

# **CHINA HISTORICAL CRISIS COMMITTEE- THE PERIOD OF THE WARRING STATES**

**Topic A: The Barbarians**

**Topic B: The Restructuring of the Bureaucracy**



**Chair: Lauren Ribordy**

**Vice Chair: Jin Kim**

**Moderator: Julia Sonnenfeld**

## Letter from the Chair

Hello Delegates!

My name is Lauren Ribordy and I am going to be your chair for the Warring States Period committee. To give some background on who I am, I have been a member of Model United Nations for 3 years now. I am a senior in high school and started my sophomore year. I love MUN because I enjoy interacting with other people in a competitive yet cooperative environment to complete important objectives, i.e. saving the world by preventing the next nuclear apocalypse. Aside from MUN, I spend my free time reading sci-fi/fantasy novels, playing MMOs, writing, and singing. Depending on the awesomeness-level of committee, I might do some crazy things (i.e. sing a requested song) or allow us to have dance/rap offs. But, the committee must be extraordinarily productive for such things to happen!

On that note, I am really excited for our subject matter, Ancient China. Simply researching the topic was a feat all in its own because little knowledge exists from the late Zhou dynasty, when the Warring States Period took place. I think that this will allow you to branch off from history and create a new future. By no means does the state of Qin have to win the struggle to unify China, as happened in history: the strongest delegates will pave the way for their states' ascension, whatever state that may be.

If you have any questions for me on the committee, feel free to shoot me an email (156614@glenbrook225.org). I can't wait for us to rewrite history this April!

Good luck researching,

Lauren

# General History

The Era of Warring States arguably formed the origins of modern China. It is in this dispute, over the fall of the Zhou dynasty, that major Chinese states contended against each other. These conflicts were brutal and overbearing as expansion and conquest became the main focus for



feudal lords in the area over simply maintaining their own power. In the end, it would be the state of Qin that would reign victorious. By conquering the southeastern kingdom of Chu in approximately 223 BCE, Qin was able to take the upper hand in the conflict. Within the next two years, Qin would conquer the last of its opponents

and officially establish the Qin Empire. Although the dynasty would only last two short generations, jurisdiction under Qin Shi Huang would create innovations, such as an improved bureaucratic system and standardization of language and measurements that would shape the future of China.

Although this conference will focus on the period from 265 BCE (With Qin's first offensive) to 221 BCE (Victory of the state of Qin), it will be important to briefly reference the start of the Era of Warring States in 476 BCE after the end of Spring and Autumn Period. Initially, smaller nations under smaller state leaders grew into seven major warring states under feudal lords, as we know as the Qin, Han, Wei, Zhao, Chu, Qi, and Yan. Although the area between the boundaries of the other

states were of approximately similar size, the Qin and the Chu states were the largest and most powerful. In order to defend their territories, the Qin and Chu chose to take the offensive elsewhere than their domain, while also providing enough troops to protect their own land. By 361 BCE, under the new leader Shang Yang, legalism was adopted by the Qin, leading to many reforms that strengthened their political stance in the Era of Warring States. By the use of incentives and slave labor, the production of agriculture was greatly increased, providing the nation with far greater resources than previously achieved. This also led to the advancement of military weapons (as mentioned above), such as iron armaments and weaponry that would greatly help the Qin in their conquests in the future. Other nations were hopelessly overpowered as the conquests of Qin became more and more prevalent. In 230 BCE, the Han surrendered to the Qin. However, the great powerhouse to the South, Chu, stood firm

Defeating the Qin with small skirmishes eventually took a toll on the Qin as they were left in an incredibly weakened state. The Chu, benefiting from the crippling of Qi, began to expand, controlling almost all of southern China. It was at this moment, however, that the Qin retaliated with a swift campaign, taking control of the capital of Ying. By 223 BCE, the Chu state was driven eastward, where it had reduced capabilities to join with other states. Then, the Qin were able to take down their greatest rivals, the Chu, through surprise military tactics. The Qin followed up their conquest of the Chu by conquering the Wei in the following two years. By 221 BCE, the Qin grew to be the most powerful due to their own advancement in economics, politics, and military technology and due to the decline of other nations, such as the Yan and Zhao states. In the same year, the Qin would also conquer the final state of Qi, and form the Qin dynasty. King Zheng, who was only thirteen at the time of the initial Qin conquests, declared himself the first emperor.



This chaotic era is well known to this day because of the advancements of military weaponry that changed the course of battle in China's history. In this conference, advantages in military strength are a crucial matter that must be fully addressed.

These battles, of course, were in no way equally sided as many of the larger nations had access to resources, which in turn would give them technological superiority and therefore military superiority. These advantages would take the form of casted weapons, chariots, and weapons with longer range that were ultimately fatal to the enemy. Although in the past only the aristocratic elite were able to have access to such weapons, soon masses were able to be armed as well. Coupled with an abundance of resources from a more plentiful economy, armies also grew larger in size as did their strength. However, it is important to note that more than just the physical strength of the military increased, as military leaders also began utilizing more decisive and powerful battle strategies. For example, states in the South chose to stay away from the use of chariots as the uneven topography made chariot warfare impractical. Instead, southerners chose to raise massive armies of infantry, which could move faster and offer more flexibility than traditional battle styles. Horseback command, rather than chariot command, also gave patrician officers more freedom of movement and greater command over a vast number of soldiers. Another example is the surprise attack made by the Qin dynasty to finally overthrow the Chu. The Chu, towards the end of the era, were the strongest of the states and had won major scuffles against the Qin that had left Qin crippled. However, the Qin utilized a quick surprise attack by seizing the capital of Ying to overthrow the Chu state. Clearly, the balance of military might is a critical component to success in committee.



The creation of various alliances throughout the Era of Warring States was also a factor leading to victory: with such a power struggle, it was impossible for smaller states to defeat larger ones without mutual assistance. Some of these alliances, which sought to block the eastward advance of Qin troops by building the barrier of a North-South coalition of states, were known as "Vertical Alliances." The Qin were able to enjoy the greatest luxury that profoundly aided their military conquest: geography. Qin was located in the far West. Its mountainous terrain provided a natural barrier from attacks by states in the East or Southeast and allowed strategic military movement in and out of the state. Qin was distant from China's center of gravity. Its goal to stretch eastward was clearly vulnerable to the counter-strategy of the alliances of other nations. The Qin, however, also created a coalition of alliances that would also be known as the "Horizontal Alliances." As eventually the strongest military force in China, the Qin could coerce its neighboring forces into obeying its will against their own long-term interests. By offering some of its vast territories for the short-term allegiance of short-

sighted rulers, the Qin were able to create counter-measures against the alliances that conspired against its aggression. Alliances were perhaps the greatest weapon that states could have against other nations.

It would be false to say, however, that the conflict and war of the Era of Warring States was simply that of anarchy and chaos.

Although diplomacy was not considered the strongest weapon, it was most definitely used to a certain extent between the different states.

These battles were also not a product of territorial conflict, but of individual nations endeavoring to conquer other nations for power.



Although these wars are often depicted as bloody chaos (and indeed, many lives were lost in wasteful conflict), these battles made way for the end of a period of anarchy and the building of an empire. Failing to understand the importance of careful diplomacy will act as an obstacle in discussion. Incorporating the different stances on the philosophy and ideology of the period will be most beneficial to maintaining a realistic stance of your state's position. In this period, three defining ideologies stood that greatly influenced the actions

of the leaders of these warring states. To begin, Confucianism was developed in the 5th and 6th century BCE by Confucius (or K'ung Fu Tzu).

Followers of Confucianism were not particularly deistic and deemphasized the role of spirits and the ways of nature. Instead, they focused on social roles played by different members of society and



emphasized balance. Leaders who chose to follow these ideas saw the social order of things and believed that through respect for fellow men and great political involvement, understanding would fall into place. Taoism, which came into place in the same period as Confucianism, was founded by the great Chinese philosopher Lao Tze. Unlike Confucius, who emphasized great involvement in political stability and respect, Tze focused on letting go of earthly desires and following the *Tao*, or the Way. Few followed Taoism compared to Confucianism and Legalism, but its influence was evident in the leaders who denied aggressive conflict and conquest. The final and most prevalent ideology of the time, which would be favored by the winners of this conflict, was legalism. Legalism placed emphasis on order and strict procedures above all else and believed that without a single

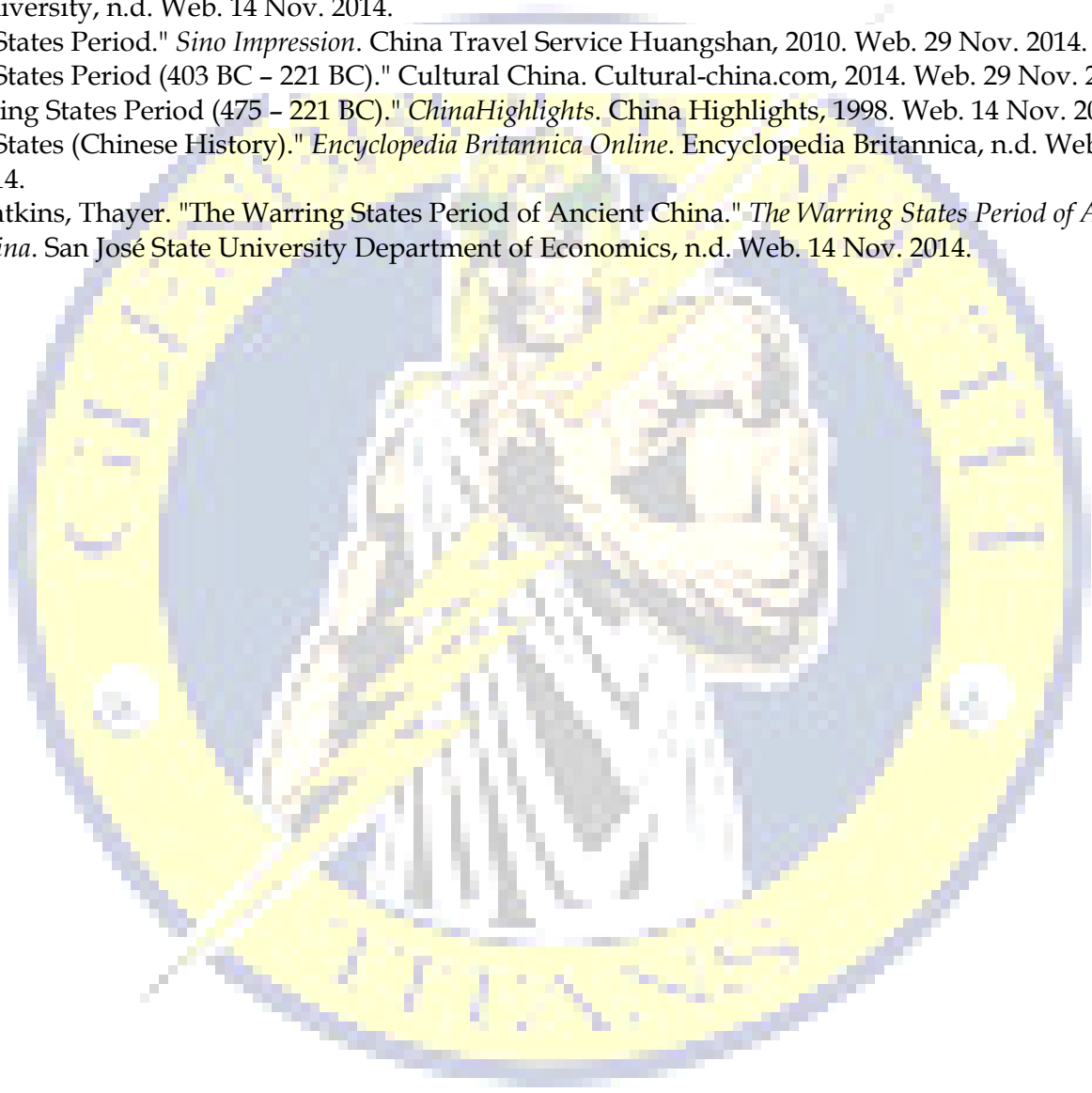
strong leader who deployed punishment upon its civilians, the state would fall into chaos. Leaders were expected to take aggressive stances in foreign policies, believing that only through a sole leader with an iron fist could unity take place. A great example of legalism in this era was implemented by the government Qin, who believed that as humans by nature were inherently evil, so too were the other nations inherently chaotic. Only through Qin conquest and dynasty could unity be maintained throughout China.

It is clear that a multitude of topics must be addressed in this meeting of the states. The Period of Warring States was one of the most influential in all of Chinese history. The advancement in technology, in both agriculture and military, were heightened to measures unseen before. Some of the greatest philosophical thought came out of this era, as great teachers, such as the Confucian thinkers Mencius and Xunzi, produced renowned works of literature. Another example is the great legalist and Prime Minister of the Qin, Li Si, whose works on legalist thought greatly contributed to the culture of the Qin. During this period, great battle strategies and military conquests took place as well. In order to hold off barbarians of the outer territories, larger states such as the Qin and Chu created ways to both engage in conquest and defend their home territory. This era also ushered in the foundations of great political and cultural structures that would influence the development of China for the next 2000 years. Although the Qin, Chu, and Qi dwarfed all other states in terms of territory, influence, and military strength, through diplomacy it is unforeseeable which nation will reign victorious. The actions taken now by this council will be the cornerstone for future generations; the dais advises each of the nation's leaders to research thoroughly and put great consideration into their decisions.



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## Topic A: On the Barbarians

The Ancient Chinese used a variety of symbols to represent the meaning of barbarians but most commonly combined the yi 夷 and the man 蠻 to pen the idea of “nomadic groups.” In more specific words, barbarians were a group of nomadic peoples who did not belong to the mass Chinese civilization. The Chinese were known to have compared themselves to these peoples as a means of



birds and beasts due to their staunch differences in customs, ideology, and social ranking. However, due to their position on the world stage it is understandable why the Chinese would make such assumptions. The Chinese historically viewed themselves as the center of the entire universe as reflected by their belief that emperors were divine rulers over all men. In fact, the Chinese even

viewed themselves as the Middle Kingdom because the territory mostly enjoyed unchallenged potency and greatness. Thus, it is logical that the Chinese had such severe views toward the barbaric peoples. The nomads or barbarians differed from the Chinese in multiple ways. These people migrated depending on climatic conditions in order to feed their livestock and often moved close to civilized peoples in order to trade necessary goods. The barbarians were also known to live amongst nature and under rather harsh conditions throughout their quests for trade and survival.

### General Threats the Barbarians Pose to Chinese States

The nomadic peoples posed a variety of complex and strenuous issues to the Chinese governments of 265 BCE. The issues of borders between the Chinese and barbarians had long been a problem. Unfortunately, this led to continuous violence between the Chinese and barbarians. On the Chinese borders lay range-lands and desert that were occupied by the nomadic peoples. This posed a serious threat to Chinese rule for it undermined the supreme rule of China and made the state look vulnerable. On the other hand, the nomads also needed such land in order to live and trade with the Chinese. However, more importantly close nomadic proximity made the opportunity for nomadic invasions ever present. Further threatening China was the fact that nomadic violence within barbarian groups was more than likely to break out in the near future. Barbaric warfare would not only pose severe threats to Chinese civilization but would cause extreme economic damage seeing that such outbursts would leak well into Chinese borders. Perhaps the most alarming element to the situation the Chinese were confronted with was the ever-rising tension between the Chinese and barbarians. The difference in culture and manner was an ever present issue that could erupt into war between the two groups. As China tried to gain more and more control tensions only rose between the barbarians which ultimately led to barbaric peoples resenting Chinese rule. These actions began to give barbarians a common mistrust and resentment toward the Chinese which could be incredibly dangerous to Asia as a whole.

### Past Solutions

Settled, agricultural people of China have faced the issues regarding barbarians before but have applied short term solutions to the massive issue. Chinese people in the past paid tribute to problematic nomads to protect their lands and peoples. In addition, recognizing the immense divisions and social rankings within the barbarian culture many Chinese worked the barbarians

against each other. For example, it's well known that the Chinese often played one barbaric tribe to protect their property from another opposing barbaric tribe. In fact, it is known that Chinese women have been offered as brides for barbaric leaders to ensure temporary peace. However, all of these solutions cause immense economic strain and only prolong the core problems of the barbarian issue. It is your job to figure out how to handle the barbarians while keeping in mind the strategic stance and economic interests of your positions.

### Questions to Consider

1. What types of threats do barbarians pose to Asia as a whole?
2. How can the multiple divides within barbarian civilization be worked to your advantage?
3. How can differences in ideology be worked out between China and the barbarians?
4. In what ways are Barbarians impacting the divine rule of China and civilian life, what should be done about this?

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## Topic B: On the Restructuring of the Bureaucracy

As various troubles pressured Chinese civilization the state has begun to enter a time of great advancement. This era was a turning point for Asia and the very name China was derived from the name Qin. Most specifically this committee will focus on the immense philosophical innovations accomplished during the Qin era. For a substantial amount of time the Qin upheld a centralized bureaucracy and unified political system. This bureaucratic system was considered a hierarchy where decisions were made by state officials. However, with the mixing of barbaric ideals and need for new philosophical systems new ways of government and thought were shared with Asia.

### Current situation

Following the Zhou dynasty is the Qin dynasty which has started to unify China for the first time in history. The emperor of the Qin is Qin Shi Huangdi who has proved his power through his imperial structure and ability to begin unification. Currently, this area is being ruled over as a bureaucracy that has absolute control over every single detail of the inhabitant's lives. The provinces have been divided up into very small but manageable areas where 2 officials are placed in charge. The level of distrust is so extreme amongst these lands that these 2 officials are expected to watch over and never trust one another to ensure absolute control. There are various governmental officials at multiple levels that are known to be paid incredibly well for their staunch loyalty. However, extensive spy systems have been created to further ensure officials don't diverge from their incredibly critical jobs. It is viewed that such severe measures must be taken to protect China but this

system has left Qin in complete control. The only way is Qin's way and those who wish to oppose are sentenced to penalties as harsh as death.

## Legalism

Legalism or 法家 is a method of ruling followed by Qin Shi Huangdi and a new method of philosophical thought. It is believed that even a weak ruler will be made magnificent due to the fact this system is run by law not ruler. Furthermore, legalism is rooted upon a general distrust of the



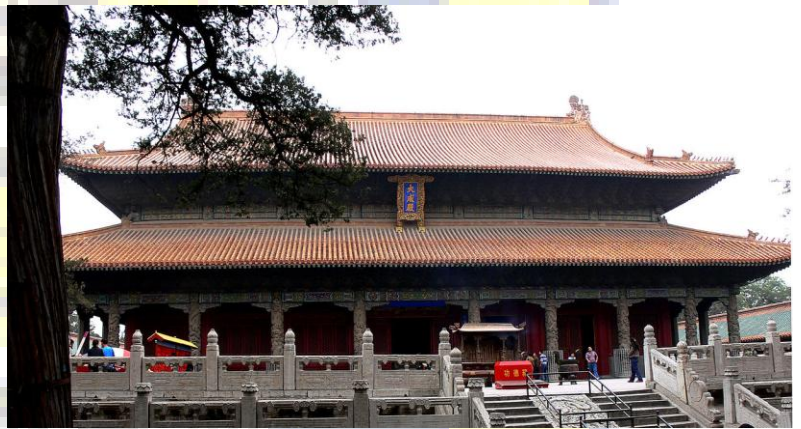
public and the supposed need for extreme provisions on everyday life which can be broken up into Fa, Shu, and Shi. Legalism emphasizes the need to uphold the law or Fa and find answers within it. Thus, this totalitarian style of ruling revolves around law and principle or 法 In this type of a society extreme punishments are practiced for those who make any sort of oppositions

small or large in anyway shape or form against the rule of the land. For example, punishments for actions as small as suggesting a strategy be carried out in a different matter will be treated with extreme severity like punishment by death. The underground system of legalism or Shu is also incredibly important to the strength of legalism. Underground spy networks are known to exist to not only watch over everyday citizens but to keep governmental employees in line with the law, or Fa. These special arts and tactics or 術 are the lifeline to legalism but pose a serious threat to the

people and prompt betrayal and paranoia. Last, the Shi or 勢 represents an ever important aspect of legalism and that is the legitimacy and power of the system. Shi also touches how it is the position of the ruler rather than the person ruling that maintains ultimate power.

## Confucianism

Confucianism is a recently developed school of thought that has begun to thrive under the Han Dynasty. This school of thought has begun to transform traditional ritual and hierarchy into spiritual principles such as yin and yang. Developed during the Era of Warring States, Confucianism is rooted on five main values Humaneness, righteousness, justice, ritual propriety, knowledge and integrity. Almost all aspects of Confucianism differ or object legalist views which could pose a serious ideological problem. For example, emphasis on the individual is stressed in Confucianism and urges such followers to become educated and not be bound to societal restrictions that held their ancestors back. Furthermore, the emphasis on family is also seen by a key teaching in Confucianism called filial piety. This school of thought emphasizes the idea that the body is a gift from one's parents and must be spared from harm and used to uphold family values. This same method of respect toward parents is upheld toward rulers as well where rulers are viewed as parent like figures who must under all circumstances be treated with respect and dignity. However, majorily differing from other schools of thought was the idea that such rulers owed the same amount of dignity and respect back to the public. It was vital for the emperor to set a good example for the



public through strong centralized rule necessary for a successful leader. Additionally, staunchly differing from other schools of thought Confucius believed this ruler should be chosen based on merit and ability not family lines as in the past. Confucianism has taught its subjects many aspects of thought that differ from anything China has seen in the past and it is known they are spreading rapidly. It is your job to figure out what is the best school of thought but keep in mind that thousands of people will be affected by these decisions.

### Questions to Consider

1. What schools of thought benefit your position?
2. Which schools of thought threaten the current Chinese way of life?
3. What type of connections does your position hold to current philosophical leaders?
4. How will changes in bureaucracy not only affect China but your position and Asia as a whole?

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## Positions and Blocks 265-221 BCE

### *Powerful Warring States*

#### 1. Qin

The state of Qin has undergone a profound revolution over the past 200 years. Its economic, social, and military developments altered it for the better. As a representative of Qin, you have observed your entire life the fruits of these changes: increased agricultural production by granting peasants private plots of land and incentives, centralized bureaucratic rule allowing for men of talent like yourself to outpace men of superior birth, and an incredibly effective military due to the riches of boosted agriculture and the authority of a centralized government. Qin has been underestimated in the past because of its close proximity to barbaric peoples in the West, but the recent developments described above prime Qin to become a regional powerhouse. Who knows, perhaps even the geographically distant Qin will unify all of China!

#### 2. Han

The state of Han is progressive. You know this well; as an official in the Legalist government system, you know a great deal about how individual sacrifice is necessary for the benefit of the entire state. Legalism is ruthlessly practical and allows no room for people to engage in any other disciplines than agriculture and military service. Han thus rules with an iron fist, doling out severe punishments to keep subjects in line. You have seen entire families or even villages destroyed by the unlawful actions of one member. The entire system revolves around preventing crime from happening by instilling great fear of punishment. However, you have seen the fear in people's eyes turn to spite and hatred. Such a system does not lend

itself to popular support. Furthermore, Han itself is not located in a good geographical location. Being the smallest of the major Warring States, Han is vulnerable to attacks.

### 3. Wei

The state of Wei is proud and stout. While Wei's people originally looked down upon the lands to the West as barren and barbaric, they have been forced to recognize the threatening might of the encroaching Qin Kingdom. Embracing a Legalist policy, Wei follows a three-point philosophy of shih, or power and position; shu, or potent administrative methods; and fa, effective law. While you have seen the beneficial results of such discipline, you cannot help but notice that your majestic state is growing further behind in the race to conquer all of China. You need to make sure that Wei takes a dominant role in the struggle ahead and does not fall prey to its pride.

### 4. Zhao

The state of Zhao has blossomed in the past few decades. While once weak in the time of your grandfathers, Zhao has become a powerful force in the northern Chinese region. Zhao's greatest strength is its military tactics. Having been subjected to the threatening influence of Xiongnu, Zhao has adopted their highly effective military tactics for the greater good. You have witnessed the incredible efficacy of forgoing expensive, bulky war chariots for archers on horseback, essentially combining the strategic skill of the nomads with the advanced technology of the Chinese to forge a formidable force. Like Qin, the once weak Zhao is certainly not a state to ignore.

5. Chu

While Chu stagnated in the recent past, reforms over the past 100 years have largely reduced corruption and excessive extravagance. You have seen firsthand how ineffective officials are commonly weeded out and replaced by those more capable. These changes have been for the greater good: Now, Chu has the power to successfully attack other states and defend itself against its main nemesis, the aggressive Qin to the West. While Chu has the largest geographical area, you should focus on improving the strength and scope of your army to protect all of your land and better integrate the states you have conquered into your populace.

6. Qi

The state of Qi is blessed by a geographic the furthest to the East and out of the clutches of the increasingly aggressive state of Qin. With half of its geographic mass forming a peninsula, Qi has natural boundaries against invasion over half of its perimeter. In addition, Qi's military strength is not to be doubted: it has conquered many smaller states and has held its own against its neighbors. However, Qi still holds grudges against the states of Yan, Qin, and Wei who launched a successful joint offensive decades earlier. In particular, Yan is a most detestable state.

7. Yan

Yan is a crafty state that has no fear of making alliances and engaging in artful backstabbery when the most opportune moments arise. Yan is lucky that it is only bordered by two other states, Zhao and Qi. However, Yan and these two states have feuded for years and are serious adversaries. Yan has allied itself previously with the states of Qin and Wei to

assault Qi while it underwent an internal crisis, while it has been warring with Zhao on and off for years. Despite its current solid positioning in the race for empire, Yan will need to step up its game and work with its allies to defeat the states beyond its sphere of influence.

### *Miscellaneous Outsiders*

#### 8. Japan

Japan has recently entered a new age influenced heavily by the Chinese and Korean kingdoms. You have seen your society be transformed by an agrarian revolution stemming from the rice-culture of the West. Additionally, you have observed the native adoption of bronze metallurgy techniques from the Chinese. While viewed by the Chinese as bizarre, tribal, and violent, you find that you inhabit a bustling civilization with a class hierarchy, farms, markets, taxes, and religion. Your emperor Kourei is beloved by his people and they would follow him faithfully to secure any objective. While you are normally discounted as a non-threat by your western neighbors, you think that perhaps it is time for your people to use their recently-imported bronze metallurgy to mimic western weapons and show the belittling westerners that the Japanese are not a force to be trifled with. With a loyal people and strong emperor, Japan could be a formidable force if it feels the need to act.

#### 9. Qiang

Qiang is a collective of nomads, some herders and some farmers, to the far West. They are skilled fighters and in the past were used as a mercenary force by the state of Jin (before its split) to attack adversaries. Your people have been a constant thorn in Qin's side, pillaging villages and wreaking mayhem. While your people are excellent fighters, they are not



incredibly organized and thus susceptible to decisive action should any state, such as the puissant Qin, attack.

10. Xiongnu (Mongols)

You represent the Xiongnu, nomads from the West who have considerable influence and power. Your people are amazingly qualified horsemen and are adept archers. Your people have been spreading rapidly and have recently been breaking up into smaller divisions that make them more powerful and unmanageable. You have domain over a large portion of Asia and have the capability to raid from the South into the China mainland. Your people do not hesitate to attack Chinese villages when peaceful trade is not an option and are difficult to attack because they are constantly moving from place to place. One of your main weaknesses, however, is that you have poor technology (crude weapons). Another is that you lack the centralization of the Chinese states who you so often attack. Finally, you are dependent on Chinese agriculture societies for your stores of grain and textiles. If you want to have any long-lasting success, you need to centralize, improve your technologies, and imbibe fear into your enemies.

*The Donghu Confederation*

11. Wuhuan

12. Xianbei

The Donghu confederation consists of two groups of people, the Xianbei to the North and the Wuhuan to the South. Like the Xiongnu, the Donghu Confederation was made up of skilled mounted archers who lived nomadically to the West of China. While they lack a centralized, organized political system, the Donghu Confederation still proves threatening to

its Chinese neighbors. However, the competitive and aggressive encroachment of Xiongnu has proved deleterious to the confederation. The nations of Wuhuan and Xianbei now face imposing subjugation from the Xiongnu force. How they will get out from under the thumb of the Xiongnu remains to be seen, but is possible if the confederation rallies and confronts the Xiongnu's aggression.

### *Vietnamese Kingdoms (Kingdoms of Ou)*

13. Âu Việt

14. Văn Lang

The Kingdoms of Ou, from which stem Âu Việt and Văn Lang, have cultural roots in the former Kingdom of Yue, who was conquered by the state of Chu. Viewed largely as barbaric outsiders by the rest of China, these two kingdoms are relatively safe from the feuding of the Chinese warring states due to their distance from the nucleus of conflict. However, as a representative from one of these states, encouraging trade between your kingdom and and of the Chinese states should be a solid priority. Perhaps you can try to make contact with the conquered Yue people in the North; if they are dissatisfied with the dominance of the Chu, perhaps a Vietnamese coup is in order to overthrow the haughty Chinese and take the rich lands of China for themselves. Take note that your state is currently in no such position to wage war on the advanced chinese kingdoms, but perhaps with the right actions moving forward you can morph your nation into a strong competitor.

### 15. Gojoseon (Dynasty of Korea)

Gojoseon has existed for thousands of years in northern China/Manchuria and the Korean Peninsula. Gojoseon is a force to be reckoned with and has highly advanced technology. While viewed as somewhat barbaric easterners by the Chinese, your people have a distinct, developed civilization. Unlike other nations like Japan, your nation developed bronze and metallurgy separately from the Chinese nations. However, in the past thirty years Gojoseon has not been too proud to adopt the newly-found iron metallurgical practices from China. The result of these metallurgical advances is that Gojoseon has many metal weapons that will serve it well in the case of a fight. Because of both Gojoseon's cultural independence and willingness to embrace benevolent outside ideas, it has the wisdom and power to be a threat to the Chinese powers.

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