

Mr. Wyka – AP World History

Ancient China

When? 1750 B.C.E. to 220 C.E.

Where? East Asia



Physical Geography of China

- Today and tomorrow, we will continue our study of ancient China.
- There will be an open notes quiz after we complete our discussion of Ancient China. If you are absent any of these days we cover China, you will still take the quiz.
- It's on the Weebly.

Main Ideas

- Chinese dynasties followed a rise and fall pattern.
- Three schools of philosophy emerged – **Confucianism**, **Daoism**, and **Legalism** – seeking to spell out principles that would create **stability** and **order** in society.

The Geography of China

Two great rivers dominated the growth of Chinese civilization.

- The Huang He, or Yellow River
- The Chang Jiang, or Yangtze River



Qin Dynasty Empire (221–207 B.C.)

The Shang Dynasty 1750 – 1122 B.C.E.

- Little is known about the dynasty preceding the **Shang** – the Xia (SYAH) dynasty.
- China under the **Shang** was a mostly **farming** society ruled by an aristocracy whose major concern was war.
- Political Structure:
 - **Monarchy** – powerful king responsible for defending the realm.
 - Aided by a aristocratic families.
- Comparison:
 - **Like rulers in Mesopotamia and Egypt, early Chinese kings were buried with the corpses of their faithful servants in the royal tombs.**

The Shang Dynasty 1750 – 1122 B.C.E.

- Religion and Culture:
 - Strong belief in life after death.
 - Veneration of ancestors (“ancestor worship”) grew from this.



The Shang Dynasty 1750 – 1122 B.C.E.

- Early Masters of Bronze casting
 - Copper & Tin alloy



The Zhou (Joe) Dynasty 1045-256 B.C.E.

- Rulers of the state of **Zhou** rebelled against the last **Shang** emperor believing him wicked and that Heaven no longer favored him (**Mandate of Heaven**).
- Longest lasting dynasty in Chinese history.
- Political Structure:
 - Monarchy – powerful king responsible for defending the realm.
 - Governing officials were members of the aristocracy.
 - Essentially the same as the Shang

The Zhou (Joe) Dynasty 1045-256 B.C.E.

- **Mandate of Heaven**

- Zhou kings claimed they ruled by authority from Heaven.
- King was expected to rule according to the proper “**Way**” – the **Dao**.
- Double edged sword – presupposes a “right of revolution” to overthrow a ruler who has lost Heaven’s Mandate.

The Dynastic Cycle

New Dynasty

- Brings peace
- (Re)builds infrastructure
- Gives land to peasants
- Protects people

Old Dynasty

- Taxes people too much
- Stops protecting people
- Lets infrastructure decay
- Treats people unfairly

Generations go
by, New Dynasty
becomes...

New Dynasty claims
Mandate of Heaven

Old Dynasty loses
Mandate of Heaven

Problems

- Floods, earthquakes, etc.
- Peasant revolt
- Invaders attack empire
- Bandits raid countryside

The Fall of the Zhou

- Later **Zhou** rulers became corrupt and more interested in their palace pleasures than ruling wisely.
- Rebellion followed.
- **Period of the Warring States**
 - Almost 200 years of civil war.
 - Power reverted to local lords (feudalism)
 - Hundreds of new philosophies were born trying to make sense and order out of chaos.
 - Daoism, Confucianism, and Legalism
 - The state of **Qin** defeated its enemies and united China.

New Technologies

By the Period of the Warring States:

- **Iron** replaced bronze in weapons.
- Powerful **crossbow** invented.
- Large scale **irrigation** & **Iron plowshares** increased food production leading to
 - A population explosion

Long Distance Trade

- Chinese **SILK** monopoly
- Important trade item.
- Found as far away as Greece during this early period.






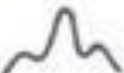





Family in Ancient China

- The **Family** was the basic economic and social unit.
- Symbol of the entire social order.
- **Filial Piety** – Duty of family members toward the male head of the family.
 - Filial Piety is an important concept in **Confucianism**.
 - Male supremacy
 - Women subordinate.

<p>主人 ↑ ↑ Main Person</p>	<p>家内 ↑ ↑ House Interior</p>
<p>These symbols represent the word husband. The meaning is main person.</p>	<p>These symbols represent the word wife. The meaning is inside the house.</p>

Chinese Written Language

- Pictographic and ideographic
 - Symbols represent an object or idea
 - Different than phonetic alphabetic systems

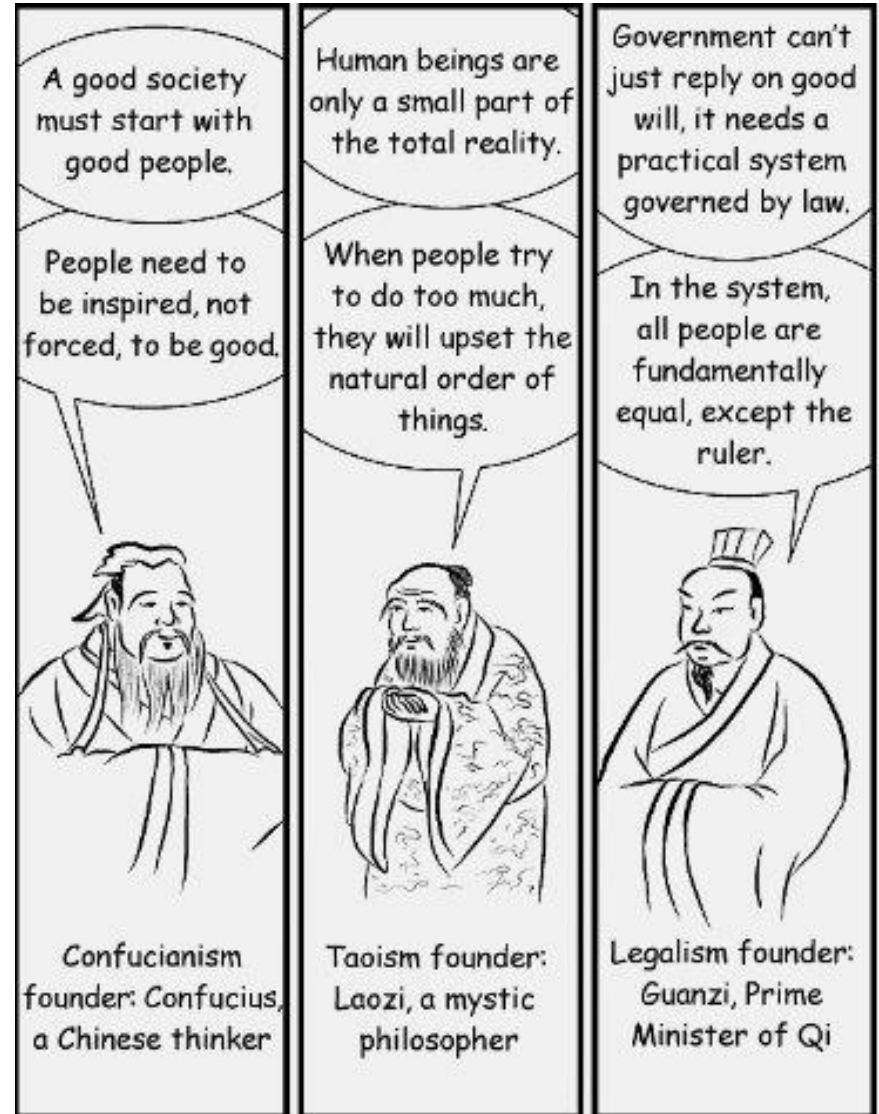
	Ancient	Modern	Print
Sun			
Mountain			
Farmland			

 Dog	 Dragon	 Horse	 Monkey
 Ox	 Pig	 Rabbit	 Ram
 Rat	 Rooster	 Snake	 Tiger

Chinese Philosophies

Difference:

- Hindus and Buddhists (Indian systems) focused on freeing the soul from the cycle of rebirth.
- Chinese philosophies focused on the immediate world and how to create a stable societal order.



Confucianism

- Enduring part of Chinese culture.
 - Studied by every Chinese student until the communist take-over in the mid 20th century.
- **Ethical system**, not spiritual

Two elements stand out:

- **Duty and humanity**
 - Duty - Family, society, and the emperor are more important than self.
 - Humanity – compassion and empathy for others.

“If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in character. If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there be harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. If there be order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.”

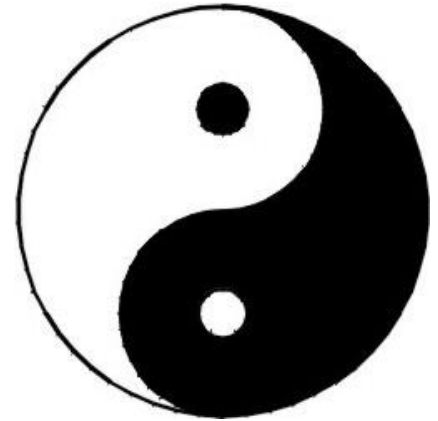
- Confucius

Confucianism

Confucian political thought:

- The idea that **government should not be limited only to those of noble birth**, but should be open to men of superior talent.
 - A radical idea at the time.
 - Opened the door to the “Civil Service” exams used in later dynasties to find qualified bureaucrats.

Daoism



- Tries to set forth proper forms of behavior for Chinese.
 - In this way, similar to Confucianism

Difference

- Confucians believe hard work is a duty.
- Daoists believe the true way to follow the will of Heaven is not action, but inaction.
 - **Harmony with nature.**

Legalism

Differences from Confucianism and Daoism:

- **Humans are evil** by nature
- Can only be brought to follow the correct path by **harsh laws and stiff punishments**.
- Advocated a strong ruler and a rigid set of laws.

Let's hear what John Green has to say
about the Mandate of Heaven.



China

THIS MACHINE KILLS FASCISTS



Mr. Wyka – AP World History

Ancient China The Qin and the Han

When? 221 B.C.E. to 220 C.E.

Where? East Asia



As a Chinese ruler looks on, books are burned and scholars are killed.

Main Ideas

- The short lived Qin and the longer lived Han dynasties established strong, imperial central governments that set the precedent for future Chinese dynasties.
- The nearly 400 year Han dynasty was contemporaneous with the Roman Empire.

QIN CHINA

210 BC © Ian Mladjov



Rise and Fall of Dynasties

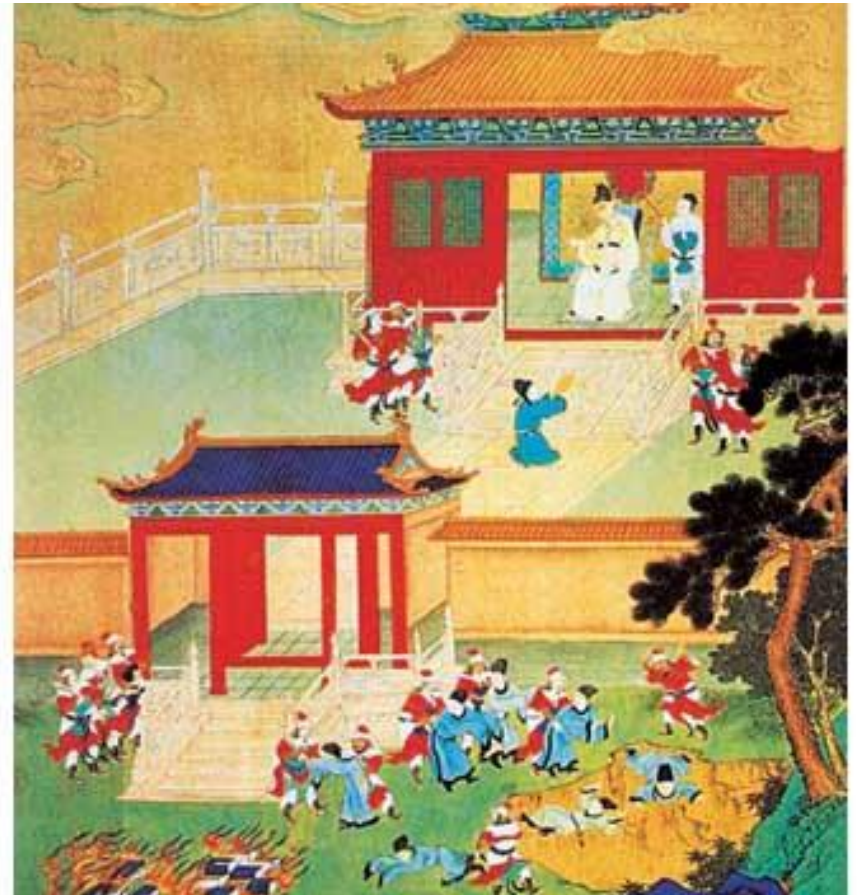
- Shang
- Zhou
- **Period of Warring States**
- Qin
- Han

Emergence of the Qin

- For 200 years, China was embroiled in Civil War – the **Period of Warring States**.
- The state of Qin gradually defeated its rivals and declared that the **Mandate of Heaven** was upon it.
- A new dynasty was born – the **Qin** (Chin).

Changes under the Qin

- Adopted Legalism as the govt's official ideology.
- Opposition views were treated harshly
 - Executions, land seizures, book burnings.
- **Highly centralized state**
 - **Multi layered bureaucracy**
- Qin Shihuangdi unified (by force) the Chinese world.
 - Single monetary system
 - System of roads



Qin Works

- System of roads
- Canal running north and south to connect the great rivers.
 - Later dynasties would expand this.
- Expanded the northern defensive walls - the Great Wall
 - Built upon by later dynasties
 - To defend against the Xiongnu, nomadic steppe horsemen.

Qin Shihuangdi – the First Emperor

- Chinese historian Sima Qian wrote of Qin Shihuangdi, that aristocrats and Confucian intellectuals, as well as common people, groaned under the censorship of speech, harsh taxes, and forced labor projects.
- “He killed men as though he thought he could never finish, he punished men as though he were afraid he would never get around to them all, and the whole world revolted against him.”
- His dynasty was overthrown 4 years after his death.

His Power – Even in Death





Swap Notes with a Neighbor.
Skim your neighbor's notes. Is
there anything you missed? Is
there anything he or she is
missing?

Fall of the Qin

- The harshness of Qin Shihuangdi's rule angered many Chinese and his dynasty was overthrown.
- It had lasted less than 20 years but is remembered as **the first dynasty to truly set the precedent for strong, imperial, centralized rule.**

Important!



The Han Dynasty 202 B.C.E. – 220 C.E.

- **Liu Bang - founder**
 - Of peasant origin
- **Political Structure**
 - Discarded the harsh policies of the Qin
 - **But kept the Qin structure of gov't**
 - Divided into 3 bureaucracies – military, civil service, and censorate
 - **Confucian principles replaced Legalism** — **Important!**
 - Introduced the **Civil Service Examination** and schools for these candidates.
 - Influenced Chinese civilization for 2000 years.

Expansion of the Han

- By its nature, an empire must continue to expand to survive.
- Han emperors expanded the empire to new boundaries

— Parts of Korea were added to the empire.

— Han Wudi

(Martial Emperor of the Han) added territory as far as Vietnam.



Han Society

- **Han period one of great prosperity**
 - Taxes relatively light but military service and forced labor for up to one month per year were required.
 - Population tripled
 - This reduced the size of family farms to about 1 acre / person, barely enough to survive
 - Many farmers sold their land and became tenant farmers (similar to European serfs).
 - Land once again came to be held by a minority of rich, landed aristocrats.

The Role of Women in the Han Dynasty

- **Women** in the Han Dynasty were viewed as **inferior** to men.
- Women were not allowed to be educated.
- The primary role of women was **childbearing**, raising children, and household duties such as cooking and cleaning.
- Women had **no say** in any family matters except those related to child raising.
- The exceptions to this rule were the empresses of the Dynasty. If they succeeded in getting their young son to the throne, they could act as a de facto emperor

Han Technologies

Advances in

- Textile manufacturing (cloth)
- Water mills (grinding grain)
- Iron casting
- Paper making
- Invention of the rudder and fore and aft rigging allowed ships to sail into the wind for the first time
- Expanded trade as far away as India and the Mediterranean.

Fall of the Han

- As with the Zhou, weak rulers were more interested in palace amusements than ruling.
- Imperial power declined and the noble families filled the vacuum.
 - Corruption
- Raids from the northern nomads
- China plunged into a period of civil war that would last 400 years.
- Question: What happens when centralized power crumbles?

Looking back...



Name two religions native to India...

Hinduism and Buddhism

First Roman emperor?

- a. Julius Caesar
- b. Hannibal of Carthage
- c. Alexander the Great
- d. Augustus (Octavian)

