

# The Political Development of Imperial China

***Which method of selecting officials led to the best leaders for China?***

## PREVIEW

Suppose that you had to choose someone, like a friend or relative, to make decisions for you. This person might need to make decisions about important issues, such as your finances or your future. Which of the people below would you trust most to make decisions for you? Explain your choice in your notebook.

- someone who is from another country
- someone who is rich
- someone who is considered an excellent student

## READING NOTES

### Key Content Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

emperor	dynasty	warlord	civil service examination
imperial	bureaucracy	aristocracy	meritocracy

### Section 2

1. According to the Mandate of Heaven, when can people overthrow the emperor?
2. What is a *bureaucracy*? What happened when it became corrupt in China?
3. What happened to China when the Han dynasty lost the Mandate of Heaven? Who reunited China?
4. Draw and label a simple symbol for the term or concept you believe is the most important from this section.

### Section 3

1. Who were scholar-officials?
2. The examination for scholar-officials was mainly based on what body of knowledge?
3. During the Tang dynasty, why did aristocrats continue to hold most government offices?
4. Draw and label a simple symbol for the term or concept you believe is the most important from this section.

**Section 4**

1. According to emperors and scholars, knowledge of the Confucian ideas would produce what type of government official?
2. How did the process of becoming a government official change during the Song period?
3. Why did people in medieval China want government jobs?
4. Draw and label a simple symbol for the term or concept you believe is the most important from this section.

**Section 5**

1. Why did Kublai Khan end the system of civil service exams?
2. Whom did Kublai Khan choose to fill important government positions?
3. What happened to Chinese scholars under Mongol rule?
4. Draw and label a simple symbol for the term or concept you believe is the most important from this section.

**Section 6**

After reading this section, create the T-chart below in your notebook. Add at least three details that support the statements in each column.

Hiring Scholar-Officials Helped China	Hiring Scholar-Officials Hurt China

**P R O C E S S I N G**

Based on the activity and reading, determine which method of selecting Chinese officials you think led to the best leaders. Create a sensory figure for that type of official (Aristocrat, Foreigner, or Scholar) that shows what makes them good leaders.

A sensory figure is a simple drawing of a figure with labels giving *at least four* statements of what that person might be seeing, hearing, saying, feeling, or doing. For example, if you choose Foreigners, you might draw a heart on the person’s chest. Then you might write, “I feel loyalty to my emperor Kublai Khan, not to the Chinese people.”