

Qin 秦朝 Dynasty 221 -207 BCE -very short lived; name of China comes from this dynasty; ended feudalism & united China

1. Qin gradually took over the other kingdoms of Han, Wei, Chu, Yan, & Zhao under Shang Yang (later dismembered by chariots)
 - a. Shi Huangdi (means "first Emperor") was a brutal ruler who took over lands abolishing feudalism & appointed bureaucrats to rule provinces who acted w/ the authority of the emperor after kicking out the landlords; also abolished primogeniture allowing the number of small landowners to grow
 - b. Pushed south into modern Vietnam (Annam) & built on the Great Wall
 - c. Army had iron weapons
 - d. National census, standardized weights, coinage, axles, irrigation canals
 - e. single law code (incl. extracting ribs & boiling) & a uniform tax system—based on a common written language which sought to instruct & maintain class distinctions
 - f. Legalism grew as a belief/philosophy—promoted authoritarian state; humans were evil & needed discipline; humans could only understand strict laws; army would control the people & they would work
 - Banned books—seen a subversive & burned in 213 BCE followed by the execution of 460 scholars by burying them alive; kept some scientific books; during the Han many books recovered
 - g. was a short-lived empire due to harshness, excessive taxation, attacks on thinking; peasants broke out when Shi Huang died & rebelled against his son
 - made the former landowners move to the capitol (120,000 families) to keep them under watch; made them melt down all their weapons to make 12 gigantic human figures in the capitol
 - had a preference for agriculture over merchants (established bias against merchants)
 - h. Tomb of the Terra Cotta soldiers
 - 700,000 workers; all childless wives killed & buried w/ him; 3 pits w/ +7000 statues

Classical Civilization--Han (漢朝) Dynasty in China est. 202 BCE & lasted until 220 CE

- I. After the Qin collapsed due to pressure from the peasants, General Xiang Yu successfully reunited the area & began expanding
 - A. Basis of Power
 1. Largest political system in the world w/ strong local units & tight knit patriarchic families
 2. combined Legalism & Confucianism—while Rome placed emphasis on laws, China emphasized trained officials
 3. W/in Chinese civilization politics, family, values, & trade all supported one another while isolation supported the viewpoint that China was at the center of the world w/ barbarians all around--books (Conf) united politically while canals united geographically
 4. Wealthy families practiced ancestor worship while peasants had village authority
 5. Expanded power of the bureaucracy w/ bureaucrats (rise of the scholarly gentry) who had to pass examinations on the Five Classics—reach of the govt was omnipotent & omnipresent (civil service exams)
 6. Expanded territorially into northern Vietnam, Korea (Silla), & into Central Asia.
- II. Political
 - A. Wu Ti (劉) (140 -87 BCE) brought peace & prosperity; adopted principles of Confucianism as the state philosophy & code of ethics until Confucianism over Daoism; continued to abuse the power of the emperor
 1. Empire was divided into 13 circuits each w/ a govt inspector
 2. 2 systems of appointing gov't bureaucrats developed: recommendation & civil service exam established by Wu Ti
 - a. the National University would eventually have 30,000 students—an educated gov't in the Five Classics
 3. Confucian thought revitalized the Mandate of Heaven--the emperor was the link b/t earth & heaven
 4. Biggest city & capital was Chang'an laid out in a grid pattern w/ walls totally 16 miles
 5. Wu Ti expanded in Korea (Silla) & Vietnam (Annan)
 - B. Govt was active in the economy & was a producer of iron & salt
 - C. Expanded territory to reach south & east to India & then to Rome—doubled its size
 1. Han gov't had a tributary policy; surrounding states retained autonomy—sent taxes & intermarried to form alliances
 - D. emperor had power but many decisions rested w/ the prime minister until Wu Ti
- III. Religious
 - A. Introduction of Buddhism via Silk Road (絲綢之路) trade from India during the later Han Dynasty
 1. Mahayana or "Greater Vehicle" Buddhism diffused into China, Japan, & Korea; Buddhism has been sent out from India under the leadership of Ashoka
 - Mahayana emphasized personal devotion to Buddha & the role of the bodhisattvas
 - Why so fast in China? Intellectually challenged elite w/ doctrines; egalitarianism in gender/soc status
 - By 477 CE there were over 6,400 temples in northern China
 2. states that everyone will become a Buddha & one should become a bodhisattva & help others do the same; each bodhisattva has six virtues or perfections (paramitas): virtue, energy, patience, meditation, concentration, & generosity.
 3. Holy books incl. the sutras of the Perfection of Wisdom, the Lotus Sutra, & the Nirvana Sutra
 4. Mahayana began in the Kushan area of central Asia before diffusing to China in the 1st century CE
 5. Emphasis on stupas—devotional places of prayer
 - B. Shrines to Conf. were built & he became godlike & a pantheon of gods developed
 - C. among the peasants, Daoism continued to be strong w/ its rejection of hierarchies, contentment of the simple, & the urge to follow one's own path

IV. Science & Technology

- Had an accurate calendar by 444 BCE based on 365 $\frac{1}{2}$ days
- Ox-drawn plows by 300 BCE - non-choking horse collars
- First water powered mills, sternpost rudders aided navigation, & invention of the crossbow
- Iron metallurgy introduced which helped agriculture; coal used as a fuel over charcoal
 - by 1st BCE steel began to be smelted
- Porcelain, compasses, paper invented officials kept track of land/households, observed sunspots, first maps developed
- gunpowder was developed but it wasn't mixed w/ carbon until around 900 becoming an explosive
- After the Qin & into the Han there was one standardized language (Mandarin)

V. Social

- Family was patriarchal w/ Conf. values promoting strong parents; each person had their own roles, incl. women; hierarchy in the family w/ subdued emotions; inheritance based on primogeniture; arranged marriages
- Large gap b/t wealthy (2%) & commoners—rapid population growth, concentrated land control greatly weakened the status & living status of the peasants
- Wealthy were literate & peasants were not
- Social status was passed on to next generation
- Economy & culture divided the social groups
 - Social Structure
 - Land-owning & educated bureaucrats (aka scholar-gentry)—often the only ones who could afford to take the civil service exam
 - Peasants & artisans—labor intensive demands of agriculture contributed to the importance of family in China
 - Mean people (wore green scarves)--artists
 - Slaves (few)
- Women: Ban Zhao, one of the great female intellectuals who wrote *Admonitions for Women* declaring the proper code of conduct for women; sole role of the woman was to serve her man
 - 3 submissions: submit to father then husband then son (no remarriage)
 - 4 wifely virtues for women: virtue, work, expression, & accomplishment
- Sima Qian, first major historian who wrote *Shiji* (spoke out against a general & was castrated)
- Sima Xiangru, famous poet

VI. Economically the Han military opened up the Silk Roads & exported silk (#1 export) & porcelain

- The Silk Roads stretched over 5,000 miles long & under the combination of Romans & Han China, trade along the routes increased significantly; Chinese silk was high in demand & at times the Roman gov't tried to stop the trade due to currency leaving the country
 - 206 BCE to 220 CE first major period of trade; silk main commodity; sericulture (raising silkworms) was closely guarded; Roman desire for silk drained imperial resources; dev. of stirrups accelerated diffusion; Turkic nomads became important middleman; conduit for religious diffusion; Pax Han + Pax Romana; helped spread diseases (from 165 - 180 CE epidemics killed up to 25% of the population)
- Several Chinese expeditions were made to the Parthians & Romans
- Han Dynasty was built on agriculture—used seed selection, irrigation, manure, multi-cropping, & crop rotation
- Han gov't saw its tax base shrink over time & taxed the remaining peasants even more; upper classes were exempt from taxation; often peasants &/or children were sold into slavery
- Over time peasants lost their land due to the inability to pay taxes & large land-owners took over; tradition of dividing land equally among surviving sons meant smaller tracts of land which meant less productivity
 - 153 CE a plague of locusts devastated the area leading to more problems
- Advanced plows varied the depth of the furrow & the use of oxen drawn plows increased
- Use of the donkey (imported from Europe) & the wheelbarrow
- Gov't established monopolies in salt, iron, & booze for a short time but that did not work

VII. Collapse of the Han

- Causes:
- Invasion by northern nomadic tribes; skilled horseman; known as the Xiongnu; Han paid off for awhile; in 51 CE the Xiongnu split into two & one invaded; cost the Han more to pay off
 - internal weaknesses=corrupt politically causing central gov't. power to decrease while the aristocracy & merchants' power increased becoming wealthy & powerful
 - foreign soldiers were hired
 - epidemics killed $\frac{1}{2}$ the people
 - encroachment of Buddhism broke the cultural unity
 - social unrest increased—Yellow Turbans (scarves) (黃巾之亂) who promised a Golden Age; the Y.T. were Daoists in 184CE who were supported by the landless peasants; the Yellow Turbans were up against a corrupt gov't—ten court eunuchs were controlling the emperor & the revolters saw the Han as losing their Mandate; the leaders of the revolt saw themselves as followers of the "Way of Supreme Peace" & pushed for equality & equal distribution of the land; when the revolt started it had 360,000 followers; by 205 the revolt had lost steam & failed
- Collapse: Nomadic Invasions led by tribes who had been paying tribute & were being acculturated into the Chinese system; in 200 CE warlords (Huns) depose the Han & 350 years of disunion begins w/ the 3 kingdoms w/ the Wei in the NE, Shu in the West, & Wu in the South & East