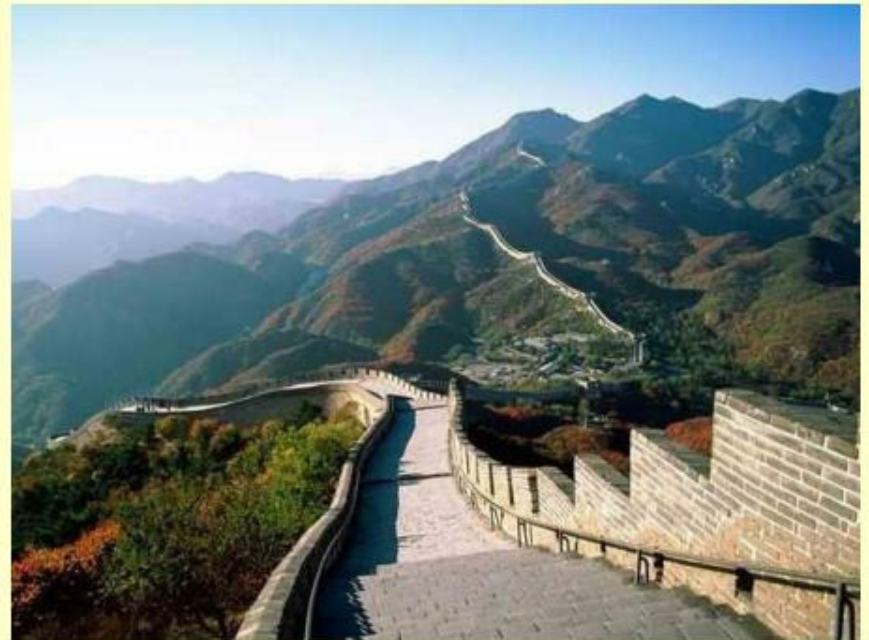


Classical Civilization: China

500 B.C.E. to 600 C.E.



Dynastic* Circles of Classical China

- Zhou – 1122 B.C.E. – 256 B.C.E.
- Period of Warring States 403 B.C.E. – 221 B.C.E.
- Qin – 221 B.C.E. – 207 B.C.E.
- Han – 206 B.C.E. – 220 C.E.

*A dynasty is a family of kings.

Zhou Dynasty

1029 B.C.E. to 258 B.C.E.



- China's feudal period.
- Rulers gave large regional estates to family and supporters.
- Regional leaders provided central government with troops and tax revenues.
- Vulnerable system due to regional landowning aristocrats who built own power base.

Zhou Dynasty Political Developments



- Extended territory from the Huanghe to the Yangtze.
- China's core or "Middle Kingdom"
- Rich agricultural lands merged wheat-growing north and rice-growing south.
- Encouraged population growth.
- Centralized rule became difficult.

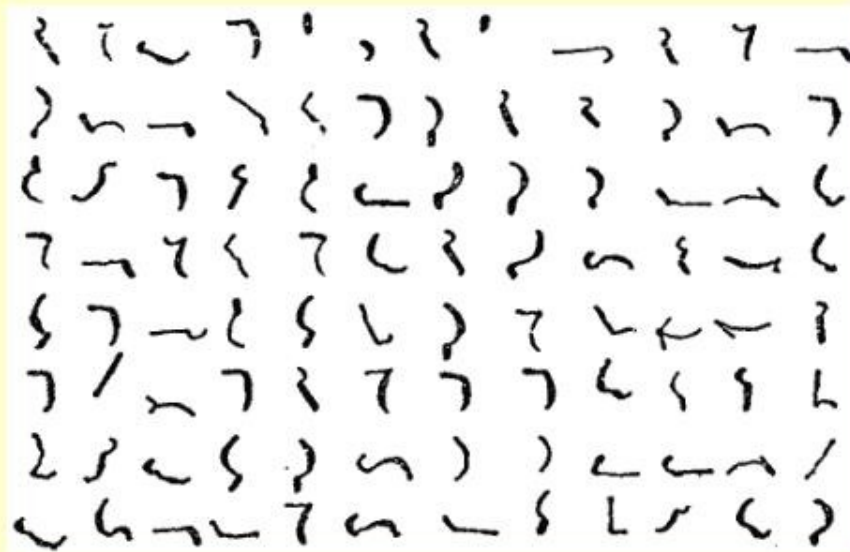
Zhou Dynasty

Political and Cultural Developments



- Heightened focus on central government.
- Asserted Mandate of Heaven.
- Emperors considered Sons of Heaven.

Zhou Dynasty Cultural Developments



- Banned human sacrifice.
- Standardized spoken language, ultimately called Mandarin Chinese, which prevailed over entire Middle Kingdom.
- Regional languages remained but educated officials relied on Mandarin form.

Religion and Culture under the Zhou.

- Maintained belief in gods but little focus on religion.
- Stressed harmonious earthly life that included rituals to unify society and prevent individual excess.
- Upper classes were trained in elaborate exercises and military skills such as archery.
- Veneration of ancestors
- Special meals and introduction of chopsticks to encourage politeness at meals.

The Fall of the Zhou Dynasty

- Regional rulers formed independent armies.
- Emperors were reduced to figureheads.
- From 402 to 201 B.C.E., the “Period of Warring States,” the Zhou dynasty disintegrated.



Confucius (Kung the Philosopher)

551 to 478 B.C.E.

- Kong Fuzi (551 479 B.C.E.) or “Master Philosopher Kong”
- Came from an aristocratic family in northern China.
- Served as an educator and political advisor.
- He attracted numerous disciples who aspired to political careers.
- Studied *Book of Songs*, *Book of History* and *Book of Rites*.



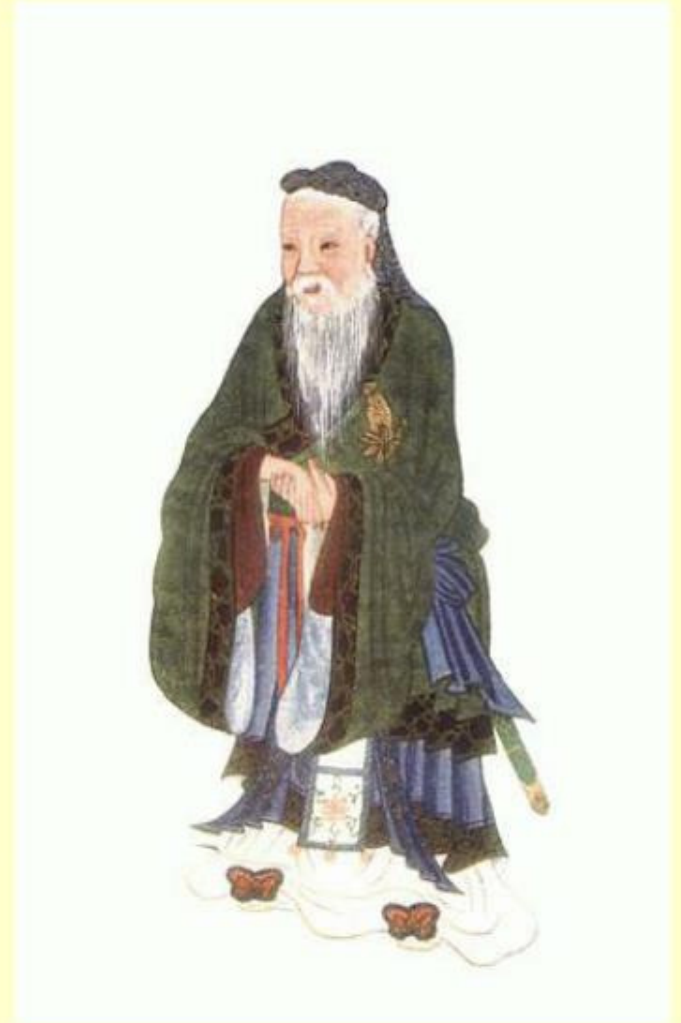
Confucian Values

- Ren: attitude of kindness and a sense of humanity
- Li: sense of propriety (in good taste with good manners); respectful
- Xiao: filial piety which means respect for family; in particular, children's respect to parents and family elders.
- Junzi: Encouraged education to all talented and intelligent members of society.



In the words of Confucius

- “When the ruler does right, all men will imitate his self control. What the ruler does, the people will follow.”
- “When the ruler excels as a father, a son, and a brother, then the people imitate him.”



Confucianism on Leadership

- Force alone cannot conquer unrest. Kindness toward the people and protection of their vital interests will.
- Rulers should be humble and sincere.
- Rulers should not be greedy. True happiness rests in doing good for all, not individual gain.



Mencius (372 – 289 B.C.E.)

- Spokesperson for Confucian school
- Human nature was basically good.
- Placed emphasis on Confucian value of ren.
- Advocated government by benevolence and humanity.
- Critics charged Mencius held a naïve view of human nature



Legalism

Emerged after fall of Zhou and Period of Warring States.

Disdain for Confucian virtues.

Favored authoritarian state that ruled by force.

Human nature is evil and requires discipline and restraint.

In a proper state, the army controls and the people labor.

Educated discourse and courtesy are frivolous.

Confucianism values still remained in spite of the arrival of legalism.

Daoism

Emerged during “Period of Warring States.”

First appealed to upper classes.

Embraced traditional Chinese beliefs in nature’s harmony but added sense of nature’s mystery.

Produced a division in China’s religious and philosophical culture.



Daoism

Laozi (5th Century B.C.E.)
stressed that “nature
contains a divine impulse
that directs all life.”

True human understanding
comes from withdrawal from
the world and contemplating
life force.

Dao means “the way of
nature.”

Harmony comes from humility
and frugal living.

Political activity and learning
are irrelevant to a good life.



Daoism and Confucianism

Individuals did come to embrace some elements from Daoism and Confucianism.

Still, many emperors favored Daoism.

Daoism posed no political threat.

As Daoism became an increasingly formal religion, it provided the Chinese with a host of ceremonies that promoted harmony.

Qin Dynasty 221 B.C.E. – 207 B.C.E.

- Qin Shi Huangdi (First Emperor) made himself sole ruler of China.
- Shi Huangdi was a brutal but effective ruler.
- He assumed control of feudal estates.
- He ordered nobles to leave regions and appointed non-aristocratic bureaucrats to regions.
- His powerful army crushed regional resistance.



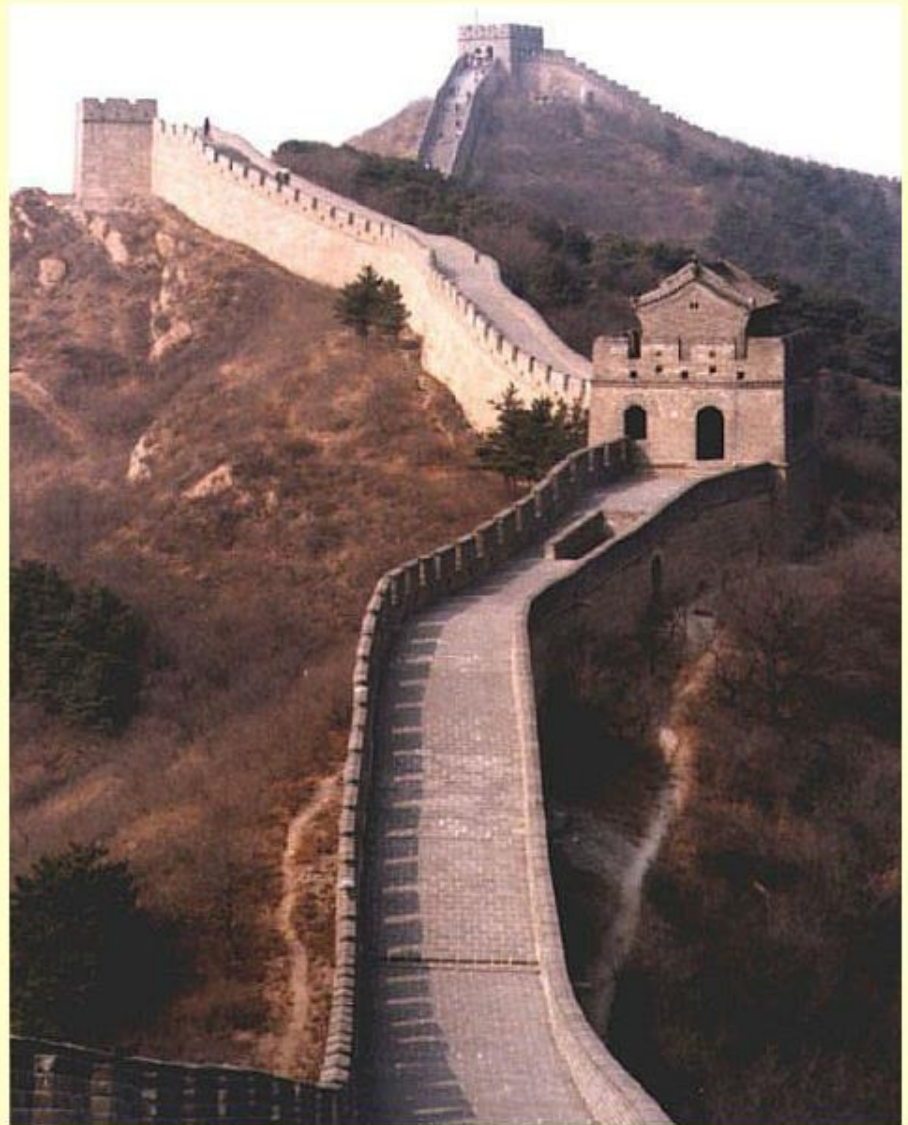
Shi Huangdi

- Extended Chinese territory to the south reaching present-day Hong Kong on South China Sea.



Qin Dynasty

- Built a Great Wall which extended over 3,000 miles.
- Organized by central bureaucracy
- Built by forced labor.



Political Organization of Qin Shi Huangdi's Dynasty

- Provided a single law code for the whole empire.
- Established a uniform tax system.
- Appointed governors to exercise military and legal powers in each district.
- Governors named officials for smaller regions.



Shi Huangdi's Political and Cultural Contributions.

- Shi Huangdi ordered a national census.
- Standardized coinage, weights, and measures throughout entire realm.
- Made Chinese written script uniform, providing a basic language for all educated Chinese to communicate.
- Sponsored new irrigation projects.
- Promoted manufacturing, particularly of silk cloth.
- Burning of Books and Execution of 460 scholars who criticized his policies.

The Demise of Shi Huangdi's Dynasty

- High Taxes that supported military expansion and construction of Great Wall.
- On emperor's death in 210 B.C.E., massive revolts by peasants broke out.



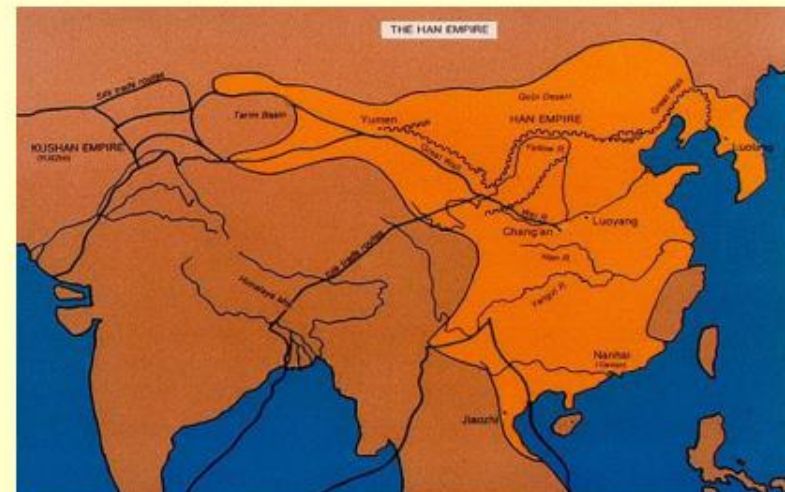
Tomb of the First Emperor

- 700,000 laborers constructed this monument and tomb.
- Contains emperor, grave goods, sacrificed slaves, concubines, and many craftsmen who made the tomb.
- Qin Shihuangdi was laid to rest in underground palace lined with bronze and protected by traps and crossbows rigged to fire at intruders.
- Ceiling has paintings of stars and planets.



Han Dynasty: 202 B.C.E. to 220 C.E.

- Liu Bang retained centralized administration of the Qin.
- Reduced brutal oppression of the Qin.
- Expanded Chinese territory, pushing into Korea, and central Asia.
- This expansion gave rise to direct contact with India and developed contact with Middle East.



Han Wudi (Wu Ti) 140-87 B.C.E.

- Enforced peace throughout continent of Asia.
- Embraced more territory.
- Society flourished.
- Han Wudi relied upon Legalist principles of government while incorporating Confucianism into university education for bureaucrats
- Whereas the Qin stressed central authority, the Han expanded the powers of the bureaucracy.



Political Organization Under the Han

- Emphasized importance of creating a large, highly skilled bureaucracy. (130,000 bureaucrats)
- Han Wudi established exams for his bureaucrats, the first civil service exam.
- He established a school to train men of exceptional talent and ability for the national exams. (Confucianism)
- Individuals from lower ranks were occasionally recruited.
- Han bureaucratic system lasted until 20th century.

Confucianism

- *The Analects* (the Confucian doctrine) was revived under the Han emperors.
- The Han saw usefulness of Confucian emphasis on political virtue and social order.
- Confucian learning was incorporated into Han training of bureaucrats.



Religion Among the Peasant Class

Peasant class focused on polytheism and spirits of nature.

Peasants created statues and household decorations honoring spirits.

A belief in symbolic power of dragons emphasized fear of creatures and playful sense of courtship activities among spirits.

Peasant class took on elements of Confucian values.



Literature and Art During Classical Period

- Confucianism blended with literature and art among upper classes.
- Five Classics written during Zhou dynasty merged with Confucius doctrine to provide basis for civil service exams.
- Classic of Songs – 300 poems about love, joy, politics, and family
- Calligraphy, bronze, pottery, carved jade and ivory, silk screens.



Science in China During Classical Period

- Chinese astronomers developed calendar based on year of 365.5 days.
- Later astronomers calculated movement of planets.
- Scientists invented a type of seismograph to register earthquakes during Han Dynasty.
- Developed anatomical knowledge and studied principles of hygiene that promoted long life.

Social Structure in China During the Classical Period

- Serious gaps developed between upper class, which controlled large landed estates, and the masses, farmer-peasants who produced only what they needed to survive.
- Because of this division, literacy was confined mostly to the elite.
- Population was made up of land owners (2 percent of the population) and peasants who served them.
- In the southern rice region, property was owned and regular by the village or extended family rather than individuals.
- Beneath the peasantry, there was a group of “mean” people who performed rough transport and other unskilled jobs.
- Social status was passed from one generation to the next.
- In some cases, talented individuals from peasantry might be given access to education and rise within bureaucracy.

Trade During Classical China

- Food exchange between the wheat and rice growing regions.
- Copper coins began to circulate.
- Trade routes did lead to India and Middle East, but most Chinese were ethnocentric.
- Chinese had no need or desire to learn from other societies.



Trade During Classical China

- Trade became more important during Zhou and Han dynasties.
- Focused on luxury items for upper class.
- Produced by artisans in the cities – silks, jewelry, leather goods, and furniture.



Technological Developments During Classical China

- Ox-drawn plows introduced 300 B.C.E.
- Under the Han, a new collar was invented to improve farming.
- Iron mining improved with invention of pulleys and winding gear.
- Production methods in textiles and pottery were highly developed.
- Under the Han, the first water-powered mills were introduced.
- Also under the Han, paper was invented improving system of government and bureaucracy.



Impact of Technology on Classical China

- Encouraged reliance on agriculture.
- Increased size of the population in the countryside.
- Expansion of cities and manufacturing
- Under the Han Dynasty, the population tripled (60,000,000)

Gender Roles in Classical China

- During Han dynasty, patriarchal family was enhanced through importance of filial piety and women's subordination to men.
- Confucian *Classic of Filial Piety* taught that children should obey and honor their parents and superiors.
- Ban Zhao, educated woman from Han family, wrote *Admonitions for Women* that emphasized humility, obedience, and devotion to husbands.



The Family in Classical China

- Tight family organization helped solidify economic and social views as well as political life.
- Stressed authority to extremes. Confucius said, “There are no wrongdoing parents.”
- Law courts did not prosecute parents who injured or killed children.
- Culture stressed strict control of one’s emotions.
- Family was at center of orderly hierarchy.



The Fall of the Han

- Later Han emperors did not address the problem of land distribution.
- Wealthy classes lived in luxury while peasants worked under difficult conditions.
- Banditry and rebellions organized by desperate peasants continued.
- The Yellow Turban uprising raged throughout China and tested Han state during 2nd century C.E.
- Internal weakness eventually brought an end to the Han.