

China in the Middle Ages

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<p>Tang Dynasty: 618–907</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Buddhism, Taoism, and Confucianism are the main religions in China. – The official writings of Confucianism are engraved on stones. – Buddhism, which had arrived in China from India via the Silk Road, gains more followers in China and inspires new literature and philosophical discussion. – Trade and exchange of goods and ideas along the Silk Road reach their height. – Education of the population increases.
<p>Song (Sung) Dynasties: 960–1279</p>	<p>A period of technological and cultural growth:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – world's first paper money (1024) – papermaking and movable type for book publishing – mathematicians invent fractions; perfect the abacus – precise lunar calendar based on phases of the Moon – build first mechanical clock (1088) – invent magnetic compass (1100) – iron production for bridge building and armour – Golden Age of Chinese landscape painting – invent gunpowder/explosives
<p>1203–1206</p>	<p>Genghis Khan defeats and unites the Mongol tribes and calls himself King (Khan) of Kings</p>
<p>1207–1233</p>	<p>Genghis Khan conquers areas of eastern Europe, China, and present-day Russia as territories of the Mongol Empire. Beijing is captured in 1215.</p>
<p>1258</p>	<p>Mongols attack and sack Baghdad, killing many Muslims and extending the Mongol Empire into the Middle East.</p>
<p>1267</p>	<p>Kublai Khan establishes a unified Mongol empire centred in China. Mongols revive the Silk Road trading routes, assuring safety of traders from raiders and Crusaders.</p>
<p>1280</p>	<p>Kublai Khan conquers all the rest of China and founds the Yuan Dynasty. He rules until 1294.</p>
<p>1271</p>	<p>Marco Polo travels from Venice (Italy) to the court of Kublai Khan, and remains until 1292. His observations of the land, people, culture, and technology of China were recorded in a book called <i>Il milione</i>.</p>
<p>1331</p>	<p>Black Death or bubonic plague begins in China and wipes out large populations. It is passed on through trading routes to the cities of Europe.</p>
<p>1367</p>	<p>Rivalry among the Mongol imperial heirs, natural disasters, and numerous peasant uprisings lead to the collapse of the Yuan dynasty and the Mongol empire.</p>
<p>1368</p>	<p>Beginning of the Ming Dynasty: a new time of cultural and artistic growth in China. Under the Ming Dynasty, the Great Wall of China is fortified and rebuilt; China has less contact with other cultures.</p>
<p>1421</p>	<p>Construction begins on the Imperial Palace in the centre of Beijing (today called the Forbidden City).</p>

