The Emergence of East Asia, to 1200

1. The Emergence of East Asia
   1. Similar to the period after the fall of the Han, the period directly following the end of the Tang was a time of fragmentation
   2. In 960, the Song Empire was established
   3. Distanced themselves from seafaring and sailing technologies
   4. Tried to avoid “barbaric” or “foreign” influences
   5. Korea, Japan, and several SE Asian states strengthened their ties with China
2. Song Industries
   1. Song developments in mathematics and astronomy was due to the migration of Indians during the Tang dynasty
      1. Invented fractions, originally used to describe the phases of the moon
      2. Created a giant mechanical clock that was powered by water and could tell the time of day, the day of the month, and the movement of the moon and certain starts
      3. Created protective case for the compass allowing for use on ships
   2. Song military was extremely large (over one million soldiers)
      1. The use of iron and steel was extremely important
      2. Gunpowder was developed to propel a cluster of flaming arrows into oncoming cavalry
      3. Eventually made very simple cannons with limited range, which were only viable as defensive measures
3. Economy and Society
   1. Despite such a large military, civil life was more important than the military
   2. Confucianism remained very prominent in political life but Buddhism still made an impact
   3. Tests were created to choose civil servants and this tradition lasted for decades
      1. These tests were meant to find the best candidates, regardless of their background
      2. However, wealthy young men had much more time to study than those forced to work in fields
   4. Success on the tests brought about a good marriage, a high salary, and prestige
      1. However, failure could ruin a man both socially and psychologically
   5. The Song dynasty advanced the field of printing
      1. Moved from wooden blocks to a primitive system of moveable type
      2. Realized that their ability to control what was on the civil service exam meant that they could indoctrinate millions of young men
      3. Printed materials that could be bought helped to improve techniques for irrigation, terracing, weaving, harvesting, and tree cultivation
   6. During the 1100s, the population of Chinese territories rose to 100 million
      1. Unlike many places in the world, Chinese cities were growing
   7. The Song pioneered the use of paper money in order to attempt to pay for their massive military (did not go well)
   8. The Song economy grew so fast that it could not control monopolies and could not collect the heavy tax burdens needed to prosper
   9. Merchants and artisans/craftsmen were now able to become wealthy thanks to the limited power of the government to enforce economic laws
      1. This meant that land was no longer the only source of wealth
      2. The traditional social hierarchy common to an agricultural economy was changed forever, as people in cities were able to gain wealth
   10. Women in the Song dynasty were unable to own their own property and were forbidden to remarry if their husbands divorced them or died
   11. The most dramatic change in the condition of women during this period resulted from footbinding among the elites of the Song
       1. The process involved forcing the toes under and toward the heel so that the bones broke and the woman could not walk on her own
       2. Girls with unbound feet would not be desirable to men or society
4. Essential Partners: Korea, Japan, and Vietnam
   1. The elites of these states learned Chinese and studied with Chinese Confucianism scholars
   2. Not much is known about the early history of these states
   3. Korea
      1. Helped in the creation of moveable type
   4. Japan
      1. Became an center of Buddhist life and study
      2. No need for a “Mandate of Heaven” in Japan because the ruling family had been in charge since the beginning of its known history
      3. Samurai become elite military class of Japan
   5. SE Asia
      1. **Champa Rice**: Originally from India, this Vietnamese rice became important to the Song Dynasty
      2. Women had a higher social status before the arrival of Confucionism, due to the need for everyone to help with wet-rice cultivation