

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Han China

Read and Analyze. Then answer the questions about the document and what that document tells you about Han China.

**Document 1.** Sun-Tzu, “The Art of War”. (This is probably one of the two most famous military books ever written)

Master Sun said:

In War,  
Better take  
A State  
Intact  
Than destroy it.

Better take  
An army  
A regiment  
A detachment  
A company  
Intact  
Than destroy them

Ultimate excellence lies  
Not in winning  
Every battle  
But in defeating the enemy  
Without ever fighting.  
The highest form of warfare  
Is to attack  
Strategy itself;

The next,  
To attack  
Alliances:

The next,  
To attack  
Armies

The lowest form of war is  
To attack  
Cities  
Siege warfare  
Is a last resort...

He who knows self  
But not the enemy  
Will suffer one defeat  
For every victory.

He who knows  
Neither self  
Nor enemy  
Will fail  
In every battle

The Way  
Causes men  
To be of one mind with their rulers,  
To live or die with them,  
And never to waiver...

Lure with bait;

Strike with chaos.

If the enemy is full,  
Be prepared.  
If strong  
Avoid him.

1. What are three specific pieces of advice Sun-Tzu gives regarding how to wage war?

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2. Does this advice seem wise to you? Why or why not?

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3. Do you think Sun-Tzu was focused on enlarging his empire or defending it? Why? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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4. Why do you think Sun-Tzu's book is still so popular today?

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Document 2: Ban Zhao was a famous female Han scholar. Her advice to women on humility is perhaps the most famous advice from the Han Dynasty. It was used in manuals for women as late as the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

In ancient times, on the third day after a girl was born, people placed her at the base of the bed, gave her a pot shard to play with, and made a sacrifice to announce her birth. She was put below the bed to show that she was lowly and weak and should concentrate on humbling herself before others. Playing with a shard showed that she should get accustomed to hard work and concentrate on being diligent. Announcing her birth to the ancestors showed that she should focus on continuing the sacrifices. These three customs convey the unchanging path for women and the ritual traditions.

Humility means yielding and acting respectful, putting others first and oneself last, never mentioning one’s own good deeds or denying one’s own faults, enduring insults and bearing with mistreatment, all with due trepidation. Industriousness means going to bed late, getting up early, never shirking work morning or night, never refusing to take on domestic work, and completing everything that needs to be done neatly and carefully. Continuing the sacrifices means serving one’s husband-master with appropriate demeanor, keeping oneself clean and pure, never joking or laughing, and preparing pure wine and food to offer to the ancestors.

There has never been a woman who had these three traits and yet ruined her reputation or fell into disgrace. If a woman loses these three traits, she will have no name to preserve and will not be able to avoid shame.

1. What are three specific pieces of advice Ban Zhao gives on how to be a good woman?  

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2. How does this advice reflect Confucian values? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.  

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3. From this text and your knowledge of Confucianism, how do you think men were supposed to treat women? Explain.  

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4. How and why do you think Ban Zhao became such an important scholar in this patriarchal society?  

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