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Chapter 9 Assignment

The Tibetan Empire was a society that occupied central Asia between 618 and 841. The people primarily settled in the Tibetan Plateau, the land hosting modern-day China. The kingdom expanded from the 7th century onwards, making it one of the largest empires worldwide ("Tibet - History"). Emperor Trisong Detsen is arguably the most recognizable emperor of Tibet, as he played a critical role in its expansion between 754 and 799 ("Trisong Detsen"). As a Buddhist state, the people lived according to the dictates of the religion. For instance, the people believed in reincarnation. In addition, the land's inhabitants believed in karma, where one's actions on earth influenced their fate in the next phase of life. The leaders helped in the spread of Buddhism across the central Asian region. Some of their efforts included the building of monasteries and temples. As a result, the Tibetan Empire developed an extensive Buddhist culture that influenced the people's way of life ("Tibet – History"). However, from the 9th century onwards, the empire suffered from internal strife and attack from Muslims, eventually leading to its decline. Like many other societies, the society was highly stratified into various castes. The main classes included the nobility, clergy, traders, peasants, and enslaved people. Therefore, like any other civilization, Tibetan Empire was highly organized.

The nobility comprised monarchs and government officials at the top of the caste system. Their high status and rank reflected how they dressed (Hays, par. 5). The nobility included some of the most influential figures in society, including the wealthiest individuals with a say in the kingdom's ruling. Below them were members of the Buddhist clergy, including the monks. Religious leaders played a critical role in the spread of Buddhist values across the empire. The next group of individuals encompassed the traders, who influenced the economic well-being of the kingdom. The traders facilitated the exchange of commodities and traveled long distances to acquire new goods. The peasants included the small-scale farmers who worked for the landowners on the farms (Hays, par. 5). Craftspeople also fell into this category, playing a critical role in the diversification of the economy. Like most societies, the lowest level of the society's pyramid was the enslaved people who offered cheap labor in the farms and other areas as dictated by the nobility and the landowners (Hays, par. 5). Accordingly, the caste system enabled the division of roles, making it easier for the empires to rule over the people due to law and order.

Works Cited

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