

## CHINA

### A. **Origins**

note that China did firmly establish a start of a continuous civ  
Yellow river begins in Tibet  
    long journey through deserts  
    not as fertile as Nile  
    cities coalesced there about 1500, relatively late.  
Peking man, lived there nearly 400,000 years ago  
color of soil  
grasslands to north  
called Huanghe River today  
    north of the more famous Yangtze river  
mountains to west and south

### B. **Yangshao** period, 2500-2000

    hunting and fishing dominant

### C. **Longshan** 2000-1500

    grain became paramount, especially millet  
    increasingly developed use of irrigation dikes and canals along river (had  
        to control the river!)  
    Yu, allegedly founded Xia, legendary for having controlled the river  
  
    know little  
        did bury their dead  
        early veneration for deceased  
        use of animal bones for divination  
  
    but by 1500 there were small kingdoms

legendary Hsia dynasty was the first

### D. **Shang**

    1766-1122 or, probably more accurately 1523 to 1028  
    tribe conquered others and started it all  
        warlike nomads who fought on horse with bronze weapons,  
        aristocratic age, lot of warfare  
    strong kings  
        intermediary between the Supreme Being (Shangdi) and  
        men

called themselves center of universe

peasant society

was an administrative elite

used vassals to control peasants and collect tribute

walled towns symbolized dominance

extended noble family lived together, while peasants tended to be more nuclear

millet, wheat, beans, rice

nasty dirt houses

large number of slaves

art carvings

war

shamans

predicted by reading bones

developed a writing system based on the ideograph, graphic

symbol (an independent system)

gave key unity, sense of identity to elite

by end of Shang 3,000 characters

eventually used paper by 0

mixed religion

by 11th century, Shang already in decline

too decentralized

## E. Zhou

in west, Turks from central asia, invaders from kansu

a vassal that grew strong

in 1122, Wu triumphed in a battle and took over

until 256, but effective rule after 771 vanished in west (since the zhou state was a feudal monarchy gradually lost control of the vassals

great expansion to east and south along coast and north across the plains

Yangtze became part of kingdom

capital at Xian and then at Loyang

used powerful relatives as vassals to govern

genuine feudal order with the vassals really as independent rulers

KEY: Zhou claimed that they had the Mandate of Heaven to rule, key source of

authority  
but it also meant that they could lose that mandate  
Heaven (heaven) conferred a mandate, this theory would last until 1911, since heaven encompassed all lands, an emperor was lord of all, thus needed a single ruler for all, couldn't have a divided China; thus emperor had to conform to will of heaven, if he failed disaster befell country; emperor was considered to be the son of heaven

also developed an administrative class, called Shi, men of service with regular imperial salaries  
imperial school set up for training eldest sons, give some stamp of uniformity

Since originally Turks, Zhou tended to live apart from the "black-haired" people even separated by walls in some cities, but gradually intermixed

walled garrison towns for vassals  
rectangular grid towns  
with artisan and slave quarters

rice in east and south  
used a well-field system  
eight peasant families farmed eight plots around a central plot which was jointly farmed for tribute to ruler  
iron farm implements and extensive irrigation  
better to live as far away from the ruler as possible

royal and familial ancestor cults continued

silk cloth already developed by Zhou period

Chinese literature began with the so-called "Book of Poetry," 500, no clear purpose

771, Zhou ruler killed in battle, and a less powerful kingdom survived in the eastern portion at Loyang, growing chaos everywhere

## **F. Anarchy**

by 6th century chronic warfare  
but this spread China and expanded its influence, especially to south and Yangtze

in troubled times appeared Confucius, 551-479  
he faced what looked like a breakdown in morals and anarchy in

government  
analects are only almost authentic, no direct teaching survives  
praised ancients but also departed from them

nobility was not inborn, a matter of education and conduct, goodness and  
wisdom and courage the key marks  
one should cultivate these virtues

part of the process was a gentleman had to govern

TAO, the practice of all virtues to become a gentlemen, this also conformed to  
the will of the universe (stoicism)  
decried violence and military, forbade resort to force  
decorm, instead,

sacrifices, etc were not enough!, virtue was its own reward it was a mroal code of  
behavior

during first Han dyandy (202-9) confucian became dominant force in civil  
administration.

China survived  
writing became a key means of keeping elites together, education and  
bureaucrats

Please note that none of these places developed in complete isolation  
for example, agricultural techniques migrated as did pottery  
rhythm of agriculture differed much in china from west, more garden type,  
less large scale intensive

#### G. **Qin** (Ch-in)

Shi Huangdi (Shih Huang-ti), 221 founded state of Qin, the "tiger" of Qin  
megalomaniac (boundless ambition)

canals very important (drainage, irrigation and transport)  
expansion of cultivation

new centralized, bureaucratic, militarized system  
new standardized writing  
postal system  
did unify China (central control)  
old style feudal levies ended  
destroyed regional forts  
36 new provinces created  
standard coinage  
new bureaucracy controls

began building Great wall and other projects by using forced peasant labor  
his grave had 7000 terra cotta soldiers  
sought to control everything via legalism as philosophy of state  
burned books

harsh rule fostered resistance, died 210, dynasty collapsed in 207  
did provide roads and canals  
a tyrant  
had gradually expanded  
seen as crude barbarians to easterners, but since on western border drew  
on nomadic origins  
used bronze  
freed peasantry  
regular bureaucracy,  
but also conscripted peasants for army  
used massed cavalry and crossbow  
213 ordered all confucius works burned

revolt after his death gave rise to Han dynasty  
lasted over 400 years height of classical civ  
based on large, effective bureaucracy  
civil service exams, and professional bureaucrats

the shi, scholar-bureaucrats, set tone in art and lit and technology

had laid foundations

silk road opened in 1st century bc, China had been isolated before thatC.

Confucius and restoration of SHI  
by tradition d 497

Kung Fuzi, born 6th century poor shi family  
did not get a good job so wandered and taught  
earned a rep for wisdom,  
followers compiled Analects, collected sayings

developed ethical principles  
proper way to organize social relationships to achieve good government,  
need order and harmony

men with training and education (PLATO!), even a peasant, ruler to serve society

each person had his place in harmony

five links: Three family (father and son, elder and younger brother, husband and wife), one political (ruler and subject), one social (friend and friend)

well-mannered, proper ritual behavior, but a fearless critic also

followers in 2nd and 3rd century such as

Mencius (Meng Ko)

thought humans basically good and should be ruled that way

Xunzi

said humans lazy and evil, so need strong gov to curb them

D. Laozi (Lao Tsu) and Daoism

no real history of his life

retreat from society into nature, contemplate nature to become attuned with

DAO, the cosmic force and source of all creation

bag splendor and lust

saw good gov as but a temp deviation from the true goal of solitary contemplation

E. also the Legalists, 3rd century, patronage by Shi Huangdi

Sang Yang, was founder of this political philosophy

served a Qin ruler in 4th century

Book of Lord Sang power should be absolute to enhance strength of state

people existed to serve state, state to enforce laws, but not a ruler above the law

Li Si and Han Feizi, followers, used Xunzi idea that humans evil to further bolster legalists, even declared that philosophers were unnecessary

H. **HAN**

Liu Bang, won the struggle for power

a dissolute youth, in 202 proclaimed himself emp and founded Han dynasty

official name was Gaozu

relied heavily on shi advisors

central admin set up

Kao-tsu emerged, unified state in midst of war weariness, d 195

Han Wudi, 140-87, high point (Wu-ti)

nicknamed the Martial emperor"

made confucianism official

restored confu texts

lot of intellectual variety, including Yin-Yang school, Taoists,

another strong ruler

broke up power base of vassals by dividing their lands between sons

increased governors' power

military expansion

including to north and west of great wall

also to east and south, north korea in 108 bce, to vietnam in south  
by 111

banished works of legalists

confucius became dominant by 2nd century

became necessary for imperial advancement

1245 university in Xian, the capital

primarily to train bureaucrats (eventually  
30,000!)

studied law and interpretation of confucian classics

confucius really a balance of different philosophical arguments; study of the five  
classic texts, which were not done by Confucius: I-ching (book of changes),  
Shu-ching (book of history), shih-ching (book of poetry), chou-li (book of rites),  
ch'un-chi'u (spring and autumnal annals)

by last century bc, formal bur exams set up

needed proper ed to pass them

so bright elite kids sent to school

(occasionally peasant, never merchants)

three social classes:

shi

free subjects

"Mean people", but great variation in each

scholar-gentry superseded the shi

held rural holdings and bureaucratic gov posts, families usually

represented in both branches

some families centuries of dominance

role of women, unclear

suggestions that more power than later

marriage was arranged for family alliances

still male dominated, men only politics

most peasants had little lands, also liable for gov conscription

urban growth continued during HAN

XIAN, capital, 100,00 within walls to 250,000 total emp in inner forbidden  
city, palaces, city walls

most urbanized civ in world at time, large trade centers

techno innovation:

- irrigation, canals, brush pen and paper in 2nd century bce, water mills, copper, silk

decorative art during HAN

- calligraphy
- pottery and ivory

by 444 had a calendar of 365.5 days  
had calculated orbits of planets

after han wuid emperors quality decreased

- in 6 ce, Wand family seized opportunity

- Wang Mang proclaimed himself emp in 9, but in 23 overthrown and han back

Late HAN

- 200 more years, no major breakthroughs, steady decline

- factions at court

- capital now Loyang

- problems with eunuchs, who became powerful

technically overthrown in 220