



Classical China
Zhou, Qin, Han Dynasties

AP World History
Foundations: 8000 BCE - 600 CE





Timeline of Classical China

Zhou: 1029 - 258 BCE

Warring States: 402 BCE - 201 BCE


Qin: 221 - 202 BCE

Han: 202 BCE - 220 CE






Chinese Dynastic Cycle

1. New family establishes dynasty (new institutions, economy)
 2. Dynasty grows weak
 3. Social Divisions Increase
 4. Internal rebellions and/or external rebellions
 5. New dynasty emerges
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Mandate of Heaven

- Belief that the gods transfer their power to a specific family in China that is meant to establish a dynasty and rule the region
 - Emperors were Sons of Heaven
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Zhou

- Social
 - ⊙ Rise of a strong, landowning class; inherit social status
 - ⊙ Patriarchal
- Political
 - ⊙ Loose alliance of regional princes, depended on loyalty; relatively weak rulers
 - ⊙ Exchange land for promise of taxes and military - **Feudalism**
 - ⊙ Landowners become more powerful than rulers
- Interactions
 - ⊙ Expanded the Middle Kingdom
- Cultural
 - ⊙ Banned human sacrifice; formalized religious practices; Ancestor worship; focus on harmony
 - ⊙ Promoted use of one language for everyone
 - ⊙ End of dynasty leads to development of new philosophies (Confucianism)
 - ⊙ Tea ceremonies; chopsticks
- Economic
 - ⊙ Agriculture dominated (N-wheat; S-rice)




Period of Warring States

● 402 BCE - 201 BCE

- ⊙ Competing interests of landowning class and ruling class cause political turmoil
 - ⊙ Landowners raise own military - origins of regional warlords
 - ⊙ No political unity - China is exceptionally weak
 - ⊙ Cultural innovations survive
 - ⊙ Results in new philosophies
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Rise of Chinese Philosophies

- Confucianism
 - Daoism/Taoism
 - Legalism
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Confucianism

- Confucius (K'ung Fu Tzu)
 - ◎ Period of Warring States
 - ◎ Scholar - history, music, ethics
 - ◎ Main Writing: *The Analects*
 - ◎ Promoted by followers
 - Mencius




Main Ideas

- Restore social order, harmony and good government to China
- Ethical systems based on relationships and personal virtue
- Emphasized family
 - ⊙ Filial piety - respect for parents and elders is necessary for order
- Early Zhou Dynasty was seen as perfect society
 - ⊙ Inferiors devoted to service
 - ⊙ Superiors looked after dependents



Confucianism

- Five Basic Relationships in Society
 - ◎ Ruler/Subject
 - ◎ Father/Son
 - ◎ Husband/Wife
 - ◎ Older Brother/Younger Brother
 - ◎ Friend/Friend
 - Chinese gentleman - education and moral standards; birth status not important
 - Bureaucracy - those who help run government
 - ◎ Courteous, precise, generous, just/fair
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Daoism/Taoism

- Founded by Lao Tze (604-531 BCE)
- Main Writing: *Tao-te-Ching* (*The Way of Virtue*)
- Human actions are not important
- Most important part of society is natural order of things
 - ◎ The Tao (The Way) - guides all things




Daoism/Taoism

- Search for knowledge and understanding of nature
- To understand nothing, it is best to do nothing, to observe nature
 - Nature is not jealous or power hungry
 - Does not argue about right or wrong, good or bad





Legalism

- Practical, political reaction to Confucianism
 - ◎ Han Feizi - 3rd century BCE
 - Powerful and efficient government is key to restoring order
 - ◎ Laws will end civil war and restore harmony
 - ◎ Rewards to good subjects and punish disobedient
 - ◎ Rulers must control ideas and actions of people
 - ◎ Favored by Shi Huangdi during Qin dyansty
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Great Wall

Land under the rule of the Ch'in Dynasty

Current boundaries of China and Mongolia

0 1000km

Qin Dynasty

- Emerges out of end of Zhou Dynasty/Period of Warring States
- Founder: Shi Huangdi (“First Emperor”)
- Goals:
 - Unify and expand China
 - Restore order







● Social

- ⊙ Primogeniture eliminated (practice of having eldest son inherit all property and land)
- ⊙ Nobles must leave land and live in Emperor's court

● Political

- ⊙ Emperor had complete control over all aspects of society
- ⊙ Use of brutality and force to accomplish goals
- ⊙ Bureaucracy (not of the nobility) expanded to help control all regions
- ⊙ National census
- ⊙ Single law code

● Interactions



- ⊙ Army expanded to crush rivals and regional rebellions
 - ⊙ Expanded territory of China, including Hong Kong
 - ⊙ Influenced parts of Vietnam through conquest
 - ⊙ Expanded infrastructure to increase interactions
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- Cultural

- ⊙ Confucianism looked down upon and followers persecuted
- ⊙ Legalism promoted
- ⊙ Architectural: Initiates construction of Great Wall; Terracotta Soldiers/Tomb of Shi Huangdi
- ⊙ Uniform written language
- ⊙ Banned books

- Economic

- ⊙ Introduced standard weights and measures
 - ⊙ Eliminated the very rare practice of slavery
 - ⊙ Forced labor necessary for construction projects
 - ⊙ Extremely high taxes
 - ⊙ Sponsored agricultural projects (irrigation) and manufacturing of silk
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Why did the Qin Dynasty Fall?

- Shi Huangdi
 - Extremely paranoid; killed off suspected enemies (nobles, intellectuals, warlords)
 - Desire to control EVERYTHING
- High taxes, forced labor
- Shi Huangdi dies in 210 BCE; followed by 8 years of peasant revolts to determine successor - winner establishes Han Dynasty



-  Great Wall
 -  Land under the rule of the Han Dynasty
 -  Current boundaries of China and Mongolia
- 0 1000km

Establishment of Han Dynasty


202 BCE - 220 CE

- Liu Bang - leads peasant revolts after death of Shi Huangdi
- 202 BCE - Liu Bang has eliminated almost all of his competition through military might and diplomacy





Han Society


- Some lower classes allowed into bureaucracy
 - Strict emphasis on family relationships
 - Women
 - Patriarchal
 - Some could gain influence through male relatives
 - Three main groups:
 - Landowners & educated bureaucrats
 - Peasants and Artisans
 - “Mean People” - merchants, actors, musicians
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Han Politics/Government

- Centralized administration, with less brutality than Qin dynasty
- Improved bureaucracy
- Attacked warlords/regional princes
- Focused less on military buildup
- Emphasized Confucianism - education for bureaucrats
- Wu Ti - most famous emperor (140-87 BCE)
 - Brought peace to much of Asia
 - Expanded territory
 - Civil Service Examination



Han Interactions

- Expansion into Korea, Vietnam and Central Asia
 - Expanded contact/trade with India and Persian empires
 - Later with Roman Empire
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Han Culture

- Treated Confucianism as religion-shrines constructed
- Gov't promoted philosophy
- Continued construction of Great Wall
- Innovations - Seismograph, anatomical research, hygiene
 - Animal collars
 - Pulleys and gears
 - Increased production of textiles
 - Water-power mills
 - Paper



Han Economy

- Taxes lower than Qin, but get higher as dynasty progresses
 - Copper coins
 - Required people to work on gov't projects
 - Gov't influenced and controlled parts of economy
 - Iron and Salt production
 - Weights and Measures
 - Trade - silk, jewelry, leather goods, agricultural goods
 - Public works programs - canal systems
 - Store surplus of rice and grain
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