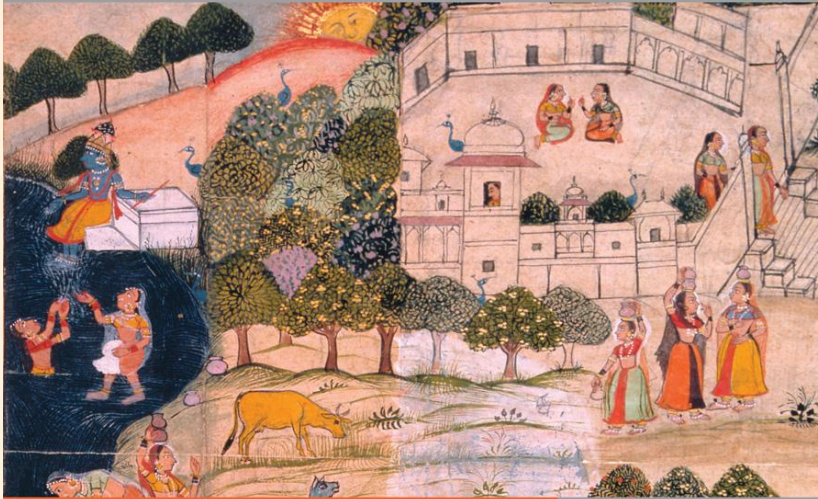


PHILIP J. ADLER / RANDALL L. POWELS

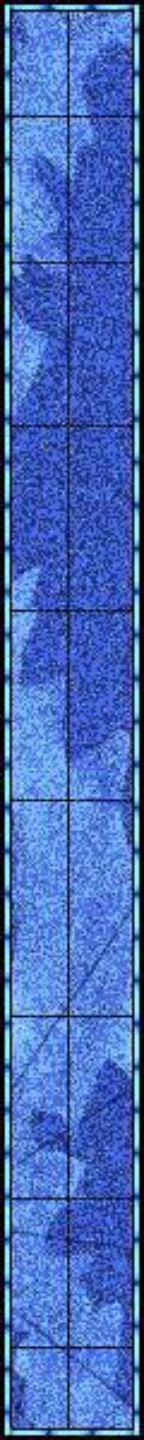
# WORLD CIVILIZATIONS



Seventh Edition

## Chapter 13 Imperial China in Its Golden Age

<b>221–206 B.C.E.</b>	Qin Dynasty
<b>202 B.C.E.–220 C.E.</b>	Han Dynasty
<b>220–580 C.E.</b>	China divided
<b>580–618 C.E.</b>	Sui Dynasty reunifies China
<b>618–907 C.E.</b>	Tang Dynasty



# The Qin Emperor – Foundation of the State

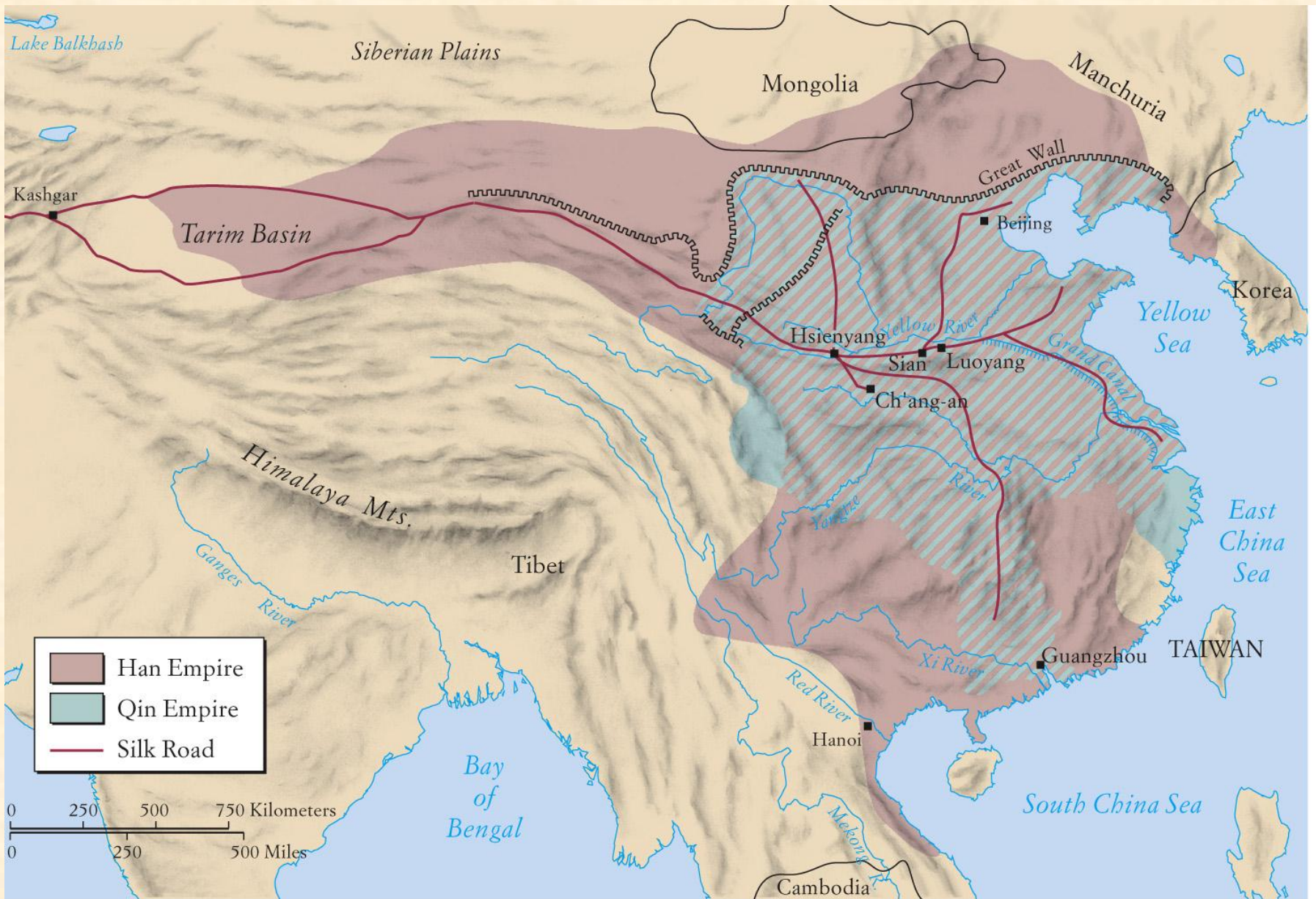
- First Emperor – Shih Huang Di (246-221 BCE) had great influence
  - Conquered six largest states ending chaos of the Warring States Period
  - Centralization along Legalist Principles
  - Li Si guided policies as prime minister
  - Feudal aristocracy eliminated
  - Weights and measures standardized
  - First standard units of money
  - Writing system standardized (continues to this day)



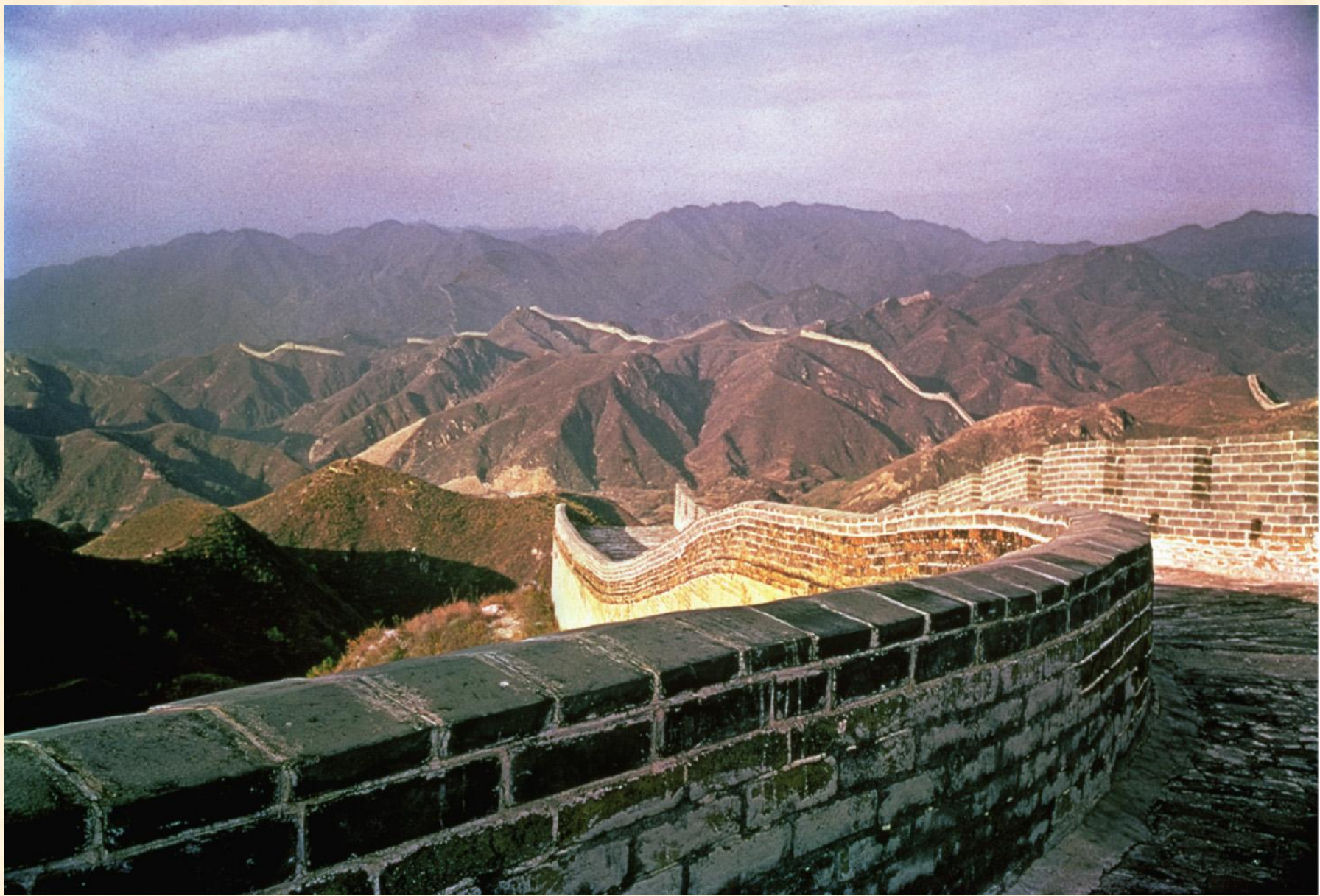


# Qin Dynasty

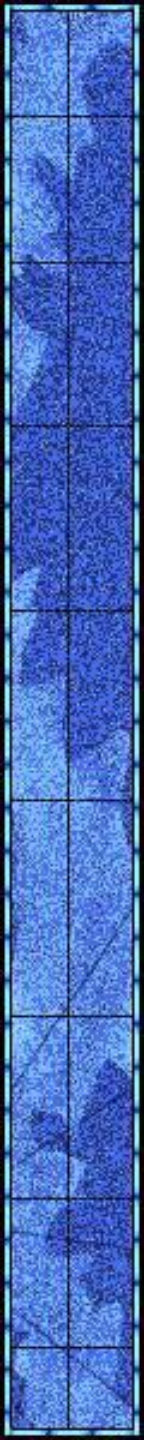
- Construction projects
  - Great Wall begun
  - Imperial palace at Sian
  - Emperor's tomb
- China expanded to north and south, first contacts with Vietnamese
- Reigns had negative aspects too
  - Torture, harsh treatment
  - Burning of the books to combat Confucianism
- Shih Huang-Di dies in 206
  - Son overthrown







Ming dynasty (1368–1644)/The Bridgeman Art Library



# Han Dynasty - 202 BCE to 220 CE

- Primary shapers of Chinese identity
  - Chinese called themselves “men of Han”
    - Expanded frontiers into Korea, Vietnam, Central Asia
    - Cultural influence extended even further
- Simultaneous with Rome, aspects in common
  - Urban in orientation, population rural and peasant
  - Non-hereditary officialdom
  - Collapsed due to invasion and regional revolts



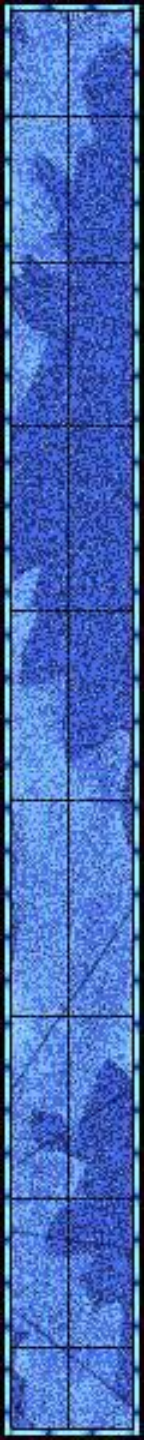


# Han Dynasty

## Confucianism

- Emperor Wu-di (147-87BCE)
  - Maintained strong centralized state
    - New Imperial Confucian ideology of the State
      - “Han synthesis”
      - Blended elements of Confucianism, Daoism, Legalism
      - Legalist emphasis on obedience continued
- Renewed emphasis on *Mandate of Heaven*





# Han Dynasty

## Arts and Sciences

- Became most historically conscious civilization on earth
- Sima Qian: *Records of the Grand Historian*
- Mathematics, Geography, Astronomy
- Sternpost rudder and magnetic compass
- Invention of paper
- Medicine: acupuncture
- Fine arts: silk, bronzes, jade, ceramics
- Poetry, landscape painting, instrumental music became prominent



# Han Dynasty

## Economy, Government, Foreign Affairs

- Canals, roads improved communications, commerce
- Large cities, numerous market towns
- Expansion of iron production and agriculture
  - Expanded use of the plow and horse harness
  - Use of fertilizer
  - Most productive agriculture in the world
- Government bureaucracy made up of educated elite chosen by examination based on Confucianism
  - Meritocracy
  - Mandarins: scholar-officials
- Traders contacts with Western Asia and India



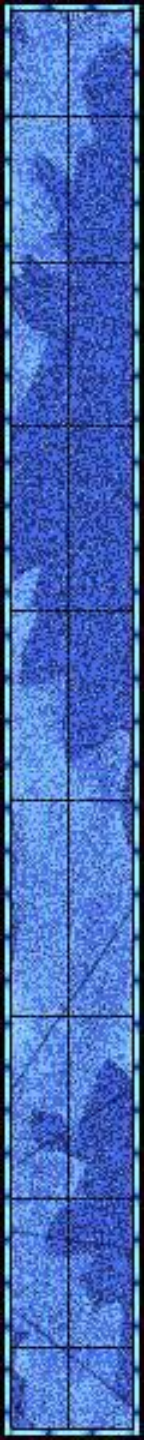






Imagemore/Glow Images





# End of the Han Dynasty

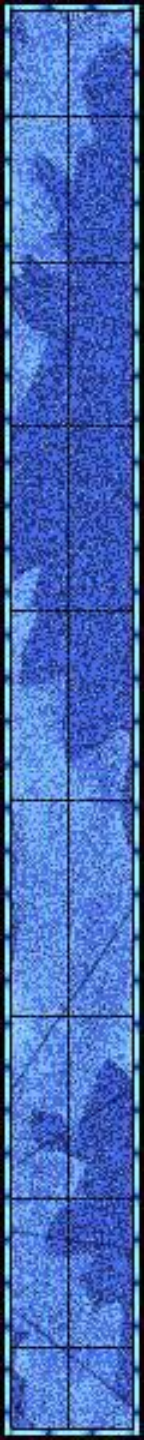
- Exploitation of the peasants gives rise to rebellion
  - Heavy taxation
  - Government monopoly on iron, salt and alcohol
- Eventually, broke down into 135 years of anarchy
- Two political divisions divided by the Yangzi River
  - Wei kingdom in the north
  - Various principalities in the south
- Wet rice cultivation expands in the south, population expands
- South now rivals north in civilized development





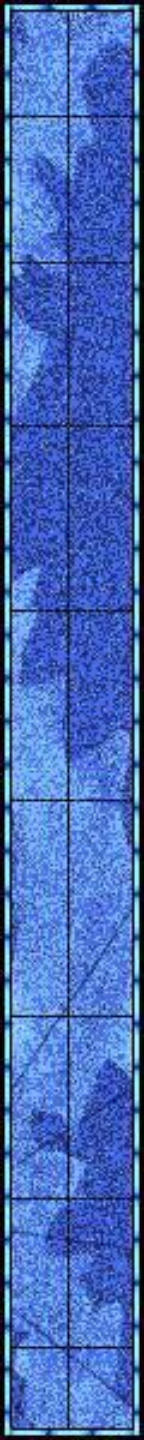
# Sui Dynasty (580-618 CE)

- Sui Dynasty Reunified China
- Agrarian reforms: Well-field system
  - Land reallocated every few years
  - Improve lot of the peasants
  - Break power of landed elites
- Failed military expeditions against the north
- Tang take over 618 CE



# Tang Dynasty (618-907 CE)

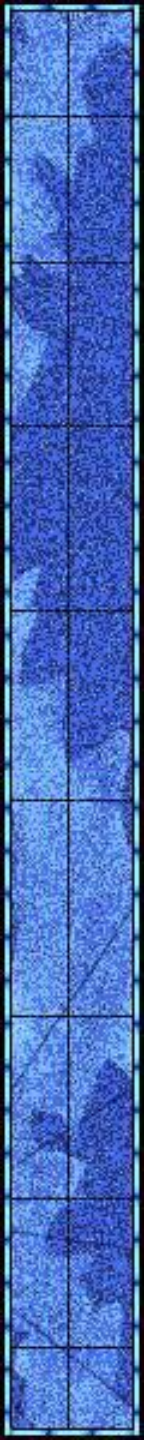
- Continued well-field system
  - Efficient bureaucracy based on examination system
  - expanded Imperial university started by the Han
- Secured north
  - Bought off Turks and Mongolians
  - Played one tribe off against another
- Expanded trade along the Silk Road and overseas
  - Coincided with Islamic Caliphate
  - Brought unprecedented prosperity
- Completion of the Grand Canal
- Cultural contacts with Japanese
  - Korea, Tibet, Vietnam less enthusiastically
- Greatest era in Chinese literature



# Decline and Fall of the Tang

- Decline begins in mid-eighth century
  - Military rebellions
- Incursions on the northern borders
- Brief recovery in early 800's
- Internal discontent led to anarchy later ninth century
- China again divided for a half-century
- Northern warlord bid for imperial power, forms alliance





# Mahayana Buddhism and Chinese Culture

- Buddhism was greatest single foreign cultural influence
  - Appeal
  - Appeal of afterlife of eternal bliss
  - Blended with existing beliefs
- Translation of Buddhist texts stimulated literature
  - Poetry
  - Appreciation, joy of nature



# Buddhism and Chinese Culture

- Painting, sculpture, architecture all show Buddhist influences
- Reaction set in against Buddhism 800's
  - State expropriated Buddhist monasteries
- Neo-Confucians
  - Confucius' thought as developed by Mencius
  - Love and responsibility greatest virtues
  - Insisted everybody had to partake of social life
  - In opposition to Daoism and Buddhism
  - Formal education absolute necessity for decent life
  - In opposition to individual search for enlightenment