History 170A
The Song Economic Revolution
Population Distribution in China in 750 (left) and 1100 (right)
Physical Relief of China
Rainfall in China
Loess (Huangtu 黃土) Landscape in Upper Yellow River Valley
Rural Landscape, Anhui Province

- Terraced rice paddies amid rugged landscape
“Scenes of Ploughing and Harvesting”
Anonymous, probably 12th century
Mill Technologies
(from Wang Zhen’s *Treatise on Husbandry* 農書, 13th c.)

Left: Water-powered threshing mill

Right: Ox-powered square-pallet chain pump
Yangzi Delta Rural Landscape
Canal Traffic, Wuxi 無錫 (Yangzi Delta)
Tea Preparation

During the Song period, tea became an item of mass consumption, regarded as one of the “seven indispensable items” (along with rice, salt, soy sauce, cooking oil, vinegar, and charcoal) of daily life.
“Reeling Silk” (detail)

- 11th-12th century
- The woman turns the reel with a crank to spin raw silk into yarn, while holding a suckling baby to her breast
“Scenes of Silk Manufacture”

- Upper right: women are reeling silk thread from boiled cocoons to make yarn
- Left: woman weaves silk on a loom
On Left:
1. Guan 官 ware (Kaifeng)
2. Ru 汝 ware (Henan)
3. Jun 均 ware (Henan)

On Right:
4. Ding 定 ware (Hebei)
5. Ge 哥 ware (Zhejiang)

Song Porcelains
Bronze Coins of the Northern Song

- The coins in the top row were issued in the 1070s-80s, when Song mints produced 6 billion coins per year.
Song Paper Money

- In 1162, the Song dynasty supplemented its bronze coin currency with a new paper currency called *huizi* 會子
- *Huizi* notes became the chief form of currency for large transactions such as land sales
The Ancient Silk Road
Ocean-Going “Fuzhou Ship”

- High prow and deep keel gave these ships stability in open ocean
The Kamakura Great Buddha

- Cast in 1252 at what was then Japan’s capital, this bronze statue is 13.35 meters high and weighs 93 tons

- The statue has the exact same alloy content as Song bronze currency—which undoubtedly provided the raw material for it