
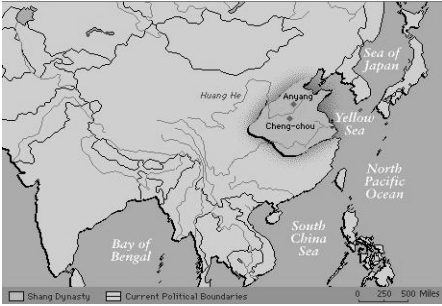


Chapter 2
Classical Civilization: China



Shang Dynasty (1600-1046 BCE)
First documented rule in China after Xia dynasty




Patterns in Classical China

- 3 dynasties: Zhou, Qin, Han
- Dynasty Cycle
 - When a dynasty begins, it usually emerges from a family of a successful general, or from a peasant rebellion
 - Over time, dynasties grew weak:
 - tax revenues declined
 - social divisions increased
 - Internal rebellions
 - periodic invasions
 - When one dynasty declines, another emerges




Zhou Dynasty
1029-258
BCE



- Displaced the Shang dynasty
- Created the “Mandate of Heaven”
 - Used to justify rule based on the idea that Heaven transferred power of the dynasties and legitimized the current dynasty
 - Heaven would also be displeased with a poor leader and would cause that dynasty’s overthrow


Zhou Dynasty, cont.

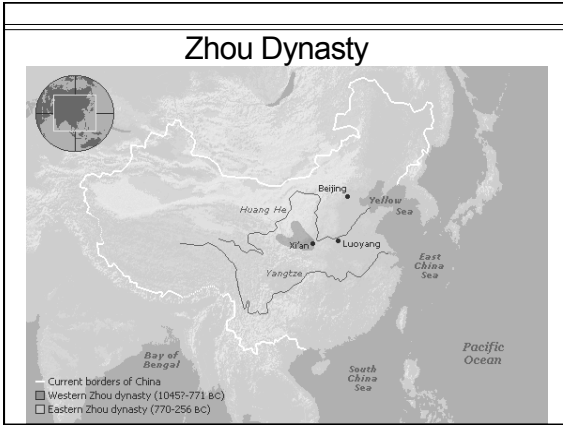
- Used feudalism to create alliances
 - Rulers gave land to family members, other noble families, and regional princes
 - In exchange, tax revenues and military troops were provided
 - Feudalism is unstable; depends on loyalties and obligations
- Extended territory of China into the Yangtze River valley
- Promoted one standard language (Mandarin Chinese)



Zhou Dynasty, cont.

- Eventually, regional rulers formed independent armies
- Great thinkers tried to restore order and social harmony through education
- Zhou never established a powerful government and declined because of weak political infrastructure and nomadic invasions
- Zhou dynasty ended after the Era of the Warring States (402-201 BCE)





Qin Dynasty (221-201 BCE)

- Qin Shi Huangdi – only emperor of the Qin dynasty
 - Took control of feudal estates: knew the problem with Zhou dynasty laid with feudal nobles who ruled lands
 - Created non-aristocratic officials to oversee provinces
 - Had powerful army who crushed uprisings; brutal ruler



Qin Dynasty, cont.

- Great Wall of China was begun
 - Over 3,000 miles long
 - Built to protect from outside invasion
 - Largest construction project in human history
 - Built by forced labor, many died
- National census
 - Calculate tax revenues and labor services more efficiently
- Standardized coinage, weights and measures



Qin Dynasty, cont.

- Uniform Chinese written script
- Government supports agriculture with new irrigation projects
- Shi Huangdi was very unpopular among Chinese citizens
 - Burned books
 - Taxed heavily
 - Large military expansion and conscription
- After Shi Huangdi died, Qin dynasty ended

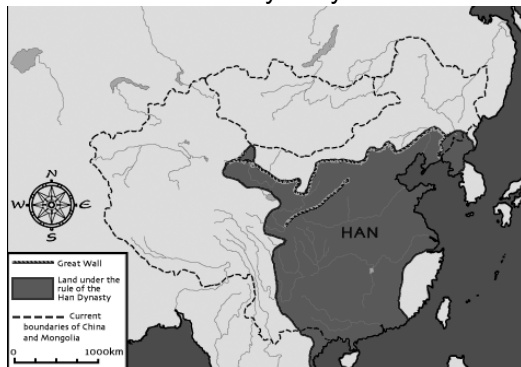


Han Dynasty (201 BCE-220 CE)

- Developed examination system to prepare civil servants to work in government
 - Emperor Wu Ti worked to enforce peace, and required government to have formal training to emphasize Confucianism
- Extensive expansion of Chinese territory
- Trade routes led to contact with India, Parthian Empire, Roman Empire
- Invasions by the Huns and a weak central government ended the dynasty
- Between 220-589 CE, China was in a state of chaos



Han Dynasty



Political Institutions in China

- Most tightly governed of any large society in the world
- Belief in desirability of central government
- Power of the emperor
 - Shi Huangdi - single law code and uniform tax system
 - Qin and Han stressed central authority and strong government
- Development of a educated, professional bureaucracy
 - Han create civil service tests
- Expansion of state functions allowed government to reach the common people (ex: regulation of agricultural production to control costs)
- Little emphasis on military since China did not depend on expansion to maintain its stability

Religion and Culture in China

- Religion
 - Rulers in the Zhou dynasty maintained a belief in gods and stressed the importance of a harmonious earthly life
 - Ancestor worship
- Philosophies/Ideologies
 - Confucianism
 - Legalism
 - Daoism/Taoism



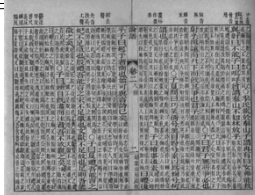
Confucianism

- Chinese ethical and philosophical system based on relationships and personal virtue
- Developed from the teachings of Confucius (551-478 BCE) on the eve of the Era of the Warring States
- Based on *Analects of Confucius*
- Confucianism spread throughout Classical China; predominant philosophy



Confucian Beliefs

- Education
- Self regulation
- The proper exercise of political power by the rulers
- Propriety and etiquette
- Familial love and respect for parents
- Righteousness
- Honesty and trustworthiness
- Loyalty to the state
- Humaneness towards others
 - Highest Confucian virtue



Legalism

- Qin and early Han periods
- Strict system of obedience to government and law
- Favors authoritarian state ruled by force (army to control people)
- Human nature is evil and requires constant discipline
- People's responsibility to work for the government
- Not successful in China overall, but influenced some policies and ideologies



Shi Huangdi admired Legalist thinkers

Daoism

- Founded by Lao Tzu (5th c. BCE)
- A more spiritual philosophy than Confucianism
- Promoted humility, frugal living, simplicity
- Harmony with nature, astrology
- Secret rituals, ceremonies, mystery, magic
- People should follow personal paths to self-knowledge
- Little emphasis on formal education and learning
- Many emperors favored Daoism



Economy in China

- Large gaps between the upper class and the majority of people
- Standardization of weights and measures by Qin facilitated trade
- Focused on agriculture; virtues of peasants
 - Yangtze River Valley
 - wheat in north, rice in south
 - population growth

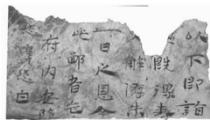


Trade in China

- Extensive and regular internal trade using copper coins
- Trade focused on luxury items: silk, jewelry, leather, furniture
- Traded food between wheat and rice growing regions
- Trade was not highly valued in Classical Chinese society (Confucian value of learning emphasized; merchants viewed poorly)

Technological Advances in China

- Ox-drawn plows (300 BCE)
 - Collar created that did not choke the animal
- Iron mining
 - Pulleys bring material to surface
 - Improved tools and weapons
- Water-powered mills
 - Aided manufacturing
- Paper
 - Allows government to keep records



Society in China

- Social classes passed down through families
 - Not permanent; could move up
- 3 social classes (hierarchical)
 1. Landowning aristocracy and educated bureaucrats
 2. Laboring masses: peasants and urban artisans
 - Manual labor
 - Produced manufactured goods (crops, etc.)
 3. Mean (average) people
 - People with unskilled jobs
 - Performing artists, merchants, household slaves
 - Punished more harshly than other groups

Families in China

- Importance of unity and extended families
- Power of husbands and fathers (patriarchy)
- Power of parents
 - Children punished severely for disobedience
- Ancestor worship
- Role of women: power through sons, and as mother-in-law
- Property rights: oldest male child inherited property



Science in China

- Accurate calendar (444 BCE)
 - 365.25 days
- Adept at astronomy
 - Observed movements of Saturn and Jupiter
- Developed early seismograph
 - Measures earthquake strength
- Medical research
 - Principals of hygiene and anatomical knowledge



Chinese Art

- Highly decorative, often representing nature
- Chinese calligraphy
- Artwork found on bronze, pottery, carved jade, ivory, woven silk screens
- No monumental buildings or large monuments
- Many palaces and tombs



Terracotta Army

- Created around 210 BCE
- Purpose: defend Shi Huangdi's tomb, help him rule in the afterlife
- Over 8,000 individual soldiers, 130 chariots, 520 horses buried in four pits around the tomb
- Terracotta: clay-based unglazed ceramic



