

# CLASSICAL CHINA

## CLASSICAL (600 BCE-600 CE)

ORGANIZATION & REORGANIZATION OF HUMAN SOCIETIES



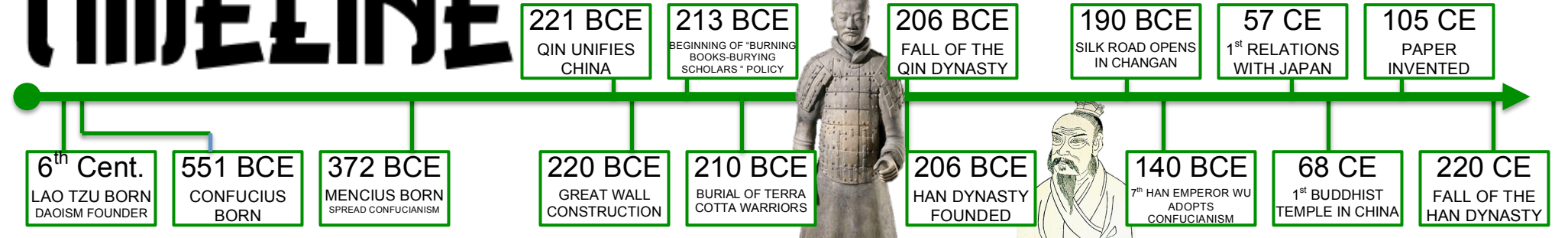
### APPEARANCES IN THE AP CURRICULUM:

- **Confucianism's** core beliefs and writings originated in the writings and lessons of Confucius and were elaborated by key disciples who sought to promote social harmony by outlining proper rituals and social relationships for all people in China, including the rulers.
- In the major **Daoist** writings, the core belief of balance between humans and nature assumed that the Chinese political system would be altered indirectly. *Daoism* also influenced the development of Chinese culture (Medical theories & practices, Poetry, Metallurgy, Architecture).
- Confucianism emphasized **Filial Piety**
- **Ancestor Veneration**
- Required Empire: **Qin & Han** China
- In order to organize their subjects, rulers created *administrative institutions* (Centralized Government, Elaborate **Bureaucracy/Legal System**)
- Projected Military Power (Supply Lines, Diplomacy, Building Walls, Roads)
- ★ Trade Cities (**Chang' an**)
- Social Hierarchy
- Fall of the Classical Empires (Han China vs. Xiongnu)
- Silk Road



CollegeBoard

# TIMELINE



## PEOPLE TO KNOW

**LAO TZU**  
FOUNDER OF DAOISM & AUTHOR OF THE TAO TE CHING

FOUNDER OF CONFUCIANISM WHOSE TEACHINGS WERE PERSECUTED UNDER THE QIN & VENERATED UNDER THE HAN

**CONFUCIUS**

CONSIDERED THE FIRST EMPEROR OF CHINA; HE UNIFIED CHINA. FOUNDED THE QIN DYNASTY, WAS A LEGALIST

**QIN SHI HUANGDI**

HAN EMPEROR WHO RULED 54 YEARS & PROMOTED CONFUCIANISM & EXPANDED CHINA'S BORDERS

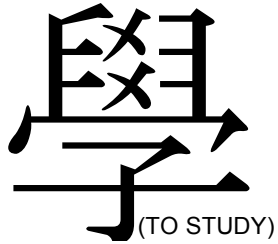
**HAN WUDI**

PAPER

**CAI LUN**

TWO OF THE MOST IMPORTANT CHINESE PHILOSOPHIES FORMED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASSICAL ERA (DURING THE ZHOU DYNASTY). WHILE THESE TWO MEN ARE LONG GONE BY THE TIME OF CHINA'S UNIFICATION, THEY HAVE A HUGE IMPACT ON BOTH THE QIN & HAN DYNASTIES. IN FACT, THESE PHILOSOPHIES CONTINUE TO HAVE HUGE IMPACTS ACROSS EAST ASIA TODAY. THE STORY OF CONFUCIANISM & DAOISM IS UNIQUE IN THE WORLD OF RELIGION/PHILOSOPHY AS THE FOUNDERS OF BOTH ACTUALLY MET.

# CONFUCIANISM



- ETHICAL PHILOSOPHY BASED ON THE TEACHINGS OF **K'UNG FUZI** (CONFUCIUS)
  - CONFUCIUS WAS A FAILED BUREAUCRAT
  - AFTER LEAVING HIS POSITION, HE TOURED AROUND CHINA ESPOUSING HIS BELIEFS
  - SPENT HIS LAST YEARS TEACHING TO 77 DISCIPLES VIA *THE FIVE CLASSICS*

- BELIEFS**
- ETHICAL PHILOSOPHY TO BE FOLLOWED BY ALL HUMANITY
  - 仁 **REN- KINDNESS**; 'DO UNTO OTHERS'; 'LOVE OTHERS'
  - 禮 **LI- CULTURE**; EVERYDAY SECULAR RITUALS, ACTS
  - 忠 **HANZI- LOYALTY**; MUTUAL, BETWEEN RULER & RULED
  - 孝 **FILIAL PIETY- RESPECT FOR ELDERS**; FAMILIAL LOYALTY
  - **RELATIONSHIPS- FOLLOWING THE FIVE BONDS**
  - 君子 **JUNZI- GENTLEMAN**; EVERYONE SHOULD REACH IDEAL

- MAIN GOAL OF CONFUCIANISM: JUNZI
    - **SEEK KNOWLEDGE**, BECOME A BETTER PERSON
  - MERITOCRACY
    - POWER SHOULD BE VESTED IN THOSE ACCORDING TO MERIT/ABILITY
    - ESPOUSED BY ENLIGHTENMENT THINKERS
- 
- PERSECUTED BY THE LEGALIST QIN
  - OFFICIAL STATE IDEOLOGY OF THE HAN
  - LED TO CIVIL SERVICE EXAM (MERITOCR)
  - BASED ON CONFUCIAN TEACHINGS
  - FALL OF HAN LED TO DECLINE IN CONFUC.
  - REPLACED WITH BUDDHISM/DAOISM
  - REVIVED UNDER THE TANG (618-907 CE)
  - TEXT: *The ANALECTS*
    - COLLECTION OF SAYINGS/TEACHINGS FROM CONFUCIUS
  - LATER SPREAD BY **MENCIUS** (372-289 BCE)



**CONFUCIUS**  
(551-478 BCE)

# DAOISM

- ROUGHLY AROUND THE SAME TIME, DAOISM EMERGED AS A SPIRITUAL ALTERNATIVE TO CONFUCIANISM
- FAR MORE SPIRITUAL THAN CONF.
  - CONFUCIUS RARELY MENTIONED RELIGION, SPIRITUALITY, OR THE AFTERLIFE



- BELIEFS**
- EMBRACED TRADITIONAL CHINESE BELIEFS IN NATURE'S HARMONY AND MYSTERY
  - **NATURE HAS A DIVINE POWER** THAT DIRECTS ALL LIFE
  - TRUE UNDERSTANDING COMES FROM REMOVING YOURSELF FROM THE WORLD & CONTEMPLATING THE DAO
  - STRESSED HUMILITY, FRUGAL LIVING
  - POLITICAL ACTIVITY/LEARNING ARE IRRELEVANT



**LAO TZU**  
(6<sup>th</sup> CENTURY BCE)

- ALONG WITH BUDDHISM'S ARRIVAL AFTER THE FALL OF THE HAN, DAOISM INSURED THAT CHINA WOULD NOT HAVE ONE UNIVERSAL PHILOSOPHY
- CONFUCIANS HATED THE DAOIST EMPHASIS ON **MAGIC/MYSTERY**
- FOUNDER: LAO TZU
  - IMPERIAL ZHOU LIBRARIAN
  - ATTRACTED FOLLOWERS (DID NOT OPEN A FORMAL SCHOOL)
  - SPENT 62 YEARS IN THE WOMB (BORN AN OLD MAN)
  - MORAL DECAY IN THE CITY DISTURBED LAO TZU
  - MOVED WEST TO LIVE AS A HERMIT
  - (RIDING HIS OX)
  - STOPPED AT GATE & ASKED TO WRITE HIS TEACHINGS
    - TEXT: *TAO TE CHING*





# QIN DYNASTY

- **WARRING STATES PERIOD (475-221 BCE)**
  - QIN EMERGED VICTORIOUS AGAINST OTHER STATES
    - YAN, QI, HAN, ZHAO, CHEN, etc.
  - QIN SHI HUANGDI PROCLAIMED THE FIRST EMPEROR
    - ORDERED ALL NON-QIN WEAPONS MELTED DOWN
    - EXPANDED BORDERS IN ALL DIRECTIONS
  - “QIN” IS LITERALLY THE ROOT OF THE WORD “CHINA”

- **QIN DYNASTY (221-206 BCE)**
  - POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: **LEGALISM**
    - STRICT OBEDIENCE TO THE LAW
    - ALWAYS OBEY THE RULINGS OF THE EMPEROR
    - IMPORTANCE OF THE STATE OVER INDIVIDUAL
    - OPPRESSED ALL OTHER IDEOLOGIES
  - **BURNING OF BOOKS & BURYING OF SCHOLARS**
    - LED TO THE LOSS OF MUCH OF CHINA'S HISTORY
    - IF YOU REFUSED, YOU WERE SENT TO THE NORTH TO WORK ON THE WALL AS CONVICT LABOR
  - QIN ACCOMPLISHMENTS:
    - STANDARDIZED WRITING
    - REPLACED FEUDAL SOCIETY WITH CENTRALIZED BUREAUCRATIC GOVERNMENT
    - IRON SWORDS AND CROSSBOWS
    - INITIAL WORKS OF THE GREAT WALL
    - TERRACOTTA ARMY (not found until 1974)



Qin Dynasty Empire (221–207 B.C.)

## DEATH OF EMPEROR QIN SHI HUANGDI

QIN SHI HUANGDI BECAME OBSESSED WITH IMMORTALITY AND THE ELIXIR OF LIFE. HE TRAVELLED TO THE EAST IN SEARCH OF DAOIST MAGICIANS WHO TOLD HIM THE ELIXIR WAS ON AN ISLAND GUARDED BY A SEA MONSTER. HIS ALCHEMISTS CREATED AN IMMORTALITY PILL. HE TOOK THE PILL AND IT KILLED HIM... MERCURY POISONING. TO AVOID REVOLT ON THE ROUTE BACK TO THE CAPITAL, THEY TRAVELLED WITH CARTS OF ROTTING FISH TO HIDE THE EMPEROR'S ROTTING CORPSE ODOR.



QIN SHI HUANGDI (259-210 BCE)





# HAN DYNASTY

# 漢朝

LIU BANG  
(GAOZU)  
(247-195 BCE)

- FOUNDED BY **LIU BANG** (LATER EMPEROR GAOZU)
  - ONE OF FEW FOUNDERS FROM *PEASANT CLASS*
  - *ALSO, EMPEROR HONGWU (MING FOUNDER)*
- AFTER THE DEATH OF QIN SHI HUANGDI, **CIVIL WAR ENSUED**
  - LIU BANG'S **HAN** EMERGE VICTORIOUS
  - LIU BANG TOOK THE TITLE *HUANGDI* (EMPEROR)
- HUANGDI GAOZU (LIU BANG'S EMPEROR NAME) CONSOLIDATED THE REMAINING TERRITORIES VIA TREATY (AND LATER REPLACED THEM WITH LIU FAMILY MEMBERS)

- CHINESE HISTORY THEME: **PROBLEMS TO THE NORTH**
  - HAN'S NOMADIC PROBLEM=XIONGNU
    - FOUGHT 200 YEARS OF DECLARED WARS
      - CLASSIC: **SEDINTARY vs. NOMADIC**
      - LED HAN TO EXPAND WEST/NORTH
      - CONSTANT PROBLEM FOR CHINESE DYNASTIES UNTIL THE END OF THE DYNASTIC SYSTEM (1911)

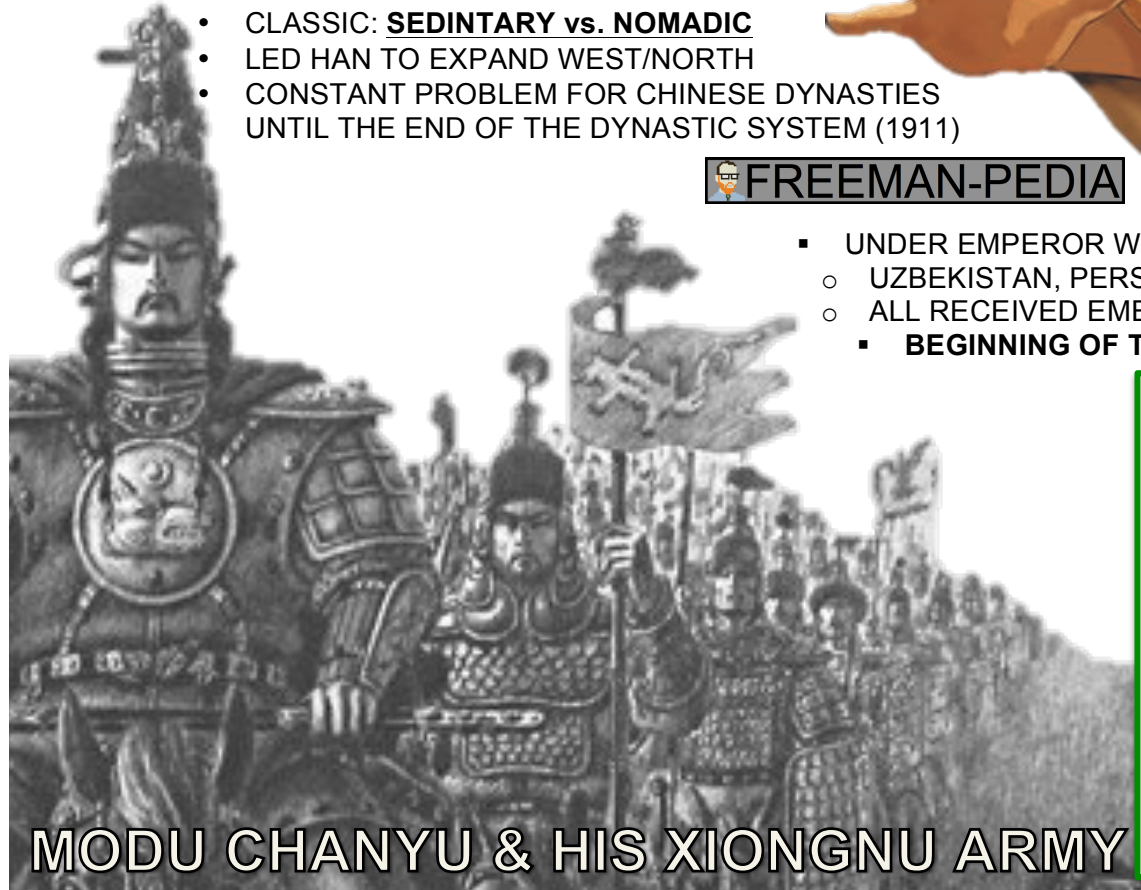
## FREEMAN-PEDIA

- UNDER EMPEROR WU, CHINA SENT DIPLOMATS AROUND THE WORLD
  - UZBEKISTAN, PERSIA, BACTRIA, INDIA, VIETNAM, KOREA
  - ALL RECEIVED EMBASSIES
    - **BEGINNING OF THE SILK ROAD (SEE NEXT PAGE)**

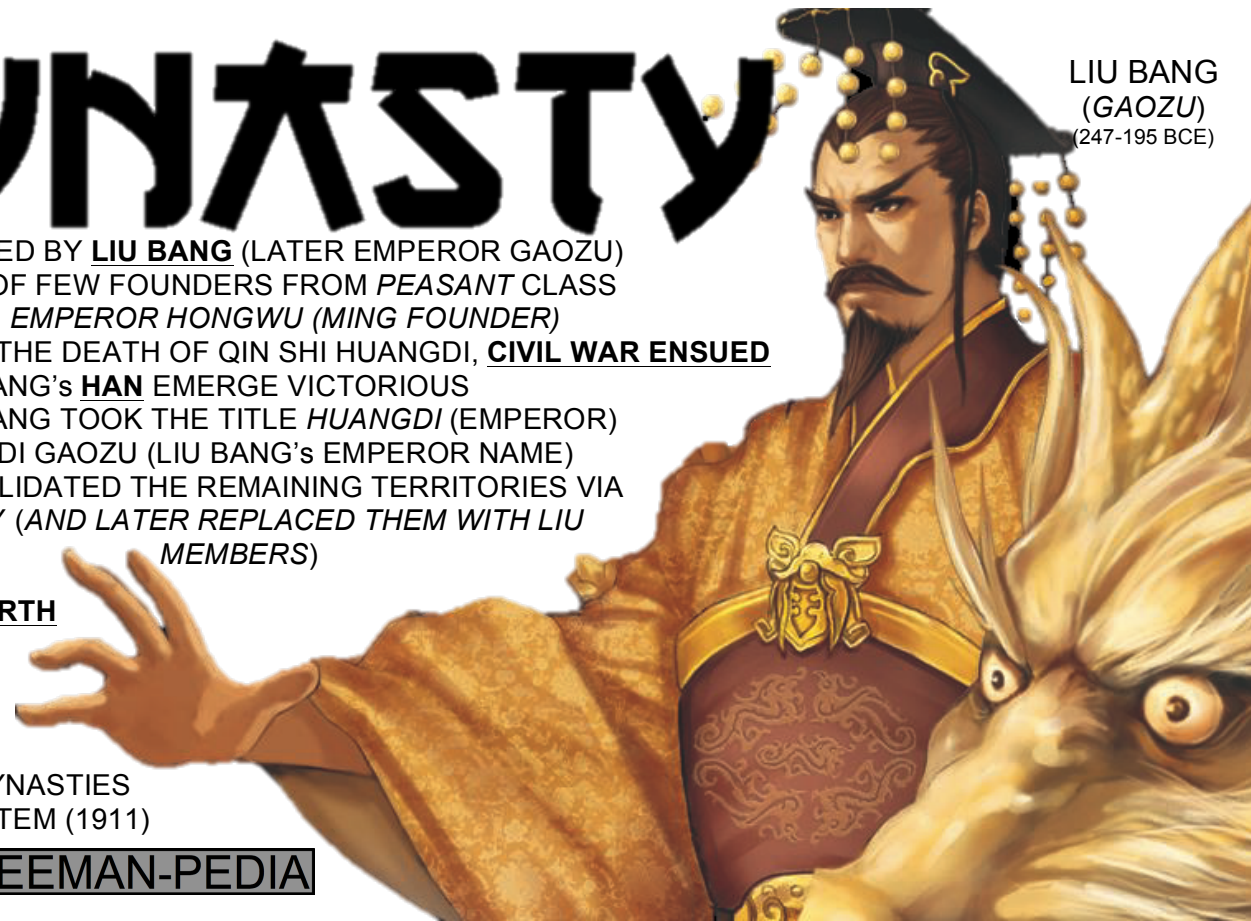
## THE SHORTLIVED XIN DYNASTY

THE GOLDEN ERA OF THE HAN WAS BRIEFLY (9-23 CE) INTERRUPTED BY THE XIN (NEW) DYNASTY. **WANG MANG** WAS "ACTING EMPEROR" WHILE THE NEXT EMPEROR WAS A CHILD. WANG MANG CLAIMED THE *MANDATE OF HEAVEN* AND TOOK CONTROL. HE ENACTED REFORMS THAT EVENTUALLY DID NOT LAST AND AFTER A SERIES OF FLOODS LED TO MASS STARVATION (FORFEITING THE *MANDATE OF HEAVEN*). MANY FORMER FARMERS JOINED REBELLION GROUPS (ex. THE RED EYEBROWS) WHO EVENTUALLY STORMED TO PALACE KILLING WANG MANG. EMPEROR GUANGWU WAS ABLE TO DEFEAT OTHER CLAIMANTS TO THE THRONE & RESTORE THE HAN DYNASTY IN 25 CE. IT WOULD LAST UNTIL 220 CE.

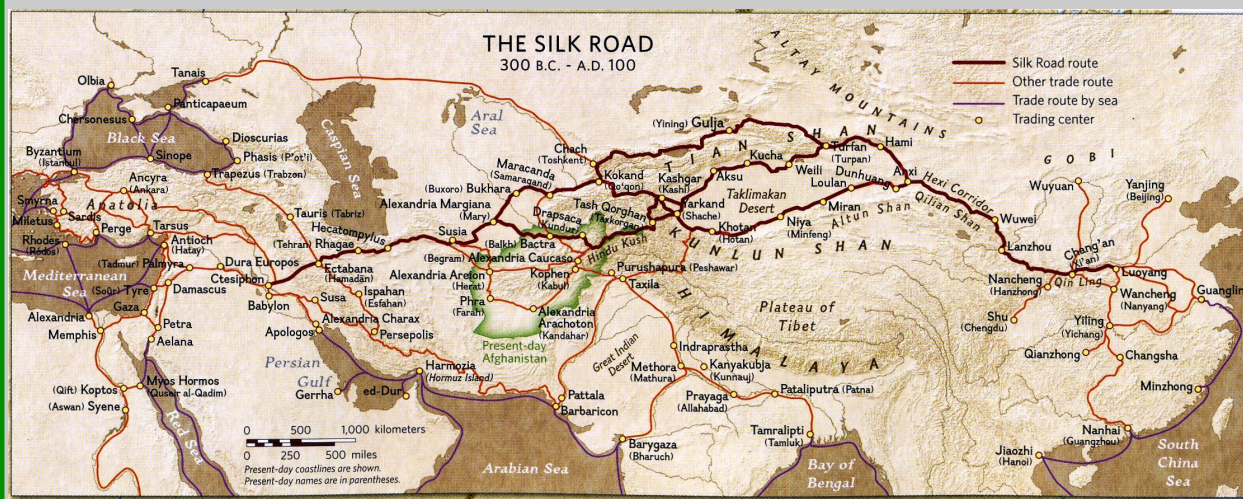
WANG MANG



MODU CHANYU & HIS XIONGNU ARMY







# THE SILK ROAD

- MOST IMPORTANT TRADE ROUTE EVER...
- NAMED AFTER THE LUCRATIVE HAN SILK TRADE
- **COMPLEX NETWORK OF TRADE ROUTES**
- BEGAN BY EMPEROR WU'S TRADE MISSIONS
  - (SEE BELOW)
- NOT THE FIRST LARGE SCALE TRADE ROUTE
  - ex. PERSIAN ROYAL ROAD, ALEXANDER the G.
- **TWO WAY ROAD**: ROMANS WERE JUST AS INTERESTED AS THE EAST AS CHINA WITH THE WEST
- ROME BECAME OBSESSED WITH CHINESE SILK
  - ATTEMPTED TO BAN IT; FAILED
- NOT JUST GOODS; IDEAS, **DISEASE**, TECH.

## EMPEROR WU OF THE HAN

- ARGUABLY THE **MOST IMPORTANT CHINESE EMPEROR** (BELOW ARE VARIOUS RANKINGS OUT OF 557 EMPERORS)
  - #2 (China.org), #3 (Chinawhisper), #3 (Chinatraveldiscovery)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> LONGEST REIGNING EMPEROR (53 YEARS)
- VASTLY **EXPANDED** THE CHINESE HAN EMPIRE
- SENT MISSIONS AS FAR WEST AS MESOPOTAMIA
  - BROUGHT BACK SEEDS, HORSES, ETC.
    - OPENED IDEA TO MORE TRADE TO THE WEST
  - INITIALLY SENT TO SET UP ALLIANCES AGAINST XIONGNU
- OFFICIALLY PROMOTED **CONFUCIANISM** AS STATE DOCTRINE
  - CHINA'S CONSTANTINE (though he remained quite Legalist)
- 140 BCE: INSTITUTED AN **EXAMINATION** OF 100 SCHOLARS
  - HIGHEST SCORE'S ESSAY ENDORSED CONFUCIANISM
  - TOP SCORERS BECAME TOP ADVISORS TO EMPEROR



漢朝

FREEMAN-PEDIA

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- 漢朝 THE SILK ROAD
- 漢朝 CIVIL SERVICE EXAM
- 漢朝 PAPER
- 漢朝 CONFUCIANISM (STATE)
- 漢朝 WATER WHEEL
- 漢朝 IRON, STEEL
- 漢朝 WHEELBARROW
- 漢朝 JUNK SHIPS (with RUDDERS)
- 漢朝 SEISMOGRAPH
- 漢朝 SEED DRILL
- 漢朝 CROP ROTATION
- 漢朝 CALENDAR=365.25 (.01 off!)
- 漢朝 ACUPUNCTURE
- 漢朝 ANESTHESIA

## DOWNFALL OF THE HAN EMPIRE

- 30 YEAR PERIOD LEADING TO THE END
- MANY AGRARIAN REVOLTS
  - ex. **YELLOW TURBAN REVOLT**
    - FAMINE/FLOOD SHOWED THE HAN HAD LOST MANDATE OF HEAVEN
    - GOV'T WAS **CORRUPT**
    - LED BY DAOIST GROUP
    - 10,000s REBELLED
    - LASTED TWENTY YEARS
- INABILITY TO HANDLE REBELLION LED TO RISE OF LOCAL LORDS
  - EMPRESS DOWAGER BROUGHT IN LOCAL WARLORD WHO THEN SEIZED POWER
    - CIVIL WAR ENSUED
      - OFFICIALLY ENDING IN 220 CE
  - CHINA BROKE INTO 3 KINGDOMS
  - OFT ROMANTICIZED IN EAST ASIAN LITERATURE
- NOT REUNIFIED UNTIL 581
  - SUI DYNASTY (581-618 CE)

