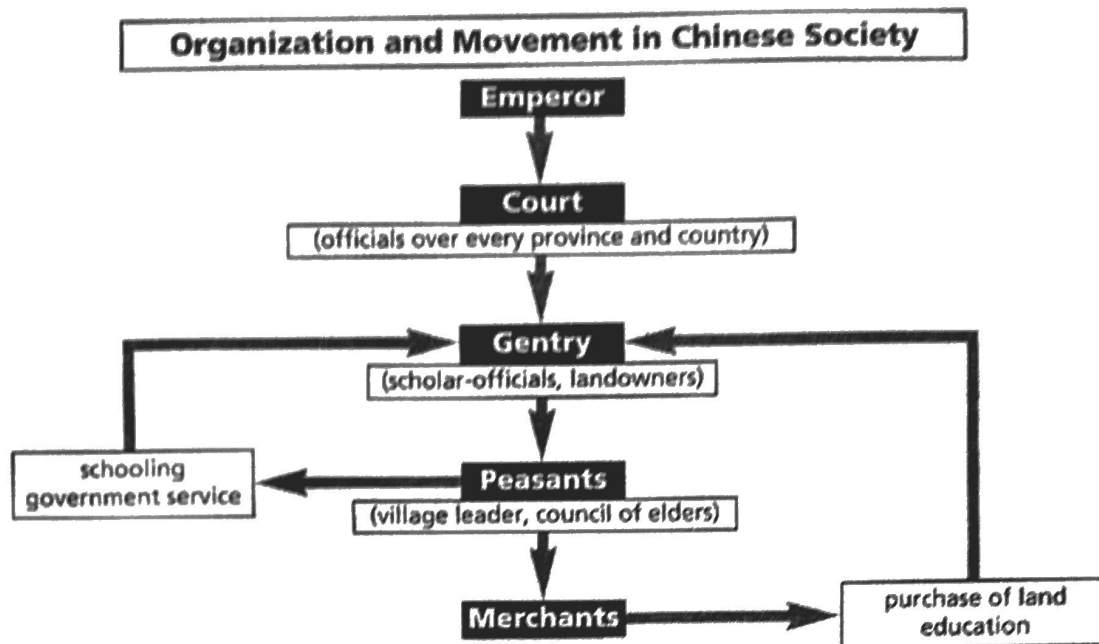
Geographic and Economic Information



Items Traded <i>West to East</i>		Items Traded <i>East to West</i>
Garlic	Herbal medicines	Silk
Grapevine	Horses	Porcelain
Spices	Camels	Technology and Inventions
Spinach	Gems, gold and silver	◆ Compass
Cotton	Ivory	◆ Paper
		◆ Gun Powder

1. In general, how did the types of items traded East to West differ from the types of items traded West to East?
  
2. Use the information provided above and your prior knowledge to explain how successful trade along the Silk Road helped China achieve a golden age. Use at least two examples.

Document 3



1. According to the chart, which *levels* of Chinese government have power over *all* people?
2. Based on what is shown in the chart, explain how there was opportunity for social mobility in this class structure using at least 2 examples.
3. Based on what is shown in the chart, how might a social hierarchy that is organized in this way contribute to political unity in China? Provide at least 2 examples.

## Document 4

### **Economic Connections during the Golden Age of the Song**

The Golden Age in Song China was a time of economic prosperity. China was getting wealthier because of economic developments that were connected in the following cause and effect relationships.

- 1   Wars force farmers to move south, where they grow rice
- Commercial centers in China grow into large cities
- Growth of trade and commerce opens up job opportunities
- Farmers take time away from farming to make other products to sell
- A food surplus is generated and sold at market
- Landowners become rich enough to buy luxury items
- Better farming technology and quick-ripening rice increase crop production

1. Arrange the statements above to reflect China's movement from a poorer, agriculturally focused country to a richer, more commercialized one. The number 1, as is already listed, represents the first step in this movement. Continue to number 2 through 7 in the spaces provided.
2. Was it agriculture, commerce or urbanization which started economic growth in China?
3. How does the sequence above indicate that China was moving toward a golden age? Explain using at least 2 examples.

## Document 5

### **Excerpts from Emperor Taizong on Effective Government by Maintaining Military Forces**

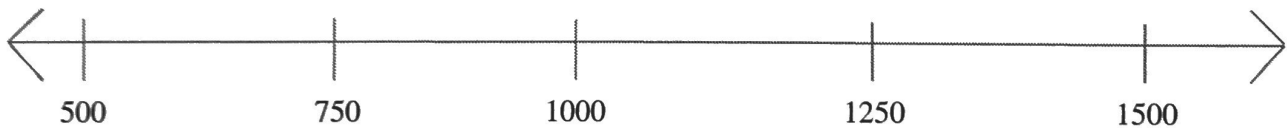
"Weapons and armor are a country's tools of violence. A warlike country, however huge and safe it may be, will end up declining and endangering its people. Military force cannot be entirely eliminated nor used all the time. Teach people military arts when they are free from farming in order to prepare them when necessary. ... Confucius said, 'Not teaching people how to fight is the same as discarding them.' Hence military might serves to benefit all China."

1. What was the Emperor's main point about the use of military force?
2. What does he think about building a military?
3. How could the Emperor's position on military force make China both strong and unified?

**Technological Inventions and Cultural Innovations of Tang and Song China**

<i>Invention</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Impact</i>
Gunpowder	900 CE	Explosive powder made from a mixture of saltpeter, sulfur and charcoal	First used for fireworks, then later for weapons; technology spread west within 300 years
Magnetic Compass	1100 CE	Floating magnetized needle that always points north-south; device existed in China for centuries before it was adapted by sailors for use at sea	Helped China become a sea power; technology spread quickly to the west
Mechanical Clock	725 CE	Clock in which machinery, driven by running water, regulated the movements	Early Chinese clocks were short lived; idea for mechanical clocks was carried by traders to medieval Europe
Paper Money	960 CE	Paper currency issued by the Song government to replace cumbersome strings of metal coins used by merchants	Contributed to the development of large-scale commercial economy in China; quickly spread to the west
Porcelain	600 CE	Bone-hard white ceramic made of a special clay and a mineral found only in China	Became a valuable export; now known as "China;" technology remained a Chinese secret for centuries
Block Printing	735 CE	One block on which a whole copy of one page is created	Printing technology spread to Korea and Japan

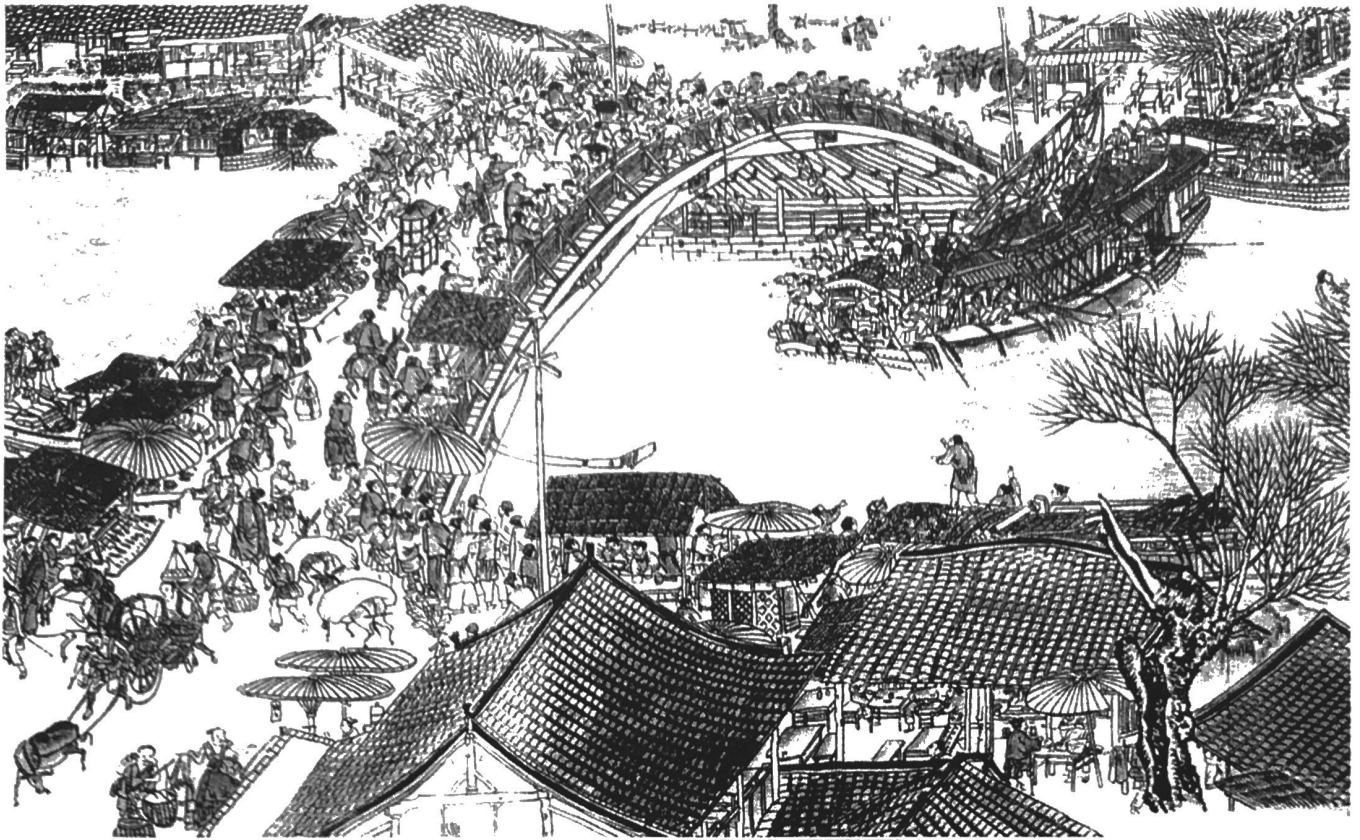
1. Based on the information above, fill in this time line to display the sequence of inventions.



2. Choose two inventions from the chart above and explain how they helped China achieve a golden age.



Document 8



1. Describe the scene depicted by the artist in the above drawing.
2. Describe THREE examples of urbanization show in this picture.
3. How might successful business activity lead to cultural diversity?