Goryeo Dynasty
918-1392
Goryeo (Koryo) Dynasty
918 - 1392

- Rise from rebel against Silla rule
- Defeated United Silla in 935
- Set capital in Gaesong
- Civil service exam to recruit officials
- Metal type setting mid-12th century.
- Excelled in Celadon porcelain
- Tripitaka Koreana woodblocks in Haeinsa Temple
Haeinsa Temple
Tripitaka Koreana

Storage House inside Haeinsa Temple
Goryeo on Youtube

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpJfy9mpx0
Goryeo Dynasty

- Goryeo (Koryo) is the namesake of “Korea”;
- Capital moved from Gyeongju to Gaeseong);
- Continuation of hereditary elite rule;
- Civil Service Examination only open to noble families (Yangban);
- Relative stability, peace and prosperity;
- State religion – Buddhism with Shaminism;
- Buddhist temples amassed huge estates, slaves, influences;
- Invaded by Mongols in 1231, on route to Japan. Never reached Japan – “Kamikaze”;
- Defeated by a newly-risen power – General Yi Seonggye, founder of Chosen Dynasty in 1392.
Goryeo Dynasty in Summary

- Centralized Government;
- Goryeo attained larger territory than United Silla;
- Its territory is north-bound by Amonk River, bordering Manchuria – close to the size of Korea today
- Buddhist Religion dominated;

North Koreans consider Koryo as the climax of Korean society/civilization

South Koreans considered United Silla as the climax of Korean society/civilization.
China at the time

- Tang Dynasty and Yuan Dynasty;
- Cosmopolitan policies;
- Allow the existence of multiple “subordinate kingdoms” along its border that were highly autonomous;
- Tang tried but failed to invade Korea;
- Yuan invaded Korean on its way to attack Japan, but failed to reach Japan (Kamikaze=sacred wind)
Questions to Consider

- What are some of the unique characteristics of Goryeo Dynasty?
- What historical reference does the Japanese term “Kamikaze” have?
- Why do North Korea and South Korea disagree on the historical importance of United Silla and Goryeo Dynasties? How does this disagreement reflect the nature of tensions between the two Koreas?