

# 1 | Tributary

:CUSTOM<sub>ID</sub>: tributary

- Tributary System
  - Been around for a while
- Modern scholars don't agree
- Way that Chinese empire organized their relations
  - Fundamentally related to Confucianism.
  - Reciprocal
  - Exchange of Gifts
    - \* Emperors lost money on deals
    - \* Can't let poor people look like they give better gifts than you
- Maintain relations
- Establish emperor as highest power
  - People travel to empire to get gifts, makes you seem powerful
  - Not exchange above equals
  - Hierarchy
  - Shinier tribute, wealthier person
- Way to establish trade and stuff that you couldn't before
- Trade privileges
  - more tributes, more exclusive stuff
- Maintain relationship so you can trade with them
- Cultural exchange
  - By accepting Imperial House as greatest and tributes, accepting Confucianism
  - Expand influence and Confucianism
- Maintenance of norms more important to money to court.
- Diplomacy
  - Tribute norms is a way to engage in diplomacy
  - Maintain relationships
    - \* Between enemies too
    - \* Norms are inherited
- Ritual grieving, send support
- Justification to expand bureaucracy
  - Each tributing group gets a representative