12-1 Notes

* China is in chaos because of NO central gov’t
* Warlords – military leaders
* Wendi – a general who battled and won control of China and created the Sui dynasty
* Yangdi – Wendi’s son who takes over after his father’s death – his greatest achievement was building the Grand Canal
* Grand Canal – boosted China’s ECONOMY – an organized way people make, sell and buy things
* Yangdi is killed by angry Chinese people he treated unfairly and the Sui dynasty ends

Tang dynasty

* Created a stronger gov’t in China using reforms
* Had the first and only woman to rule – Empress Wu
* Ruled the Silk Road until the Turks came and ended the Tang rule

Song dynasty

* A period of prosperity and cultural achievement (the arts)
* Buddhism spread – monks lived, worshipped and meditated in MONASTERIES
* Many Chinese disliked Buddhism because it threatened their belief of respecting family – monks/nuns could not marry.
* Neo Confucianism – Tang/Song dynasties accepted this belief system which taught people to live life well in harmony with nature in preparation for the afterlife
* Scholar-Officials – new social class of gov’t officials who were set apart from others – held high in society