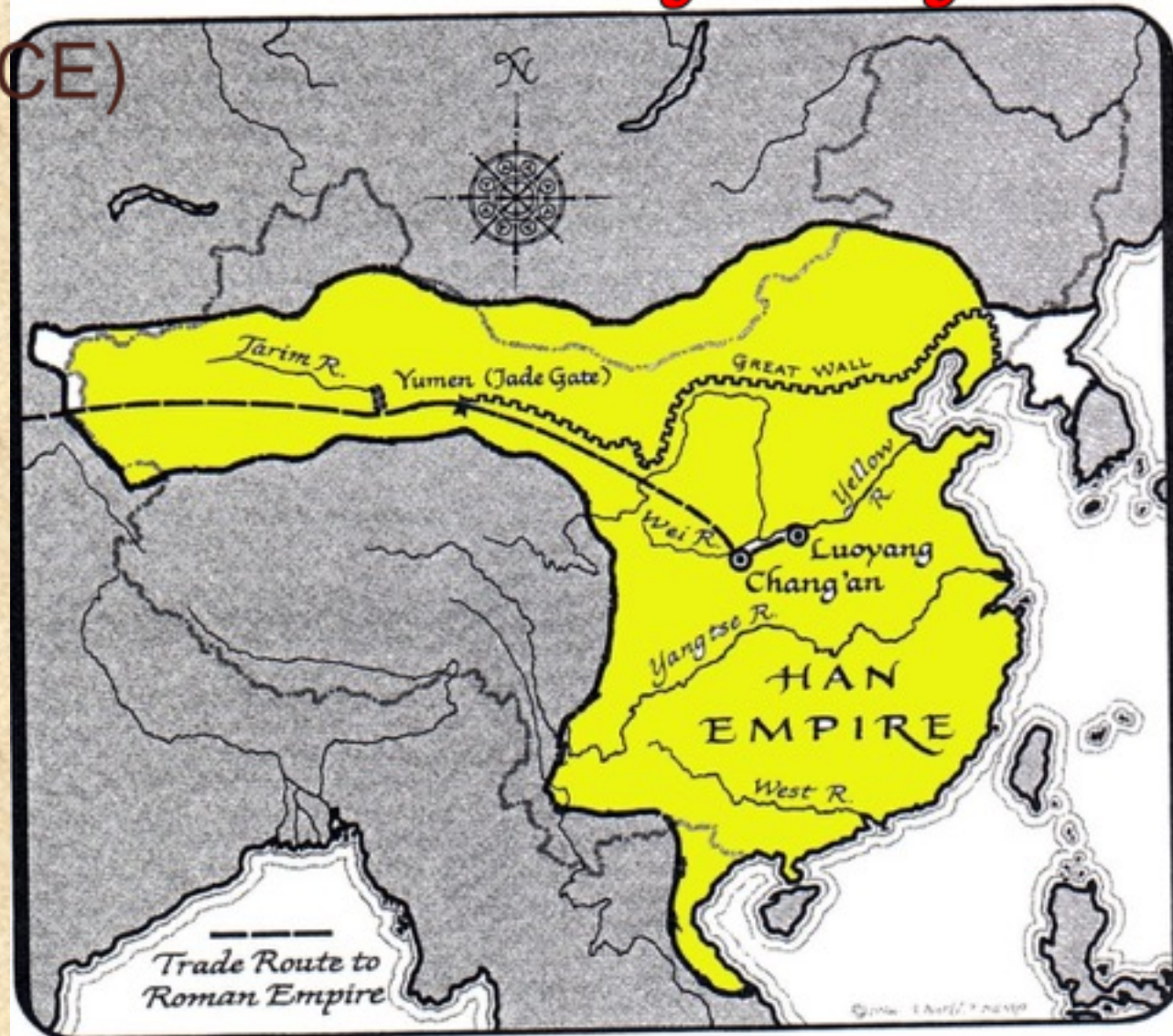


The Extent of the Han Dynasty

(206 BCE-220 CE)



Han Dynasty Empire (206 B.C.–A.D. 220)

Emperor Gao (Liu Bang)



- ☯ **Former peasant**
- ☯ **Rebel leader who helped overthrow the Qin**
- ☯ **Relied on Confucius policy rather than the harsh legalist ideals of Qin dynasty**

The Han Under Emperor Wu

- ☯ Became known as the “Martial Emperor”
- ☯ Expanded China’s empire through war
- ☯ Relied on Confucianism
- ☯ Improved canals and roads
- ☯ Imposed a government monopoly (complete control of a business) on iron and salt



Han Society

- ☯ **Scholar-Officials: well-educated Confucian philosophers run the bureaucracy**
- ☯ **Scholar official were expected to match the Confucian ideal - be courteous, dignified and possess a thorough knowledge of history, music, poetry, and Confucian teachings**



Civil Service Examinations



- ☯ Officials won positions by merit rather than through family background
- ☯ To find the most qualified officials a system of exams were developed
- ☯ In theory, any man could take the exam but in reality only those who could afford it – ended up taking it
- ☯ Still used up until 1905!

Women in Han Society

- ☯ **Confucian teachings**
– men superior than women
- ☯ **kept women from taking the civil service exams.**
- ☯ **Women were expected to obey the will of their fathers, husbands, then sons in old age**



Technology and Trade

- ☯ **Advancements include paper, yokes, plow, wheelbarrow, improved iron tools, use of water power to grind grain**
- ☯ **Agriculture was considered the most important but trade thrived**
- ☯ **Government monopolies produced silk which was traded as far west as Europe along the Silk Road**



Silk Road

- A network of trade routes connect the East to the West
- Named after silk which was very desirable



More Contributions...

- Paper-making
- Iron casting
- expanded borders
- Pullies, wheelbarrows and other farming technologies

Downfall of the Han Dynasty

- ☯ Power struggles between palace eunuchs, empresses, and palace consorts
- ☯ Daoist religious groups rebel against Han rule
- ☯ Warlord Cao Pi forces the last Han emperor Xian to abdicate the throne



THREE KINGDOMS (262 AD)

Next The Three Kingdoms Period...



Drawn by Yu Ninjie.

Comparing the Roman Empire and Han Dynasty China



Similarities

Imperial Rome and Han China



- Both lasted approximately 400 years
- Both had populations of about 50 million

Militarism:

Both emphasized territorial expansion
Roman Empire Han China



Geographical Year: A Tour of Empire



Perceived threats to security led to wars and conquests, which only increased the length of borders and led to more perceived threats...which led to more conquests. A pattern.

Economic Base

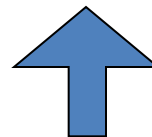
- Became wealthy from farming
- Land = wealth
- Government earnings based on a % of the annual harvest



Integrating the empires

Infrastructure:

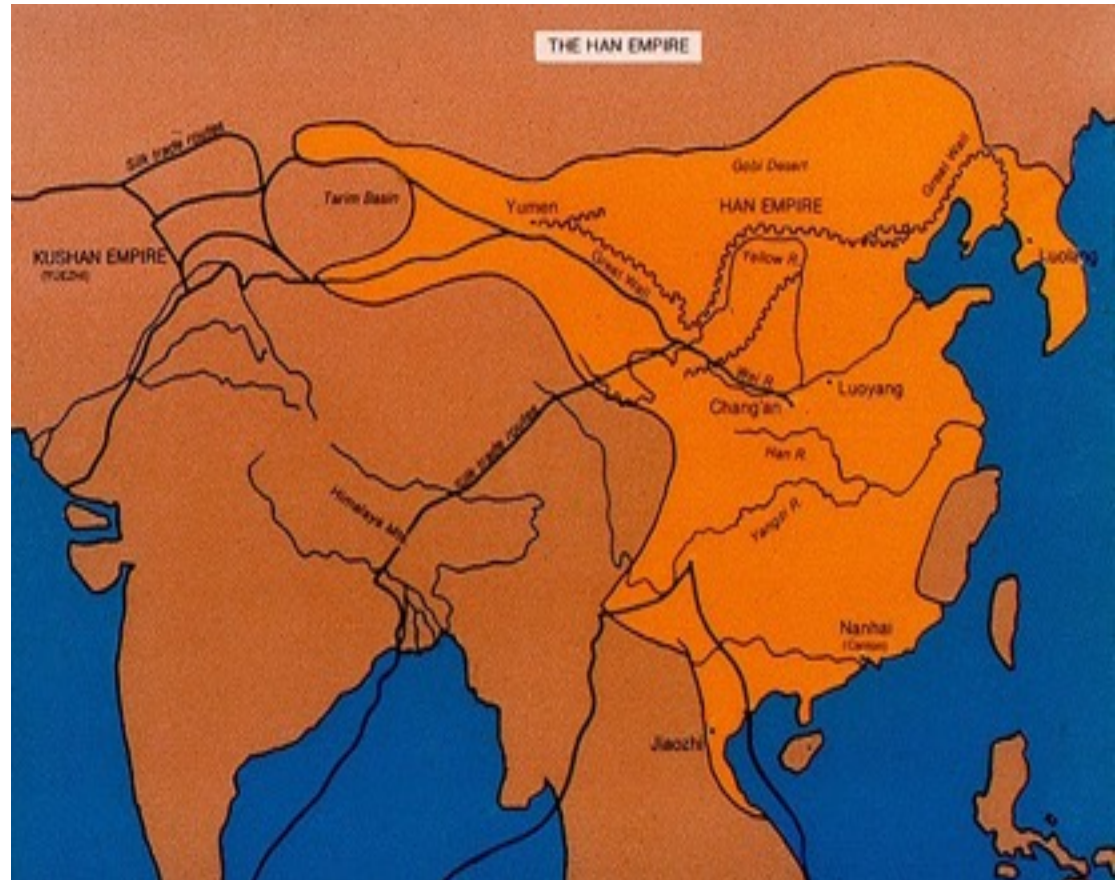
- Massive road building projects linked crucial parts of the empires
- Roads facilitated communication, economic activity, access to resources, and movement of military.
- Rome - invented concrete & engineered feats like aqueducts



Yep – that's a Roman Road, still around today. Looking good after 2,000 years.

Colonies & Cultural Expansion

- Large colonies of ethnically Han (northern) Chinese were planted in newly conquered territories
- Use of Mandarin language required by the elite and bureaucrats
- Ideology of Confucianism enforced by the central authority



Rome's Colonies and Cultural Expansion

- Colonies were basically military outposts not intended for population integration
- Latin was encouraged but never took over Greek in the East (people STILL looked up to Greek culture)



The Power of Governments in Han China and Imperial Rome

- Both systems had governments with strong power in the empire
- Used government officials and taxation to control major cities
- Increased power with military
- Both governments were actively engaged in the economy to create a stable social and political order
- For example, the Han gov't held monopoly power on the trade of salt and iron



-Rome had many slaves and heavy taxes on the middle and lower classes

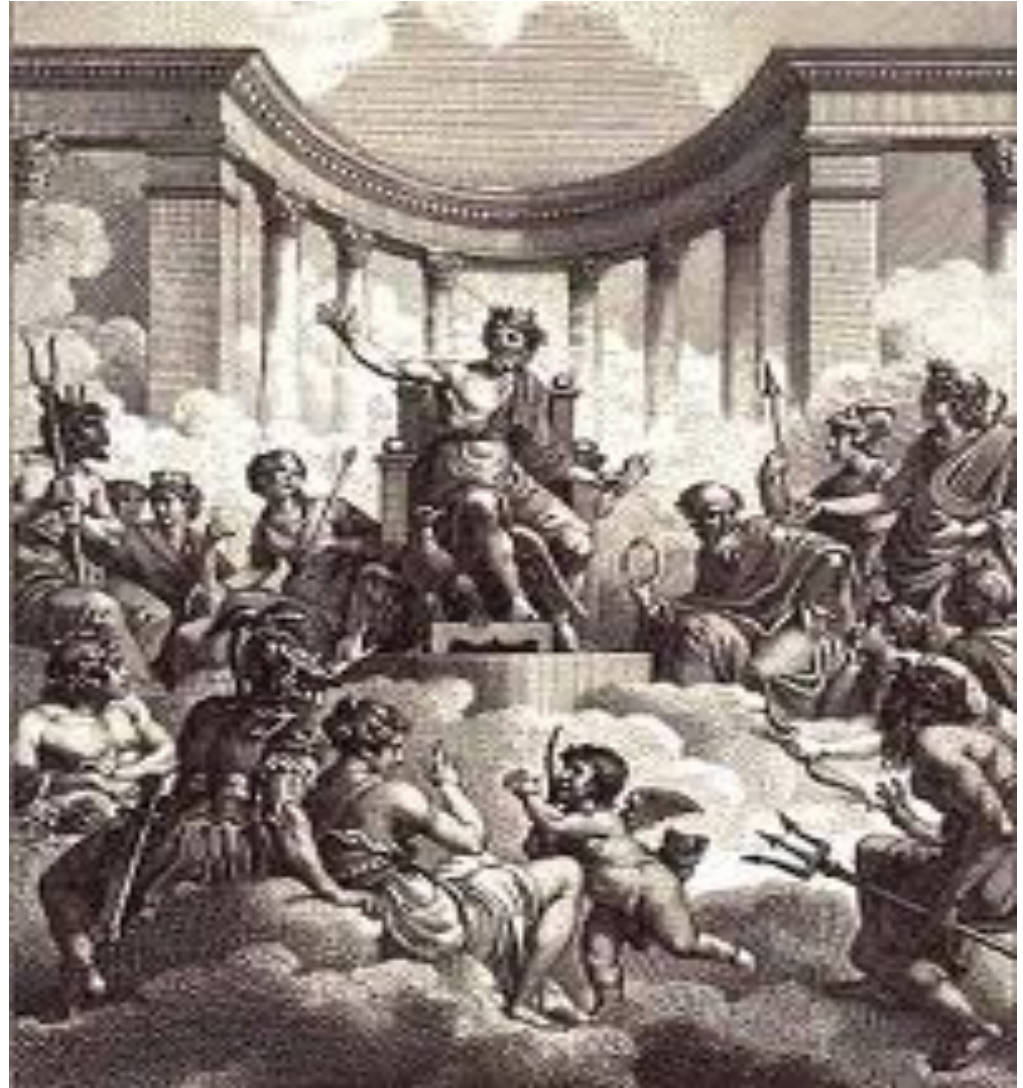
Family and Society

- Both dominated by men & respect for fathers
- Both focused on respect of ancestors (but more so the Han)
- Han - family was the model of organization for the state



Religion and Philosophies

- Early on, both empires focused on rituals and themes that would bring loyalty to the empire, but neither was intensely spiritual
- Both were exposed to new religions late in the Classical Period (Buddhism in China, Christianity in Rome)

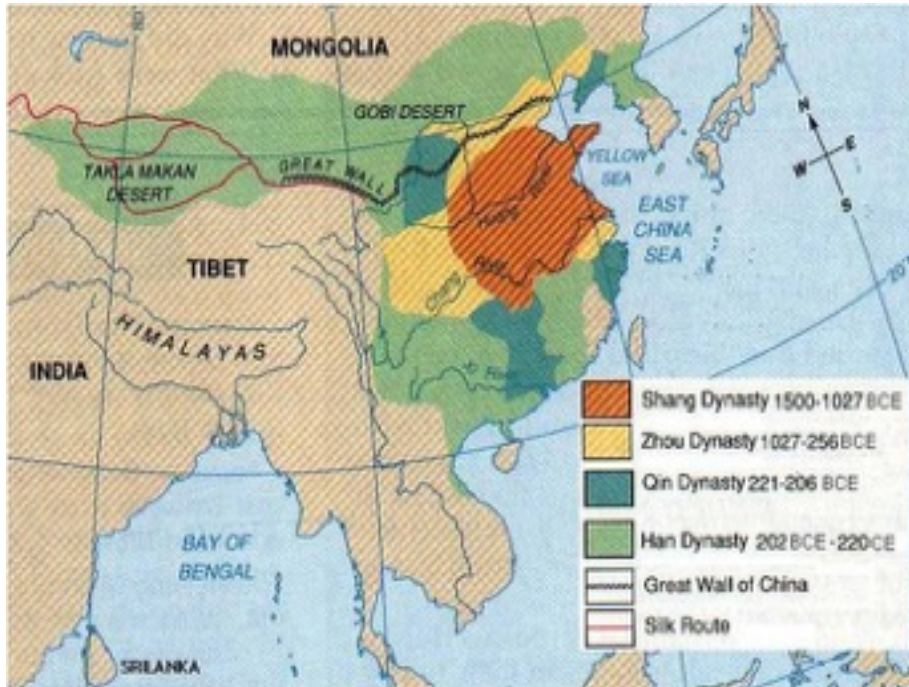


Differences

Empires created differently

Han China built on earlier imperial traditions started by the Qin and Zhou

Rome built on aristocratic landlords expanding out from a city-state



Han Dynasty gained political power through Confucianism

- Confucianism explained social order
- Emphasized the emperors' divine majesty, links to Heaven, and morality through correct ritual
- Developed a sophisticated bureaucracy with gov't officials in the provinces (staffed by middle class)
- Imperial Academy and exam system meant ALL areas of China were cohesive & Confucian



Roman Empire gained political power through laws

- Relied on local rich & middle class to control provinces
- Greater emphasis on law codes and a common legal system
- Monuments and triumphal processions played up the glory of the empire and its rulers



Territorial expansion

Han China

- Pushed boundaries far beyond Qin homeland, but when they reached a sustainable point, did not feel the need to keep expanding
- Didn't rely on slavery
 - peasant population made constant expansion less necessary

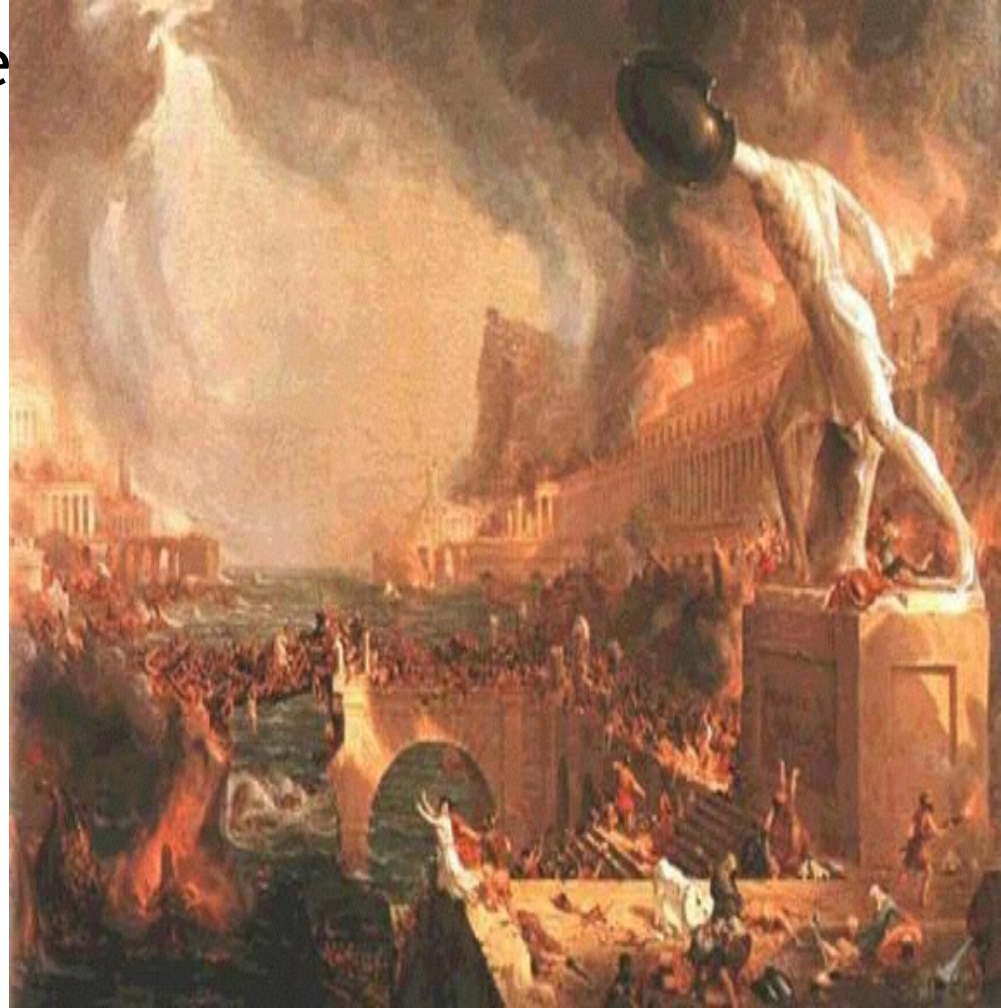
Roman Empire

- A more militaristic culture
- Romans needed additional territory to pay soldiers
- They needed a continuing supply of slaves for their labor system



Decline of the Roman Empire and Han China

- Overexpansion led to invasions by nomadic people
- Tax based weakened as land (wealth) was concentrated into fewer hands who paid less in taxes
- Western Roman culture died out with the empire
- Han dynasty was destroyed, but its systems and traditions were revived by later dynasties



Why Was China Revived and Rome Not?

- There was no Roman equivalent of Confucianism—no method or idea of political organization and social conduct that could survive the breakdown of the Roman state
- Dynasties come and go in China, but Confucianism lasts forever.