**Carter Brehm – Chapter 12 Reading Questions**

1. Trace the Sui rise and fall from power.
   1. The Sui rose to power when Yang Jian went beyond typical faction rivalries and actually worked toward a centralized China. He made a marriage alliance between his daughter and the Zhou up north, and he didn’t challenge the power of the surrounding nomadic groups. Once his power was secure, he took over the southern Chen empire, restoring China to its former region. When Jian’s son killed him to take the throne, he tried to move forward too fast, overworking the population and trying to conquer Korea. When Jian’s son was assassinated by his own ministers, the Sui empire met its downfall.
2. Trace the decline of the Tang dynasty.
   1. Near the end of the Tang Dynasty, the government started to neglects its duties and take solace in art and music. The military sank in power, which led a major rebellion that cost a high price to stop. The military mutinied against the emperor, and the nomadic groups took back their land, leading to the end of the Tang.
3. Compare the strengths of the Song Empire with the Tang.
   1. They both had a very strong government with the scholar bureaucracy leading the country and its captured territories. Both empires had a fair amount of wealth during their prime, and both liked extravagant displays of this wealth. Both empires had population growth because of their food surpluses.
4. Describe the aspects of economic prosperity during the Tang-Song era.
   1. China’s golden age happened during the Tang-Song era and this led to immense wealth within both empires. This was caused by their massive trading canals and overseas trading to spread their global reach, as well as a massive leap forward in technological development.
5. Describe the status of women during the Tang-Song era.
   1. Men were still vastly superior to women at this point in history. Women had little to no rights and were expected to stay home all the time and raise the kids. Man could have as many wives as they want, but women had to stay faithful, as well as stay abstinent till marriage.
6. Appraise the overall effect of the Tang-Song era on Chinese history.
   1. The bureaucracy was reestablished and strengthened compared to the Han, and the aristocracy was sent away from the main part of the government in favor of scholars. Much more new territory was captured and set a new standard for the region, and global trade was more fleshed out with the Chinese going overseas to trade instead of waiting for other countries to come to them. Lastly, Confucianistic teachings were enhanced and spread throughout the empire.
7. Describe the innovations of the Tang-Song era.
   1. They invented all kinds of new things that further expanded their economy. Gunpowder was an expensive commodity that they sold, and they used the abacus to calculate. They used printing with moveable type to make newspapers.