

Ancient China



Geography of Ancient China

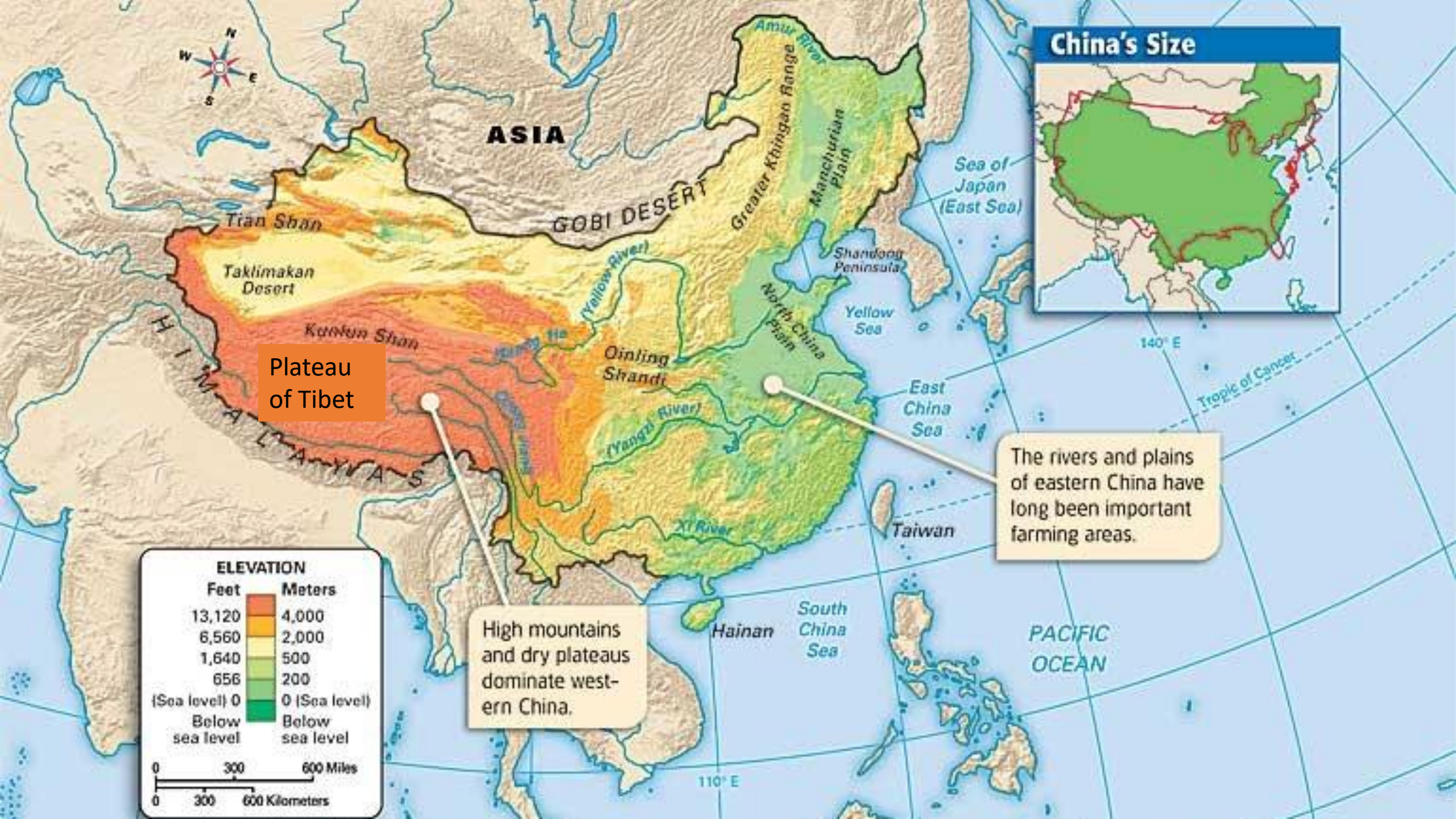
- China is 4 square million miles, same as the United States
- North is the Gobi Desert. East of that makes up mainly fertile land.
 - One of largest farming regions in the world.
- Pacific Ocean is east of China.
- Plateau of Tibet is on the western side. It has mountains that are around or more than 26,000 ft tall.

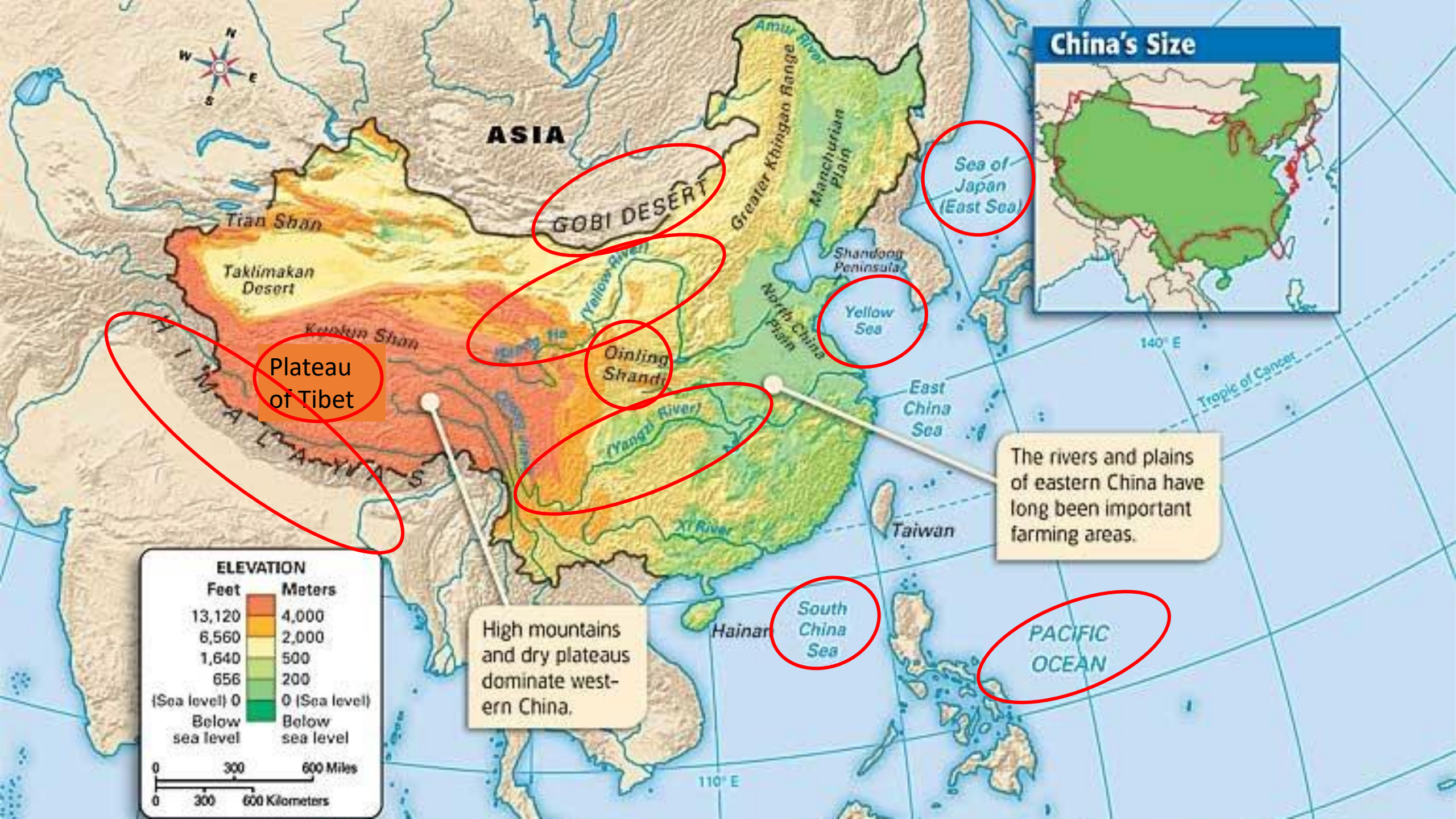


Geography of Ancient China

- In the middle is the Qinling Shangdi mountains. This mountain range lies between northern and southern China.
- Northeast is cold and dry. Northwest the deserts are dry.
- In the east Monsoons bring in heavy rainfall.
- Huang He (Yellow River) stretches west to east in North China. Sometimes called China's Sorrow because it has caused millions of death due to floods.
- Chang Jiang (Yangzi River) runs through central China. It is the longest river in China.







Early Settlements

- Farmers depended heavily on the Huang He and Chang Jian Rivers since 7000 BCE
- Harvested millet and wheat. Also hunted fish and domesticated pigs and cattle.
- Northern villages built walls for protection from floods and enemies.
- Cultures started to develop differently from north to south. By 3000 BCE the people started to dig wells and make pottery.



Early Settlements

- People built tombs like the Egyptians. Their tombs were filled with containers of food.
- Wealthier people had more items and jewelry made from jade.
 - Jade: Hard gemstone





First Dynasties: Xia

- Legends say Xia Dynasty was founded by Yu the Great in 2200 BCE.
- Yu built channels to drain water to the ocean to prevent flooding



First Dynasties: Shang

- 1500 BCE
- Organized social ladder
- Developed Chinese symbols
- Oracles were predicted priests. They wrote on cattle bones and turtle shells and heated them till they cracked. The priests would read the cracks to know the future.
 - **Oracle**: Prediction





Zhou Dynasty & Chinese Philosophies



Zhou Dynasty

- Started around 1100 BCE
- They believed in the mandate of heaven.
 - **Mandate of Heaven**: The idea that heaven gave leader or king the right to rule.
- Zhou rulers used mandate of heaven as justification to overthrow the Shang Dynasty

King

Ruled & Gave lands to lords

Lords & Warriors

Pay taxes & Provide warriors to protect land

Peasants

Farmed nobles' land



THE ZHOU DYNASTY



Gobi Desert

Manchurian Plain

Ji

Yellow
Sea

Shangqiu

Luoyang

Hao

East China
Sea

Yangtze

PACIFIC
OCEAN

South China
Sea

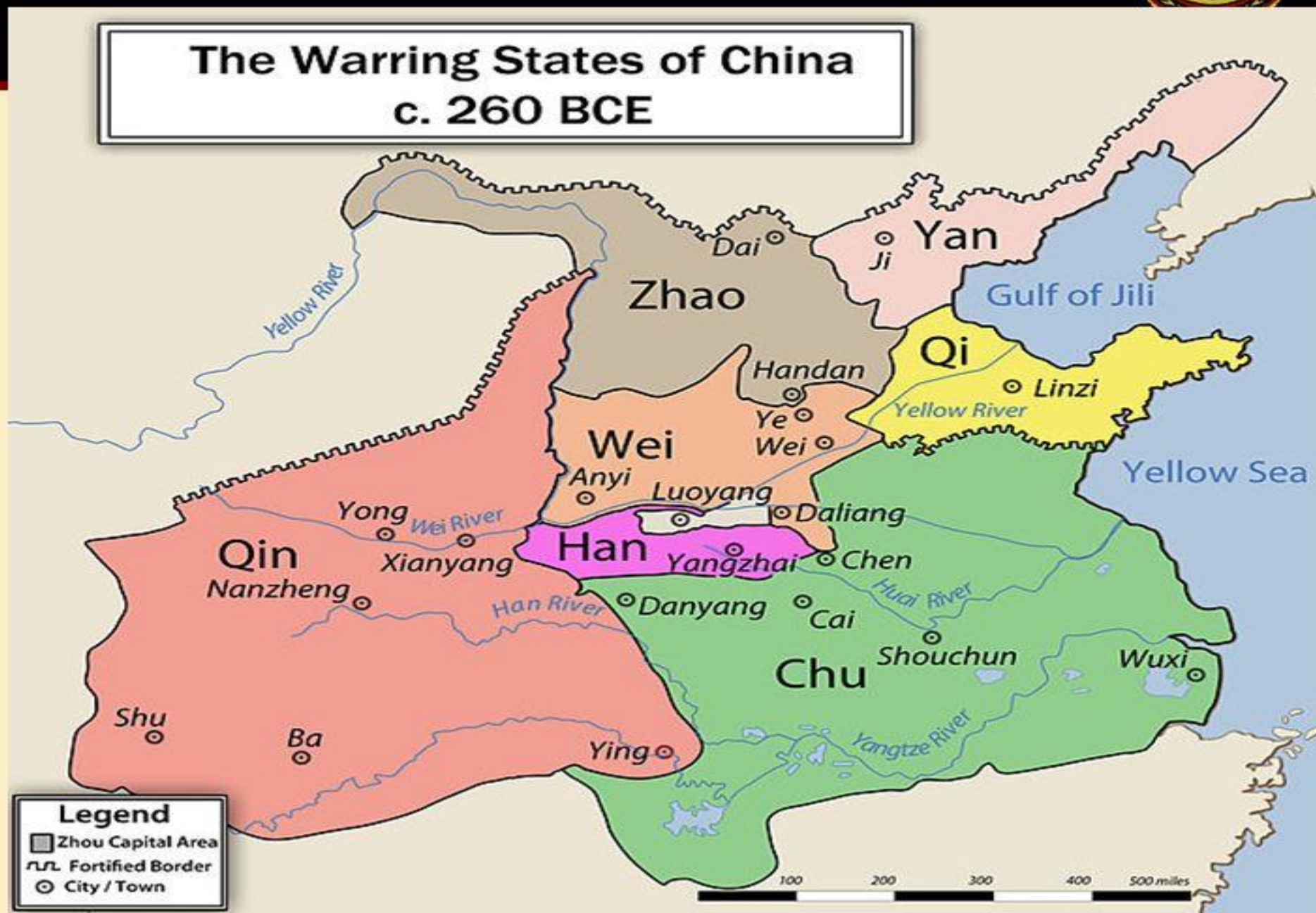
Territory of the Zhou
Dynasty

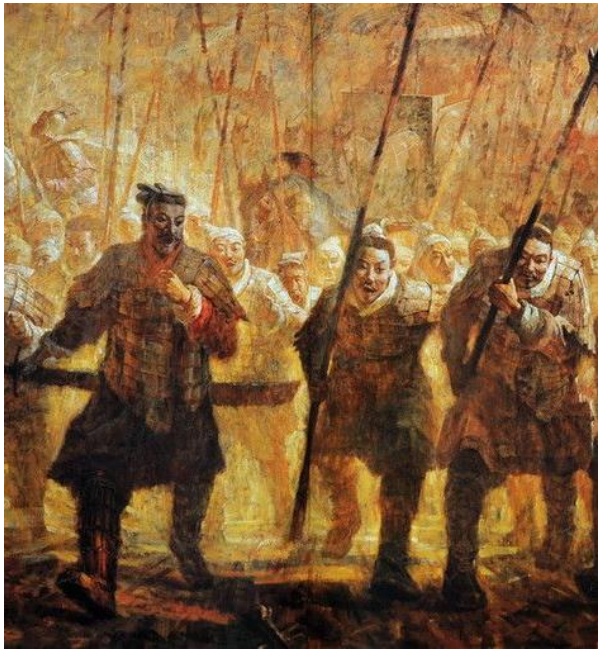
Decline of Zhou Dynasty

- Lords passed their heritage to their sons who were not as loyal to the king.
- Over time lords rejected the king's rule.
- In 771 BCE invaders attacked the capital. The lords' ignored the warning fires which left the king defenseless.
- In 481 BCE the lords fought against each other in many civil wars in a period known as the Warring States Period.



Warring States Period (475-221 BC)





王可伟油画 - 国殇

Pre-Confucianism

- Near the end of the Zhou dynasty families fought against each other. Relatives became rivals and sons killed one another, sometimes their father to gain inheritance.
- The government was too weak as China fell into an age of chaos during the Warring Period.



Confucianism

- Confucius despised the disrespect people had toward one another and the chaos.
- His ideas centered around ethics.
 - **Ethics**: Moral values
- His students compiled his teachings in his book known as *The Analects*.
- His ideas were both philosophical and religious.



Confucianism

Family

- Fathers are to serve as role models
- Children honor their parents
- Loyalty is essential in family

Government

- Kings lead by example with good behavior so people follow well
- Lower classes learn by following superiors.
- Moral leadership brings order to China, not laws





Daoism

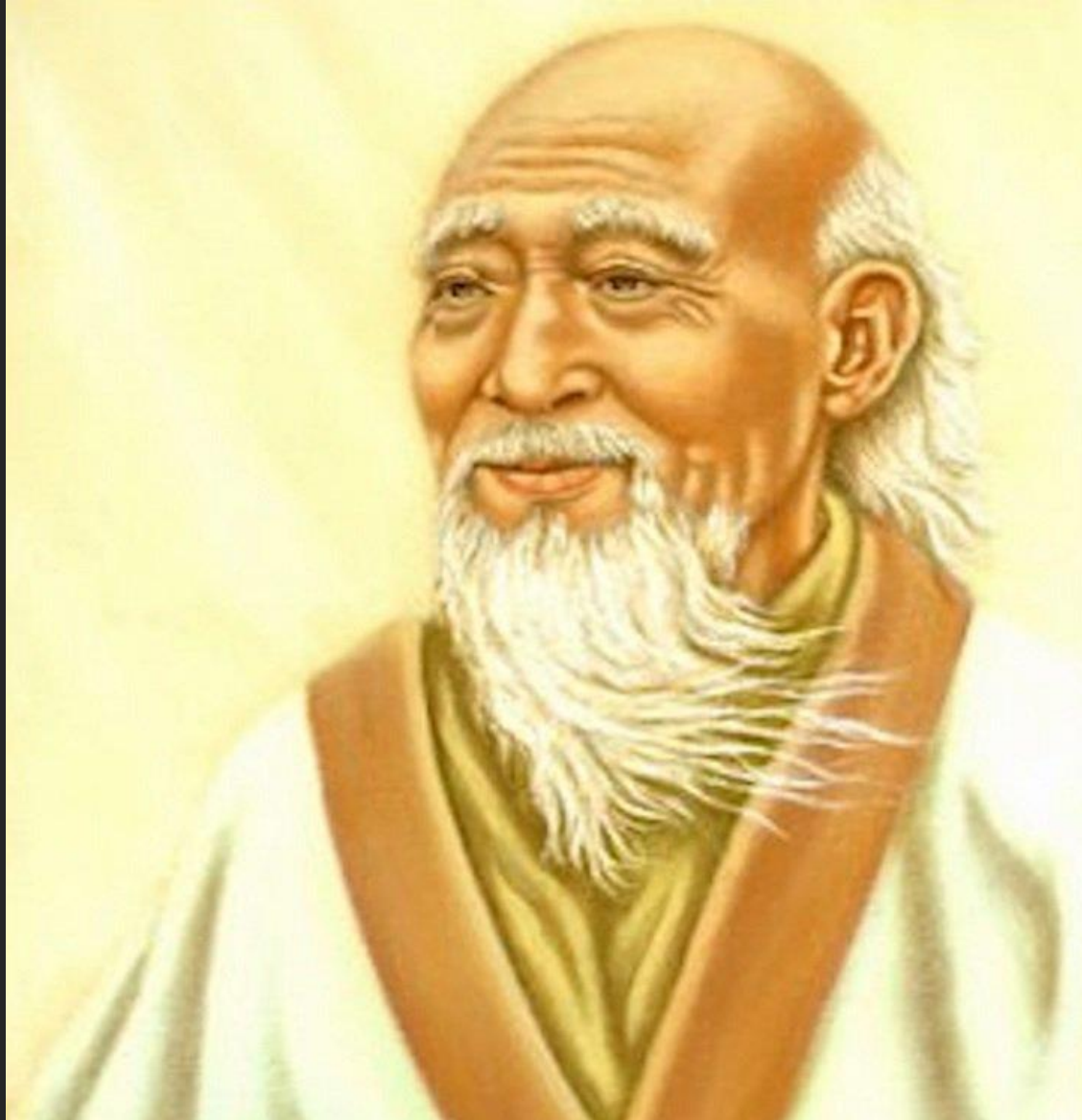
- Refers to the word Dao
 - Dao: “The Way”
- The teachings state the Dao gave birth to the universe and things in it.
- Daoism contrasts to Confucianism. Confucianism involves an active moral government interacting with its citizens. Daoists prefer perfect harmony comes from government leaving people alone.



Daoism

- Daoists believe people should live out their lives like water; letting nature take its course.
- Government rulers would focus more on Dao and not be involved to the point they don't feel governed.
- Harmony comes from balance in context of the yin and yang. (Female & Male; Light & Dark; Low and High).
- Humans are part of nature like anything else.
- Laozi was famous for writing *The Way and Its Power*. He taught about not seeking power or wealth.





Legalism

- Most famous philosopher Han Fei
- Belief people are bad by nature and needed to be controlled.
- Focused solely from a political and governmental perspective.
- Strict laws were required to keep people in line and punishments be done fit to crime. Also those related to guilty person is responsible for crimes as well.
- Everything focused on unity. Officials, not nobles, should run China. Of the three philosophies, Legalism gained ground into the next dynasty.





Qin Dynasty



China's first emperor

- The Qin Dynasty united all of China under the rule of Ying Zheng. He called himself Shi Huangdi.
 - Shi Huangdi: First Emperor
- He utilized Legalism to have a firm control over China.
- Shi Huangdi had all books opposed to Legalism burnt except on topics of farming, medicine, and oracles. People opposed him. In response he buried 460 scholars alive.
- As he expanded his empire, he would destroy the walls and take all weapons of conquered cities to prevent rebellion.







Qin's Organization

- Shi Huangdi abolished the old political system and controlled all the lands.
- Forced nobles to live in the capital so he had a close eye on them.
- Forced commoners to work on government building projects that were dangerous and caused many deaths.
- He divided China into districts with governors, in turn the districts had multiple counties governed by officials. This system helped enhance the tax system.



Qin Policies

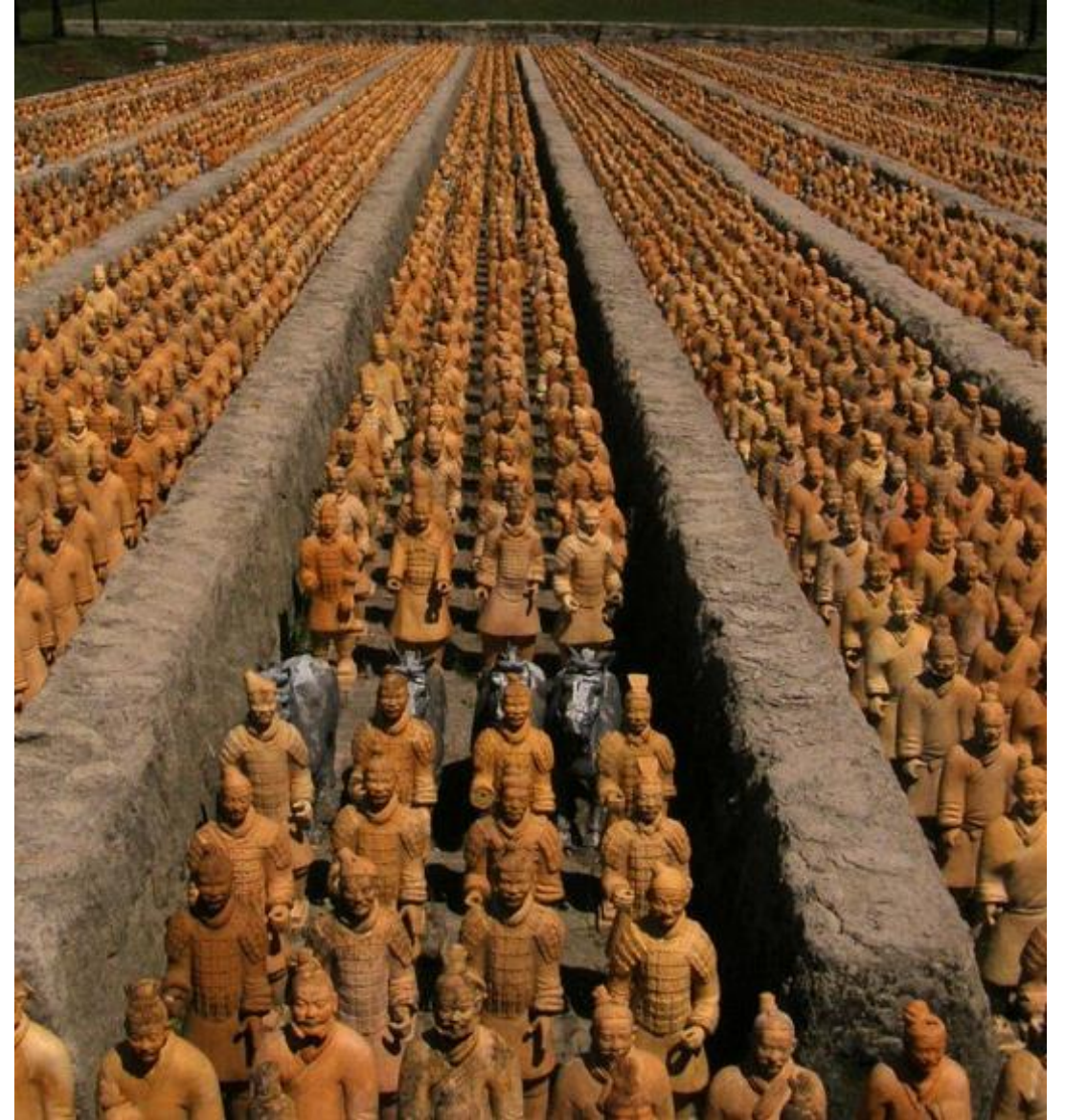
- Formed a uniform system of law. Rules did not vary from region to region.
- All peoples had the same written language. This unified people as one common identity.
- Gold and copper coins became same currency. This improved trade transactions between different regions.



Qin Achievements

- Built many roads. Helped transportation of troops and supplies.
- Canals improved transportation and trade.
- Most famous of them all is the Great Wall. The first section of the wall was built in 600 BCE. Under Shi Huangdi's command finished the wall. The goal was to prevent from nomads invading China.
- Also Shi Huangdi's tomb is famous for its terracotta army.





End of the Qin Dynasty

- Shi Huangdi's strict rules causes peoples to despise his ways.
- After his death in 210 BCE the government fell apart. Rebels used the mandate of heaven as justification to become the new emperor.
- China fell into chaos once more.



Han Dynasty



Rise of the Han

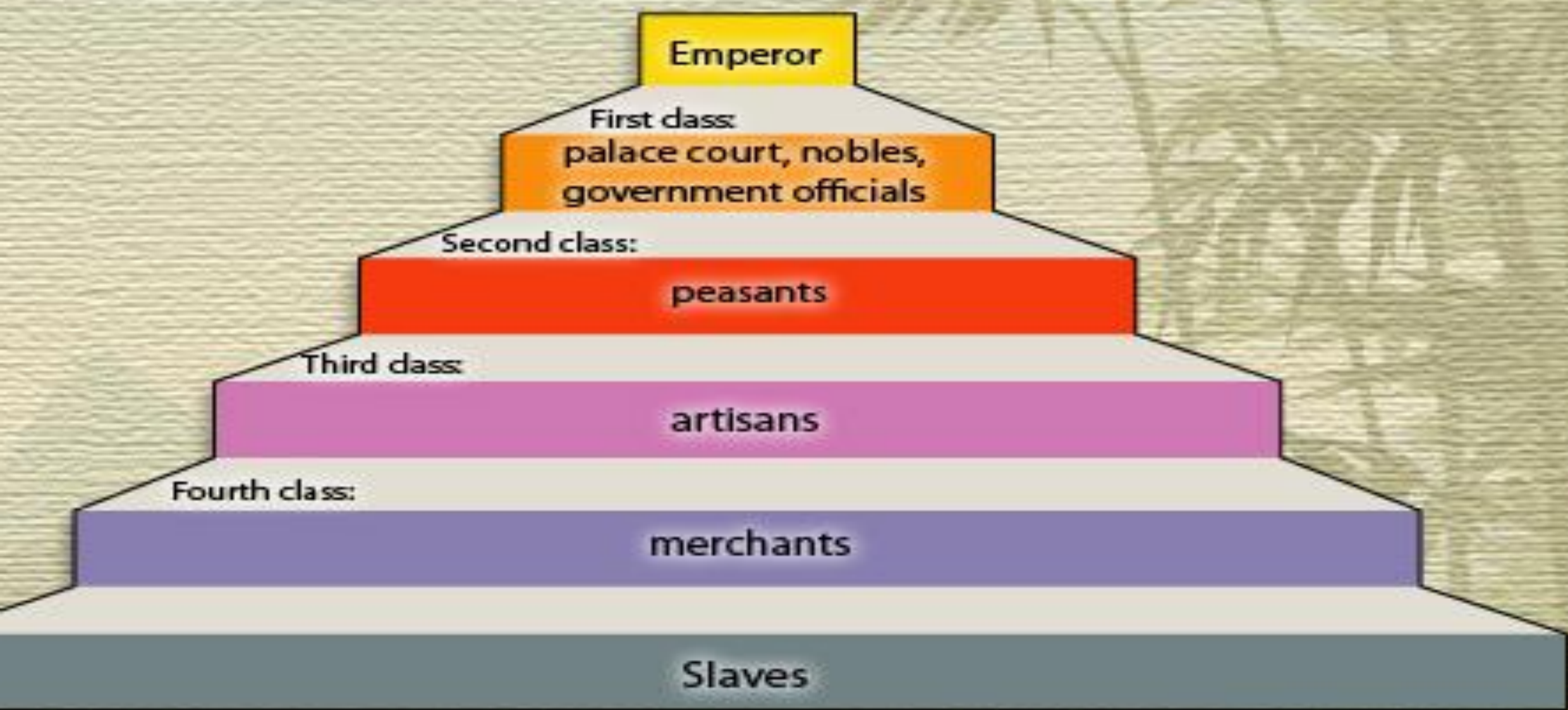
- Liu Bang became the new emperor of China of the Han dynasty in 206 BCE.
- He is the first peasant to become emperor. Liu Bang's rule was quite different from Shi Huangdi's strict policies.
- The emperor lowered taxes, lessened severity of punishments, and gave land to supporters.



New Central Government

- Emperor Wudi in 140 BCE created a strong central government.
- The government took the nobles' lands, gained control of the grain, and raised taxes.
- Confucianism became the main philosophy people had to follow. Wudi built a Confucian university.
- To gain a good government job, Wudi developed a test on Confucian teachings that determined what position people will receive.





Family

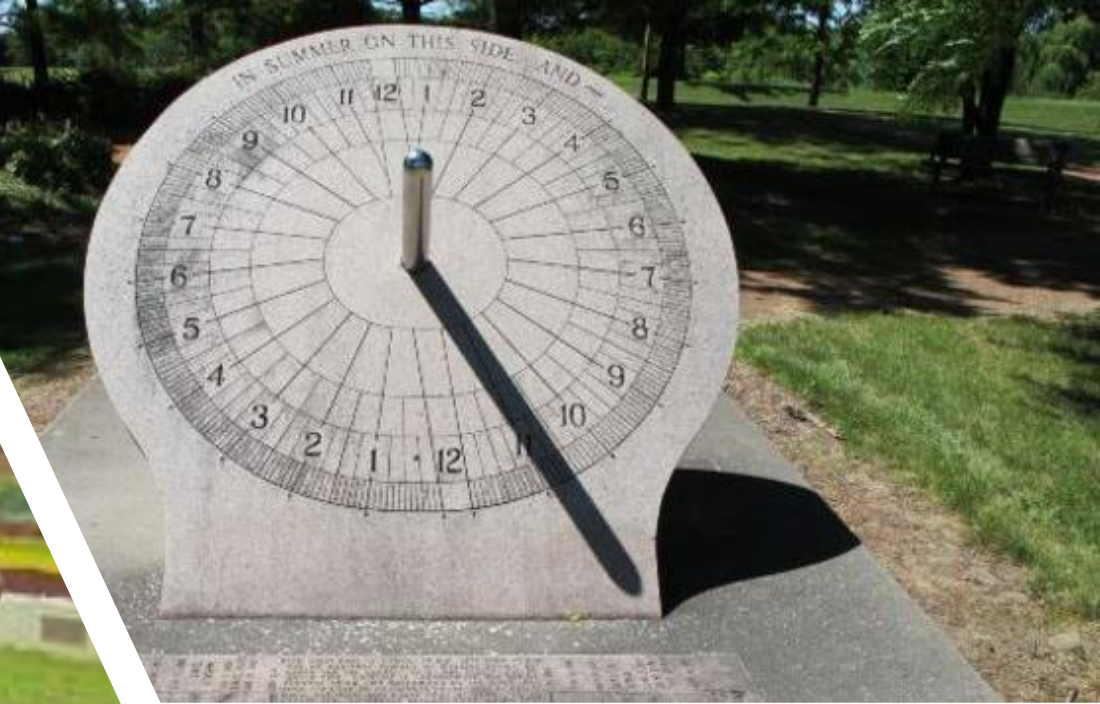
- Confucius teachings reflect about family honor.
- Everyone had to respect their parents, even the emperor.
- Strong family unit who obeyed father will obey emperor.
- Children honor dead parents with offerings.



Han Achievements

- Chinese were famous for figure painting and fu and shi style of poetry.
- Sima Qian famous for writing history of all dynasties.
- Invented paper by grinding plant fibers
- **Sundial**: Uses position of shadow cast by the sun to tell time
- **Seismograph**: Device that measures the strength of an earthquake
- **Acupuncture**: Practice of inserting fine needles through the skin at specific points to cure disease or relieve pain.





Han Dynasty's Foreign Affairs



Manufacturing

- Iron plows allowed more efficient harvest.
- Silk was produced by Chinese women who used silkworms by threading the silk from their cocoons, and then use it for dyeing and weaving.





Silk Road

- 4,000 mile trade network from China to across Asia to the Mediterranean Sea.
- Caravans traveled in groups. Armed guards were hired to protect caravans.
- Dangers from blizzards, sand storms, bandit.



THE SILK ROAD



Buddhism into China

- Rebellions became more common and the Han government lost control.
- Peasants starved and people were uncertain about their life.
- Buddhism helped people find hope to experience peace from the suffering of life.
- 200 CE Buddhist altars were built. Buddhism diffused into Chinese culture such as Buddhist texts being translated into Chinese.
 - **Diffusion**: Spread of ideas, goods, and technology from one culture to another.



