

# World History

## Topic 5

# China

1,700-220 BCE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

### I. The Huang Valley

#### A. Geography of China

1. size of U.S.
2. rugged mountains and vast deserts
3. river systems
  - a. the Huang
    - 1.) also known as the Yellow River
    - 2.) where the first Chinese civilizations formed
    - 3.) flows east across the flat North China Plain to the Yellow Sea
    - 4.) Gobi Desert winds blow **loess** – a fine, dust like material that can form soil
    - 5.) the river cuts through this, turning yellow with mud
    - 6.) flooded and deposited the loess for fertile soil for farming
  - b. the Chang
    - 1.) also called the Yangtze River
    - 2.) longest in China
  - c. the rivers helped with farming and trade
4. isolated
  - a. the Taklimakan and the Gobi deserts to the north and west
  - b. the Himalayas and other mountains to the southwest and south
  - c. the Pacific Ocean to the east
  - d. slowed the spread of ideas and goods
  - e. the domesticated horse may have come from western Asia

#### B. The Shang Dynasty

1. the Shang rise
  - a. farming villages sprung up along the Huang
  - b. used stone tools and made pottery and silk cloth
  - c. had chiefs who organized workers and commanded warriors
  - d. took over nearby villages to form small kingdoms
  - e. founded the Shang dynasty – a ruling family that holds power for many years
  - f. lasted 600 years
  - g. earliest in written records
2. government
  - a. kept power in the family
  - b. rule passed from brother down to youngest brother to oldest son
  - c. organized farmers to clear land for larger harvests
  - d. more food supported many soldiers to attack surrounding lands
  - e. fought with bows, lances, bronze axes and chariots
  - f. built large walled cities
  - g. to control flooding, they built **dikes** – walls to hold back water
3. writing
  - a. **oracle bones**

- 1.) animal bones or turtle shells carved with written characters that the Shang kings used to try to tell the future (China's earliest written records)
  - 2.) wrote questions, heated the bone until it cracked, then **interpreted** – to explain, give the meaning of
  - 3.) recorded important events with the bones
- b. used **pictographs** – pictures that represent words or ideas
  - c. also used symbols for words or sounds
  - d. also used **logographs** – written characters that represent a complete word or phrase
  - e. thousands of characters made it hard to learn
  - f. **challenge** – something that is difficult or demanding to do
  - g. there are many different spoken languages in China but only one written
4. bronze metalworking
    - a. created pottery and jade carvings
    - b. best known for bronze metalwork included pots, cups, and weapons
    - c. used for religious ceremonies, not daily work
    - d. used bronze blades for human and animal sacrifices
    - e. offered food and wine to the gods and ancestors for help

## II. The Zhou Dynasty

### A. Rise and Fall of the Zhou

1. Shang kings were corrupt
2. the Zhou attacked from the west
3. Shang warriors refused to fight for their selfish ruler
4. surrendered and accepted the Zhou king as their new ruler
5. **Mandate of Heaven**
  - a. the right to rule came from heaven, the highest force of nature
  - b. a dynasty lost this right if it acted improperly
  - c. could seize control by force if necessary
  - d. victory proved heaven's support
  - e. the ruler was the Son of Heaven
  - f. emperors were to care for their people and stop corruption
  - g. uprising and natural disasters were proof a new dynasty was needed
6. government
  - a. conquered lands to the Chang River
  - b. placed family members in charge of regions or states
  - c. geography weakened ties with local nobles
  - d. a group of nobles and nomadic invaders tried to take over
  - e. with the help of other nobles, the dynasty **survived** – to last, to continue to live, but were weaker
  - f. fighting broke out between **warlords** – military rulers of small states
  - g. claimed loyalty to the king but sought power
  - h. made iron weapons for warfare
7. the Warring States period
  - a. **minor** battles – not serious, not important
  - b. became full-scale wars
  - c. era of **chaos** – total disorder and confusion
  - d. brutal and destructive battles ravaged the countryside
  - e. millions died
  - f. the strong conquered the weak and a few large states emerged
  - g. after 800 years the Zhou dynasty ended

### B. Zhou Society

1. adopted Shang culture
  - a. same laws
  - b. similar clothing
  - c. same language
  - d. made bronze art
2. stopped human sacrifice and the use of oracle bones
3. structure
  - a. Zhou kings gave power to states and nobles
    - 1.) they set up their own walled capitals
    - 2.) served the king and raised armies to support him
  - b. most people were peasants
    - 1.) farmed the land
    - 2.) served as soldiers
    - 3.) some merchants, artisans, and slaves
    - 4.) sold into slavery for crimes or debt
4. families
  - a. highly valued
  - b. demanded loyalty
  - c. older members were more powerful and privileged
  - d. men had higher status

5. economy and technology
  - a. crossbow
  - b. iron weapons and farm tools
  - c. irrigation and fertilizer
  - d. roads for travel and trade
  - e. new cities
  - f. coins made trade easier across the empire
6. culture
  - a. great creative energy
  - b. supported poets and artists for influence
  - c. sought wise men to help them rule
  - d. writings influenced China for centuries

### III. Chinese Belief System

#### A. Unique Culture

1. isolated
2. **philosophy** – a set of beliefs about the world and how to live
  - a. originally followed ancient spiritual traditions
  - b. then believed in Confucianism and Daoism
  - c. influenced all aspects of society (like religion)

#### B. Spiritual Traditions

1. viewed Earth as a flat square
2. heaven stretched above
3. both populated by spirits
  - a. heaven – home to the spirits of the sun, moon, stars, and storms
  - b. Earth – home to the spirits of the hills, rivers, rocks, and seas
  - c. ruled daily life
  - d. good spirits made crops grow, kept sailors safe, and brought happiness
  - e. harmful spirits harmed travelers at night, hid in houses, and brought bad luck
  - f. used loud sounds at festivals to drive bad spirits away
4. honoring ancestors
  - a. believed family members lived on after death, remaining a part of the family
  - b. if family took care of them, they protected and guided
  - c. if not, they could cause trouble
  - d. ancestor veneration
    - 1.) developed rituals to honor the dead
    - 2.) shrines with tablets inscribed with names
    - 3.) set out food on special occasions to welcome them home
    - 4.) burned fake “spirit” money to give them **income** in the afterlife – payments of money
    - 5.) performed at holidays and funerals still today

#### C. Life and Teaching of Confucius

1. Confucianism
  - a. one of the most important philosophies in China
  - b. Confucius lived before the Warring States period
  - c. looked for solutions to problems
  - d. known as the “First Teacher”
2. Confucius’s life
  - a. born into a poor family
  - b. held low-level government jobs
  - c. saw greed and cruelty
    - 1.) officials didn’t enforce laws
    - 2.) took bribes from the rich
    - 3.) peasants starved while paying high taxes for wars
  - d. believed the answer was to return to the traditional roles and values of the early Zhou
  - e. started his own school
  - f. his teachings were collected in a book called the *Analects*
  - g. never became wealthy or influential while alive
  - h. later, his teachings were central in politics and ethics
3. the five Confucian relationships
  - a. needed a **stable**, orderly society – able to last, not likely to fall apart
  - b. important relationships
    - 1.) ruler and subject

- 2.) father and son
  - 3.) husband and wife
  - 4.) older and younger brothers
  - 5.) two friends
4. family relationships
    - a. elders cared for and taught younger family members
    - b. children respected and obeyed their elders
    - c. **filial piety** – the devotion of children to their parents
    - d. believed this was “the source of all virtues”
    - e. was the model relationship for all others
    - f. would bring harmony to society
  5. teaching by example
    - a. best way to lead is to set a good example
    - b. the “gentleman” must be kind and benevolent
    - c. traditional rituals and education bring social order

#### D. Beliefs of Daoism

1. an ancient Chinese way of life that emphasizes a simple and natural existence
2. a philosophy of following the Dao – the natural way of the universe
3. the legend of Laozi
  - a. a sage (wise person) who founded Daoism
  - b. wrote his beliefs in a book called the *Dao De Jing*
    - 1.) small book of poems
    - 2.) still read today for wisdom
    - 3.) probably written by many people
4. Yin and Yang
  - a. believed in the quiet changing of the seasons
  - b. believed in the violence of natural disasters
  - c. opposites
  - d. Yin – female, dark, cool, and quiet
  - e. Yang – male, bright, warm, and active
  - f. balance was key to harmony in the universe
5. the Dao
  - a. “the way” or “the path” to yin and yang
  - b. mysterious and impossible to define
  - c. evidence found in nature (water is both soft and weak, yet firm and strong)
  - d. people should act like water
  - e. people can upset the order and should keep a simple life
  - f. weren’t concerned with morals, rituals, and learning
  - g. believed in life after death and immortality

## IV. The Unification of China

### A. Kingdom of Qin

1. ended the Warring States period
2. King Zheng was the first emperor
3. mountainous kingdom in northwestern China
4. strong kingdom with efficient government
5. Warring States united
  - a. Qin conquered rival kingdoms and united China
  - b. many different languages and customs
  - c. rebellions and nomadic invasions were continuous threats
6. Shi Huangdi
  - a. "First Emperor"
  - b. felt king wasn't a strong enough title for such a vast empire
  - c. the title was tied to gods and rulers of the past
  - d. united China from the Yellow River to the Yangtze River
7. defense
  - a. kingdoms had many walls across China for protection
  - b. walls were torn down
  - c. the **Great Wall**
    - 1.) a long wall running east and west along northern border
    - 2.) one of world's largest public works projects
    - 3.) went up quickly because connected existing walls
    - 4.) hard and dangerous work and many died
    - 5.) workers were prisoners and citizens of Han who were uprooted from their homes
    - 6.) later emperors added towers
8. uniform standards
  - a. **standardize** – to set rules that make things more similar
  - b. would unify the economy and culture
  - c. traitors were punished
  - d. examples
    - 1.) established a single written language
    - 2.) transportation
      - a.) length for axles for vehicles
      - b.) all ruts in roads were the same width
      - c.) made travel easier
    - 3.) weights and measures for easier trade
    - 4.) coins for currency
9. organization
  - a. centralization – central government
  - b. 36 provinces divided into counties
  - c. county leaders answer to heads of provinces
  - d. province heads reported to the central government
  - e. central government reported to the emperor
  - f. dismissed if not carried out
  - g. forced noble families to move to the capital
  - h. spies watched over them

### B. Rule of the First Emperor

1. Shi Huangdi
  - a. took the throne at age 13
  - b. cruel leader with strict rules to end chaos
  - c. harsh laws united the empire but led to its fall
  - d. built roads, dikes, and palaces

- e. constructed an entire life-size army of terra cotta soldiers for protection in the afterlife
  - f. forced tens of thousands of people to leave homes to work on these projects
2. Legalist government
- a. the Qin rulers brought in advisors from other kingdoms
  - b. Shang Yang
    - 1.) an important advisor
    - 2.) believed in **Legalism** – a strong leader and a strong legal system are needed to create social order
  - c. leaders took direct control over the people
    - 1.) heavy taxes
    - 2.) required labor service
    - 3.) became strong and orderly
    - 4.) Shi Huangdi wanted to extend this to the rest of China
3. harsh laws
- a. Legalist Han Feizi
    - 1.) disagreed with Confucianism
    - 2.) people need to be forced, not led by example
  - b. legal codes were **uniform** across the empire – unchanging, fixed
  - c. severe penalties
    - 1.) feet or nose cut off for stealing
    - 2.) hard labor like building roads and walls
    - 3.) execution by beheading or cutting in half
    - 4.) executed 460 scholars for disobeying an order
    - 5.) believed punishing small crimes severely would prevent big crimes
4. thought control
- a. **censored** – banned – ideas he found dangerous or offensive
    - 1.) banned debate about government
    - 2.) couldn't praise past rulers or criticize present rulers
    - 3.) ordered the burning of all books that didn't support him
5. the fall
- a. these unpopular policies created a sing nation
  - b. three years after his death, it **collapsed** – broke down or fell down
  - c. Chen Sheng
    - 1.) a soldier
    - 2.) he and his men were told to head north to protect the border
    - 3.) ran late due to heavy rains
    - 4.) would be severely punished
    - 5.) decided to lead a rebellion instead
    - 6.) thousands supported him
    - 7.) generals joined to avoid punishment
    - 8.) overthrew Qin and later turned against one another

## V. The Han Dynasty Expands

### A. The Han Govern China

1. fighting lasted for years
2. Liu Bang
  - a. a rebel that gained control
  - b. founded the Han dynasty
3. the Han
  - a. ruled for 400 years
  - b. largest ethnic group in China today
  - c. governed by Confucian principles and the Mandate of Heaven
4. reuniting
  - a. the first Han emperor was poor
  - b. surrounded himself with capable advisors
  - c. encouraged learning, lowered taxes, and ended the Qin's harsh rules
  - d. Confucian scholars
    - 1.) gave practical advice
    - 2.) encouraged rulers to set an example of mercy and proper behavior
  - e. kept Qin laws and policies but not the harsh rule
5. Wudi expanded the empire
  - a. fifth Han emperor
  - b. one of the country's greatest emperor's
  - c. ruled 50 years
  - d. conquered many lands
    - 1.) west into Central Asia
    - 2.) north to Korea
    - 3.) south to Vietnam
6. government
  - a. strong central government like the Qin
  - b. kept local leaders too weak to rebel
  - c. took direct control of conquered lands
  - d. organized like a pyramid
    - 1.) towns and villages on the broad bottom
    - 2.) emperor and chief advisors at the top
    - 3.) layers of government in between
      - a.) **officials** – people assigned to a position in government
      - b.) **assigned** – to give as a job or task
      - c.) took orders from above and gave them to those below
7. **civil service**
  - a. system of government employees mainly selected for their skills and knowledge
  - b. 130,000 officials
  - c. not hereditary – not passed down in the family
  - d. appointed by emperor based on recommendations by officials
  - e. created exams to find talented people
  - f. officials
    - 1.) made high salaries and had comfort and influence
    - 2.) wore special clothing
    - 3.) collected taxes, organized labor, and enforced laws
    - 4.) could force people to relocate to a different place
    - 5.) couldn't serve in their home district (to avoid rebellion)
8. decline
  - a. ruled 60 million people at its height

- b. ruled over 400 years
- c. weakened and warlords competed for power

## B. The **Silk Road**

1. network of trade routes that crossed Asia, connecting China to Central and Southwest Asia
2. increased during the reign of Wudi
3. merchants made fortunes
4. spread ideas
5. Zhang Qian
  - a. sent to find the Yuezhi
  - b. would be an ally to fight the fierce nomadic group Ziongnu
  - c. was captured by the Ziongnu and held captive for ten years
  - d. escaped but couldn't persuade the Yuezhi to help
  - e. described exotic lands
    - 1.) horses sweating blood
    - 2.) inhabitants riding elephants into battle
6. emperor sent **envoys** – representatives of the emperor
7. sent troops as well
8. trade flourished and merchants were safe from bandits
9. silk
  - a. most important export
  - b. made from the cocoon of a caterpillar called silk worm
  - c. strong, soft, and can be dyed
  - d. process only known by the Chinese
  - e. illegal to export silk worms
  - f. gave gifts of silk cloth to Persia, Kush, and Maurya in India
10. other exports
  - a. spices and incense
  - b. jade
  - c. gunpowder
11. imports
  - a. horses
  - b. grapes, sesame, and onion improved Chinese **cuisine** – style of cooking
  - c. rare animals were **obtained** – gotten or received
    - 1.) elephants
    - 2.) lions
    - 3.) ostriches
12. also traded along the seas
13. exchanged many ideas
  - a. Chinese invented paper and the idea spread
  - b. Buddhism entered China and flourished

## VI. Han Society and Achievements

### A. A Time of Innovation and Economic Development

1. produced many goods
2. trade flourished
3. many craftsmen and merchants
4. many inventions

### B. Han Society

1. diverse but unified with shared policies and values
2. social order
  - a. scholars at the top because Confucianism values mental work
  - b. farmers highly respected because they produced the food and clothes
  - c. artisans valued for skill and hard work
  - d. merchants
    - 1.) valued less
    - 2.) didn't produce anything
    - 3.) had many restrictions
    - 4.) couldn't wear fine clothes or own land
    - 5.) children couldn't become officials
    - 6.) still became wealthy and powerful and lived comfortably
  - e. slaves
    - 1.) small number
    - 2.) committed crimes or in debt
3. family life
  - a. valued family loyalty and respect for elders
  - b. continued ancestor worship by making offerings
  - c. parents reported kids who did not behave with filial piety
    - 1.) adult children punished harshly
    - 2.) young children were **exempt** – to be free from punishment or duty
4. role of women
  - a. lower than men
  - b. worked in the home
  - c. weaved and cared for children and elderly family
  - d. Ban Zhao
    - 1.) received a good education
    - 2.) became a historian in the royal court
    - 3.) said women deserve education
    - 4.) accepted the higher status of men

### C. Economic Life

1. lowered taxes
2. agriculture
  - a. backbone of the economy
  - b. 90% of the population
  - c. small farms grew wheat, barley, beans, and rice
  - d. larger farms grew fruit and bamboo as well
  - e. made their own cloth
  - f. silk farms
    - 1.) women tended worms and wove silk
    - 2.) hired workers if wealthy enough
    - 3.) workshops in cities bought silk thread and wove expensive, high-quality cloth
3. industry
  - a. iron production of tools and weapons

- b. salt mining
- c. became **monopolies** – when a single group controls the production of a good or service
- d. huge profits supported Wudi’s military adventures
- 4. controlling production and prices
  - a. monopolies limited producers and merchants
    - 1.) had become wealthy and bought huge areas of land and employed large numbers of people
    - 2.) farmers were leaving to work for them
  - b. policies controlled prices
    - 1.) government bought the surplus of grain
    - 2.) sold it during times of shortage
    - 3.) kept prices low and avoided a shortage
  - c. **benefits** – something good or helpful
  - d. problems
    - 1.) officials tried to sell stored goods for high prices
    - 2.) monopolies sometimes produced poor quality goods

#### D. Han Achievements

- 1. traditional arts
  - a. painted colorful murals
  - b. sculptors created beautiful works in stone, clay and bronze
  - c. poets wrote about the countryside
  - d. Bureau of Music
    - 1.) because it was good for the spirit
    - 2.) drums, bells, flutes, and harps
    - 3.) music and dancing at festivals and ceremonies
  - e. garden designers arranged plants, rocks, and water like a scene
  - f. **calligraphy**
    - 1.) the art of beautiful writing
    - 2.) expressed emotions
  - g. **lacquer**
    - 1.) a protective coating made from the sap of a special tree
    - 2.) brushed it on wood or metal for a hard finish
    - 3.) many layers and many hours
    - 4.) added color made it glow
- 2. science
  - a. astronomers calculated the length of the solar year
  - b. doctors made progress in medicine
    - 1.) herbal medicine
    - 2.) **acupuncture** – a therapy that uses needles to cure sickness and stop pain
- 3. inventions
  - a. **seismometer**
    - 1.) a tool to detect earthquakes
    - 2.) a metal jar that dropped small balls during a tremor
  - b. wheelbarrow
    - 1.) human-powered cart
    - 2.) called the “wooden ox”
  - c. paper
    - 1.) made from rags and bark
    - 2.) continued to use durable wood and silk early on
    - 3.) eventually made books affordable and ideas spread