**Documents: Tang Empero**r

*Li Shimin reigned as Taizong, second emperor of the Tang dynasty (618-907), from 626 until his death in 649. An energetic ruler, Tang Taizong had played a major part in the military campaigns that brought his father (Li Yuan, Tang Gaozu, r. 618-626) to the throne as the first emperor of the Tang dynasty. Having eliminated his two competitors for the throne (his brothers Li Jiancheng and Li Yuanji) in an ambush at the capital city’s Xuanwu Gate in 624, Li Shimin forced his father into retirement in 626 to take the throne for himself.*

*How a Ruler Should Act*

When the ruler looks as lofty and firm as a mountain peak and as pure, bright, and illuminating as the sun and the moon, the people will admire and respect him. He must broaden his will so as to be able to embrace both Heaven and earth and must regulate his heart so as to be able to make just decisions. He cannot expand his territory without majesty and, virtue; he cannot soothe and protect his people without compassion and kindness. He comforts his relations with benevolence, treats his officials with courtesy, honors his ancestors with filial respect, and receives his subordinates with thoughtfulness. Having disciplined himself, he practices virtue and righteousness diligently. This is how a ruler should act.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ This passage reflects

a. The Buddhist idea of nirvana

b. The Daoist concept of yin and yang

c. Filial Piety

d. The Confucius idea of Junzi – ideal man

*Evaluating Officials*

Differentiation of the ranks and duties of officials is a means of improving customs. A wise emperor, therefore, knows how to choose the right person for the right task. He is like a skillful carpenter who knows to use straight timber to make shafts, curved timber to make wheels, long timber to make beams, and short timber to make posts. Wood of all shapes and lengths is thus fully utilized. The emperor should make use of personnel in the same way, using the wise for their resourcefulness, the ignorant for their strength, the brave for their daring, and the timid for their prudence. As a good carpenter does not discard any timber, so a wise emperor does not discard any gentleman. A mistake should not lead the emperor to ignore a gentleman’s virtues, nor should a flaw overshadow his merits.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ This passage reflects what that China is known for in world history?

a. Educated and honored bureaucracy

b. Lack of institutional church and doctrinal religion

c. Patriarchy

d. Public education

Avoiding Extravagance

The ruler cultivates his character through frugality and peacefulness...Thus, his people will not complain and his rule will not go off course. If the emperor indulges himself in curiosities, women, music, hunting, or travel, agriculture will be disturbed and labor service will have to be increased, leading to the exhaustion of the people and the neglect of farming. If the emperor indulges himself in magnificent dwelling, precious jewelry, or fine clothes, taxes will have to be increased, leading the people to flee and the country to be impoverished. A chaotic age is marked by a ruler who is arrogant and extravagant, indulging his desires.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ This passage illustrates the Chinese concept of

a. Dynastic Cycle

b. Filial Piety

c. Confucian bureaucracy

d. Legalism

**Documents: Mongols to Japan**

Kublai Khan letter to the Japanese in 1266

From time immemorial, rulers of small states have sought to maintain friendly relations with one another. We, the Great Mongolian Empire, have received the Mandate of Heaven and have become the master of the universe. Therefore, innumerable states in far-off lands have longed to form ties with us. As soon as I ascended the throne, I ceased fighting with Koryŏ [Korean states] and restored their land and people. In gratitude, both the ruler and the people of Koryŏ came to us to become our subjects; their joy resembles that of children with their father. Japan is located near Koryŏ and since its founding has on several occasions sent envoys to the Middle Kingdome. However, this has not happened since the beginning of my reign. This must be because you are not fully informed. Therefore, I hereby send you a special envoy to inform you of our desire. From now on, let us enter into friendly relations with each other. Nobody would with to resort to arms.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ A historian reading this letter from Kublai Khan could argue that the Mongols

a. Rejected all things Chinese and established their own culture in their Chinese empire

b. Integrated many ideas of the Chinese into their version of Chinese empire

c. Were no longer nomadic

d. Forced their religion on conquered peoples

**Documents: Zheng He**

The Imperial Ming Dynasty unifying seas and continents, surpassing the 3 dynasties goes even beyond the Han and Tang dynasties. The countries beyond the horizon and from the ends of the earth have all become subjects and to the most western of the western or the most northern of the northern countries, however far they may be, the distance and the routes may be calculated. Thus the barbarians from beyond the seas, though their countries are truly distant, have come to audience bearing precious objects and presents. The Emperor, approving of their loyalty and sincerity, has ordered us (Zheng) He and others at the head of several tens of thousands of officers and flag-troops to ascend more than one hundred large ships to go and confer presents on them in order to make manifest the transforming power of the (imperial) virtue and to treat distant people with kindness. …

Inscription carved in 1431 on a new temple (for the Celestial Goddess) in the Fujian province (the southeastern coast of China--the mainland opposite Taiwan). Source: Teobaldo Filesi, trans. David Morison, China and Africa in the Middle Ages (London: Frank Cass, 1972), 57-61.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ The “precious objects and presents” brought by foreigners represent

a. Filial Piety

b. Mandate of Heaven

c. Tribute

d. Middle Kingdom

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Which best describes the expedition of Zheng He?

a. Small scale

b. Massive Scale

c. Privately funded

d. Militarily focused

**Documents: Erasmus & Humanism**

Praise of Folly: Erasmus on Popular Religious Practice, Desiderius Erasmus (1509)

To this same class of fools belong those who beguile themselves with the silly but pleasing notion that if they look upon a picture or image of St. Christopher,–that huge Polyphemus [Giant son of Poseidon in Greek mythology],–they will not die that day; or that he who salutes an image of St. Barbara with the proper form of address will come back from battle safe; or that one who approaches St. Erasmus on certain days with wax candles and prayers will soon be rich...And what shall I say of those who comfortably delude themselves with imaginary pardons for their sins, ... who, relying upon certain magical little certificates and prayers,–which some pious impostor devised either in fun or for the benefit of his pocket,–believe that they may procure riches, honor, future happiness, health, perpetual prosperity, long life, a lusty old age,–nay, in the end, a seat at the right hand of Christ in heaven...The trader, the soldier, and the judge think that they can clean up the Augean stable [5th labor of Hercules, an enormous stable full of poop!] of a lifetime, once for all, by sacrificing a single coin from their ill-gotten gains. They flatter themselves that all sorts of perjury, debauchery, drunkenness, quarrels, bloodshed, imposture, perfidy, and treason can be compounded for by contract and so adjusted that, having paid off their arrears[money owed that should have been paid earlier], they can begin a new score.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ In this text, Erasmus is very \_\_\_\_\_ religion.

a. Confused about

b. Critical of

c. Supportive of

d. Neutral about

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ This excerpt of “Praise of Folly” fits many themes of the Renaissance, especially its

a. Focus on purely religious topics

b. References to Classical Greece and Rome

c. Focus on the everyday and the mundane

d. Emphasis on writing in Latin over vernacular

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The miracles and relics referenced in the document are examples of

a. Catholic doctrine

b. The Orthodox influence

c. Popular Religion

d. Syncretism (blended religion)

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ The idea that you could donate to the Church and pay to shorten your time in purgatory , the “little

certificates” Erasmus referred to became known as

a. Indulgences

b. Sacraments

c. Vatican

d. Monasteries

**Documents: Machiavelli The Prince**

Every one understands how praiseworthy it is in a prince to keep faith, and to live uprightly and not craftily. Nevertheless we see, from what has taken place in our own days, that princes who have set little store by their word, but have known how to overreach men by their cunning, have accomplished great things, and in the end got the better of those who trusted to honest dealing.

Be it known, then, that there are two ways of contending,–one in accordance with the laws, the other by force; the first of which is proper to men, the second to beasts. But since the first method is often ineffectual, it becomes necessary to resort to the second. A prince should, therefore, understand how to use well both the man and the beast. ... But inasmuch as a prince should know how to use the beast’s nature wisely, he ought of beasts to choose both the lion and the fox; for the lion cannot guard himself from the toils, nor the fox from wolves. He must therefore be a fox to discern toils, and a lion to drive off wolves.

Concerning Cruelty and Clemency, and Whether it is Better to be Loved than Feared

Upon this a question arises: whether it is better to be loved than feared or feared than loved? It may be answered that one should wish to be both, but, because it is difficult to unite them in one person, it is much safer to be feared than loved, when, of the two, either must be dispensed with. Because this is to be asserted in general of men, that they are ungrateful, fickle, false, cowardly, covetous, and as long as you successed they are yours entirely; they will offer you their blood, property, life, and children, as is said above, when the need is far distant; but when it approaches they turn against you. And that prince who, relying entirely on their promises, has neglected other precautions, is ruined; ...Nevertheless a prince ought to inspire fear in such a way that, if he does not win love, he avoids hatred; because he can endure very well being feared whilst he is not hated, which will always be as long as he abstains from the property of his citizens and subjects and from their women.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ What is Machiavelli basing his advice on?

a. Psychological and sociological research

b. Observations of contemporary politics in Italy

c. Roman philosophical traditions

d. The Bible

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Machiavelli is generally \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about humanity.

a. Optimistic

b. Forgiving

c. Confused

d. Pessimistic

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_ According to Machiavelli, ruling by force is proper for

a. The Church

b. Princes

c. Men

d. Beasts

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Why should leaders result to rule by force according to Machiavelli?

a. Its more ethical

b. Its more fair

c. It’s the only way to be effective

d. It’s the most profitable

5. \_\_\_\_\_\_ What would be ideal for ruler according to Machiavelli?

a. To be loved

b. To be feared

c. To be hated

d. To be feared & loved

**Documents: 95 Theses**

“Ninety-five Theses on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences” Martin Luther (1517)

5. The Pope has neither the will nor the power to remit any penalties except those which he has imposed by his own authority, or by that of the canons.

21. Thus those preachers of indulgences are in error who say that by the indulgences of the Pope a man is freed and saved from all punishment.

32. Those who believe that, through letters of pardon, they are made sure of their own salvation will be eternally damned along with their teachers.

45. Christians should be taught that he who sees any one in need, and, passing him by, gives money for pardons, is not purchasing for himself the indulgences of the Pope but the anger of God.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ A main concern of the 95 theses was focused on the authority of the Pope and

a. Sale of indulgences

b. Wealth of the Church

c. The Church’s relationship with monarchs & governments

d. The Sacraments

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_ A historian reading the point above by Martin Luther could conclude that Luther

a. Was only concerned with the corruption and financial gain from certificates of forgiveness

b. Was concerned about the spiritual deception and misunderstandings of the Pope and on

forgiveness of sins

c. Thought the Church should pardon prisoners in the ecclesiastical courts and prisons

d. Agreed with indulgences theologically but felt they were not fair to the poor

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Luther thought people’s money would be better spent on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ than buying forgiveness.

a. Building churches

b. Investing in their homes and land

c. Helping others

d. Paying their taxes

**Documents: John Calvin**

Institutes: Calvin on Predestination and the Elect John Calvin (1539)

Therefore we say that the Scripture shows that God, by His eternal and immutable counsel once for all determined both those whom He desired one day to admit to salvation and those whom He would give back to destruction. We affirm that this counsel as to the elect is founded upon His gratuitous mercy, without any respect to human merit; but to those whom He had handed over to damnation, by His just and blameless though incomprehensible judgment, the way of life is closed.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Calvin’s belief that God had determined already who would make it into heaven was known as

a. The elect

b. Predestination

c. Protestantism

d. Calvinism

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_ According to Calvin, how are some people given salvation?

a. Good works

b. Mercy of God

c. Sacraments & the Church

d. Profession of faith

Religious Law and Order in Calvin’s Geneva John Calvin (1537)

Our Lord established excommunication as a means of correction and discipline, by which those who led a

disordered life unworthy of a Christian, and who despised to mend their ways and return to the strait way after

they had been admonished, should be expelled from the body of the church and cut off as rotten members until

they come to themselves and acknowledge their fault. ... We have an example given by St. Paul (1 Tim. i and 1

Cor. v), in a solemn warning that we should not keep company with one who is called a Christian but who is,

none the less, a fornicator, covetous, an idolater, a railer, a drunkard, or an extortioner. So if there be in us any

fear of God, this ordinance should be enforced in our Church.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Geneva would be considered a \_\_\_\_ based on this text.

a. Theocracy

b. Communist government

c. City-state

d. Democracy

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_ Calvin’s believed that their community should excommunicate or “not keep company with” \_\_\_.

a. Sinners

b. Unrepentant sinners (not sorry or don’t change their ways)

c. Catholics

d. The wealthy

**Documents: King Afonso**

*In the excerpt below, Nzinga Mbemba (Afonso I), the king of the Kongo, writes to the Portuguese king to*

*express his concern over the damaging effects of the slave trade.*

“Sir, Your Highness should know how our Kingdom is being lost in so many ways that it is convenient to

provide for the necessary remedy, since this is caused by the excessive freedom given by your agents and

officials to the men and merchants who are allowed to come to this Kingdom to setup shops with goods and

many things which have been prohibited by us, and which they spread throughout our Kingdoms and Domains

in such an abundance that many of our vassals, whom we had in obedience, do not comply because they have the things in greater abundance than we ourselves; and it was with these things that we had them content and subjected under our vassalage and jurisdiction, so it is doing a great harm not only to the service of God, but the security and peace of our Kingdoms and State as well.

And we cannot reckon how great the damage is, since the mentioned merchants are taking every day our

natives, sons of the land and the sons of our noblemen and vassals and our relatives, because the thieves and

men of bad conscience grab them wishing to have the things and wares of this Kingdom which they are

ambitious of, they grab them and get them to be sold; and so great, Sir, is the corruption and licentiousness that

our country is being completely depopulated, and Your Highness should not agree with this nor accept it as in

your service.

Primary Source: Nzinga Mbemba (Afonso I), Letter to the King of Portugal 1526

1. \_\_\_\_\_ In this letter Afonso complains to the King of Portugal about the negative economic impact of the

freedoms of the European merchants in his empire and wants

a. Other European powers to pressure Portugal to do the right thing

b. Portugal to help solve the economic problems their merchants created

c. For King Afonso to get a cut of the profits from the slave trade

d. Portuguese merchants to hire locals and help the economy

**Documents: Treaty of Tordesillas**



Don Ferdinand and Dona Isabella, by the grace of God king and queen of Castile, Leon, Aragon, Sicily, Granada, Toledo, Valencia, Galiciaj Majorca Seville, Sardinia, Cordova, Corsica, Murcia, Jaen, Algarve, Algeciras, Gibraltar, and the Canary Islands, count and countess of Barcelona, lord and lady of Biscay and Molina, duke and duchess of Athens and Neopatras, count and countess of Roussillon and Cerdagne, marquis and marchioness of Oristano and Gociano, together with ... the most serene Dom John, by the grace of God, king of Portugal and of the Algarves on this side and beyond the sea in Africa, lord of Guinea, our very dear and very beloved brother... in his name and by virtue of his power, his ambassadors, who came to us in regard to the controversy over what part belongs to us and what part to the said Most Serene King our brother... in which said agreement our aforesaid representatives promised among other things that within a certain term specified in it we should sanction, confirm, swear to, ratify, and approve the above-mentioned agreement in person:...

[I.] That, whereas a certain controversy exists between the said lords, their constituents, as to what lands, of all those discovered in the ocean sea up to the present day, the date of this treaty, pertain to each one of the said parts respectively; therefore, for the sake of peace and concord, and for the preservation of the relationship and love of the said King of Portugal for the said King and Queen of Castile, Aragon, etc., herein described, covenanted and agreed that a boundary or straight line be determined and drawn north and south, from pole to pole, on the said ocean sea, from the Arctic to the Antarctic pole... And all lands, both islands and mainlands, found and discovered already, or to be found and discovered hereafter, by the said King of Portugal and by his vessels on this side of the said line and bound determined as above, toward the east, in either north or south latitude, on the eastern side of the said bound provided the said bound is not crossed, shall belong to, and remain in the possession of, and pertain forever to, the said King of Portugal and his successors. And all other lands, both islands and mainlands, found or to be found hereafter, discovered or to be discovered hereafter, which have been discovered or shall be discovered by the said King and Queen of Castile, Aragon, etc., and by their vessels, on the western side of the said bound, determined as above, after having passed the said

bound toward the west, in either its north or south latitude, shall belong to, and remain in the possession of, and pertain forever to, the said King and Queen of Castile, Leon, etc., and to their successors.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ A historian reading about all the titles and holdings of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella could conclude that

a. Spain was the most powerful country in Europe

b. Ferdinand and Isabella were in the process of uniting in a centralized nation what was previously many small feudal states

c. Only nobility got titles

d. Titles had no practical meaning in Spain in the 15ht century

2. \_\_\_\_\_ Why was this treaty needed?

a. Religious wars were creating dangerous conflicts

b. Peasant uprisings were threatening both nations

c. To finalize the Reconquista (removal of Muslim rule for Iberia)

d. New discoveries made created territorial disputes

3. \_\_\_\_\_ What was the goal of the treaty?

a. Secure the dynastic rule for each royal family

b. Settle the border dispute between Spain and Portugal

c. Establish lines that would divide new found territory clearly between Spain and Portugal

d. Define areas it was legal to extract slaves and places the Church made it illegal

**Documents: Copernicus**

*Dedication of the Revolutions of the Heavenly Bodies to Pope Paul III*

*Nicolaus Copernicus (1543)*

I CAN easily conceive, most Holy Father, that as soon as some people learn that in this book which I have

written concerning the revolutions of the heavenly bodies, I ascribe certain motions to the Earth, they will cry

out at once that I and my theory should be rejected... Accordingly, when I considered in my own mind how

absurd a performance it must seem to those who know that the judgment of many centuries has approved the

view that the Earth remains fixed as center in the midst of the heavens, if I should, on the contrary, assert that

the Earth moves; I was for a long time at a loss to know whether I should publish the commentaries which I

have written in proof of its motion, or whether it were not better to follow the example of the Pythagoreans and

of some others, who were accustomed to transmit the secrets of Philosophy not in writing but orally, and only to their relatives and friends,...They did this, it seems to me, not as some think, because of a certain selfish

reluctance to give their views to the world, but in order that the noblest truths, worked out by the careful study

of great men, should not be despised by those who are vexed at the idea of taking great pains with any forms of literature except such as would be profitable, or ... on account of their stupidity, hold a place among philosophers similar to that of drones among bees. Therefore, when I considered this carefully, the contempt which I had to fear because of the novelty and apparent absurdity of my view, nearly induced me to abandon

utterly the work I had begun.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Why was Copernicus reluctant and debating publishing his work on heliocentric theory?

a. He thought it would be used for evil purposes

b. He feared that it would be ridiculed and rejected

c. He wanted to wait until he found a way to profit from it

d. He worried that other scientists would reject his evidence