

Shifting South—907-1276



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Embattled State

- From 860-960, chaos reigned in both the north and south. Ten Kingdoms in the south illustrated the problem.
- The north had the Five Dynasties.
- It wasn't until Zhao Kuangyin or Taizu did things become more stable, and the Song dynasty began. Taizu reorganized the army, but the Song dynasty never was as large or as secure as the Tang. Song suffered from both “factionalism and bureaucratism.”



Taizu (r.960-76)

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Wang Anshi reorganized the Chinese bureaucracy

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Lau's Kong Fu Needle Shop in Ji 'nan

(this is the first advertisement made by rubbing on an engraved copper-plate)

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Burgeoning Economy

- Between 750 and 1100 the population doubled. In 1100, the population of China was 100 million.
- Trading was expanded—nationally and internationally.
- Silk was replaced with coins and paper money.



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Early paper money

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Scholarship and the Educated Elite

- **Appearance of the scholar-official class (shi/shidafu)**
- **Extremely competitive exams**
- **The printing press enabled students to acquire access to educational books and material.**

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Splitting of China via invasion and rebellion

- **With the fall of the north and creation of the Jin dynasty, Southern Song continued to prosper and even traded with the north.**
- **However, their political paranoia caused them to look inward and distrust all things that weren't Chinese.**
- **Return to Confucianism rather than Buddhism is an example of this.**

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While the place of women improved during the Song dynasty, footbinding was used to make both a fashion and sexist statement.



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Song Dynasty's scholar, Zhu Xi, who wrote commentaries on *The Analects of Confucius*, *The Works of Mencius*, *The Great Learning*, and *The Doctrine of the Mean*. These *Four Books* were required reading for intellectuals and governmental officials.

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Four Dragons in Mists and Clouds from Southern Song

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Summer Mountains from Northern Song

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Lacquer plate containing Phoenixes from Southern Song dynasty

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Irrigation system

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Examples of Song artistry