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Han Dynasty

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China is the big country that has a very early civilization with the long history. They had many great dynasties. Han dynasty was one of the potent and well-known dynasty. Han dynasty was divided into three periods called the Western Han Dynasty, the Xia Dynasty and the Eastern Han Dynasty. In each period Chinese left the valuable heritages such as literature, culture and arts to the next Chinese generation. According to the topography of China and the large number of population, China had been separated in many groups and each group wanted to overcome another causing the usurpation among them. During Han Dynasty, there were substantial changes occurred in China including construction of silk road, invention of paper and loom and the cast of iron tools, and these changes totally affected people at that time and still have some influence to people nowadays.

In Han dynasty, Silk Road¹ was constructed in order to facilitate trade between China and Western Region. Silk Road is the oldest trade Road. At that time, silk was the important and precious good for the upper class in Western. Therefore, everyone wanted to come to China not only to do the business but also to find the benefit for the purpose of silk. Moreover, the large amount of trade caused by Silk Road led to an

¹ "Silk Road-The Silk Road." *Silk Road-The Silk Road*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013. <<http://www.travel-silkroad.com/english/dongfanwenming/history/sczlg/index.htm>>

exchange of culture, arts, religious, languages, political and technology among these regions.

In terms of language², Greek language had taken important role in China Region through the Silk Road. Thus, Chinese learn to speak foreign language which helps them made to communicate to other western countries easier. They can also exchange the idea between East and West. Silk Road is one of the main factors contributed to the spread of religious³ which were Buddhism, Nestorianism and Islam. These beliefs entered to China by the travelers who used the Silk Road from India to China. Shortly, Buddhism became a major religious in China. The belief of Buddhism grew Chinese people up to be the good person. Chinese used the doctrine of Buddhism to apply in every aspect of their life. However, the role of Buddhism was getting less when Islam took place.

Nontraditional or new culture and arts⁴ were introduced also. There were many archaeological evidences showed the civilization of Han dynasty period such as Buddhist statue, wall-painting and cave temples, etc. Nowadays, these treasures are still precious and became an invaluable Chinese-owned cultural heritage handed down from generations to generations. That is why it should be protected and saved for the next generation. Surprisingly, political⁵ aspect was influenced by the construction of Silk Road as well. During Han Dynasty, China was ruled under the sole Emperor who was the head

² "Silk Road - Introduction." *Silk Road - Introduction*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013. <<http://gallery.sjsu.edu/silkroad/religion.htm>>

³ "The Silk Roads." *The Silk Roads*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013. <<http://www.asian-studies.org/ea/silkroad.htm>>

⁴ "Culture, Arts and Technology on the Silk Road." *Culture, Arts and Technology on the Silk Road*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013. <http://www.chinatourdesign.com/Introduction_Of_Silk_Road/Culture_arts_technology_on_the_Silk_Road.htm>

⁵ "The Chinese Han Dynasty Government System & Laws." *Totally History Han Dynasty Government Comments*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013 <<http://totallyhistory.com/han-dynasty-government/>>

of government of China. Han Dynasty emperors set a policy system of china and also had the responsibility to handle the development of china such as economic and educational system caused by inflow of western cultures. They also used the construction of Silk Road as a symbol of Han Dynasty's power and the centralization. Lastly, in terms of technology⁶, China invented many amazing things and they shared these ideas to other countries along the trade road. Due to the higher demand for silk⁷, China increased a silk production for export the production of silk to other counties. Moreover, they were also invented loom, papermaking, printing and gun power. Not only export they made, they also imported the foreign material products such as grapes, carrot, walnut, bean, pepper and rare animals from neighbor countries through this trade road⁸.

One of factors showing the civilization of China during Han dynasty was the invention of paper⁹. The invention of paper is one of the four great inventions of China¹⁰. Before invention, people used bamboo slips, bones, tortoise shells and good clothes for writing. Because of their weight and their size, they were difficult to use. Afterwards, during the Han dynasty, Chinese invented papermaking from bark, worn

⁶ "Silk Road Culture Exchange: Religion and Technology Introduced into China via the Road." *TravelChinaGuide*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013. <<http://www.travelchinaguide.com/silk-road/culture.htm>>

⁷ "How Did Silk Influence China's Government Economy and Culture during the Han Period?" *WikiAnswers*. Answers, n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013. <http://wiki.answers.com/Q/How_did_silk_influence_china's_government_economy_and_culture_during_the_han_period>

⁸ "Introduction on Silk Road-Historical Development and Modern Influence." *Top Quality Articles & Tutorials*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013. <<http://articles.pubarticles.com/introduction-on-silk-road-historical-development-and-modern-influence-1311907729,268715.html>>

⁹ "China Paper-making Technology in Silk Road." *China Paper-making Technology in Silk Road*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013. <<http://www.topchinatravel.com/silk-road/china-paper-making-technology-in-silk-road.htm>>

¹⁰ "Four Inventions of Ancient China: Paper Making, Gunpowder, Printing, Compass." *TravelChinaGuide*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013. <<http://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/focus/inventions.htm>>

fishnet and cloth, which had lower cost and more lightweights¹¹. This innovation spread widely around the world and it was recorded as important history of china. This event developed Chinese's culture and literature. Education had been improved because teaching was easier to communicate. With the low cost of paper, most of people could afford it. Therefore, there were many poets during Han Dynasty that brought to be the golden age of literatures¹². Paper helped Chinese to record their history by keeping it as the book. Moreover, creation of paper was also created cultural connection among countries. They would be able to communicate each other easily by writing letter instead of going to that country directly by riding the horse like before. Today, people use paper in their daily life in school, office, home and business. Without it, many inventions would not have been created. For instance, paper money is the idea of technology in printing. People nowadays can perceive the news easily and immediately by reading the newspapers, which made of paper. Hence, the invention of paper was very importance because it changed the world in many ways.

Another factor showing the civilization of China during Han dynasty was the cast of iron tools and the invention of loom¹³. Iron tools could be used to enhance weapons, tools and domestic wares. This technological idea of iron tools¹⁴ was used to implement many agricultural tools and facilitate peasants and expand the agricultural activities in

¹¹ "Invention of Paper in China." *Invention of Paper, Paper Use in Han Dynasty History, History of Ancient China*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013. <<http://www.history-of-china.com/han-dynasty/invention-of-paper.html>>

¹² "Chinese Invention of Paper The First Paper Making History (105 AD)." *Totally History The Invention of Paper Comments*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013. <<http://totallyhistory.com/the-invention-of-paper/>>

¹³ "The Chinese Han Dynasty Inventions, Technology & Science." *Totally History Han Dynasty Inventions Comments*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013. <<http://totallyhistory.com/han-dynasty-inventions/>>

¹⁴ "Science and Technology of the Han Dynasty." *Wikipedia*. Wikimedia Foundation, 02 Apr. 2013. Web. 10 Feb. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Science_and_technology_of_the_Han_Dynasty>

China. Not only the use of iron but also the invention of looms created a lot of benefits to China. Loom was invented¹⁵ during Han Dynasty and widely used to weave the silk that was the valuable and important products for export to other countries. Today, Looms were used in manufacturing to produce clothes. It created the traditional costumes, which showed the history and the civilization of China. It could be said that Han dynasty inventions showed the intelligence of Chinese in Han dynasty era.

In conclusion, Han Dynasty period was the important period of time contributing substantial amount of benefit to China. Every aspect including economic, politic and social was improved during that time. The construction of Silk Road and the creation of Chinese technology since Han Dynasty develop china to be one of the most powerful countries in the world and also shape the society of China to be as it is today. Due to the achievements of Han dynasty, there was no doubt why Han dynasty is the greatest dynasty of china.

¹⁵ "China Western Han Dynasty: Emperors, Politics, Economy, Culture." *TravelChinaGuide*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013. <<http://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/history/han/western.htm>>