QUESTIONS FOR CHAPTER ELEVEN

1. What were some of the important accomplishments of the Sui Empire? What caused it to fall? How did the political use of Buddhism help the T’ang Dynasty? Why was Mahayana Buddhism (and bodhisattvas) so attractive to the common people?

2. Briefly describe Chang’an. What vital functions did it provide?

3. What changes took place in Central Asia under the Uigur Empire? What were some of the major cultural features of this area?

4. Why did the T’ang Dynasty begin to attack Buddhism? Why does the author state that: “The T’ang Empire succumbed to the very forces that were essential to its creation?” Explain.

5. What were some of the technological advances under the Song? Why did iron, and steel, and gunpowder play such an important role in Song expansion, while gunpowder remained relatively unimportant?
6. What were some of the major elements of neo-Confucianism? Discuss some of the cultural and economic implications of the examination system, movable type, and “flying money.

7. Describe the changing condition of women as under the Song. What might have accounted for some of these changes?

8. What Chinese features did Japan incorporate as it developed? Describe some of the major features of Japan’s society, political structure, and culture that were different from those of China. What factors may have accounted for these? Who was the Lady Murasaki?

TERMS TO KNOW

Sui Empire  
Chang’an  
Grand Canal  
Khan  
Tributary System  
Mahayana Buddhism  
Bodhisattvas  

Nirvana  
Empress Wu  
Uigur Empire  
Ideographic writing  
Tibet  
Japan  
Yamamoto regime  
Shintoism  

Fujiwara  
Kamakura Shogunate  
Examination system  
Song Empire  
Gentry  
Footbinding  
Lady Murasaki  
Tale of Genji