

## Tang civilization and the Chinese centuries

Recently, a few nations have been nicknamed superpowers because the countries' governments, militaries, and economic powers affect not just the lives of people who live in the superpower, but many people in other parts of the world. Often, artists, authors, and performers in superpowers also touch the lives of many people throughout the world. Today, the U.S. is a superpower, and China is considered a rising superpower after over 150 years of national problems. Even though the nickname is new, powerful empires early in world history could have been named superpowers. China was the world's leading superpower well over 1,000 years ago. Although there were periods of time where civil war weakened China, from approximately 600 to 1500 CE, China was the largest, strongest, and most populated country in Europe or Asia. China's success during the Tang dynasty (618–907) was particularly impressive. In fact, the Tang is regarded by many history experts as the most famous time in China's long history. The years of the Tang dynasty contained China's greatest successes and helped create a pattern that China would continue throughout the Song and Ming dynasties, and into early modern times. During the Tang period, several cultures, especially Korea and Japan, learned from the more advanced Tang dynasty. During Tang rule, China had its greatest influence on eastern Asia and carried out active trade with cultures of Europe and Asia. For more than 100 years, the Tang Empire stretched deep into Central Asia, and many parts of Chinese culture spread to Korea and Japan. Buddhism grew, linking China to an increasing religious community. Tang China was open and welcoming to people and ideas from many cultures.