

How did the reunification of China under the Tang Dynasty lead to the diffusion of Buddhism?



7.20

Describe the reunification of China under the Tang Dynasty and reasons for the cultural diffusion of Buddhism. (C, G, H, P)

Turn to your map of the Silk Road

1. What cities in China did it reach?
2. Infer what was difficult about travel into China?



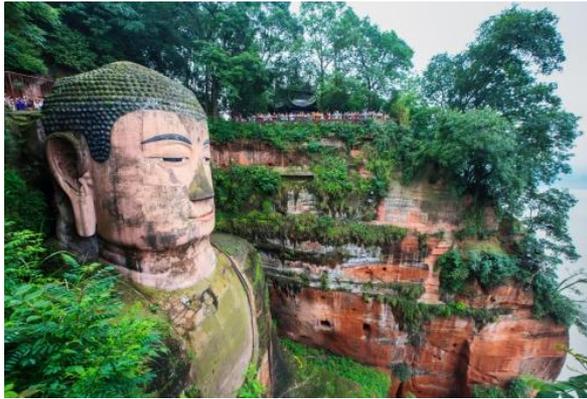
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Buddhism		
bureaucracy		
dynasty		
grand canal		

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dynasty		Series of rulers from the same family
grand canal		A canal in China that linked the Yellow River (Huang He) to the Chiang Jiang River (Yangtze)

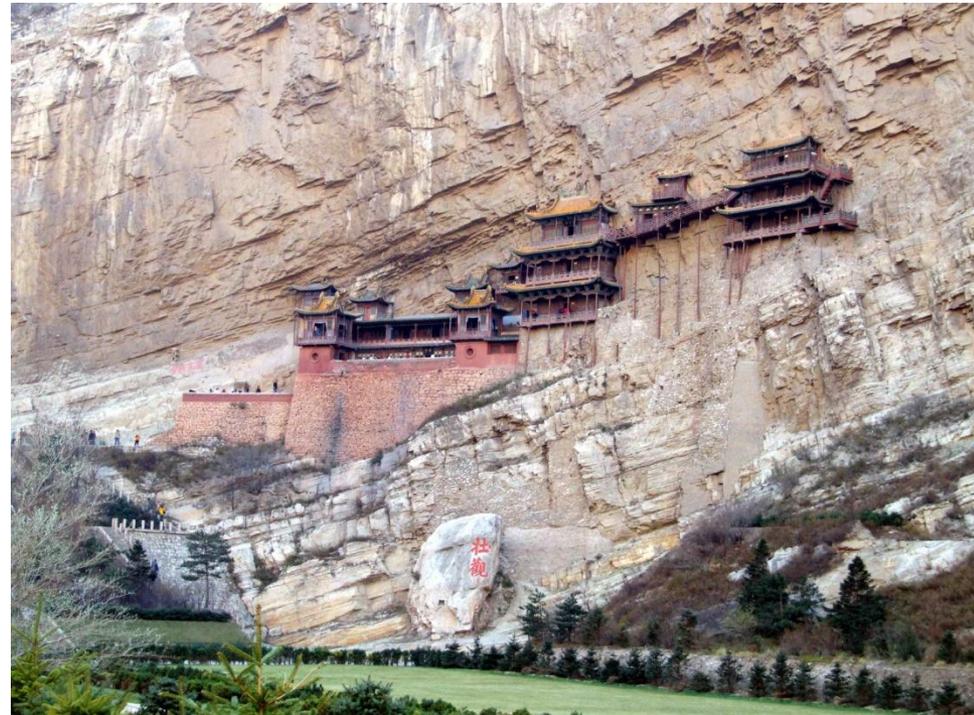


3-2-1

3 important facts
about the Tang Dynasty
2 reasons Chang'an
was significant
1 religion that diffused
through the dynasty

Read

142 – 143, 164





Achievements of the Tang Dynasty	Significance of the capital Chang'an	Diffusion of Buddhism
<p>Built a strong central government by reviving China's official bureaucracy... a system with departments and ranks. This allowed for efficiency.</p> <p>Expanded nation's borders to its largest size at that point.</p> <p>First and only woman to rule China was ruling this time. She was considered ruthless.</p>	<p>Became the largest city in the world at that point with more than 1 million inhabitants.</p> <p>May be the largest "planned" city ever built. Walls were 5 miles by 6 miles.</p> <p>Positioned at eastern end of the Silk Road.</p> <p>Displayed a blend of many different cultures as a result of trade along the Silk Road.</p>	<p>Diffused to China during the Han Dynasty (the dynasty before Sui/Tang Dynasty)</p> <p>Adapted and absorbed elements of Daoism.</p> <p>Temples and monasteries grew rich from donations. People were rich because of trade involving the Silk Road.</p>

Summarize

What did the Tang dynasty do with the government that was significant?

What was the capital and what was significant about it?



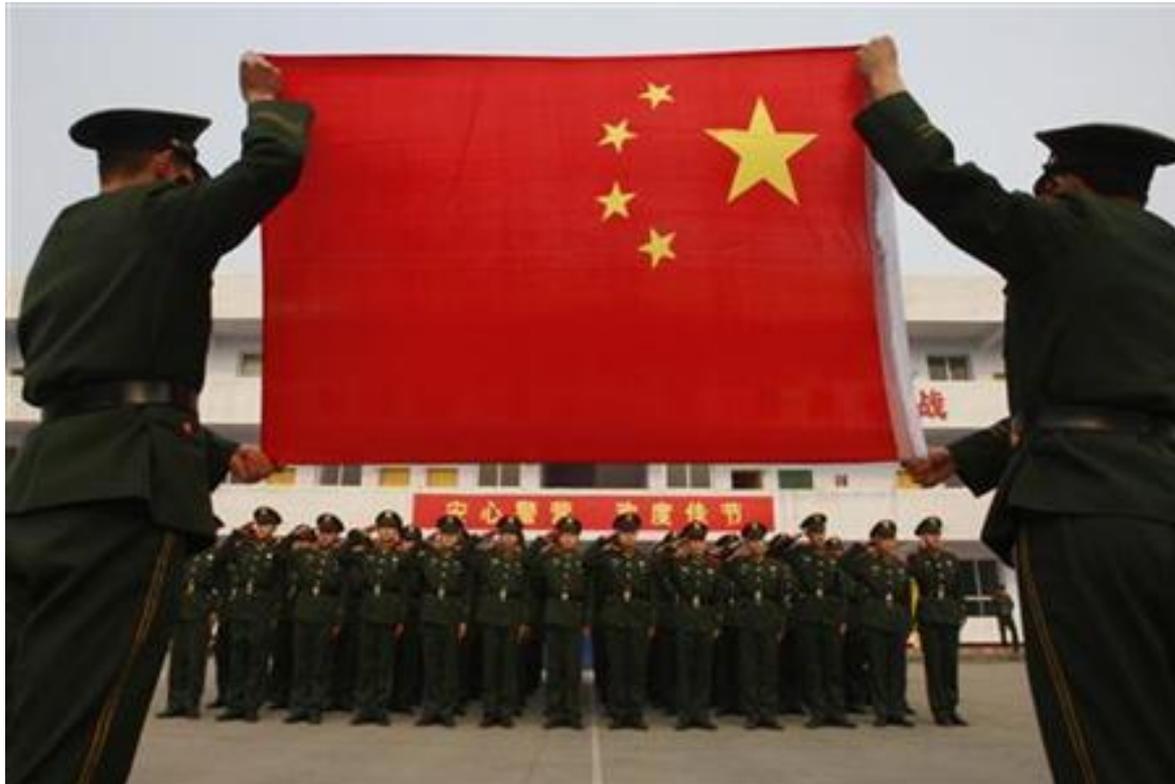
Discuss what a person had to do to work for the government.

Why was this inventive?

Do requirements such as this still exist today?

Think, Ink, Share:

Record one advantage and one disadvantage to a civil service exam.



Summary

Create a 5 question quiz on the information to exchange with a neighbor. Write your name at the top.

Classroom shuffle.

Take the quiz. Write your name on the quiz.

Hand it back to the author of the quiz for grading.

Submit to basket.

If time permits, share story of Tiananmen Square and China's high value of loyalty to government.



Tang Dynasty 618–907

The Tang dynasty enjoyed a long period of stable government and political rule bolstered by its strong military and centralized civil service examination system. It was also an era of great territorial expansion and prosperity. The capital city of Chang'an (present-day Xi'an, Shaanxi province), became a great cosmopolitan center situated at the terminus of the Central Asian silk route, attracting foreign visitors and goods from various oasis towns located along the Taklimakan Desert. The cultural achievements of the Tang were no less impressive; the arts and poetry of this period represent a pinnacle of Chinese civilization.

The Tang dynasty was founded by the Sui dynasty general, Li Yuan (566–635), who was posthumously known as Emperor Gaozu. Retaining many Sui administrative institutions and policies, the early Tang government was highly centralized and depended on a complex system of administrative law. Over time, the authority of the ruling aristocracy gave way to professional bureaucrats who were recruited through the civil examination system. The reign of Emperor Xuanzong (r. 712–756) is considered one of the most brilliant cultural periods of the Tang. Xuanzong was himself a scholar and patron of the arts, and his court became a center of cultural activity.

The Tang was also an active period of cultural interaction between China and her neighbors. Buddhism flourished as foreign missionaries, monks and teachers passed through Chang'an, bringing with them new ideas and religious texts that were initially welcomed by the Tang rulers. The monk Xuanzang (602–664) visited India and Nepal, returning with Buddhist texts, many of which were then translated into Chinese under government sponsorship. By the mid-ninth century, however, as China turned inward and government finances grew strained, Buddhism suffered significant persecution. Under the great proscription of 842–845, millions of Buddhist monks and nuns were forcibly secularized and placed back in the tax rolls, while Buddhist land and temples were reclaimed by the state.