

# Overview of Chinese Government and Economy

# Bureaucracy

## 1. Imperial Government

## 2. Civil Service Exam

- efficient government
- opportunity for upward mobility
- cultural uniformity – Confucianism as official ideology

# Economy

## A. **Agricultural society**

1. land reform – aimed at reducing the power of the wealthy aristocrats: graduated land taxes; cheap credit to farmers;
2. new lands in Yangzi R. Valley
3. new strain of quick-growing rice(2 crops annually)
4. growing population (a constant pressure)– increased food production; social stability

# Economy

## **B. Increased Manufacturing**

1. state monopolies over key commodities like salt;
2. technological development;
  - a. manufactured steel mixing cast and wrought iron; producing swords, sickles and armor
  - b. coal furnaces
  - c. gunpowder
3. Cotton from India – expands textile industry

# Commerce

A. change from traditional prejudice against commerce;

B. Grand Canal

C. expanded system of roads;

D. money economy

1. paper currency(8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> centuries)

2. credit

3. banking

# Commerce

## E. Silk Road

1. a number of separate routes
2. caravans
3. Chang 'an – wealthiest city in the world;

## F. Maritime Routes

1. increasingly popular
2. technology: compass, sail and rudder developments;

G. Chinese goods: tea, porcelain, silk;

H. Canton – southern port, 100,000 merchants