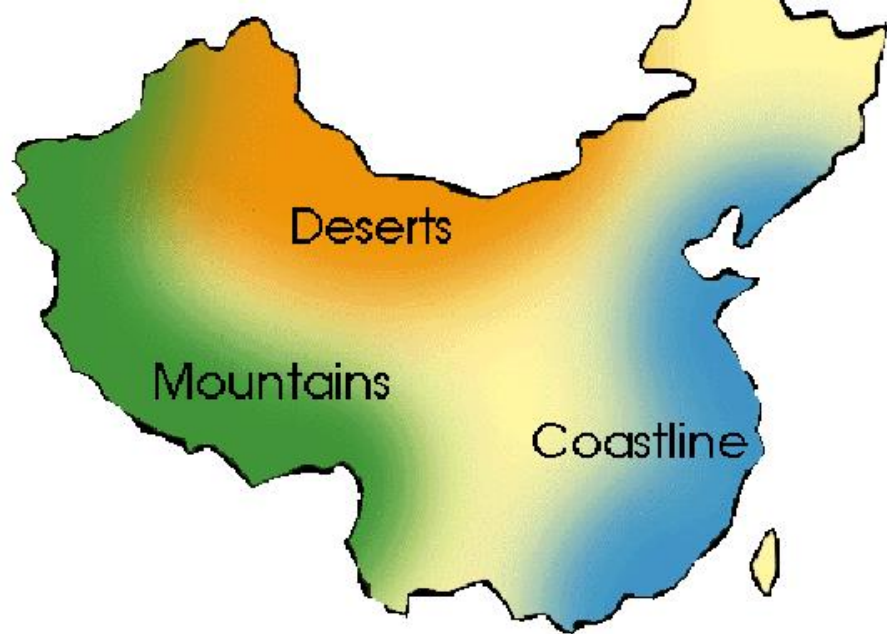


Ancient China

Can be separated into 5 regions

1. Tibetan Plateau (outer China)
2. Northwestern Deserts (outer China)
3. Northeastern Plain (inner Mongolia)
4. North China Plain (inner China, Huang He river)
5. Chang Jiang Basins (inner China, long river)

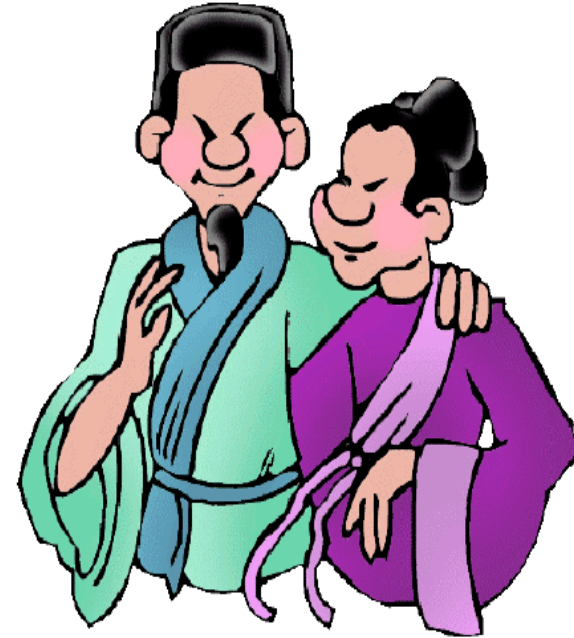


Inner and Outer China, About 1700 B.C.E.–220 C.E.



Geography

- ancient Chinese thought they were almost alone on the planet.
- They knew there were people to the north—the Mongols—but they did not know that other advanced ancient civilizations existed anywhere else.
- Why? China's **natural barriers** helped to *isolate* China from its neighbors. **No trading, no invading!**



Tibetan Plateau



- Rocky soil, dry climate make growing crops difficult
- Early people herded animals that could survive there – mainly yaks

Yaks provided people with meat, milk, butter, yogurt, wool for clothes and shelter

Taklimakan desert

Most dangerous desert in the world

“once you go in, you will not come out”

Strong winds create high sand dunes

Legend says 2 armies and 300 cities are buried somewhere beneath the sand



Turfan Depression

505 feet below sea level

It gets so hot here that rain evaporates before it hits the ground



Gobi desert

Rocky/stony
desert. No sand
dunes

Largest desert in
Asia

5th largest desert
in the world



North China Plain

- Chinese civilization begins along the Huang he (yellow) river

Land of Yellow Earth:
Huang He river has
yellow silt

*this river floods often



Chang Jiang Basins

- ***Chang Jiang (Yangtze)*** – "Long River"
- 3rd longest river in the world
- Good for growing rice



Timeline

- 1500 BCE – 1046 BCE: Shang Dynasty
- 1046 BCE – 221 BCE: Zhou Dynasty
- 221 BCE – 206 BCE: Qin Dynasty
- 206 BCE – 220 CE: Han Dynasty
- 618 – 907: Tang Dynasty (“The Golden Age”)
- 960 – 1279: Song Dynasty
- 1271 – 1368: Yuan Dynasty (Mongolian Rule)
- 1368 – 1644: Ming Dynasty

China's Dynasties

governed?

Powerful dynasties controlled Ancient China.

Dynasty: a line of people belonging to the same family who hold onto power, influence, or authority over the course of generations.

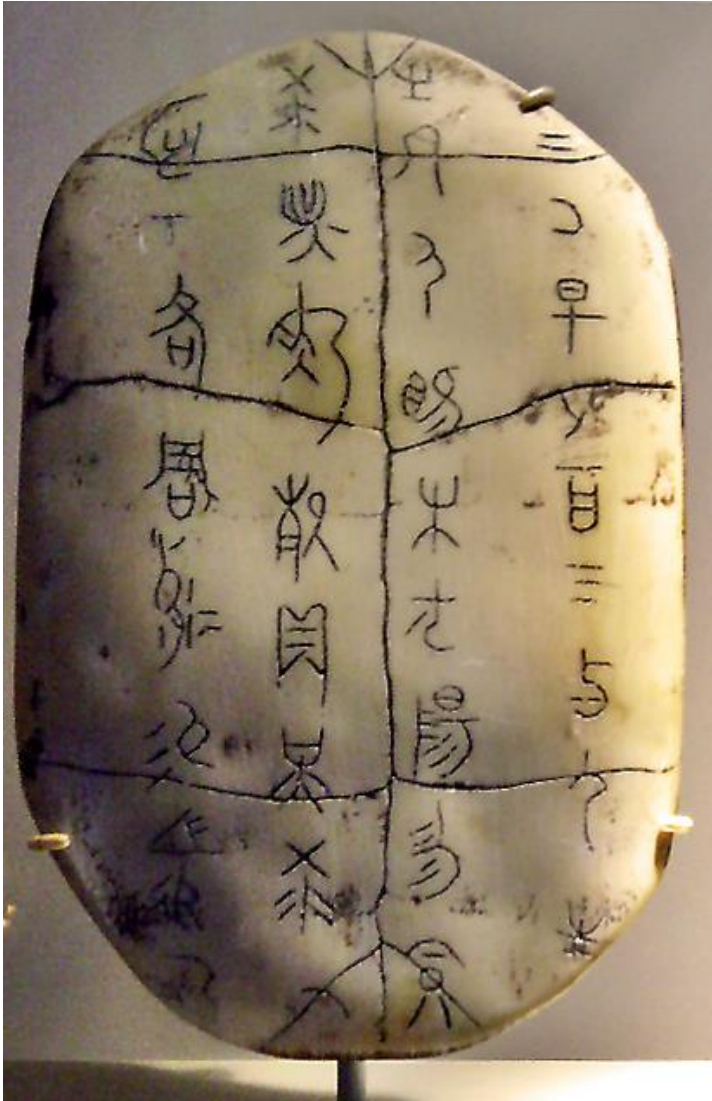


The Tomb of Fu Hao

- You just visited the tomb of Fu Hao, one of King Wu Ding's sixty wives. Fu Hao was mentioned in oracle bone inscriptions as a general who once led a force of 13,000 men in battle. She also led important sacrificial ceremonies. She was also in charge of divination rites, which involved using oracle bones to predict the future.



Oracle Bones



To communicate with their ancestors, the Shang kings used *oracle bones*.

Here's how it worked:

The king or emperor would ask a question, for example, will it rain tomorrow?

The priest would carve the king's question on an oracle bone, which was just an animal bone or turtle shell.

Then, the priest would heat a bronze pin and hold the hot pin to the bone. This created a pattern of cracks over the bone. The priest (who was usually a woman) would study the cracks to find the answer to the question.

Afterlife

The Shang believed that the tomb must be filled with objects to be used in the afterlife. Bronze vessels, weapons, and cowrie shells have been found in Shang tombs.

Human skeletons have been found in tombs of kings and queens. This suggests that the Shang sacrificed humans, likely slaves, to serve the king or queen in the afterlife.

Ancestor Worship

Ancestor worship was very important to the early Shang kings and nobles.

When a person died, the ancient Chinese believed the spirit lived on in the afterworld. The spirit had magical powers which could be used to help or punish living descendants.

To keep their ancestors happy, people brought gifts of food and wine to special places or temples.

Still today, there are many celebrations to honor ancestors, such as Tomb Sweeping Day and the Ghost Festival.

Mandate of Heaven



The Zhou family used the idea of The Mandate of Heaven to justify its conquest.

Mandate of Heaven: Heaven gave the king the right to rule, as long as the king governed his people well

Mandate of Heaven



The only way to know if the Mandate of Heaven had been removed from the king was if there was a natural disaster.

If the king is overthrown, then the victor had the Mandate of Heaven.

The 3 Chinese Philosophies

1. Legalism (laws and punishments)
2. Confucianism (5 relationships)
3. Daoism (nature)

Three Potential Solutions

- Three different philosophies arose as potential ways to bring back stability...

- Confucianism

- Confucius
- 551 – 479 BCE
- “Lead by example”



- Taoism

- Laozi
- Around 600 BC
- “Rule as little as possible”



- Legalism

- Han Fei Zi
- 280 – 230 BCE
- “Set clear laws and harshly punish those who disobey”



Legalism



Teaching:

- People are naturally selfish and want what is best for them, you cannot trust that they will do what is best for everyone
- Rulers can set a good example, but people will not necessarily follow it.
- Therefore, strict laws must be set up by the government with rewards and punishments

Legalism



Teaching:

- Civil servants (government workers) must be watched carefully and punished if doing a bad job
- Anyone criticizing the government gets thrown out of the North China Plain
- Rulers have absolute power backed by military force
- Rulers should trust no one

Confucianism

- Confucius cared about restoring social stability and order
- Confucius believed that people must **respect** their elders.
- In return, those with authority must set a good example.
- He believed that people must return to traditional values of virtue
 - Trust, compassion, loyalty, etc.

Confucianism

Teachings:

- **Five relationships** in society. People must **respect** those above them.

- *Ruler and subject

- *Husband and wife

- *Father and son

- *Older sibling and younger sibling

- *Friend and friend



- Those above must set the example of kindness, honesty, and wisdom

Answer in notebook

- 1. What did Confucius see as the key to peace and harmony?
- (respect between all people)
- 2. To Confucius, what was the role of government?
- (set a good example for people in terms of behavior.)

Daoism (Taoism)

Teaching:

- Dao - “The Way” Dao is the force that gave order to nature. If people live in harmony with the way of nature, there will be peace
- Nature is balanced by opposites:
 - Life and death/Light and dark
- Human life has opposites too:
 - We wouldn't know pleasure if it wasn't for pain (duality)



Legalism

- 😊 Strengths

- People may not do bad things if they know they will be punished

- 😞 Weaknesses

- People might live in fear of being punished
- Leader can abuse power

Confucianism

• 😊 Strengths

- Following proper conduct will make the world less chaotic
- Loving/respecting each other would bring less hate

• ☹ Weaknesses

- Following the rules is hard and NO FUN!!!!
- Elders may abuse their power

Taoism

• 😊 Strengths

- “Going with the flow” allows you to rely on yourself and nature

• ☹ Weaknesses

- If people just do what they feel like (even killing someone), then they can be misled to think they are doing what is right/good

Shang Dynasty

1500 BCE - 1046 BCE



Zhou Dynasty

1027 BCE - 256 BCE



Qin Dynasty

221 BCE - 210 BCE



Han Dynasty

206 BCE – 220 CE



Standardizing the Culture (Qin dynasty)

- Legalist laws were clear and detailed with exact punishments for each crime
- Laws were the same for rich and poor
- Punishments often included fines or physical punishments and even execution



Before Qin Shihuangdi became the first emperor of China, money was different all over China.



After Qin Shihuangdi became the first emperor of China, all money became the same all over China.



Standardize = to make everything the same

Which philosophy did the emperor follow?

- Qin Dynasty

– Legalism



“Set clear laws and harshly punish those who disobey.”

Han Fei Zi,
founder of Legalism

- Han Dynasty

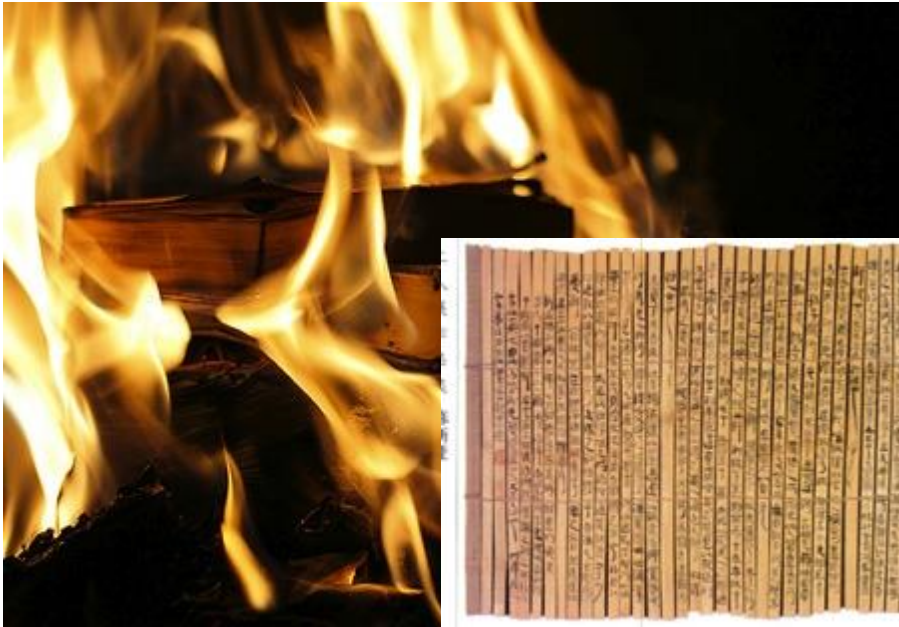


“Set a good example for people to follow.”

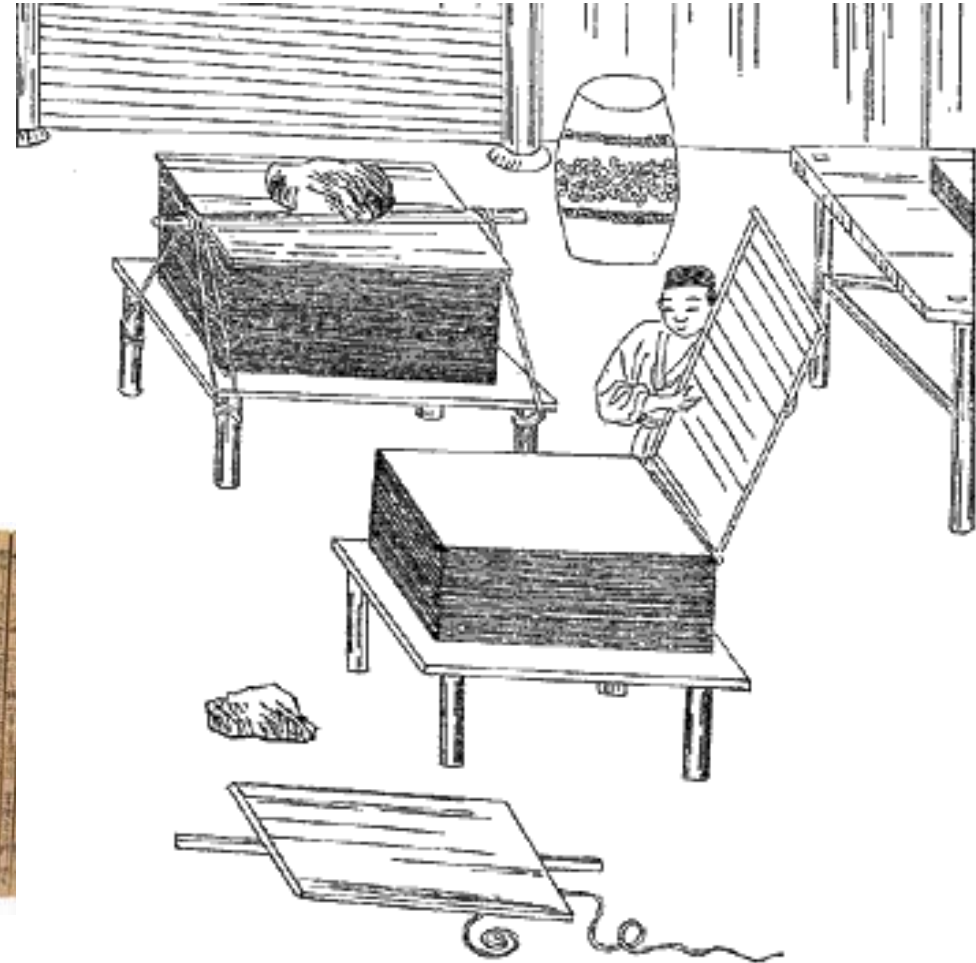
Confucius,
founder of Confucianism

How did the government feel about literature?

- Qin Dynasty
 - Burned Confucian books!
 - Note: Qin books were made out of bamboo



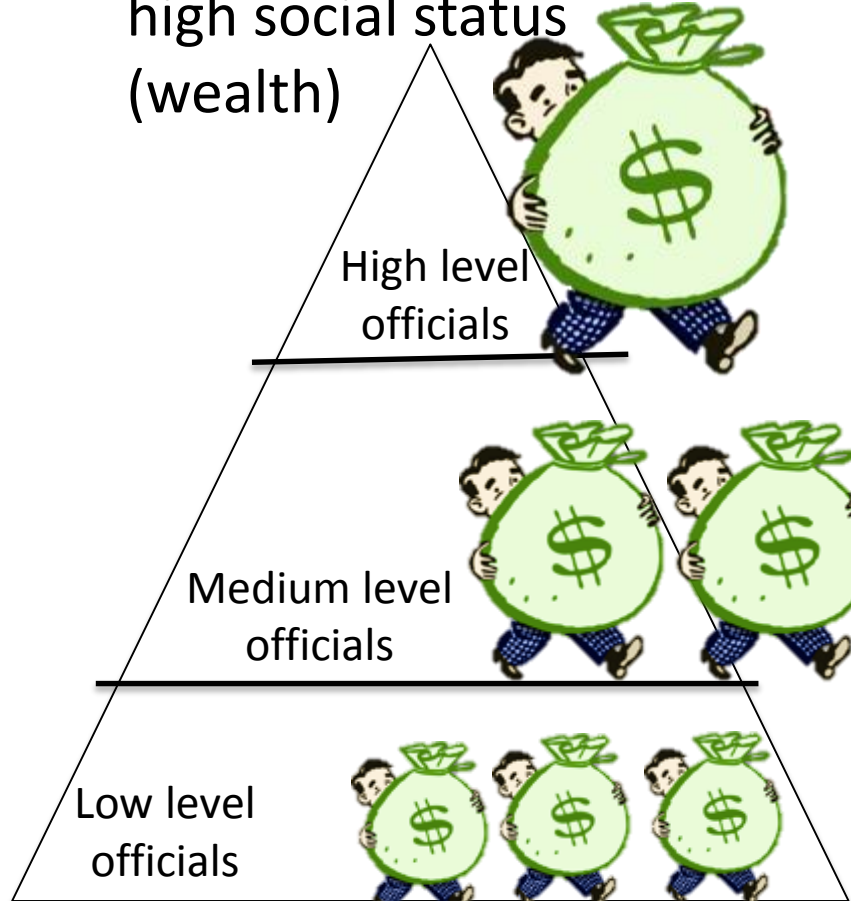
- Han Dynasty
 - Invented paper!



How did the emperor choose government workers (civil servants)?

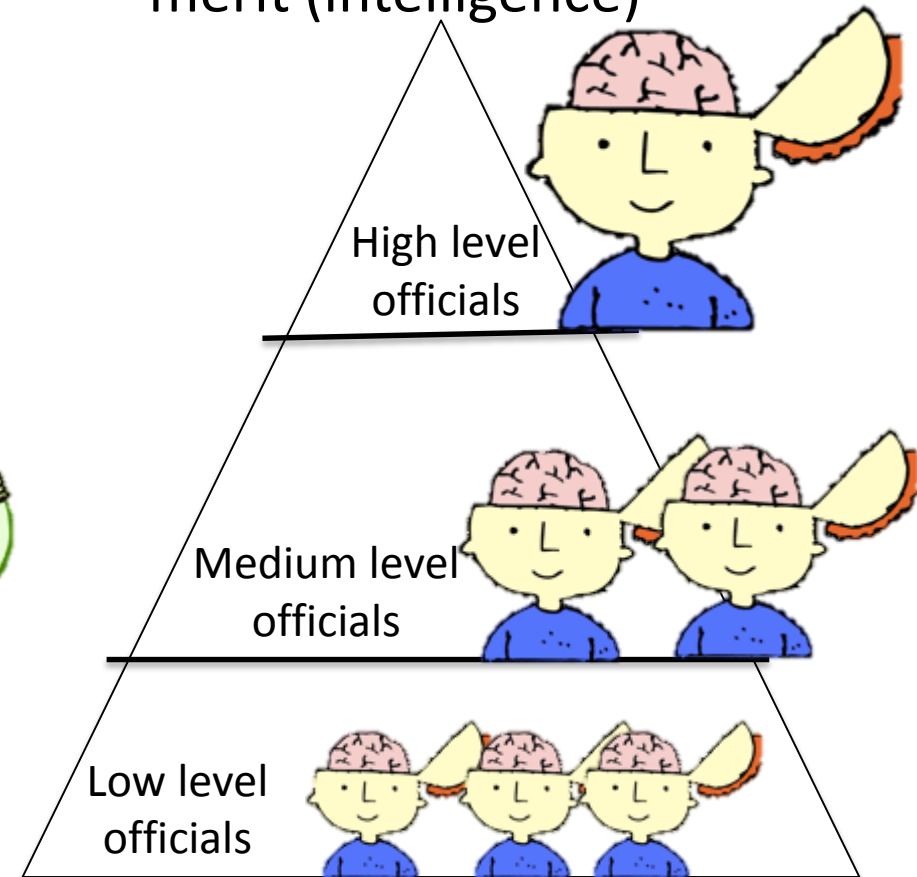
- Qin Dynasty

- Aristocracy: rule by officials chosen for their high social status (wealth)



- Han Dynasty

- Meritocracy: rule by officials chosen for their merit (intelligence)



Did the emperor welcome or reject foreigners?

- Qin Dynasty

- Rejected contact with foreigners
- Built the Great Wall of China



- Han Dynasty

- Welcomed contact with foreigners
- Opened trading posts on the Silk Road

