

New Civilizations in the Eastern and Western Hemispheres

2200-250 BCE



China

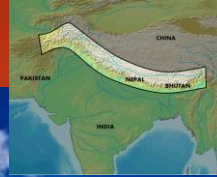


Geography

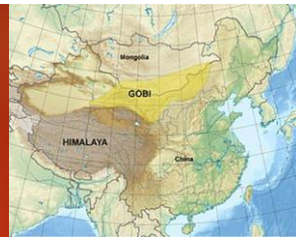
- ▶ **“Isolation”**
 - ▶ Mountain ranges
 - ▶ Deserts
 - ▶ Mongolian steppe
 - ▶ Pacific Ocean
- ▶ Evidence of trade with India/Central Asia



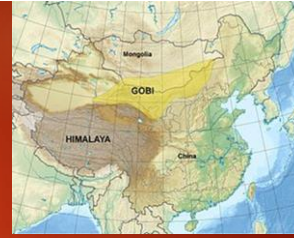
Himalayas



Gobi Desert



Mongolian Steppe



Agriculture

Northern China

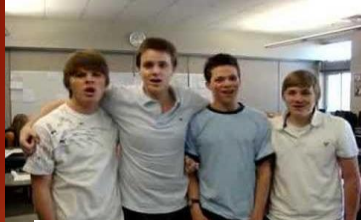
- ▶ Colder climate, unpredictable rain
- ▶ Deforestation
- ▶ Retaining walls
- ▶ Millet and wheat



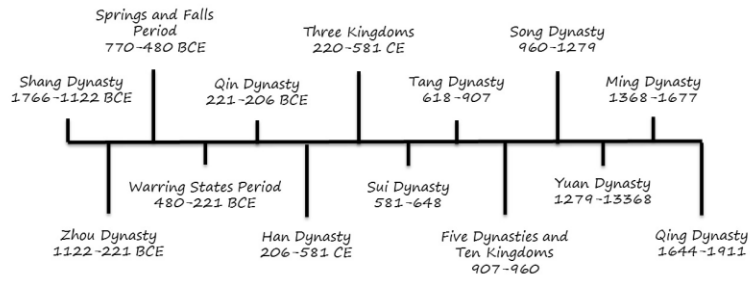
Southern China

- ▶ Monsoons allow for agriculture
- ▶ **Rice**
 - ▶ Rice paddies
 - ▶ Flooding of fields
 - ▶ Feeds more people per acre
 - ▶ **More populous** than the north

Shang Dynasty



Chinese Dynasties



History of China

- ▶ Follows the Xia Dynasty
 - ▶ **Xia is not historically confirmed**
 - ▶ China's history begins with the Shang
- ▶ Oracle Bones
 - ▶ Where we get our info about the Shang
 - ▶ Animal bones/shells
 - ▶ Used to contact "ancestral spirits"
 - ▶ Gives info on king, court, religion, society
- ▶ Three Sovereigns and Five Emperors
- ▶ http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Three_Sovereigns_and_Five_Emperors



Chinese Divination Shell.
 After inscribing questions on a bone or shell, the diviner applied a red-hot point and interpreted the resulting cracks as a divine response.

Religion and Afterlife

- ▶ Supreme god (Di) resides in the sky
 - ▶ Responsible for storms
 - ▶ Distant from humans
- ▶ Death
 - ▶ Spirits reside with Di
 - ▶ Ancestral spirits can intervene on behalf of family members
 - ▶ **Ruler has direct contact with ancestors who can intercede with Di**
- ▶ Ancestor veneration and ruler contact with ancestors is effective rationale for rule
- ▶ Tombs of elite class
 - ▶ Ornate vessels used to contact ancestral spirits
 - ▶ Buried with family members and servants



Shang Period Bronze Vessel.

Vessels such as this large wine jar were used in rituals by the Shang ruling class to make contact with their ancestors. As both the source and the proof of the elite's authority, these vessels were often buried in Shang tombs. The complex shapes and elaborate decorations testify to the artisans' skill.

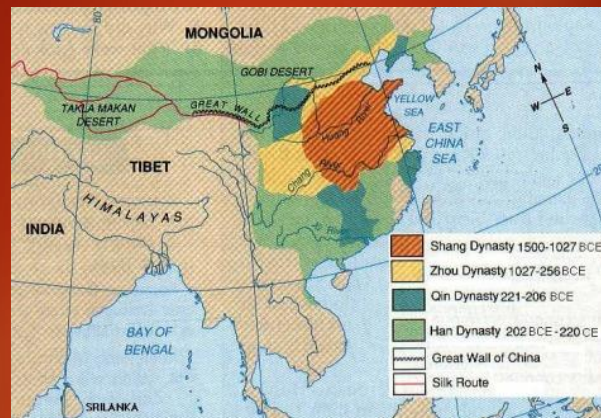
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Technology

- ▶ Writing system
 - ▶ 100s of characters
 - ▶ Used in court
- ▶ Bronze weapons
- ▶ Horse drawn chariots
 - ▶ Originated in W. Asia



	horse	cart	fish	dust	see	
Oracle bone script 甲骨文 (jiǎ gǔ wén)						The Oracle bone script was used during the Shang or Yin Dynasty (c. 1400-1200 BC)
Bronze script 金文 (jīn wén)						The Bronze script was used during the Zhou Dynasty (c. 1100 - 256 BC)
Large Seal script 大篆 (dà zhuàn)						The Large Seal script was used during the Zhou Dynasty (c. 1100 - 256 BC)
Small Seal script 小篆 (xiǎo zhuàn)						The Small Seal script was used during the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC)



Zhou Dynasty

Rise of the Zhou

- ▶ 11th century BCE: overthrow of the Shang
- ▶ Longest, most revered dynasty in Chinese history
- ▶ Wen and Wu
 - ▶ Rebellion and attack of Shang capital
 - ▶ Wu is first ruler of dynasty



Wu, first emperor of the
Zhou Dynasty

Zhou Timeline

- ▶ Western Zhou (1045-771 BCE)
- ▶ Eastern Zhou (771-221 BCE)
 - ▶ Spring and Autumn Period (771-481 BCE)
 - ▶ Warring States Period (481-221 BCE)

Culture/Dynasty	Dates	Area
Yangshao	5000 – 3000 BC	Yellow River Basin
Longshan	3000 – c.2000 BC	Yellow River Basin
Xia Dynasty	2205 – 1766 BC or 2070 – 1600 BC or 1989 – 1556 BC	Henan, plus parts of Hubei, southern Shanxi, eastern Shaanxi
Shang Dynasty	1766 – 1046 BC 1600 – 1046 BC 1556 – 1046 BC	Yellow River basin plus Qinghai & Sichuan
Zhou Dynasty	1046 – 256 BC	Yellow River & Yangzi Basins
Including		
Spring & Autumn Period	771 – 5th BC	Decline of Zhou power
Warring States Period	5th – 221 BC	Complete division

Mandate of Heaven

Use of religion to justify the rule of a king/emperor

- ▶ Heaven gave authority to rulers
- ▶ Authority could be taken away if the ruler did not look out for the well being of subjects
- ▶ Proof of favor with the gods
 - ▶ Stability and prosperity of kingdom
- ▶ Signs of disfavor of a ruler
 - ▶ Natural disasters
 - ▶ Invasion





Politics

- ▶ Written texts
 - ▶ Book of Documents (letters, historical record)
 - ▶ Book of Songs (poems, songs—details the lives of all classes of citizens)
- ▶ Xi'an: new capital city
 - ▶ Grid plan
 - ▶ Gates in walls opening at cardinal directions
 - ▶ Feng shui

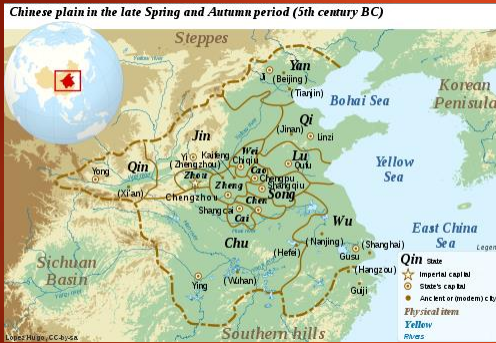




Eastern Zhou (771-221 BCE)

- ▶ Power of Zhou monarch is gradually reduced from 1045-771 BCE
- ▶ 771 BCE: attack of Xi'an
 - ▶ Capital moved east to Luoyang
 - ▶ (thus the name "Eastern Zhou")
- ▶ Spring and Autumn Period
 - ▶ Spring and Autumn Annals are the historical record of the time period
- ▶ Warring States Period

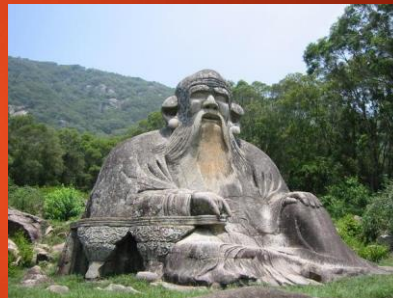
Spring and Autumn Period



- ▶ 771-481 BCE
- ▶ Regional lords hold the power in China
- ▶ **Constant warfare between regions/states**
- ▶ Armies made up of farmers instead of the elite
- ▶ Warriors on horseback
- ▶ **Bronze replaced by iron**
 - ▶ **First people in the world to forge steel**
- ▶ Development of a large and extensive bureaucracy
 - ▶ Government made up of appointed officials rather than elected ones
- ▶ Development of philosophical systems of China

Daoism/Taoism

- ▶ The teachings of the Way (Dao/Tao)
- ▶ Laozi (604-517 BCE)
 - ▶ AKA Lao Zi, Lao Tsu
 - ▶ Real person?
 - ▶ Legend?
 - ▶ Composite of both?
- ▶ Urged people to leave behind empty formalities, rituals, hierarchies, etc of society



Note

There are many different spellings of people, philosophies, etc in China. I have placed several different forms of the names in the PPT to help you become familiar with them.

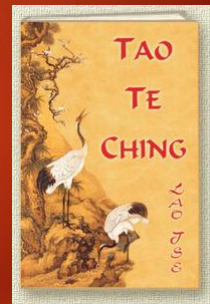
Dao

- ▶ “The Way” cannot be defined with words
- ▶ To obtain the dao, one must “wu wei”
 - ▶ Wu wei: do not tamper with nature/life—act naturally and things will work out
- ▶ Yin-Yang
 - ▶ Balance in life
 - ▶ Yin: female, passive, shaded, reflective (moon)
 - ▶ Yang: male, active, bright, shining (sun)



Dao Dejing

- ▶ Means “Classic of the Way of Virtue”
- ▶ Written by Laozi
- ▶ Questions if the world is real or a dream
- ▶ Education, knowledge are obstacles to understanding
- ▶ Cultivate intuition
- ▶ Avoid struggles



Dao Dejing

"The Dao produces all things and nourishes them; it produces them and does not claim them as its own; it does all, and yet does not boast of it; it presides over all, and yet does not control them. This is what is called "The mysterious quality" of the Dao."

"If we could renounce our sageness and discard our wisdom, it would be better for the people a hundredfold...if we could renounce our artful contrivances and discard our scheming for gain, there would be no thieves nor robbers."

Confucianism

- ▶ Kongzi=Confucius (551-479 BCE)
- ▶ The Analects:
Compilation of Confucius' sayings
- ▶ Society is broken and needs to return to the "Golden Age" of the early Zhou
- ▶ NOT a religion
- ▶ Emphasized family obligations
 - ▶ Everyone has a "place" in society
 - ▶ "filial piety"
 - ▶ Obedience to and love of parents
- ▶ Devotion to ruler
- ▶ Benevolence and compassion



The Analects

"The superior man bends his attention to what is radical. That being established, all practical courses naturally grow up. Filial piety and fraternal submission, -are they not the root of all benevolent actions?"



"...Conduct yourself with respect; perform your duties with reverence; treat others with wholehearted sincerity...you cannot abandon these."

Society

- ▶ Many officials were Confucian in work, but Daoist in private life
- ▶ Family = fundamental social unit
 - ▶ 3 generation unit (grandparents, parents, children)
 - ▶ Patriarchy: fathers have complete authority and control over family and women



The Warring States Period

- ▶ 481-221 BCE
- ▶ **Warfare between Chinese states intensified**
 - ▶ Smaller states taken over by larger, more powerful states
 - ▶ Build up of larger armies
 - ▶ Fortified walls built to protect state borders
 - ▶ Military innovations
- ▶ Qin: most innovative state
 - ▶ First to use Legalism



Legalism

- ▶ Rejected both Confucianism and Daoism
 - ▶ Unconcerned with ethics and morals (Confucianism)
 - ▶ Unconcerned with nature and humans' place in the world (Daoism)
- ▶ Emphasized the law and a restructuring of society
 - ▶ Strengthen and expand the state no matter what the cost
 - ▶ Sacrifice freedom of individuals in order to aid/prosper the state



Legalism

- ▶ Emphasized work in agriculture or military
- ▶ Discouraged work that did not directly advance state interests (merchants, artists, etc)
- ▶ Strict laws, severe punishments
 - ▶ Amputation of hand/foot for dumping ashes in street
- ▶ Ruthless, but helped unify China and end Warring States Period



Legalist Leaders

Lord Shang Yang

- ▶ 390-338 BCE
- ▶ Minister to duke of Qin
- ▶ Ruthless leader-murdered
- ▶ The Book of Lord Shang
- ▶ Confucians are wrong that a ruler should worry about his subjects
- ▶ A ruler should use whatever necessary to obtain good behavior from subjects
 - ▶ Included weakening the power and privileges of the nobles

Han Feizi

- ▶ 280-233 BCE
- ▶ AKA Han Fei
- ▶ Qin advisor
- ▶ Forced suicide
- ▶ Trained in Confucian thought
- ▶ Realism needed to end chaos
- ▶ Wrote essays on how to create a peaceful and stable state

PHILOSOPHY/RELIGION IN EARLY CHINA

• Confucianism

- Confucius was a real man that wanted to be a political advisor. He is called "Master Kung," the first teacher. His thoughts were recorded in the **Analects**. His interest in philosophy was political and ethical, but not spiritual. He felt that a person should behave in the way of the "Dao". He believed government should be run by superior men.

Important Concepts:

Duty: all people had to set aside their needs for the family/society. Work hard and improve life on Earth.

Humanity: Compassion and empathy for others; "measure the feelings of others by ones own".



Simply put, it seems that Confucius was more interested in how to get what one wants out of life, and how to behave in society. In contrast to Confucius, Lao Tzu (Laozi) was more interested in being in harmony with the world around him.

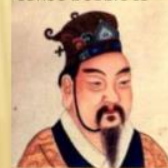
• Daoism

- Based on the teachings of Laozi the Old Master, who lived at the same time as Confucius. **The Way of the Dao** are the writings of Daoism. Daoism does not care about the concerns of the Universe (where we come from), but looks at how we should act while we are here. To follow the will of Heaven is to do nothing. People should act spontaneously and let nature take its course.



• Legalism

- Unlike Confucianism of Dao, this philosophy professed that humans were evil and we could only be on the correct path if given harsh laws with harsh punishments. This was a system of impersonal laws. Rulers needed to create order because people were not capable of being good. A fear of punishment would



Yang Shang, founder of legalism

<p>A good society must start with good people.</p>	<p>Human beings are only a small part of the total reality.</p>	<p>Government can't just rely on good will, it needs a practical system governed by law.</p>
<p>People need to be inspired, not forced, to be good.</p>	<p>When people try to do too much, they will upset the natural order of things.</p>	<p>In the system, all people are fundamentally equal, except the ruler.</p>
<p>Confucianism founder: Confucius, a Chinese thinker</p>	<p>Taoism founder: Laozi, a mystic philosopher</p>	<p>Legalism founder: Guanzi, Prime Minister of Qi</p>

