

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?

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

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.

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

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 19th 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?

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

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

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