**Chapter 8 Reading Guide**

1. List some examples of how China influenced the world around it during the Post-Classical period.
2. List some examples of how China was influenced by outside civilizations during the Post-Classical period.

**I. Together Again: The Reemergence of a Unified China**

1. How were politics in China affected by the collapse of the Han dynasty?
2. How was the environment of China affected after the fall of the Han dynasty?

**A. A “Golden Age” of Chinese Achievement**

1. What dynasty reunified China in the Post-Classical era and how were they able to do so?
2. What two dynasties replaced the Sui?
3. Why are the centuries of the Tang and Song dynasties in China sometimes referred to as a “golden age?”
4. Define “**Neo-Confucianism**”
5. What political continuities persisted in China during the Post-Classical era?
6. Describe how government officials were selected during this time period.
7. What change occurred to the Chinese population during this time? What caused this change to happen?
8. Describe what a traveler would encounter in a typical Chinese city.
9. List at least 2 examples of the Chinese altering their environment to improve their quality of life.
10. List at least 3 important inventions the Chinese contribute to the world during this time period.
11. What change (innovation) did the Chinese government make in regard to collecting taxes? How did this affect the Chinese economy overall?

**B. Women in the Song Dynasty**

1. How did the Tang dynasty’s treatment of women differ from that of the Han dynasty? What accounts for the difference?
   1. Difference:
   2. Reason for difference:
2. In what ways did the Song dynasty restrict the role of women in society?
3. In what ways did the Song dynasty improve the role of women in society?

**II. China and the Northern Nomads: A Chinese World Order in the Making**

1. Describe the pastoral nomadic groups the Chinese often came into contact with.
2. In what ways did the Chinese and their nomadic neighbors mutually depend on one another
   1. Examples of Nomads depending on Chinese:
   2. Examples of Chinese depending on nomads:

**A. The Tribute System in Theory**

1. Describe how China viewed itself in relation to it’s nomadic neighbors and other Non-Chinese populations.
2. The text says that the Chinese viewed themselves as “self-sufficient.” Define “**self-sufficient**”
3. Define “**Tribute**” (Hint: see the chapter 8 wrap up at the end of the chapter- page 8a.)
4. Describe the Chinese tributary system in theory.

**B. The Tribute System in Practice**

1. How did the tribute system in practice differ form the ideal Chinese understanding of its operation?

**C. Cultural Influence across an Ecological Frontier**

1. In what ways did the Chinese and the nomads influence each other:
   1. Chinese influence on nomads:
   2. Nomads influence on the Chinese:

**III. Coping with China: Comparing Korea, Vietnam, and Japan**

1. How were Korea, Vietnam, and Japan similar to other “developing” Afro-Eurasian societies of the Post-Classical Era?

**A. Korea and China**

1. What changes and continuities occurred in Korea as a result of their interactions with China?
   1. Changes:
   2. Continuities:

**B. Vietnam and China**

1. How was Vietnam’s relationship to China similar and different to Korea?
   1. Similarities:
   2. Differences:
2. Once Vietnam was established as a separate state from China what elements of Chinese culture remained and what changes occurred to make Vietnamese culture unique from China?
3. Elements of Chinese culture that remained:
4. Examples of culture unique to Vietnam:

**C. Japan and China**

1. How was Japan’s relationship with China different than that of Vietnam or Korea?
2. What elements of Chinese politics and culture did the Japanese adopt in the Post-Classical era?
3. Give some examples of how the Japanese civilization remained unique from China. (hint: describe how the Japanese were unique in the following categories)
   1. Politics:
   2. Religion:
   3. Writing and Art:
4. How did Japanese and Korean women differ in their experience with the adoption of Confucianism from China? Why did this difference exist?
5. Difference:
6. Reason for difference:

**IV. China and the Eurasia World Economy**

**A. Spillovers: China’s Impact on Eurasia**

1. List some Chinese inventions and products that influenced Eurasian trade during this era.
2. The text agues that Chinese technologies often spurred on more inventions in distant lands as they used Chinese products to fit their needs. Give at least one example of a Chinese technology that led to the invention of an additional technology.
3. How did Chinese products and wealth affect trade in Afro-Eurasia?

**B. On the Receiving End: China as Economic Beneficiary**

1. What positive influences on agriculture did China receive from contact with the outside world?
2. How was Chinese technology affected by contact with other civilizations?
3. How did Chinese participation in trade, particularly in the Indian Ocean, affect it’s population?

**V. China and Buddhism**

1. According to the text, what was the most significant “gift” the Chinese received from its contact with India?

**A. Making Buddhism Chinese**

1. Why was Buddhism not initially popular during the Han dynasty in China?
2. What facilitated the rooting of Buddhism within China?
3. Give some examples of syncretism in Chinese Buddhism.
4. Describe Pure Land Buddhism.
5. Describe Buddhism’s relationship with the Chinese government.

**B. Losing State Support: The Crisis of Chinese Buddhism**

1. What were some of the main sources of opposition to Buddhism within China?
2. How did the Chinese government’s interaction with Buddhism change after circa 800 CE?

**VI. Reflections: Why Do Things Change?**

1. What is arguably the primary source of change within a particular civilization?