



Ancient Chinese Dynasties

1700 – 221 BCE

Shang

Zhou





Shang Dynasty

1766-1050 BCE

Important Because: First Chinese Dynasty
historians have evidence of

- Called the Yellow River Civilization
- Bronze Civilization
- Development of writing
 - Pictograph to Ideograph





Zhou Dynasty

1027-256 BCE

Important Because:
Development of
feudalistic system in
China

- Longest lasting
Dynasty
- Well-field system
developed
- “Mandate of Heaven”





Mandate of Heaven

- Developed during the Zhou Dynasty
- Based on four principals:
 - Right to rule is granted by heaven
 - There is only one heaven, therefore there can only be one ruler
 - Right to rule is based on virtue of ruler
 - The right to rule is not limited to one dynasty
- Central Question: How might the mandate of heaven been used to explain the downfall of a dynasty?





Three schools of Chinese Thought

- Taoist
 - Comparable to “the force”
 - Stresses the equality of the universe
- Legalist
 - Machiavellian thought
 - Laws should dictate **everyone** to ensure the good of society
- Confucius
 - Belief that if all relationships were approached with decorum and humanity the world would be better off





Central Question:
Which of the three
Chinese schools of
thought would you
most agree with? And
Why





Pre-Golden Age Dynasties

221 BCE – 618 CE

Qin

Han

Sui





Qin Dynasty

226 – 221 BCE

Important Because: Unification of China

- Qin Shih Huang
- Known for enormous public works projects
- Heavily legalistic – Anti Confucius
- Set the precedent for Imperial China
- Unified weights and measure





Central Question

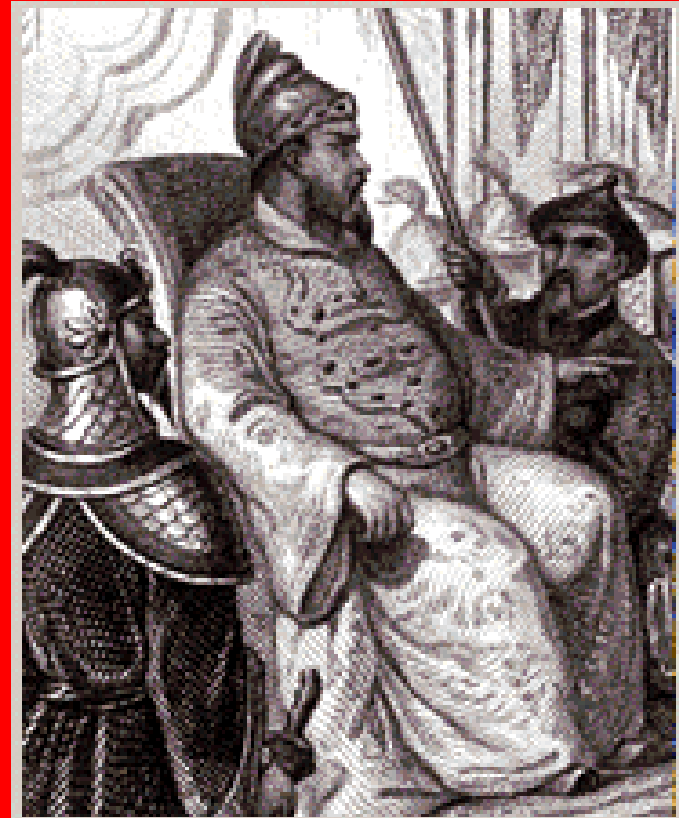
Why might a unified weights and measures system have been important?





Qin Shi Huang

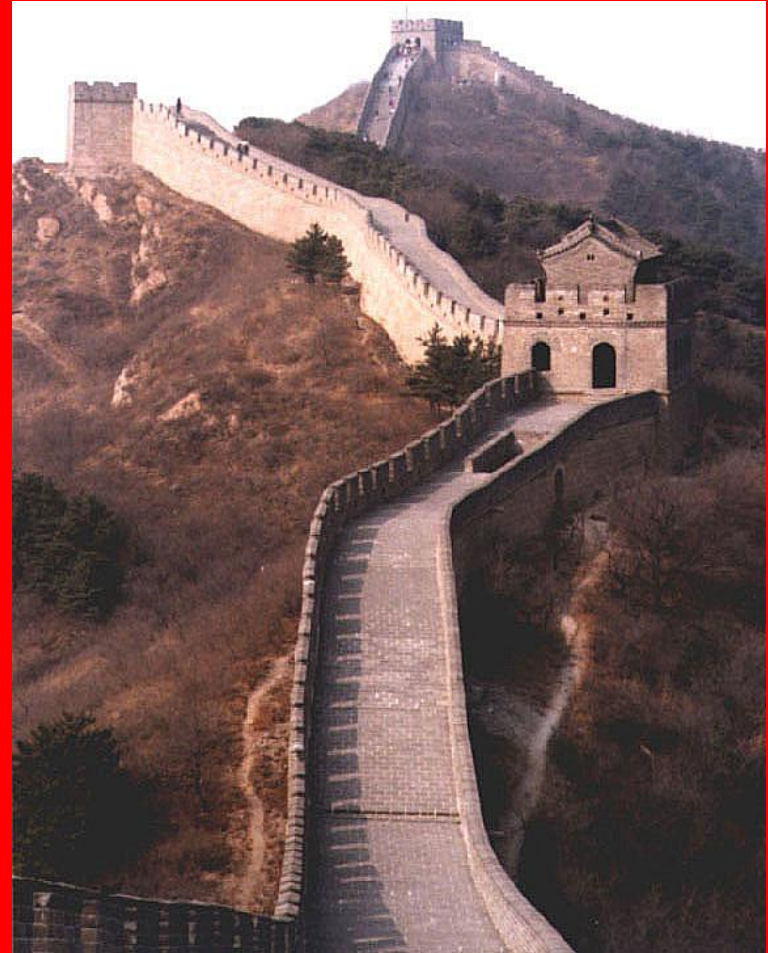
- Great Wall
- Did away with feudal system
- Established cultural uniformity
- Great tomb
- Established 36 provinces under central rule
- Burning of Books Decree





The Great Wall

- Built as line of defense against the Hsiung Nu or “Huns”
- Used system of signal fires
- Constructed using stones, masonry, packed earth and even bodies





Terra Cotta Warriors

- Built as guides to lead Qin Shi Huang into the afterlife
- Roughly 6000 in all
- All made in likeness of an actual Chinese soldier





Central Question

How would you compare Shih Huang Ti's use of the Terracotta warriors to the Ancient Egyptian use of statues? How are they similar? How are they different?



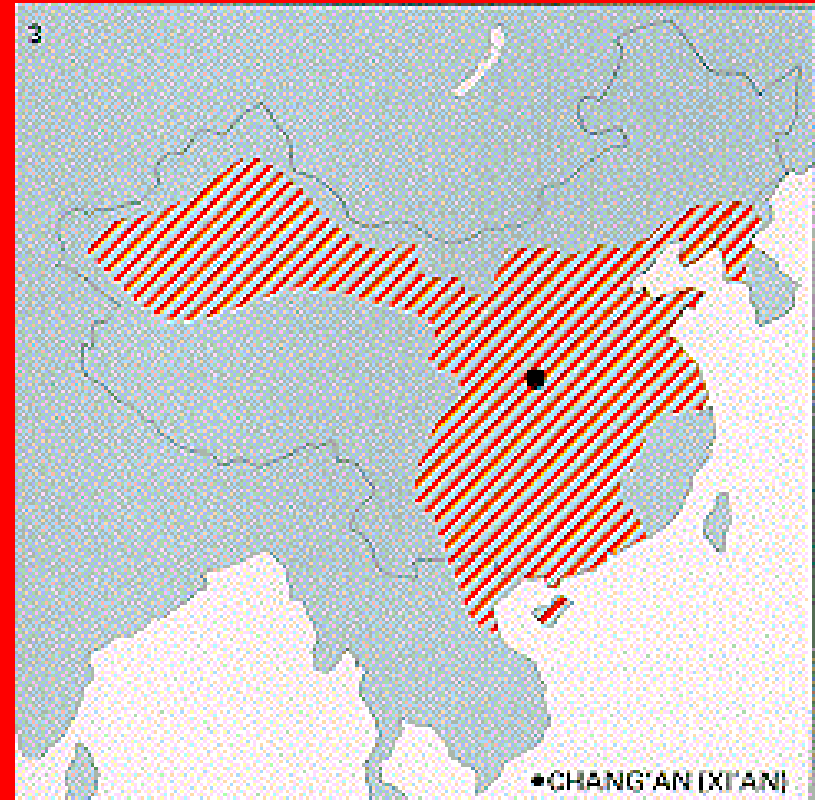


Han Dynasty

202 BCE – 220 CE

Important Because: Start of
Imperial Period

- Liu Pang
- Confucianism prominent
- Civil Service examination System initiated
- Silk road
- Technological advances





Inventions of the Han Dynasty

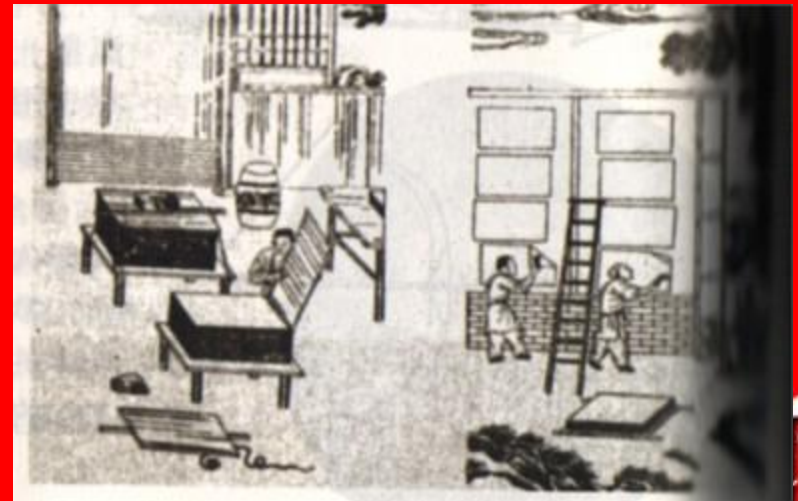
Porcelain

- More durable form of pottery
- Took a long time to perfect



Paper

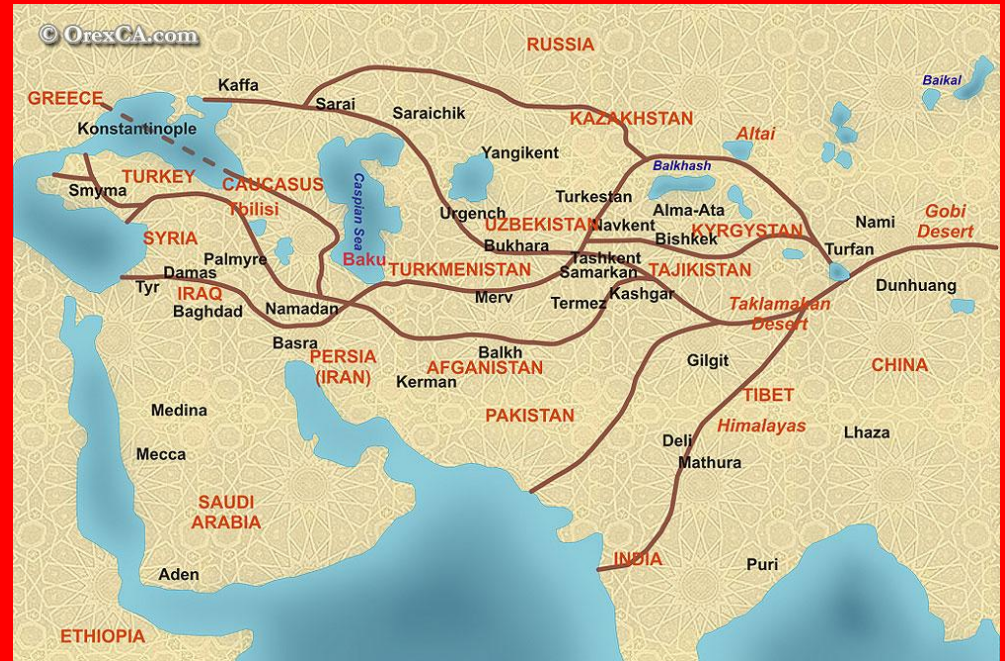
- Very thick at first
- Allowed for written histories to be developed





Silk Road

- Consisted of many different routes
- Served as a link between china and the Middle East, as well as Europe
- Exchanged silk for western goods such as precious metals and stones, as well as iron





Civil Service Examination

- Established to find suitable candidates for bureaucracy
- Consisted of
 - Military Strategy
 - Civil law
 - Revenue/taxation
 - Agriculture
 - Geography





Central Question

How might the Chinese have used the Civil Service Examination? Would you possibly compare it to any modern tests?





Sui Dynasty

589 - 618 CE

Important Because: Last of the Pre Golden Age Dynasties, Many public works projects

- After a long period of disunion the empire was again reunified
- Equaled Qin dynasty in amount of public works
 - Rebuilt Great Wall
 - Grand Canal
- Weakened by war vs Korea, revolts, disunity, and assassination





Sui Dynasty, Sui's Provinces, and border powers (about 610)





Gunpowder

- Mentioned in 850 CE in Taoist book (earlier forms mentioned)
- Made by combination of Saltpeter, Charcoal, and Sulfur





Grand Canal

- Construction started during Wu Dynasty, ended during Sui
- Largest Canal in the world
- Constructed for North South Transportation





Wrap up

Why might it be important to know about these different dynasties in order to understand modern China?

