

# *Song Dynasty*

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# **Tiffany-Main Ideas of the Song Dynasty**

- The Song Dynasty was established by Zhao Kuangyin
- Zhao Kuangyin was a general during 951 to 960 A.D. He became the founder of Northern Song.
- The dynasty Brought China to one of its heights in it's economy, architecture, and intellect.

## Introduction---- When they ruled.



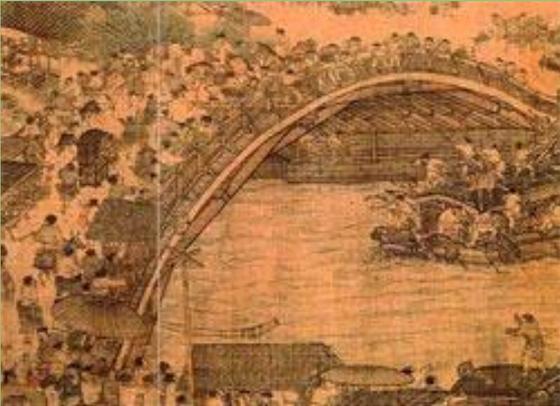
- The Song Dynasty ruled from 960 to 1279 B.C.
- The dynasty was divided into two phases the Northern Song (960-1127 A.D.) and Southern Song (1127-1279 A.D.).



# Facts

- The Song Dynasty was called the Medieval period in China.
- The dynasty had a weak military.
- Chinese operas started during this time along with the art of paper cutting.

**Legend says** ... Out of all the wonderful things that Marco Polo discovered in the Song Dynasty, he was most most impressed by the fabulous new creation, the Rainbow Bridge. It was called the Rainbow Bridge because of the way it was bent - in the shape of a rainbow.



# Kat- Economics

- The economy of the Song Dynasty was actually one of the most advanced economies in all of the Dynasties.
- Only the men of the highest talents were trusted and given the opportunity to set policies and decisions in the government.
- An issue that the leading officials had was the factionalism (the splitting of a group into factions; Conflict between factions) of the Song state. They were trying to stay strong and suitable to conquer the foreign threats.



# Kat-Popular Goods

Popular chinese goods that were sold in huge amounts tea, silk, copper coins mind that copper coins were used everywhere in china, all types of books, papers, grains and/or spices, porcelain and personal adornments.



were

# Danny-Politics- Northern Song

- The Song Dynasty was made up of 2 phases, the Northern Song and the Southern Song.
- The Northern Song's first emperor and founder was Zhao Kuangyin.
- The first emperor of the Song dynasty (Zhao Kuangyin) adopted a central bureaucratic system employing
- The bureaucrats made the laws and enforced them in this society.
- Zhao Kuangyin expanded exams to find more political talent, and so bureaucrats dominated the government.
- This led to giving the Song Dynasties government than any other dynasty.



# Politics- Southern Song



- Jin people brought an end to the Northern Song
- The Southern Song's regime was subject to the Jin
- The Southern Song was set up by Zhao Kuangyin's son, Zhao Gou
- The Southern Song government was made up of legal and political reforms and trying to revive the philosophy of Confucianism
- The government's rules were beneficial to the people and their way of life
- Bureaucrats had a large impact on making laws

# Christyn: Song Dynasty Society

## The Civil Service system

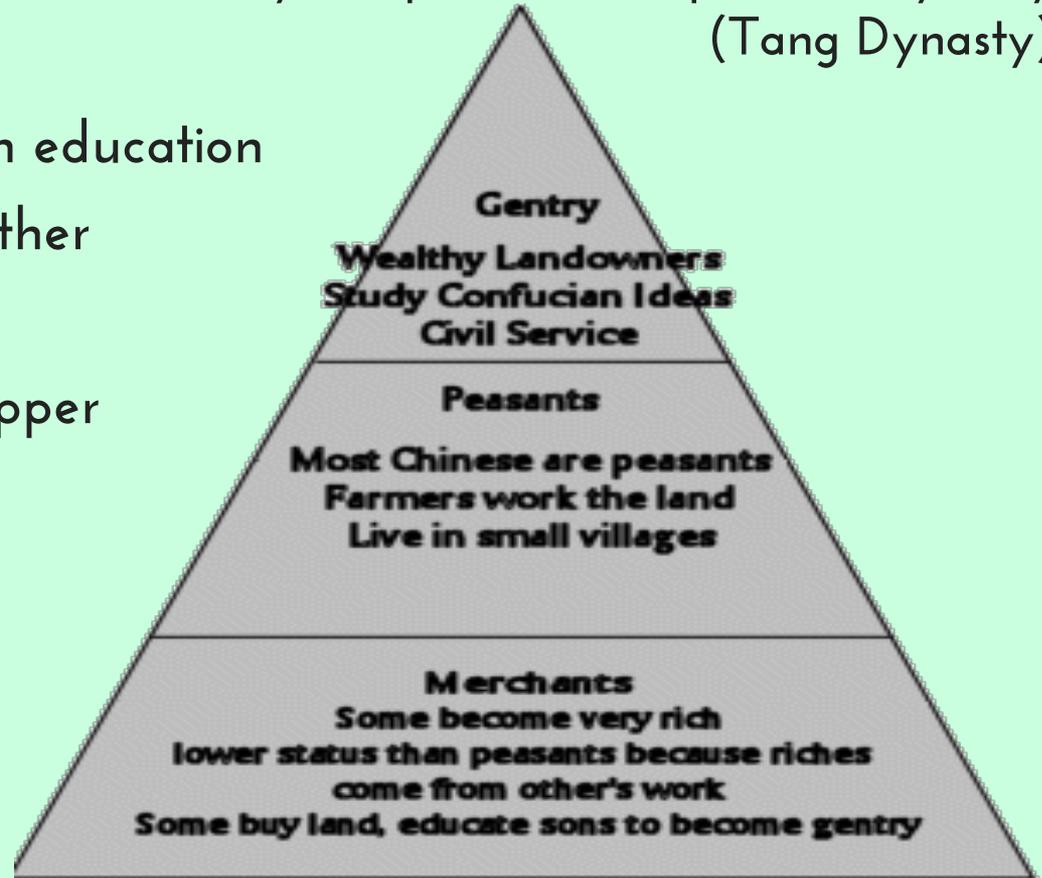
- ★ the civil service system determined scholar-officials in the dynasty based on their intelligence through a series of very difficult and competitive exams
- ★ these scholar-officials made up a new social class in China known as "Gentry"



# Social Classes

more social mobility compared to the previous dynasty  
(Tang Dynasty)

- > gentry: status attained from education and civil service positions (rather than land ownership)
- > scholar officials made up upper class families



# Society- Role of Women and Children

• According to Confucian principles women during this time were expected to attend to the duties of the home. This includes:

- taking care of children
- spinning yarn, weaving cloth
- sewing clothing
- cooking meals
- cleaning.
- spinning silk





# Chinese Foot Binding



## "Lotus Feet"

- showed status and beauty  
(women in wealthy families who did not need to work could afford this)
- ideal foot: delicate, tiny, narrow feet
- attempt in the 1600s for banishment; officially banned in the 1912



# Society- thoughts, ideas and philosophies

The Song Dynasty followed the philosophy of **Confucius** such as social order by means of what was proper (moral behavior)

Society was modeled upon familial social order of superiors and inferiors, for example women were considered inferior. Confucian principles told and how a superior member in a family should make rewards or punishments when dealing with an inferior member one's family.



# Luka Technology/Achievements- Architecture

-During the Song Dynasty it became fashion to make iron pagoda buildings (sacred Buddhist temple).

-These temples were segmented and if architects and builders were able to get the right type of casting they could work out structures and patterns that met their desires.

-The design was made for diagonal wind bracing.



# Technology/Achievements-Technology

-In weapon technology, advancements were enhanced by gunpowder. Enhancements were made in the early evolution of the:

- Flamethrower
- Explosive grenade
- Firearm
- Cannon
- Land mine



# Technology/Achievements-Technology

- Polymaths (people with a wide range of knowledge) and astronomers of the Song Dynasty were using technology and creating inventions to improve studies like biology, botany, zoology, geology, mineralogy, archeology, mechanics, horology, pharmaceutical medicine, mathematics, astronomy, cartography, optics, art criticism, and more.
- Polymaths used compasses to find magnetic declination, while astronomers used hydraulic-powered clock towers.
- Hydraulics and canal pound locks came about at this time and it allowed water levels to be raised or lowered.

# Technology/Achievements-Art

- Art wasn't considered to be a main profession and it would mostly be a secondary job.
- Art consisted of mostly ceramics and paintings.
- As art wasn't seen as its own profession, it was more of a recreation and was created for expression.



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