

Chapter 3:

Early Civilizations in India & China

Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley

Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

Section 3: Early Civilization in China

Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley

- Summary:
 - Archaeologists uncovered remains of India's first civilization in the Indus River valley



Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley

- The **Indus River** valley is located on the subcontinent of India in South Asia
 - High mountain ranges separate India from other lands



Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley



- Three major regions in India include:
 - A well-watered northern plain
 - A dry central plateau (**Deccan Plateau**)
 - Coastal plains
- Its huge size and varied geography have made India hard to unite

Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley

- Winds called monsoons bring rain every summer
 - When there is not enough rain, people cannot grow crops
 - When there is too much rain, rivers such as the Ganges rise in deadly floods



Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley

- The first Indian civilization arose in the **Indus Valley** about 2500 B.C., but archeologists did not uncover it until 1922
 - Many of its cities remain undiscovered



Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley

- Scientists have found writing samples, but they do not yet understand them
 - As a result we do not know much about this civilization
 - We do know that the **Indus Valley** civilization was larger than any other at the time

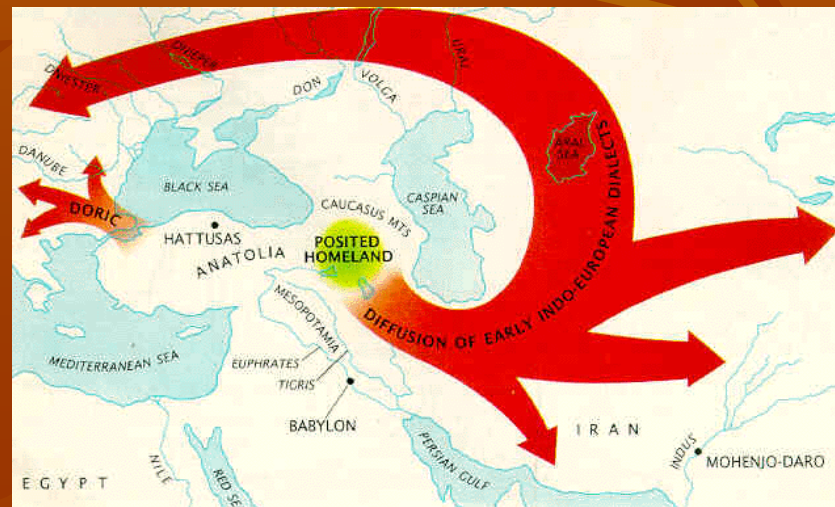
Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley

- The cities of the **Indus Valley** civilization were well-planned
 - Most people of the civilization were farmers
 - They were the first to grow cotton and weave it into cloth
 - The merchants of the **Indus Valley** civilization traveled to Sumer to trade their goods



Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley

- Around 1750 B.C., Indus Valley civilization began to decline, or become weaker
 - We do not know exactly why this happened
 - In the end, nomadic warriors called Aryans conquered the Indus Valley



Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley

The Northern Plain	The Deccan Plateau	The Coastal Plains
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Himalaya Mtns. In the NE-Hindu Kush Mtns. In NW-2 sacred rivers: Indus R. and Ganges R.-Fertile land	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Triangular shape-No major rivers-Land too dry for farming-Small population	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Eastern & Western Ghats (Mtns.)-Flat land along coasts-Fishing & trading-Rain & rivers provide water for farming

Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

- Summary:
 - **Aryans** warriors invaded India and developed a new civilization

Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

- The **Aryans** were a warrior group that moved across Asia
 - Early **Aryans** did not build cities and left few artifacts
 - Around 1500 B.C., they conquered the **Indus Valley** civilization

Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

- The **Aryans** gradually mixed with the people they conquered and learned new ways
 - They settled in villages to farm and raise cattle
 - About 800 B.C., the **Aryans** learned how to make tools and weapons out of iron

Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

- With iron weapons the **Aryans** carved out more territory in the **Ganges River basin**
 - Soon cities ruled by chiefs called **Rajahs** arose
 - By 500 B.C., the **Aryans** had built a new Indian civilization



Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

- Most of what we know about the **Aryans** comes from a collection of writings called the **Vedas**
 - The period from 1500 B.C. to 500 B.C., the **Vedic Age**, is named for those writings

Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

- According to the **Vedas**, the **Aryans** were warriors who loved food, music, and chariot racing
 - They organized people into social classes by occupation or job type

Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

- This was the beginning of the caste system
 - Under this system, people stayed in the social class into which they were born

Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

- Like the **Vedas**, stories called **epics** have been told and retold over thousands of years
 - The **epics** also give us information about the lives and beliefs of the early **Aryans**
 - They tell stories of families, wars, and love
 - The **Aryans** used **epics** to teach values and lessons about how people should behave

Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges



Brahmins
priests

Kshatriyas
warriors

Vaisyas
Herders, farmers, merchants, craftspeople

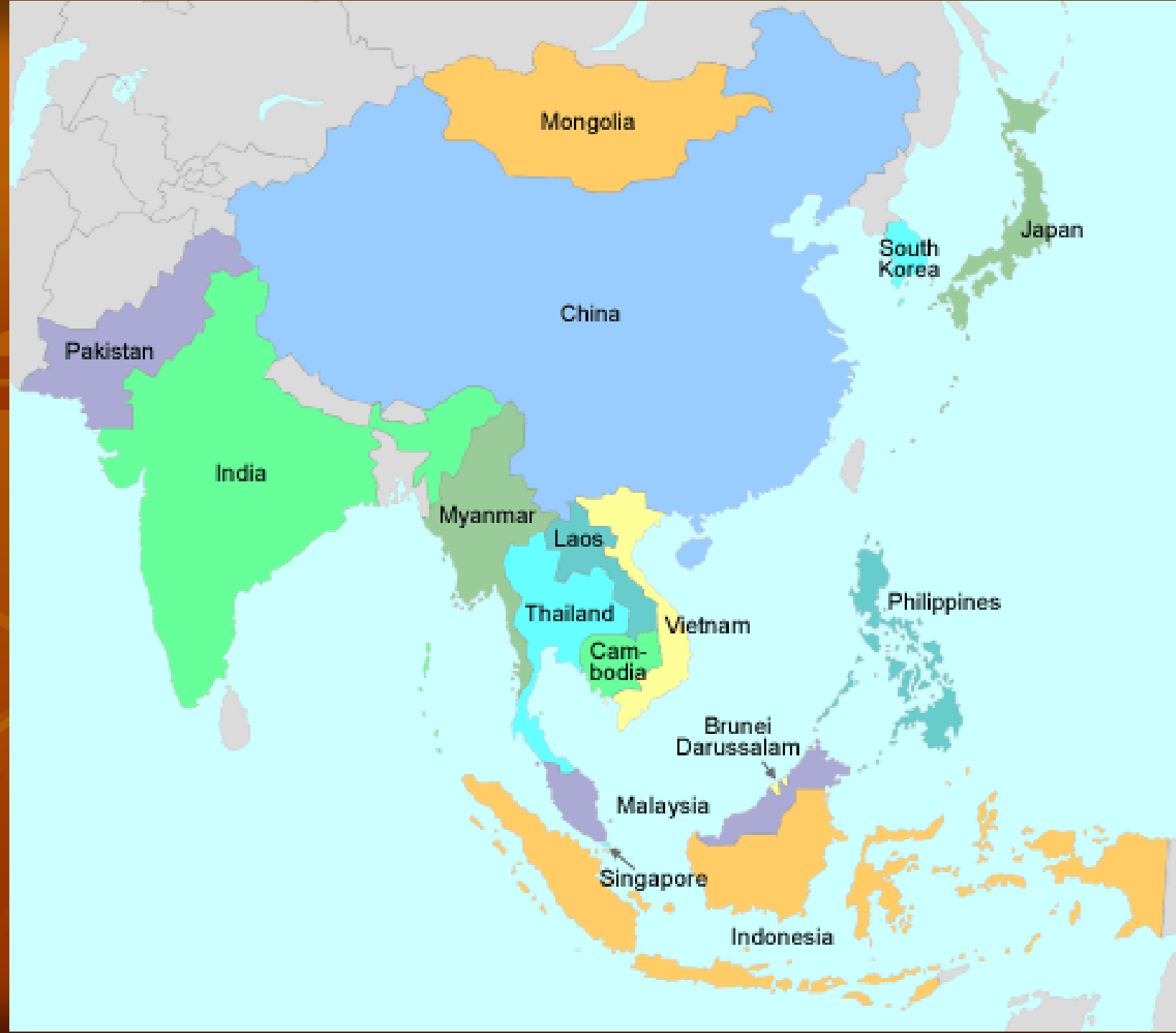
Sudras
Farm workers, servants, laborers

Section 3: Early Civilization in China

- Summary:
 - Early Chinese people developed a complex civilization
 - They made many advances in learning and in the arts

Section 3: Early Civilization in China

- China covers a huge area, but until recent times most people lived only along the east coast or in the river valleys
 - China is surrounded by mountains, jungles, deserts, and an ocean
 - Therefore, China was more isolated, or cut off, from the rest of the world than other early civilization



Section 3: Early Civilization in China

- Chinese civilization arose around the Huang He and Yangzi river valleys
 - About 1650 B.C., a Chinese people called the Shang gained control of part of northern China
 - During the Shang dynasty, kings controlled only a small amount of land



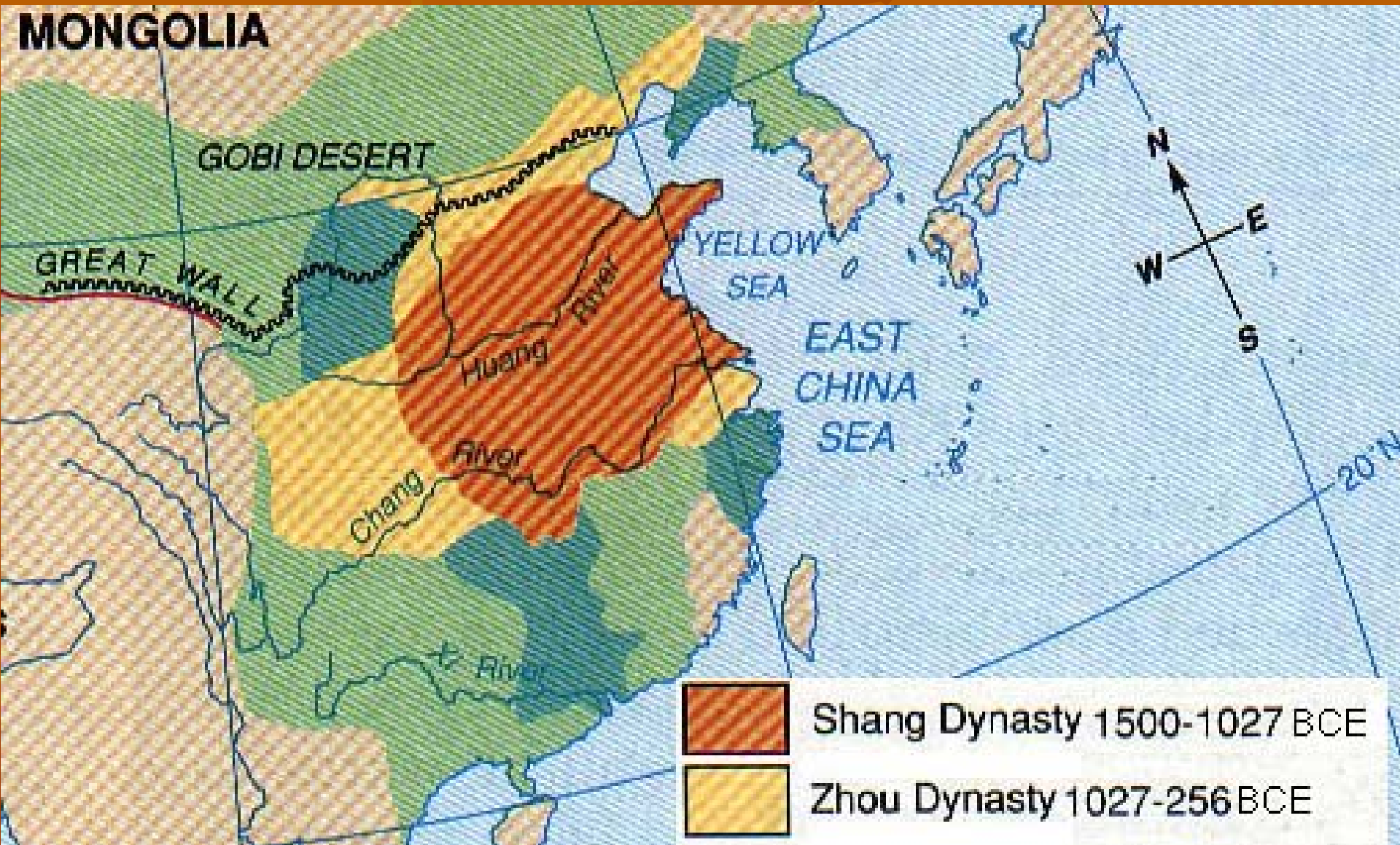
Section 3: Early Civilization in China

- Groups of families called clans controlled most of the land
 - Merchants and craftspeople earned a living in the cities
 - However, most people were peasants who lived in farming villages

Section 3: Early Civilization in China

- In 1027 B.C., the Zhou people overthrew the **Shang** and set up their own dynasty
 - The **Zhou** told the people that the gods had become angry with the **Shang** and now had chosen the **Zhou** to rule

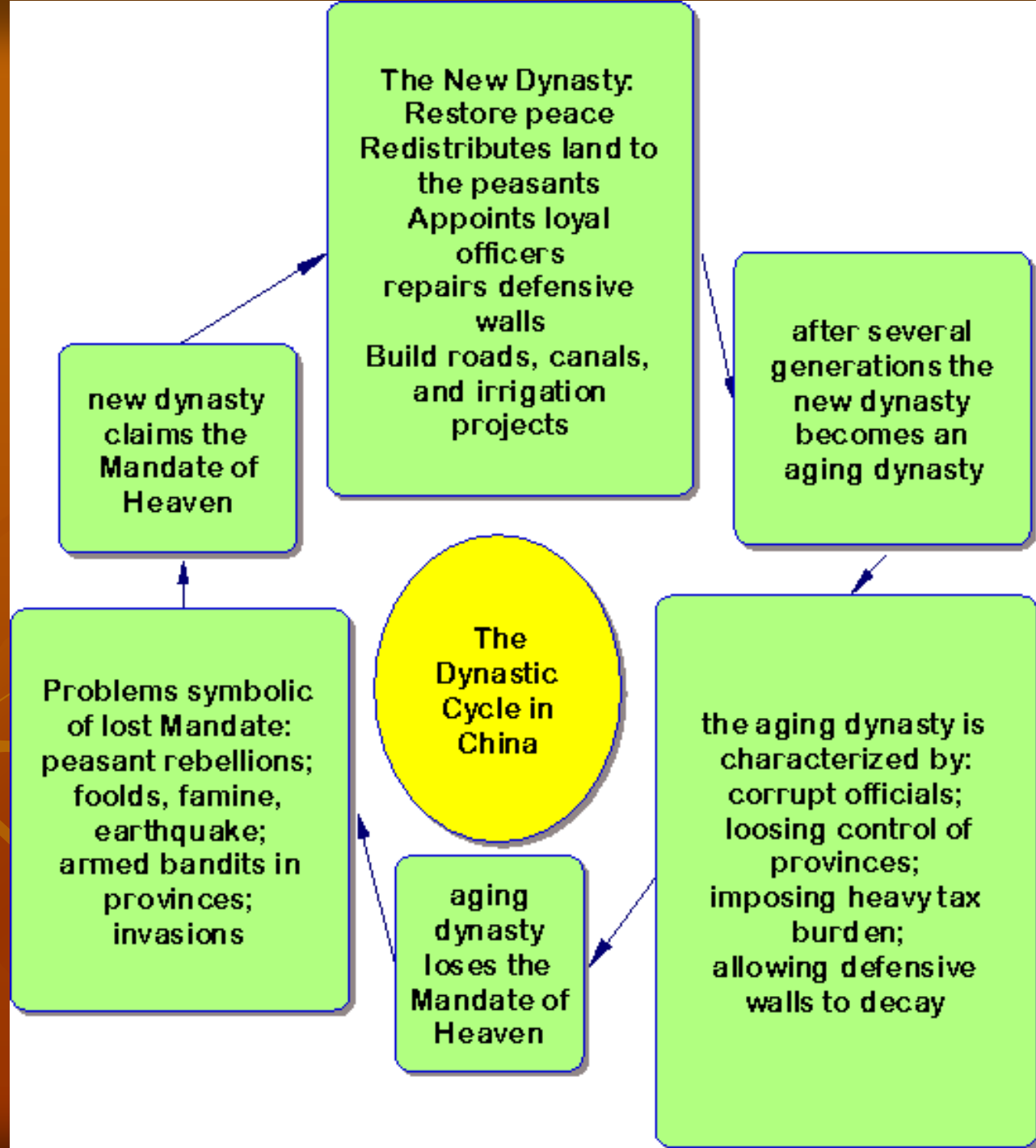
MONGOLIA



Section 3: Early Civilization in China

- The right to rule was called the Mandate of Heaven, or the divine right to rule
 - From that time on, each new dynasty would claim the Mandate of Heaven





Section 3: Early Civilization in China

- The Chinese made progress in many areas during the **Shang** and **Zhou** periods
 - They developed a complex religion
 - The Chinese created a system of writing and made the first books

Section 3: Early Civilization in China

- They learned to produce bronze and made detailed figures
- They learned to produce silk thread from the cocoons of silkworms
- The Chinese also studies astronomy, recoding eclipses of the sun and inventing an accurate calendar

Section 3: Early Civilization in China

