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“ The Age of Confucian Rule is a book that everyone who teaches Chinese history should have on his or her shelf and consult frequently... The attention [Kuhn] gives material culture is refreshing and helps him to make his case for the importance of China in Song times. ” Patricia Ebrey, International Journal of Asian Studies

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(2010). The Age of Confucian Rule: The Song Transformation of China. The Chinese Historical Review: Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 117-120.

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Confucianism, the way of life propagated by Confucius in the 6th – 5th century bce and followed by the Chinese people for more than two millennia. Although transformed over time, it is still the substance of learning, the source of values, and the social code of the Chinese. Its influence has also extended to other countries, particularly Korea, Japan, and Vietnam.

Confucianism | Meaning, History, Beliefs, & Facts | Britannica

The Age of Confucian Rule is an essential introduction to this transformative era. “ A scholar should congratulate himself that he has been born in such a time ” (Zhao Ruyi, 1194). "synopsis" may belong to another edition of this title.

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As historians of the Song dynasty (960 – 1279) always point out, the Song was special. Commerce, culture, and Confucian learning flourished then in ways never seen before and perhaps never matched since. Dieter Kuhn, an authority on medieval Chinese material culture, mortuary practice, and textile technology,

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characterizes this era as “ one of most humane, cultured, and intellectual societies in Chinese history, and perhaps in all of world history ” (p. 9).

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Confucius (551-479 BC) was a Chinese teacher, editor, politician, and philosopher of the Spring and Autumn period of Chinese history. The philosophy of Confucius [PDF] Latter-day Liberty: A Gospel Approach To Government And Politics.pdf Book review: dieter kuhn, the age of confucian Dieter Kuhn's The Age of Confucian Rule is the fourth volume in the six-volume History of Imperial

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The Age of Confucian Rule is an essential introduction to this transformative era. "A scholar should congratulate himself that he has been born in such a time" (Zhao Ruyi, 1194). History of Imperial China: The Age of Confucian Rule (Hardcover)

Just over a thousand years ago, the Song dynasty emerged as the most advanced civilization on earth. Within two centuries, China was home to nearly half of all humankind. In this concise history, we learn why the inventiveness of this era has been favorably compared with the European Renaissance, which in many ways the Song transformation surpassed. With the chaotic dissolution of the Tang dynasty, the old aristocratic families vanished. A new class of scholar-officials—products of a meritocratic examination system—took up the task of reshaping Chinese tradition by adapting the precepts of Confucianism to a rapidly changing world. Through fiscal reforms, these elites liberalized the economy, eased the tax burden, and put paper money into circulation. Their redesigned capitals buzzed with traders, while the education system offered advancement to talented men of modest means. Their rationalist approach led to inventions in printing, shipbuilding, weaving, ceramics manufacture, mining, and agriculture. With a realist's eye, they studied the natural world and applied their observations in art and science. And with the souls of diplomats, they chose peace over war with the aggressors on their borders. Yet persistent military threats from these nomadic tribes—which the Chinese scorned as their cultural inferiors—redefined China's understanding of its place in the world and solidified a sense of what it meant to be Chinese. The Age of Confucian Rule is an essential introduction to this transformative era. “ A scholar should congratulate himself that he has been born in such a time ” (Zhao Ruyi, 1194).

The Tang dynasty is often called China's “ golden age, ” a period of commercial, religious, and cultural connections from Korea and Japan to the Persian Gulf, and a time of unsurpassed literary creativity. Mark Lewis captures a dynamic era in which the empire reached its greatest geographical extent under Chinese rule, painting and ceramic arts flourished, women played a major role both as rulers and in the economy, and China produced its finest lyric poets in Wang Wei, Li Bo, and Du Fu.

They offer a balanced forum that seeks common ground, providing needed perspective at a time when the Chinese government, after years of denouncing Confucianism as an artifact of a feudal past, has made an abrupt reversal to endorse it as a belief system compatible with communist ideology.

Discusses the life and teachings of the famous Chinese philosopher Confucius.

In this fascinating and detailed profile, Benn paints a vivid picture of life in the Tang Dynasty (618-907), traditionally regarded as the golden age of China. 40 line illustrations.

A critical new interpretation of the early history of Chinese civilization based on the most recent scholarship and archaeological discoveries.

This volume explores the history of China between the Mongol reunification of China in 1279 under the Yuan dynasty and the Manchu invasion four centuries later, explaining how climate changes profoundly affected the empire during this period. The Mongol takeover in the 1270s changed the course of Chinese history. The Confucian empire, a millennium and a half in the making, was suddenly thrust under foreign occupation. What China had been before its reunification as the Yuan dynasty in 1279 was no longer what it would be in the future. Four centuries later, another wave of steppe invaders would replace the Ming dynasty with yet another foreign occupation.

An overview of the Chinese world from prehistoric times to the 1970s emphasizes major trends in society, politics, culture, and intellectual life, and the interaction of China with the other civilizations of Eurasia.

After the collapse of the Han dynasty, China divided along a north-south line. Lewis traces the changes that underlay and resulted from this split in a period that saw China's geographic redefinition, more engagement with the outside world, significant changes to family life, literary and social developments, and the introduction of new religions.

Confucianism has shaped a certain perception of Chinese security strategy, symbolized by the defensive, nonaggressive Great Wall. Many believe China is antimilitary and reluctant to use force against its enemies. It practices pacifism and refrains from expanding its boundaries, even when nationally strong. In a path-breaking study traversing six centuries of Chinese history, Yuan-kang Wang resoundingly discredits this notion, recasting China as a practitioner of realpolitik and a ruthless purveyor of expansive grand strategies. Leaders of the Song Dynasty (960-1279) and Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) prized military force and shrewdly assessed the capabilities of China's adversaries. They adopted defensive strategies when their country was weak and pursued expansive goals, such as territorial acquisition, enemy destruction, and total military victory, when their country was strong. Despite the dominance of an antimilitarist Confucian culture, warfare was not uncommon in the bulk of Chinese history. Grounding his research in primary Chinese sources, Wang outlines a politics of power that are crucial to understanding China's strategies today, especially its policy of "peaceful development," which, he argues, the nation has adopted mainly because of its military, economic, and technological weakness in relation to the United States.

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