**Rise of the Tang and Song Lecture Notes**

**Directions:** While Ms. Babbitt is giving the lecture, you should be following along, making QUALITY annotations, including underlining AND marginal notes!

**Slide 1: Introduction- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* Unlike the fall of the Western Roman Empire, which led to a period of political fragmentation, the fall of the Han in the Classical Era China was able to regain its unity. The first dynasty to rule after the Han was short-lived. Named the Sui, this dynasty ruled from 589-618 CE.
* The two dynasties that followed- the Tang and the Song, built on this new sense of unity. Together they established patterns of Chinese life that endured into the twentieth century.
* Today we will look at the rise of the Tang and the Song. I will argue that **the Tang and the Song were able to rise to power by building on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of their predecessors, while also creating \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of political control that were better suited for the Post-Classical Era.**

**Slide 2: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Structures- from the Classical to Post-Classical Era**

* During the Classical Era, through the Qin and Han Dynasties, China was able to create a strong centralized government that used a large bureaucracy, standardized currency, and a well-organized taxation system.
* As the Classical Era came to a close, and the flaws of the Han caused their downfall, **the Tang and the Song were able to reinvent Chinese politics- politics that were better suited for the Post-Classical Era.**
* **Politically, the Tang and Song dynasties built a state structure that endured for a thousand years. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ major ministries- personnel, finance, rights, army, justice, and public works- were intertwined with the Censorate, an agency that exercised surveillance over the rest of the government.**
* To staff this bureaucracy, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **examination system used in the Han Dynasty was revived and made more elaborate, encouraged by the ability to print books for the first time in world history**.
* Efforts to prevent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the exams included searching candidates entering into the exam room and placing numbers rather than names on their papers. Schools and college dedicated to training potential officials became a central part of upper-class society.
* As in the Han Dynasty, this merit-based system was intended to award bureaucratic jobs to any quality candidate, regardless of their social status. However, in practice many of these jobs went to the sons of aristocratic families. This led to further social stratification.

**Slide 3: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Culturally, the rule of the Tang and Song is known as the “golden age” of arts and literature, setting standards of excellence in poetry, landscape, painting, and ceramics.**
* Particularly **during the Song dynasty, an explosion of scholarship gave rise to Neo-Confucianism, an effort to revive Confucian thinking while incorporating the insights of Buddhism and Daoism.**

**Slide 4: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Factors that led to the Success of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* Underlying these cultural and political achievements was an “economic revolution” that made Song Dynasty China by far the richest, most skilled, and most populous country on Earth.
* This economic revolution was another key factor in the Tang and Song’s growth and continued prosperity.
* The most obvious sign of this prosperity was its rapid \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ growth, which jumped from 50-60 million during the Tang Dynasty to 120 million by the year 1200.
* **Behind this doubling of the population were remarkable achievements in agricultural production, particularly the adoption of a fast-ripening and drought-resistant strain of rice from Vietnam.**

**Slide 5: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Many people found their way into \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, making China the most urbanized country in the world.**
* Dozens of Chinese cities numbered over 100,000 people, with the Song capital was home to more than a million people. Supplying these cities with food was made possible by an immense network of internal waterways- canals, rivers, and lakes- stretching perhaps 30,000 miles. They provided a cheap transportation system that bound the country together economically and created the “world’s most populous trading area”.

**Slide 6: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* Industrial production likewise soared. In both large-scale enterprises and smaller scale operations, China’s iron industry began to produce more goods.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ innovations in other fields also flourished. Inventions in printing, both woodblock and movable type, generated the world’s first printed books, and by 1000 relatively cheap books on religious, agricultural, mathematical, and medical topics became widely accessible. As a result, the literacy rate soared.
* Its navigational and ship building technologies led the world. The Chinese invention of gunpowder created within a few centuries a revolution in military affairs that had global dimensions. Most remarkably, all of this occurred within the world’s most highly commercialized society while also making goods for a global market.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ transportation allowed for peasants to grow specialized crops for sale, while purchasing rice and other staples at the market.

Slide 7: Conclusion

* Ultimately**, the Tang and the Song were able to rise to power by building on the success of their predecessors, while also creating new methods of political control that were better suited for the Post-Classical Era. Their political, technological, economic, and cultural innovations led to the Chinese Golden Age**