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HAN DYNASTY

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The world has changed by the several periods of time, since prehistoric period until the present. Many evidences left us for studying. In the Chinese history, there are many countless histories, which each period consisted of the stories that told us how China developed themselves from the beginning of the world until now. Development has been improved consecutively from time to time by the rule and policy of Han's government and also Han's people. Exactly, one of the most powerful periods of china was in the Han dynasty, as many historians considered as the golden age of China. Even the period of Han was divided into two times, Western Han and Eastern Han, there were no affect in developing system of Han's at all. In this golden age, which was the most prosperous and flourishing time period, there are many interesting issues that changed China's way in Han's period and should be admired by our generation obviously, including the famous history of Han's transportation, Silk Road, economic systems and progression of inventive technology.

The great transportation, Silk Road, was the origin of the widest community network of china history, coined by the German scholar Von Richthofen¹. China was one of the biggest market countries because of the high number population and varied society. Furthermore, China also had a lot of productive materials such as silk, ironware, gold and platinum, bronze mirrors, ceramics, lacquer and bamboo wares, furs, medicinal herbs and drugs, Chinese inventions of gunpowder and paper-making and printing. The most popular product of china was silk which was valuable and expensive for trading market and also diversity of technology matters that attracted the investor. Thus, many influent countries desired to invest and trade product with China by using the Silk Road network. At first, Silk Road was a narrow area of the trading market started only at nearby country such as Western Asia to the End of Mediterranean Ocean but since the Silk Road was interested by many western investors China took this advantage of trading their goods concreter and more widespread by investing money in Silk Road officially, in order to embracing the trading connection all around the world. It was the largest transportation route and magnificent communication that connected people from many different places to join their business network. Consequently, it provided China's transportation more convenience the economy of china had been growing continuously. Successfully, Silk Road was the phenomenon world transportation route which linked object all around the world and expanded all of the Asian community wildy to many part of world² market. Silk Road was not only for the purpose of trading transportation but also was the union of varies geographic, economic, political, and religious aspects all around the world.

¹ Peter Hopkirk, `Foreign Devils on the Silk Road', Oxford U.P., 1980.

² Zhang Yehan (Ed.), `Si Lu You (Silk Road Tour)', Xinjiang People's Publishing House, Urumchi, Vol.1 (1988), Vol.2 (1990)

Economic systems in Han's period³ were the one of the great achievement in china history. At the beginning of Han's Western period, the taxation policy and laws were inefficiency and unsystematic so many big-landowners and employers found the rope hole of law exploiting their labor and employees. Consequently, Han's economic system was frantic and uncontrolled affected many farmers and agriculturists lost their work places and also many peasants fell into their debt which was the beginning of the crisis of Han's western economy⁴. For the purpose to make economy recover from this recession⁵, Han's eastern government had to abolish suppressive laws of western's policy and promulgated the new taxation policy which was not about interference of political but none inference policy⁶. The new economic policy aimed to stimulate the currency in taxation. For instance, increasing tax on a big-landowner who has lots of income, reducing tax from peasants and merchants, lower an agriculture product tax income and cultivated area tax income, eradicated unpaid labors number by avoided the annual paying tax, granted alternative loan and source of investment funds, provided temporary lodging land work for unemployed workers to work in agriculture which could release them from being a debtor. Moreover, government set policy to promoted their agriculture goods and ironic manufactory exporting to other counties place. Another crucial topic of Han's economic stimulation was about the developing of coinage. From the first period

³ Wikipedia contributors. "Han Dynasty" *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 2 Sep 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Han_Dynasty#Etymology>

⁴ Wikipedia contributors. "Economy of the Han Dynasty" *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 2 Sep 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Economy_of_the_Han_Dynasty>

⁵ Hooker, Richard. "The Chinese Empire: The Former Han". Retrieved 11 November 2001. <<http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~dee/CHEMPIRE/FORMHAN.htm>>

⁶ Rause, Vince. "The Han Dynasty: The World Comes to China". *Secrets of the Great Wall*. Retrieved 11 November 2001. <<http://www.discovery.com/stories/history/greatwall/han.html>>

of Han, there were many coin developers who created coin by themselves. The developing of Han's coin was continued improving from time to time, the weight of the coin became lighter. The famous coin in Han's was a private minting of coins named by people in Han's period. Since the mint coins were created, merchant widely used the coin to be medium in commerce and used for trading or exchanging their goods led china economic to international market either. As the result, in late of Han's period economy was recovered from old ineffectiveness to be more systematic and more effective.

Han's inventive technology had been well-known in several ways in term of technology invention. It was the breaking point of china innovative technology not only in china but also in world industrial as well because it was the origin of first invention in many kinds. There are many important inventions created in Han's dynasty such as molding iron system, paper-making and seismograph. Indicated that people in Han's era were rather creative and had high capability as they invented such a many spectacular objects for earning themselves. Casting iron factory⁷ in Han's period used the same raw material as before but using some new innovation while processing the iron one man has to inject excess oxygen into a furnace to convert pig iron into wrought iron. This process also produced agriculture equipment more durable and efficient. Han's people also invented the paper-making⁸ which paper made of fiber and mucilage from leaves. This

⁷ Wikipedia contributors. " Science and technology of the Han Dynasty." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 11 Sep. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_and_technology_of_the_Han_Dynasty>

⁸ Wikipedia contributors. " Papermaking." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 5 Sep. 2012. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Papermaking>>

invention was the first paper-making in the world, credited by Eunuch Cai Lun⁹. In that period, the world had appreciated this invention as one of the great ancient inventions of China. The industrial paper-making in Han's era still exists in the present day in some province around Chinese former villages. The last famous invention was seismograph, the first measuring violent of earthquake instrument in the world built by Zhang Heng, the great scientist. Seismograph¹⁰ in Han's era was a symbolized instruction, eight dragons and eight toads represented every directions¹¹. When earthquake occurs, the vibration of earthquake will make the ball drop from month of the dragon to the toad's month. All of these inventions performed the advance of technology invention in Han's era which very useful for the majority to the next generation.

In summary, changing in communication transpiration, economics systems and inventive technology in Han dynasty have been the great step in developing of the world. As China is one of the most powerful country of the world in several terms contributed its changing had the great advantage not only in China but also the world revolution in common. In particular, Han dynasty has been inscribed in the world's history by the name of the most booming china's era and also was the archetype for the next generation's revolution continually.

⁹ Totally history "Han Dynasty Inventions" < <http://totallyhistory.com/han-dynasty-inventions/>>

¹⁰ Wikipedia contributors. " Zhang Heng" *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 8 Sep. 2012
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zhang_Heng>

¹¹ Temple, R., *The Genius of China*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1986, pp. 162-166.