MAIN IDEAS

1 Government The Han Dynasty, China’s strong central government, fell in A.D. 220. A period of conflict followed.

2 Belief Systems China went through major changes in its belief systems.

3 Government In 589, the Sui Dynasty reunified China. In 618, the Tang Dynasty took over China.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Understanding Cause and Effect

Following causes and effects will help you understand why events occurred. In Lesson 1, look for the effects of each event listed in the chart. Record the effects on a chart of your own.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Effects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Han Dynasty falls.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Buddhism becomes widely practiced.</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Sui and Tang dynasties reunify China.</td>
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Han Watchtower The Han often placed pottery models of buildings, like the military watchtower above, in tombs. These models provided the deceased with shelter and protection in the afterlife.

CALIFORNIA STANDARDS

7.3.1 Describe the reunification of China under the Tang Dynasty and reasons for the spread of Buddhism in Tang China, Korea, and Japan.

7.3.2 Describe agricultural, technological, and commercial developments during the Tang and Song periods.

7.3.3 Analyze the influences of Confucianism and changes in Confucian thought during the Song and Mongol periods.

HI 1 Students explain the central issues and problems from the past, placing people and events in a matrix of time and place.
Reunifying China

Build on What You Know  What words would you use to describe the country of China? Does your list include the words huge and powerful? In this chapter, you will learn that China was a huge and powerful country 1,500 years ago.

Fall of the Han Dynasty

ESSENTIAL QUESTION  What happened after the Han Dynasty fell in A.D. 220?

The Han Dynasty, founded in 206 B.C., was a period of progress and prosperity for China. In time, however, political struggles, social problems, and a widening gap between rich and poor weakened the Han Dynasty. It fell in A.D. 220.

Conflict and Chaos  A time of great disorder followed. Various kingdoms fought among themselves. Invading nomads from the north crossed the Mongolian Plateau into northern China. (A nomad is a person who moves from place to place.) Floods, droughts, and food shortages also plagued the land.

Despite these troubles, Chinese culture survived. In the north, the invading nomads eventually settled down and adopted Chinese customs. In the south, good harvests and growing trade helped people to prosper. Even so, most Chinese people led difficult lives.

REVIEW  What were the effects of the fall of the Han Dynasty on China?

TERMS & NAMES
nomad
Confucianism
Buddhism
Daoism
reunify

The Himalayas  This great mountain range provided a barrier to protect China from invasion from the southwest.
Changes in Belief Systems

ESSENTIAL QUESTION What changes took place in China’s belief systems?

The turmoil after the fall of the Han Dynasty led to major changes in China’s belief systems.

Confucianism For centuries, the Chinese had looked to Confucianism (kuhn•FYOO•shuh•nihz•uhm) for comfort and guidance. Confucianism is a belief system based on the ideas of Confucius (551–479 B.C.). He was a scholar who taught moral virtues and ethics—ideas of right and wrong. In his teachings, Confucius emphasized these principles.

• Use right relationships to produce social order.
• Respect family and older generations.
• Educate individuals and society.
• Act in morally correct ways.

Confucianism Influences Chinese Life Confucianism affected many aspects of Chinese government and society. For example, Confucius taught that people could advance in life through education. An emphasis on education helped to produce an efficient, well-trained set of government officials.

Confucius’ ideas also influenced society. He thought society should be organized around five basic relationships. A code of conduct governed these relationships. For example, one relationship was between ruler and subject. Confucius taught that the ruler should be virtuous and kind. The subject should be loyal and obey the law. Other relationships were based on the family. Confucius wanted children to have respect for their parents and older generations. Around A.D. 200, however, Confucianism began to lose its influence as the Han Dynasty lost power.

The Spread of Buddhism As Confucianism lost influence, many Chinese turned to Buddhism. Buddhism is a religion that started in India and is based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama (sihd•DAHR•tuh GOW•tuh•muh) (c. 566–486 B.C.). Siddhartha was known as the Buddha, or “Enlightened One.”

Buddha This huge seated Buddha, located in caves about 150 miles west of Beijing, was carved in the fifth century A.D. ▶
Buddhism teaches the following principles:

- Suffering is a part of life.
- The reason people suffer is that they are too attached to material possessions and selfish ideas.
- By living in a wise, moral, and thoughtful way, people can eventually learn to escape suffering.

During the first century A.D., missionaries and traders carried Buddhist teachings to China, as the above map shows. Over time, the religion spread into Korea and Japan too. Buddhism became widely practiced after the Han Dynasty fell. Buddhist teachings helped people endure the suffering that followed the dynasty’s collapse.

**Influences on Confucianism** Confucianism began to enjoy a rebirth in the 600s. However, gradual changes began to take place in Confucian thought. Buddhism and Daoism caused some of these changes. **Daoism** is a belief system that seeks harmony with nature and with inner feelings. Daoism began in China in the 500s B.C.

Since the Han Dynasty, Confucianism had mostly been a set of social ethics and political principles. Later, during the Song Dynasty, Confucian thinkers blended Buddhism and Daoism into Confucianism. As a result, Confucianism broadened its outlook.
A Change in Confucian Thought  This new Confucianism was greatly concerned with human behavior and a person’s relationship with the universe. It emphasized the following principles:

- Morality is the highest goal a person can reach.
- This morality can be achieved through education.
- Education can occur through books, observation, or interaction with other wise people.

How did China’s belief systems change?

The Sui and Tang Dynasties Reunify China

ESSENTIAL QUESTION  How did the Sui and Tang dynasties reunify and strengthen China?

After the fall of the Han, the Chinese people endured more than 350 years of chaos and conflict. Finally, the Sui (sway) Dynasty (581–618) reunified China and brought order. Reunify means to bring a group together after it has been divided.

The Sui Dynasty  Yang Jian founded the Sui Dynasty. He was a general in the army of the Zhou (joh), the rulers of northern China. In 581, he took power by killing the heir to the Zhou throne—his grandson. He then massacred 59 royal princes. By 589, he had conquered the south and reunified China. He declared himself first emperor of the Sui Dynasty. Later he became known as Wendi.

The Great Wall  Wendi rebuilt parts of the Great Wall to keep out invaders. This section of the wall winds through the mountains northwest of Beijing.
Wendi Reunifies China  During his rule, Wendi did many things to make the Chinese feel more unified. He restored old political traditions that reminded the Chinese of their glorious past. For example, on taking the throne he accepted the traditional Chinese imperial gifts of red doors for his house and a robe with a red sash.

Wendi also reduced conflict by allowing people to follow their own belief systems. Although he was a Buddhist, he encouraged Daoist beliefs and practices. As you read earlier, Confucianism also enjoyed a rebirth during this time. For example, candidates for government jobs once again had to take a civil service examination. The examination carried out Confucious’s belief that a government had to be built on the skill of its people.

Wendi also began public works projects. He rebuilt portions of the Great Wall, which you learned about on pages 206–207. He also started the building of the Grand Canal. It connected the Huang He (Yellow River) and Chang Jiang (Yangtze River), linking northern and southern China. Thousands of peasants labored five years to dig the Grand Canal. Nearly half of them died during the project.

Wendi and his successor, Yangdi, raised taxes to pay for all these projects. In time, the Chinese people grew tired of high taxes, and they revolted. As a result, the dynasty fell after only 37 years.
The Tang Dynasty  Although the Sui Dynasty lasted only a short time, it set the foundation for the Tang Dynasty. The Tang Dynasty started in 618 and ruled for nearly 300 years. During this period, China expanded its borders on all sides. In addition, Tang emperors expanded the network of roads and canals to bring the country together. Such a large empire needed many officials to manage it. So the Tang emperors fully adopted the Confucian ideas of how government should be run. The Tang government system was one of the most advanced and complex in the world at the time.

Tang Emperors  Taizong (ty•johng) helped his father, Gaozu (gow•joo), to found the Tang Dynasty. Taizong seized the throne in 626 after killing his two brothers and all ten of his brothers’ sons. Even though Taizong used violence to rise to power, many Chinese considered him a fair and just leader. For example, he did not overburden peasants with high taxes. He also took some lands from the rich to give to peasants.

In 690 Wu Zhao (woo jow) declared herself emperor. She was the only woman to occupy the throne of China. She proved to be a capable leader. One of her greatest achievements was the reconquest of Korea. (China had ruled Korea earlier, in the 660s and 670s.) She did not leave power until 705, when she was more than 80 years old.
Another great Tang emperor, Xuanzong (shwahn•zung), came to power in 712. He ruled for more than 40 years. During his reign, Chinese literature and art reached great heights. The Tang period is best known for its masterful and lively poetry. (See the Primary Source feature on page 228.) Also, Tang sculptures of graceful horses were greatly desired trade items.

In the next lesson, you will learn more about the development of the Chinese empire. In addition, you will learn about agricultural, technological, and commercial developments in China.

**REVIEW** What methods did the Sui and Tang dynasties use to reunify and strengthen China?

**Lesson Summary**
- Confucianism helped shape Chinese beliefs about social morals and political principles.
- Buddhism spread throughout East Asia because it helped people during difficult times.
- The Sui and Tang dynasties reunited China and brought a new sense of national identity.

**Why It Matters Now . . .**
In Asia today about 10 percent of the population follows Confucianism and Buddhism.

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**Terms & Names**

1. Explain the importance of nomad Buddhism reunify Confucianism Daoism

**Using Your Notes**

**Understanding Cause and Effect** Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

2. How did the fall of the Han Dynasty affect the spread of Buddhism? (7.3.1)

**Main Ideas**

3. Why did Buddhism spread throughout China and other Asian countries? (7.3.1)
4. How did Confucianism influence Chinese society and government? (7.3.3)
5. What actions by Sui and Tang emperors helped unify China? (7.3.2)

**Critical Thinking**

6. **Comparing and Contrasting** Compare the role of families and older generations in Confucianism and in West African culture. (7.3.3)
7. **Making Generalizations** How did Wendi view peasants? Provide examples to support your generalizations. (7.3.1)

**Activity**

**Creating an Illustrated Chart** Review the information about the teachings of Confucius in this lesson. Create a chart that shows the basic ideas of what Confucius taught. Use drawings to illustrate the teachings. (7.3.3)