***Classical China***

***Stearns, et al. World Civilizations, pp. 38-54***

Introduction

* China had abundant options for talented political advisors
  + Confucius (Kung Fuzi) had been denied a job because he was reputed to be outspoken and opinionated
    - Confucius decides to search for the ideal ruler
* Zhou dynasty is declining throughout China
  + Leads to numerous rival states
    - Ruled by nomadic people who migrated from north or west
    - Leads to wars between new groups and lords of long-established households with eye on ruling the empire
      * Leads to banditry, threatened trade, wandering peoples
* Many view the nomads as barbaric, uncivilized
* Confucius vows to become chief advisor to ruler who possessed vision and skills to restore centralized power, peace, order in midst of violence and chaos of China
  + Attracts many disciples
  + Sayings, proverbs compiled into *Analects*  (collected sayings)
  + Ideas of Confucius become foundational for classical China
  + Advocate of rule by highly educated, exclusively male elite, who was deemed responsible for well-being of all subjects of state
  + Ethical, not religious system
    - Taught to establish norms for all aspects of Chinese life
      * Relationships within family (filial piety), male authority, veneration of ancestors, etiquette for rulers and subjects, importance of art, music, calligraphy
  + Overall, Confucius was a failure
    - Did not find his “ideal ruler”
* Other ethical/religious ideas emerge in China during classical period: Legalism, Daoism, Buddhism
* Chinese unity restored at end of 3rd century BCE by Shi Huangdi (Qin dynasty)
  + Confucianism ignored, authoritarian ideas practiced
* Confucianism begins to be practiced around 207 BCE when Han dynasty begins
  + Also influences philosophy in other Asian nations and even groups in the US
* Political conflict, social turmoil in 8th century BCE under Zhou dynasty
  + Many states vie to replace Zhou rulers
  + China tries expanding west and south, local peoples resist leading to instability
  + Internal conflicts lead to vulnerability towards external invaders, nomadic peoples between 8th and 3rd centuries
    - Nomads settle down and assimilate into mainstream culture
* Shi Huangdi emerges as leader of Qin dynasty by 221 BCE
  + Promises to end to strife
  + Rules through tyranny
  + His death in 210 BCE leads to resistance to rule of his son
    - Revolts led by peasants in 207 BCE ends Qin dynasty and leads to rise of Han dynasty
* Han dynasty lasts until 400 years, consolidation of Chinese civilization
  + Begin largest, most effective and enduring bureaucracy in preindustrial world
    - Oversaw development of civil service exams, professionalization of Chinese administration
* Isolation of China
  + Prevents it from learning from other cultures
  + Spared from frequent invasion
  + Encouraged intense, distinctive, Chinese identity
    - Build on technological advancements
    - Creation of general, vague worldview focusing on harmony of nature
      * Everything balanced by opposite (yin/yang)
      * Individual should seek a way (Dao) to relate to harmony, avoiding excess, appreciating balance of opposites
  + Encourages strong cultural continuity
    - However, did not simply maintain earlier traditions

Patterns in Classical China

* Dynasty: family of kings
  + Dynastic cycle
    - Dynasties grew weaker, tax revenues declined, social divisions increased in larger society
    - Internal rebellions, invasions from outside hastened decline of dynasties
    - After dynasty declined, a new dynasty emerged
      * From family of successful general, invader, peasant rebel
* Three Dynastic Cycles of classical China
  + Zhou dynasty (1029-258 BCE)
    - Initially emerged from north, displacing Shang rulers
    - Declined around 700 BCE
      * Decline in political infrastructure and frequent invasions from nomadic border peoples
    - Did not establish powerful government
      * Ruled through alliances with regional princes and noble families
        + Standard for agricultural societies
        + Lacked means to control territories directly (feudalism)

Gave estates to members of families and other supporters in return for loyalty

In exchange for land, supporters (land holders) were to provide central government with troops and tax revenues

Vulnerable to regional disloyalties

Led to decline of Zhou dynasty

Regional land-owning aristocrats solidified own power base, disregarded central government

* + - Contributed to development of Chinese politics and culture
      * Extended territory of China by encouraging settlers to move into Yangtze River valley
        + Zhou unable to take over valley directly
        + Becomes known as Middle Kingdom

Provided rich agricultural lands plus benefits of two different agricultures: Wheat in North and Rice in south

Encourages population growth

* + - * + Expansion leads to problems of central rule

Communication, transport from capital difficult

* + - * Heightened focus on central government
        + Zhou rulers claimed direct links to Shang rulers
        + Claimed heaven had transferred mandate of rule China to Zhou rulers (Mandate of Heaven)

Justification for Chinese imperial rule from Zhou onward (Sons of Heaven)

* + - * Tried to lead to cultural unity in empire
        + Discouraged primitive religious practices of Huanghe civilization

Banned human sacrifice, urged more restrained ceremonies

* + - * + Promoted linguistic unity

Standard spoken language, Mandarin Chinese

Regional dialects and languages remain

Educated officials rely on single Mandarin form

* + - * + Cultural unity explained why scholars were able to use philosophical ideas to lessen impact of growing political confusion as Zhou empire began to fail
        + Confucius writes statements on political ethics, provides core of China’s distinctive philosophical heritage (late 6th, early 5th centuries)
    - Zhou system begins to disintegrate from 402-201 BCE as regional rulers formed independent armies, reducing emperors to figureheads
      * Regional ruler deposes last Zhou emperor
      * Within 35 years, becomes sole ruler of China
  + Qin Dynasty (221-202 BCE)
    - Shi Huangdi (First Emperor) who displaced Zhou
      * Brutal ruler, effective due to internal disorder of China
      * Understood problems of China lay in regional power of aristocrats, tries to undo
        + Orders nobles to leave regions, appear at court; assumed control of feudal estates
      * Organizes China into large provinces
        + Ruled by bureaucrats appointed by emperor

Bureaucrats chosen from nonaristocratic groups

Owed power to emperor, not to develop independent bases

* + - * Powerful armies crushed regional resistance
    - Extension of Chinese territory and political control to south
      * Hong Kong, influenced N. Vietnam
    - Built Great Wall to protect expansionist drives and prevent outside invasions
      * Extended 3000 miles, wide enough for chariots to drive on top
      * Built by forced labor, conscripted among peasantry
    - Innovations in Chinese politics and culture
      * National census to determine empire’s resources, provided data for collection of taxes and labor service
      * Standardization of coinage, weights, measures throughout the empire (cart axles to standardize road size)
      * Uniformity of written script
      * Furthering of agriculture, sponsoring of irrigation projects
      * Promoted manufacture of silk cloth
    - Unpopularity of Shi Huangdi leads to collapse of Qin after his death
      * Attacked formal culture, burning of books
        + Thinking is subversive to autocratic rule of Shi Huangdi
      * High taxes to support military expansion and construction of Great Wall
      * “Monster who had heart of a tiger and a wolf. He killed men as though he thought he could never finish, he punished men as though he were afraid he would never get around to them all.”
    - Qin collapse upon his death (210 BCE), peasant revolts break out
      * One peasant leader defeats opponents, establishes Han dynasty in 202 BCE
  + Han Dynasty (202 BCE-220 CE)
    - Retained centralized administration of Qin
    - Sought to reduce brutal repression
    - Expanded territory into Korea, Indochina (Vietnam), central Asia
      * Leads to direct contact with India, allows for contact with Parthian Empire in Middle East (through which trade with Rome was conducted)
    - Wu Ti (140-87 BCE)
      * Enforced peace throughout Asia
      * Embraced larger territory and population
      * Peace=prosperity
        + “The nation had met with no major disturbances so that, except in times of flood or drought, every person was well supplied and every family had enough to get along on. The granaries in the cities and the countryside were full and the government treasures were running over with wealth. In the capital the strings of cash had stacked up by the hundreds of millions until…they could no longer be counted. In the central granary of the government, new grain was heaped on top of the old until the building was full and the grain overflowed and piled up outside, where it spoiled and became unfit to eat…Even the keepers of the community gates ate fine grain and meat.”
    - State and bureaucracy improved
      * Government linked to formal training emphasizing values of Confucian philosophy
        + Urged support for Confucianism, reversed Qin policies

Confucianism a vital supplement to formal measures on government’s part

Shrines established to promote worship of Confucius as a god

* + - Quality of Han rule declined
      * Central control weakened
      * Invasions from c. Asia overturned dynasty
        + Nomadic people (Huns)
      * Leads to chaos between 220-589 CE
        + Classical period ends by the time unity and stability are restored

Political Institutions

* Qin government
  + Central authoritarian
* Han government
  + Expanded powers of bureaucracy
* Key elements of political framework
  + Strong local units never disappeared
    - Reliance on tightly knit patriarchal families
      * Importance of extended families
      * Ancestor worship among wealthy
      * Importance of village authority for peasants
        + Village government regulated property, coordinated planting and harvest work
        + Nobles provide courts and military troops
    - What is the commonality here? ***The importance of the group over the individual***
* Shi Huangdi’s governing
  + Authoritarian, imperial
  + Codified law for whole empire
  + Uniform tax codes
  + Appointment of governors
    - Exercised military and legal powers in name of emperor
    - Governors named officials responsible for smaller regions
  + Ministers of government
    - Finance, justice, military affairs, etc.
* Hans attack local warrior-landlords set up by Shi Huangdi
  + Recognize importance of setting up large, highly skilled bureaucracy capable of carrying out duties of complex state
    - By end of Han period, China had 130,000 bureaucrats representing 0.2% of population
    - Wu Ti established civil service exams
      * Classics of Chinese literature, law
        + Bureaucrats not only work for government but continue carrying on Chinese culture
      * Also sets up school to train men of exceptional talent and ability for national examinations
        + ***Who do you think attended these schools? Why?***
    - Bureaucracy sometimes drew from lower class
      * Placed check on complete upper-class rule, limited exercise of arbitrary power by emperor
        + Bureaucracy used confidence in own traditions to control China, the government, and emperor
* Governmental hierarchy
  + All powerful emperor, “Son of Heaven”
    - Edicts passed down to trained scholar-bureaucrats, respected for learning and noble birth
* Individual families
  + Patriarchal, father in charge
    - Strong principle of authority
    - Carrying on wishes of long line of ancestors
* Functions of Chinese government
  + Operated military and judicial systems
    - Military activity fluctuated
    - China sets up the “art of war”
    - Judicial matters (crime, legal disputes) take up attention of local government authorities
  + Intellectual life
    - Organized research in astronomy
    - Maintenance of historical records
    - Promotion of Confucian philosophy as official statement of Chinese values, worship of Confucius (under Han rule)
  + Economics
    - Directly organized production of iron and salt
    - Standardized currency, weights, measures
    - Sponsored public works
      * Irrigation, canal systems
    - Attempted to regulate agricultural supplies
      * Storing grain and rice in good times to control price increases when harvests were poor
* Government’s impact on common citizen
  + Took over a month for a directive to reach a village
    - Chinese proverb: “Heaven is high, and the emperor is far away.”
  + Courts backed by strict code of law
  + Torture and execution used to enforce obedience and civic virtue
  + Taxation of subjects, requirement of annual labor
    - Building of canals, roads, palaces

Religion and Culture

* Way Chinese viewed world closely tied to political structure
  + Upper class cultural values emphasized good life on earth and Virtues of obedience to state instead of speculations about God and heaven
* Zhou dynasty maintained belief in gods, do not give attention to nature of deity
  + Instead focus on importance of harmonious earthly life
    - Maintained proper balance between earth and heaven
    - Harmony=rituals to unify society and prevent individual excess
      * Veneration of the ancestors, special meals
      * Use of chopsticks to encourage politeness at meals
      * Use of tea drinking
* Challenge of religion and ceremony
  + Reinstatement of traditions that reduced intellectual conflict, established tone for cultural and social life
* Confucius/Kung Fuzi (Kung the Philosopher), 551-478 BCE
  + Preached ideas of political virtue, good government
  + Not a religious leader
    - Believed in divine order, refused to speculate about it
  + Spokesman for Chinese tradition
  + Believed that if people were taught to emphasize personal virtue (reverence for tradition), solid political life would result
  + List of Confucian virtues
    - Respect for social superiors (fathers and husbands included)
      * In order to gain respect of society, leaders should behave modestly and without excess; shun abusive power, treat people they ruled over courteously
      * Moderation in behavior
      * Veneration of custom and ritual
      * Love of wisdom
  + With virtuous leaders, sound political life would follow
  + Generally speaking Confucianism was system of ethics (do unto others as your status and theirs dictate) and encouraged loyalty to community
  + Attempted to fix political disorder by emphasizing individual virtuous behavior
    - “When the ruler does right, all men will imitate his self-control. What the ruler does, the people will follow.”
    - “When the ruler excels as a father, a son, and a brother, then the people imitate him.”
      * Only those who live upright, moral lives should be considered for political service
    - Emphasized personal restraint, socialization of children
  + Subordinates’ behavior
    - Obedience and respect
    - Know their place (even under bad rulers)
    - Education available to all talented and intelligent members of society, regardless of social class
  + Rulers’ behavior
    - Force alone cannot conquer unrest, kindness toward people and protection of interest will
    - Humble and sincere
      * People will grow rebellious under hypocrisy or arrogance
    - Happiness for all rather than individual gain
    - Gentleman=benevolence and self-control, always courteous and eager for service, anxious to learn
  + Followed most by upper class
    - They could afford the education and time to study religious activities
  + Accepted by Han dynasty
    - Five Classics (written during Zhou dynasty, edited during time of Confucius), used as basis for civil service exams
      * Interpreted using Confucian ideology
      * Historical treatises, speeches, etiquette/ceremonies, poems
* Legalism
  + Disdain for Confucianism, in favor of authoritarian state ruling by force
  + Human nature=evil, required restraint and discipline
  + Army would control, people would labor
    - Education for pleasure or courtesy=frivolity
* Peasant religious activities
  + Polytheistic beliefs, focusing on spirits of nature
  + Creation of statues, emblems, household decorations honoring spirits
  + Parades, family ceremonies to honor spirits
  + Symbolic power of dragon, combining fear of dragon with playful sense of activities in courtship of divine forces of nature
* Daoism
  + Natural harmony, sense of nature’s mystery
  + Laozi/Lao-tsu
    - Nature contained divine impulse that directed all life
    - True human understanding comes in withdrawing form world, contemplating life force
  + Dao=”the way of nature”
  + Own set of ethics
    - Humility, frugal living
  + Learning, political activity irrelevant to good life
  + General conditions of the world are little importance
  + Not a threat to Chinese government, as it spurned politics in general
* Chinese culture
  + Literature
    - Poetry
      * Chinese language=melodic speech
      * Ability to learn and recite poetry=educated Chinese
    - Literary tradition reinforced Confucian emphasis on human life
  + Art
    - Mostly decorative
    - Stressed careful detail and craftsmanship
    - Styles reflected precision and geometric qualities of Chinese writing
    - Calligraphy
    - Painted, bronze and pottery, jade and ivory, silk screens
    - Few great buildings (other than Great Wall, some palaces and tombs)
  + Science
    - Astronomy
      * Year of 365.5 days
      * Movement of Saturn and Jupiter
    - Seismograph to predict earthquakes
    - Anatomy, hygiene

Economy and Society

* Gap between upper class (controlled large landed estates) and masses (farmer-peasants who produced little more than subsistence)
  + Wealthy experienced culture (literacy, etc) not available to masses
  + Peasants provided due and service to lords, control some of own land, cooperation within agriculture
    - Land owned by community, regulated by village and extended family
  + “Mean people” beneath peasants who performed rough transport, unskilled jobs
* Social status passed from one generation to next through inheritance
* Three main social groups
  + Landowning aristocracy, plus educated bureaucrats (mandarins)
  + Laboring masses (peasants, urban artisans)
    - Life of hard manual labor
  + Mean people (unskilled)
    - Also included performing artists
    - Punished for crime more harshly than other groups
    - Required to wear green scarfs as an identifier
    - Also included slaves, relatively few in number
* Trade
  + Focused on luxury items for upper class produced by artisans in cities
    - Silks, jewelry, leather goods, furniture
  + Food exchange between wheat and rice-growing regions
  + Copper coins help facilitate trade
  + Commercial visits to India
  + Silk Road
    - Network of roads through central Asia to regions in the west
    - Silk in China of unusually high quality, valued in India, Middle East, Rome
* Technological advance aids trade
  + Ox-drawn plows (300 BCE)
    - New collar for draft animals allows for pulling plows and wagons without choking
  + Iron mining, pulleys and winding gear to bring material to surface
  + Tools made of iron, lamps
  + Production methods in textiles and pottery
  + Water-powered mills
  + Paper
* Primary reliance on agriculture
  + Farming technology=increase size of population in countryside
    - Better tools and seeds=smaller amounts of land supporting families
* Family structure
  + Emphasis importance of unity and power of husbands/fathers
  + “There are no wrongdoing parents”~Confucius
    - Parents could punish wrongdoing children freely
      * Courts did not persecute parents who abused/killed disobedient child
        + Severely punish child to scolded or attacked parents
  + Strict control on emotions did not cause friction over filial piety
  + Family structure as a “training ground” for “real world”
  + Women
    - Clearly defined social roles
    - Sometimes gained power through sons and as mothers-in-law of younger women
  + Boys superior to girls, oldest son with most power
    - Primogeniture (oldest male child inherited property and position)

How Chinese Civilization Fits Together

* With emergence of Confucianism, Chinese politics and culture meshed seamlessly
* China as an island surrounded by a sea of barbarianism
  + As a result, isolation
    - Technology and advancement evolved within isolation
* China’s government as extension of family relationships (Confucius)
  + Society as a whole, not individualism
* Tensions
  + Confucianism/Daoism
    - Daoists as “superstitious and overexcited”, mysterious divine will
  + Confucianism combined with strict policing
    - Stern punishment, not just for criminals but also as a warning to others
    - Presumption of guilt, torture before trial
      * Alternation of torture and benevolence

Decline in China

* 100 CE: Han dynasty enters serious decline
  + Confucian activity becomes less creative
  + Government’s control diminished
  + Bureaucrats become more corrupt
  + Landlords take up political slack
    - Free peasants burdened with new taxes and demands of service
* 184 CE: Social unrest leads to revolutionary effort led by Daoists
  + Daoism gains new appeal
  + Yellow Turbans promise golden age brought by divine magic
    - Attacked weakness of emperor and self-indulgence of current bureaucracy
  + 30,000 students demonstrated against decline of morality
  + Protests failed
  + Chinese population growth, prosperity continues decline of China
* Revival of China near end of 500s CE
  + Native rulers of north drive out nomadic invaders
  + Sui Dynasty rules
  + 618 CE: Tang dynasty rises
    - Revival of Confucianism and bureaucracy

***Strayer, Ways of the World, pp. 158-160, 163-164, 192-197, 238-242***

China: From Warring State to Empire

* Chinese state emerged under Xia, Shang, Zhou dynasties from 2200-500 BCE
* By 500 BCE, China was in pieces due to rivalries of seven competing kingdoms
  + Many try to reunite China
* Qin Shihuandi (“first emperor from state of Qin”)
  + Qin subordinated aristocracy, equipped army with iron weapons, had rising agricultural output, growing population
  + Adopted legalism (clear rules, harsh punishments)
  + Shihuangdi mounts attack on other states, emerges victor after ten years
  + Conquests extend boundaries to south and n. Vietnam, to NE into Korea, NW to push back nomads
  + Scholars that resisted Shihuangdi’s ideas were executed, books burned
  + Aristocrats who may oppose Shihuangdi’s centralizing policies moved to capital
  + Laborers conscripted to build Great Wall to protect from barbarians in the north
  + Buried with the terracotta warriors

The Collapse of Empires

* What causes collapse of an empire?
  + Too big, too overextended
  + Too expensive to be sustained by available resources
    - No technological breakthrough to enlarge resources
  + Growth of landowning families exempt from taxes means less taxes being paid
    - Leads to peasant revolts
* Han dynasty collapses in 220 CE, ends Chinese empire
* Tension between castrated court officials (eunuchs) loyal to emperor and Confucian educated scholar-bureaucrats weakened state
* Growing threat from nomadic or semi-agricultural peoples occupying frontier regions
  + Previous methods of keeping nomads at bay
    - Great Wall, offering trading opportunities at border markets, buying off with lavish gifts, marriage alliances, military campaigns
  + As empire weakens, it becomes easier for nomads to breach defenses on frontier to set up “barbarian states” in north China
    - Rulers became Chinese, encouraging intermarriage, adopting Chinese dress, setting up courts in Chinese fashion
* China reassembled under Sui (589-618 CE), Tang (618-907 CE), Song (960-1279 CE) dynasties
  + Continuance of single emperor, bureaucracy, Confucian ideals

China and the Search for Order

* Mandate of Heaven
* Political unity
* Zhou Dynasty
  + Heyday in 1122 BCE, weakens by 800 BCE< falls by 500 BCE
* From 403-221 BCE, chaos, violence, disharmony, known as “age of warring states”
* Legalism
  + Solution to China’s problems lay in rulers or laws enforced through rewards and punishments
    - “If rewards are high, then what the ruler wants will be quickly effected; if punishments are heavy, what he does not want will be swiftly prevented.” Han Fei
  + Pessimistic view of human nature
    - Humans stupid and shortsighted, only the state and rulers could act in long-term interests
      * Promoting farmers and soldiers, suppression of artisans, merchants, aristocrats, scholars, etc
  + Brutality of Qin and Shihuangdi discredited Legalism
* Confucianism
  + Spent most of adult life trying to achieve political position to put ideas into action
  + Ideas put into a book called the *Analects*
  + Confucius’ response to China’s problems
    - Moral example of superiors
    - Human society made up of unequal relationships
      * Father superior to son, husband to wife, older brother to younger brother, ruler to subject
      * Superior party behaved with sincerity, benevolence, genuine concern=inferior party motivated to respond with deference and obedience
        + Harmony would prevail
        + “The relation between superiors and inferiors is like that between wind and grass. The grass must bend when the wind blows across it.”
    - Cultivation of ren (human-heartedness, benevolence, goodness, nobility of heart) in family and political life was essential for tranquility
    - Belief that people had capacity for improvement
      * Education as key to moral betterment
      * Liberal arts education to emphasize literature, language, history, philosophy, ethics
    - Ritual and ceremonies convey rules of appropriate behavior
    - Striving of “superior person” to perfect moral character
  + Confucian teachings become a part of Chinese culture and even used in the civil service exams
* Family life
  + Veneration of ancestors
    - Visiting graves of deceased
    - Presenting offerings
    - Erection of commemorative tablets and shrines in honor of ancestors
  + Family as model for political life
  + Filial piety
  + Women
    - “Let a woman modestly yield to others…Always let her seem to tremble and to fear…Then she may be said to humble herself before others…To guard carefully her chastity…to choose her words with care…, to wash and scrub filth away…,with whole-hearted devotion to sew and to weave, to love not gossip and silly laughter, in cleanliness and order to prepare the wine and food for serving guests:[These] may be called the characteristics of womanly work.”- Ban Zhao (45-116 CE)
* History
  + Ideal good society lay in past
  + Confucian ideas reformist, revolutionary
    - Try to restore golden age of past
* Confucian idea believed that civil service exams were method of social mobility
* Social hierarchy
  + Emperors should keep taxes low, administer justice, provide material needs for people
    - Forfeiture of Mandate of Heaven
* Confucianism as non-religious, secular
  + Believed people should practice their personal religions, but Confucianism was simply an ethical, not religious, system
    - Concentrate on relationships, effective government, social harmony

The Daoist Answer

* Associated with Laozi (Lao Tsu)
  + Wrote *Daodejing (Dao De Jing,* The Way and its Power)
  + Vanished into wilderness west of China on a water buffalo
* Counter to Confucianism
  + Believed education, earnest striving for moral improvement, good government as artificial and useless
    - Made things worse
* Urged withdrawal into world of nature
* Encouraged behavior that was spontaneous, individualistic, natural
  + Focused on realm of nature and its mysterious unfolding patterns
* Daoist philosophy
  + Dao=way of nature, underlying and unchanging principle governing natural phenomena
    - According to Daodejing: “dao moves around and around, but does not on this account suffer. All life comes from it. It wraps everything with its love as in a garment, and yet it claims no honor, for it does not demand to be lord. I do not know its name and so I call it the Dao, the Way, and I rejoice in its power.”
  + Invited people to withdraw from world of political, social activism, to disengage from public life, align with way of nature
  + Simplicity in living, small self-sufficient communities, limited government, abandonment of education and attempts at self-improvement
    - “Give up learning, and put an end to your troubles.”~Daodejing
  + Seen as complementing Confucianism
    - Yin-yang, harmony of opposites
  + Simple life, meditation and breathing exercises, landscape paintings where tiny humans dwarfed by vast mountain peaks and valleys
  + Magic, fortune telling, search for immortality
  + Used as rationale for peasant uprisings
    - Yellow Turban Rebellion
      * Imagined utopian society without oppression of governments and landlords

Society and the State in Classical China

* Society shaped by actions of the state
  + Officials, bureaucrats acting in name of emperor representing cultural and social elite of Chinese civilization
  + Confucius and others advocate for selecting officials on basis of merit, personal morality rather than birth and wealth
    - Han required each province to send men of promise to capital, where they were examined and chosen for official positions on basis of performance
* Elite of Officials
  + Civil Service
  + Wu Di (124 BCE) establishes imperial academy where potential officials trained as scholars, immersed in Chinese classical texts of history, lit, art, mathematics, emphasis on Confucian beliefs
    - Schools (in theory) open to all men, but favor families who are wealthy enough to afford schooling for sons
      * Also, proximity to capital and family connections helped to gain positions
      * Occasionally a village, community, family may sponsor poor man to gain schooling, take test
        + Pig farmer raised to be advisor to emperor himself
  + High prestige associated with bureaucracy
    - Carriage transportation, robes, ribbons, seals, headdresses appropriate to rank
    - Polished speech, cultural sophistication, urban manners, political authority
    - Bearers, makers of Chinese culture
    - “Officials are the leaders of the populace, and it is right and proper that the carriages they ride in and the robes that they wear should correspond to the degrees of their dignity.”
* The Landlord Class
  + Wealth=landowning
  + Most land owned by small-scale peasant farmers (Qin dynasty, 210 BCE)
  + By 200 BCE, population growth, taxation, indebtedness generated class of large landowners as impoverished peasants sold lands to more prosperous neighbors
    - Opposed by state authorities (***Why????***)
      * Landlords able to avoid paying taxes, decreased tax revenues, increased tax burden for peasants
      * Mount own military forces that may challenge authority of emperor
  + Wang Mang (Han emperor, 8 BCE) launched series of reforms
    - Believer in Confucian government
      * Trying to recreate golden age where small peasant farmers are backbone of Chinese society
    - Ordered private estates to be nationalized, divided up among landless
    - Government loans to peasant families, limits on amount of land a family may own, end to private slavery
    - Opposition from wealthy landowners, nomadic invasions, poor harvests, floods, famines leads to end of Mandate of Heaven
      * Assassinated, 23 CE
  + Benefitted from wealth that estates generated, from power and prestige accompanied education and membership in social elite
    - “Scholar-gentry” reflects sources of privilege
  + Lived luxuriously
    - Homes in urban and rural areas
    - Multistoried homes, finest silk clothing, carriages, private orchestras, gambling
* Peasants
  + Fulfills vast majority of Chinese population throughout history
  + Lived in small households representing 2-3 generations
  + Some owned enough land to support families, sometimes sold things on local market, others can barely survive
    - Nature, state, landlords make lives of peasants vulnerable
      * Famines, floods, droughts, hail, pests
      * Payment of taxes, one month labor on public projects, conscription of 2 years for military service
  + During Han dynasty, peasants sold land to landlords, required to pay rent (1/2 to 2/3rds of the crop)
  + Some turned to begging or joining gang of bandits
  + Poor conditions provoke peasant revolts
    - Late second century, CE: Yellow Turban Rebellion
      * Wandering bands join together as floods along Yellow River and epidemics compound misery of landlessness and poverty
      * 360,000 followers engage in the uprising
      * Follow Daoism
      * Featured supernatural healings, collective trances, public confessions of sin
      * Looked forward to “Great Peace”, golden age of complete equality, social harmony, common ownership of property
      * Rebellion suppressed by military forces
      * Rebellion devastated economy, weakened state, contributed to overthrow of dynasty
  + Seen as solid productive backbone of empire
    - Hard work and endurance in face of difficulties worthy of praise
* Merchants
  + Viewed as unproductive, making shameful profit from selling work of others
  + Stereotyped as greedy, luxury loving, materialistic
  + Social threat, ill gained wealth impoverished others, deprived state of needed revenues, fostered resentments
  + State tried to limit merchant activity, keep under control
    - Han dynasty: Merchants forbidden to wear silk clothing, ride horses, carry arms, sit for civil service exams, hold public office
    - State monopolies on iron, salt, alcohol
    - State forced merchants to loan large amounts of money to state
  + Many become quite wealthy
    - Try to become higher status by purchasing landed estates or educating sons for civil service exams
  + Many have backdoor relationships with state officials and landlords

***Cotterell, Morgan. China’s Civilization, pp. 26-93***

* Shang overthrown by Zhou in 1027 BCE
* Second ruler of Zhou too young to rule
  + Duke of Zhou (Zhou Kung) acts as regent
    - Continues practices and culture of Shang
      * Shang given province of Sung to continue upper-class livelihood
      * Shang officials added to Zhou civil service

Period of the Warring States (481-221 BCE)

* Breakdown of feudal system, ending in unification of China
  + Foundation of first Chinese empire
  + Zhou empire gradually lost control of vassal states
* 771 BCE, 9th ruler expelled from capital by Mongolian army
  + Zhou dynasty rebuilds empire on new site at Loyang
    - Old authority over other feudal powers permanently weakened
* Ch’u and Qin (semi-barbarous states on fringes of Middle Kingdom) slowly become more developed, acquire military strength
* Smaller, weaker states absorbed by stronger ones post-500 BCE
* Ch’u and Qin begin to gain territories after winning battles against neighbors
  + Qin military was ruthless, starving enemies into surrender and then slaughtered prisoners
* 256 BCE: Qin attack remaining possessions of royal house, dethrone emperor
* Qin slowly reduce Chinese states, begin to devour land into empire
  + Qin occupied loess areas, had need of vast irrigation schemes. To accomplish this, vast public works needed. This strengthened authority of king at expense of nobility, leading to streamlined state, which will lead to bureaucracy
  + Qin well advanced in terms of industry, first state to use iron
  + School of Law (Legalism): severe military code making people virtually slaves. Society only had two purposes: agriculture and war. Cruel, merciless punishments reserved for disagreement. Qin seen as a “fascist state”
  + Qin Shihuangdi becomes “First Emperor,” unifies states of China, builds Great Wall
  + Conquest of Szechuan provides Qin with manpower resources, turned flank of Ch’u
  + Due to division of states within China, as well as decay of feudalism, Shi Huangdi was able to devour other states and unification of China under one government

Society

* Feudal hierarchy was apex of Chinese society prior to Qin dynasty
  + After Qin takeover, titles given only to relatives of reigning imperial house
  + Four estates of Chinese society
    - Shih: lesser nobility (gentry, scholars)
    - Nung: peasant farmers
      * Important because society rested on their shoulders
    - Kung: artisans
    - Shang: merchants, soldiers
      * Lowest because kings assumed most responsibility for industry…mercantile was all that was left
* Family
  + Large families were preferred
  + Children owed duties and loyalty to parents
    - Loyalty as cornerstone to social structure of China
  + China once known as “The Hundred Families”
  + Ancestor worship slowly changes to ritual observance ensuring continuation of family
  + Large families tied together into clans
    - Resulted from general decay of society in warring period
    - Offered protection in uncertain times
    - Connected with popular rebellions
* Ideas
  + Era of warring states leads to people looking for intellectual reasons for the decline of the Chinese state
  + Era of the “Hundred Schools”: period when intellectuals offered advice to any ruler who chose to listen
  + Daoism
    - Founded by Lao-tzu (Old Philosopher)
      * Keeper of royal archives at Loyang, Zhou capital
      * “Hidden wise man” reluctant to found a school and gather a following
      * Foresaw the decay of the Zhou empire
      * Wrote the Dao De Jing (The Way of Virtue) to explain the proper way to live
    - Man’s rootedness in nature, inner power making all men wiser than they knew
      * “Knowledge studies others, wisdom is self-known.”
    - Codes of love and honesty, learning and charity are necessary
    - Men must return to natural way of behavior
    - Daoist hermits shunned human society to contemplate Nature
      * “Because of intrigue and dishonesty at court, a certain prince determined to send two high officials to ask Chuang-tzu (a Daoist hermit) to take charge of the government and become Prime Minister. A long and weary journey brought them to the remote valley in which the sage’s hut was situated, but they did not mind the hardship since they were sure that the new leader would reward them once in office. They found Chuang-tzu fishing. Intent on what he was doing he listened without turning his head. At last he said: ‘I have been told there is in the capital a holy tortoise which has been dead for over a thousand years. And that the prince keeps this tortoise carefully in a temple there. Now would this creature rather be dead but considered holy, or alive and wagging its tail in the mud?’ The two officials answered that it would prefer to be alive and wagging its tail in the mud. ‘Clear off from my valley then—you and your offer!’ shouted Chuang-tzu. ‘Like the tortoise I will wag my tail in the mud here.’”
    - Government was a necessary evil
      * China needed some form of organization
      * Should be reduced to a minimum
  + Confucianism
    - Confucius related to Shang kings, family related to rulers of Sung (state given to Shang by Zhou)
      * Saw himself as part of feudal system, but limited by government abuses he saw needed reform
      * Became first of Wandering Scholars seeking monarchs who would listen to instruction and put ideas into practice
    - Feudal ethic with many followers
      * Ruler must rule with benevolence and sincerity, avoid use of force at all costs
      * Ruler should manage affairs so justice was enjoyed by every subject
      * Soldiers a sign of bad government
      * Virtue of king would all forth virtue concealed in all men, for breakdown of society had caused men to be corrupted from natural goodness
      * Duty of subject was loyal service to the king
      * Shih (scholars and gentry) responsible for maintenance of morality
        + “If it becomes necessary to oppose [a king], withstand him to his face, and don’t try roundabout methods.”
      * Chinese Constitution: Mandate of Heaven (withdrawn from corrupt dynasty whenever successful rebellion arose)
      * Emphasis on nurture, not nature, in innate goodness of man
        + Man must learn how to conduct himself properly
        + Education given central place in society

Young people nurtured in ways of virtue (loyalty, respect for elders, attention to ceremony and rites, decorum)

* + - * + “They dislike me because I want to reform society, but if we are not to live with our fellow men with whom can we live? We cannot live with animals. If society was as it ought to be, I should not be wanting to change it.” (Confucius, referring to Daoists)
      * Sense of balance in supernatural world as well as on earthly level

Technology

* New developments transform China into centralized, well-organized state by 221 BCE
  + Ensures China can maintain its independence, preserving cultural patterns
* Increasing amounts of people were non-food producers
  + Administrators, scholars, craftsmen, soldiers depended on others to produce food
  + Food needed to become more productive to guarantee regular surplus
* To encourage loyalty, cities built for farmers
  + Protection from winter and invaders
* Increased food production led to improved transportation and coinage
* Technological improvements
  + Building
    - Wall building
      * Foundation of house construction and city defenses
      * 8-10 cm thick
      * Wooden frame into which earth was packed until solid
      * Bamboo placed between each layer to absorb moisture, rubble stone used as foundation
      * Adobe (sun-dried bricks) used to construct walls, later fire-baked bricks used for ornamental, burial purposes
      * Defensive walls along boundaries to halt invasions
        + Shi Huangdi linked and extended walls to protect against northern nomadic invaders (Great Wall)
        + Defensive walls used starting 1500 BCE

Prior to this, ditches and earth mounds used

* + - * + Qin walls up to 20 m thick, 1350 m long, 15 m high
  + Agriculture
    - Ancient Agriculture
      * Early Yellow River Valley agriculture harvested millet
      * Zhou harvest buckwheat and kaoliang
      * Clearing land using slash-and-burn, accelerates erosion
      * Use of ash and silt as fertilizer
      * Peasants obliged to work lord’s land, living in cities during winter
      * Land given equally to lords
      * Livestock of pigs, dogs, cattle, sheep, goats, water buffaloes, elephants
    - Zhou farming
      * Extension of farmland along coastal lowlands
      * Irrigation begins (recorded around 560 BCE)
      * Use of manure for fertilizer
      * New forms of livestock and crops used from the South due to changing climactic conditions
      * Northern farmland associated with friction between settled farmers and nomadic herdsmen who moved to the south
      * Rice
        + Chinese begin moving southward where climate is increasingly better for farming

Rice moves into China from India about 3000 BCE, brought back when Chinese move south of Chin Ling mountains

* + - * + Rice seen as having medicinal qualities
        + Able to feed high population densities
        + Only able to be farmed south of certain latitude
        + Rice production

Careful control of stored water at vital times

Land divided into small, rectangular basins

Land plowed and harrowed before flooding

Seeds sown and when plants 13-15 cm high, planted out

Water drained before flowering and seeding, then flooded afterwards

Production required strong cooperation

* + Communications
    - Necessary for a strong centralized government
    - Under Zhou dynasty, roads were maintained by the empire, making communications easier
      * During period of warring states, roads begin being maintained individually by the different states
        + Not a coincidence that the Qin rose due to its engineering skills
    - Roads run east-west along Yellow River valley, then south to Huai and Yangtze valleys
    - Roads built using thin, convex, watertight ‘shells’ over ordinary subsoil as a base
    - Use of Posting System to relay royal orders and obtain systematic intelligence reports from frontier regions
    - Use of the ‘five foot way,’ hanging galleries/bridges that hang off side of mountains to continue roadway
    - Many types of bridge building
      * Wooden-beam bridge, rarely more than 6 m long
      * Trestle bridge resting on partly submerged piers
        + Some bridges exceeded 600 m with 68 spans and a deck 17 m wide
      * Stone arch bridges
  + Hydraulics
    - Rainfall and flooding were unpredictable
      * Yellow River dumped 1000 million tons of silt on floodplain each year, making it vulnerable to changes in course and flooding when riverbanks burst
    - To control the river, Yu the Great Engineer deepened existing channels of river rather than building dams
    - Prior to 600 BCE, Duke Huan of Chi built levels or dykes along flood plain
    - 246 BCE, Qin build Cheng Kuo Canal parallel to Wei river
    - Controlling river not just agricultural, but political in nature
      * Flooding=drowning=distress.=disregard for morality=problems in maintaining order. Therefore, in the interest of political stability to encourage hydraulic engineering development.
        + Labor organized through corvee (obligatory unpaid labor for the state) and engineers are appointed.
  + Metal Working
    - Iron arrives in China app. 700 BCE
      * Making cauldrons inscribed with code of law
    - King of Wu had weapons of iron by 500 BCE
    - Iron spreads east, accounting for development of iron in Qin (military superiority)
    - Used for tools (hoes, plowshares)
    - Smelted and cast immediately upon discovery, whereas in Europe, iron remains in the forge until 1350 AD
      * High phosphorus content of Chinese iron lowers melting point of ore
      * Good refractory clays for making crucibles for steel production and molds for casting
      * Development of double acting piston bellows maintaining high and constant draughts into furnaces, keeping temperatures high
      * Extremely advanced traditions of copper and clay working

One Empire Under Heaven

* Qin armies defeat other warring states by 221 BCE
  + Leader of Qin names himself Shi Huangdi (“First Emperor”)
  + Feudalism is abolished with a centralized monarchy set in place

Triumph of Shi Huangdi

* In order to centralize his power, Shi Huangdi became authoritarian
  + ‘one of the great destroyers of history’
  + Strict military control
  + Insecurity of empire came from two sources
    - East: internal political threat from aristocracy of old feudal states
    - North: Hsiung Nu nomads (Huns) were continuous danger
* To break power of nobility, Shi Huangdi abolished feudal states, divided empire into new administrative areas under military governors
  + All nobles lost land and were forced to live at Qin capital
    - Nung (peasant farmers) given greater rights over land but liable for taxes
* Unification
  + Chang-an, the capital, was not central in empire
  + Good communication systems were key for dispatch of messages, transport of armies and taxes
    - Roads not good enough
    - Standardization of written language, currency, weights and measures
* Location of capital in Chang-an (heart of Qin state) caused resentment
  + Lower Chinese did not like that Qin were in contact with nomadic peoples
    - Nomads had advantages over majority of Chinese
      * Iron weaponry, strong cavalry
  + Chang-an protected on three sides by geographical barriers
    - Allowed for Qin military to sweep into Great Plains when threatened
    - More able to resist when attacked
* Emperor refused to grant fiefs (feudal holdings of land) to sons or relatives
  + Felt they might revive local divisions that caused division during period of warring states
* Followers of Confucius in opposition to empire
  + As a result, all teachings were forbidden on pain of death and books dealing with anything other than the history of the Qin were burned
    - Hopes that people would adopt philosophy of School of Law (Legalism)
    - Leads to intense hatred of Qin empire by shih (gentry and scholars, lesser nobility)
* Great Wall of China
  + Unites the common people against the Qin
  + Shi Huangdi orders the walls built on the northern frontier by the Zhou to be extended and joined as a Great Wall
  + Wall stretches from western frontier to eastern coast (2250 km)
  + Hundreds of thousands conscripted to work on the wall
    - Many die from cold climate of mountainous North

The Fall of Qin

* No rebellions occurred while Shi Huangdi was in office
  + Rebellions emerge during his successor’s rule
    - Levied heavy taxes, forced labor, unjust laws, cruel tortures, widespread crime
    - Li Ssu (Prime Minister of Shi Huangdi) concealed death of Shi Huangdi in 210 BCE long enough to force crown prince to commit suicide by forged imperial command
      * Crowned prince had opposed murder of scholars and burning of books
      * Li Ssu declares Er Shi Huangdi (Second Emperor, second son of Shi Huangdi) as emperor
        + Too young and incompetent to deal with rebels
    - Soldiers mutinied, peasants took up arms, rebel armies gained strength
* Civil war breaks out
  + Contest between feudal rulers who want to restore feudal kingdoms
  + Liu Pang gains overall control in 207 BCE

Foundation of the Han Empire

* Liu Pang seeks compromise over return of feudalism and continuation of Legalism
  + Reigns as Han Kao Tsu (High Ancestor)
  + Recognized that there needed to be uniformity in the Chinese empire, but that things should be done more tactfully
  + Prepared to undermine feudal institutions over number of decades
    - Fiefs permitted
    - Old royal houses received small territories
    - However, Emperor could ONLY come from Liu Pang’s household
      * Later emperor Kao Tsu eliminated possible rivals (including loyal generals) so successors inherited undisputed rule of Chinese empire
    - Principle areas come under direct control of Emperor through appointment of imperial officers
* Two things hasten fall of feudalism
  + 144 BCE: declaration that sons of feudal lords were co-heirs of father, estates must be divided among them.
    - Accelerated breakdown of large feudal holdings into small estates
  + Aristocrats should live on rents in capital (Chang-an)
    - Allowed for threat of dispossession for misconduct

The Court

* Liu family enjoyed great prestige, produced succession of excellent rulers
  + Han dynasty not troubled by rebellions
  + Governors changed regularly but government system was unaffected
* Some conflict over Consort Family (relations of Empress), unable to produce royal brides for each new emperor
  + Illegal to marry within the family
  + Extremely important to find royal princess to marry emperor
    - Family expected high offices and rewards
  + Conflict arose when two consort families vie for marriage to emperor
  + Solved by Emperor Wu (140-86 BCE)
    - Executed all members of Empress’ family, leaving court free from later family strife

End of the Han Empire

* Han empire fell due to struggle with Consort Family, the Liang
  + 159 CE: Emperor Han Huang Ti used palace eunuchs to oust Liang from office
* Because eunuchs could not create own family lines, and because they came from such low places in society, they took to accumulating personal wealth
  + Unchecked by weak emperors, leads to extensive corruption
* Eunuchs assassinate brother of a dowager Empress (mother of the Emperor)
  + Soldiers storm palace and massacre eunuchs
    - Leads to civil war within Han Empire and splits China into Three Kingdoms

Civil Service and Revival of Learning

* Liu Pang did not persecute shih
  + Allowed scholars to reconstruct ancient texts and open schools
  + Employed scholars in government offices to ensure smooth running of state
  + Repeal of harsh laws of Qin empire against scholars in 206 BCE
    - Leads to rise in Confucian thought
* School of Law (Legalism) blamed as worst excesses of Qin rule
  + Those who followed Legalism disappeared from imperial service
  + Replaced by a system of Civil Service
* Civil Service
  + Becomes accepted basis of organization for the empire under Emperor Wu
  + Means of selection for entry into civil service included examination of candidate’s understandings of Confucianism
  + Ideal candidate was distinguished by ‘abundant talents,’ respect for family, moral rectitude, learning
  + Establishment of Poh Shih Kuan (Imperial University) in 124 BCE
    - Many students recruited as government officials
  + Upper class families best able to take advantage of system
    - Afford for sons to go to school, to not help family on farms or industry
      * At first, special exemptions and rights
      * Later serves as an “open door” for gifted son of humbler parents
* Members of civil service become part of learned elite
  + Families rose into estate
  + Not hereditary

Economy and Society

* “The Law honors farmers, yet farmers have become poorer and poorer; the law degrades merchants, yet merchants have become richer and richer.”~ view of a shih in the second century, BCE
* Feudalism not destroyed fro the benefit of the peasants, but to solidify rule for the Emperor
  + Political changes did not affect nung (scholar gentry class) until it prevented them from earning a living
    - Greedy administrators, high taxes, abuse of corvee, lack of government action to prevent/ease famine
  + Confucian philosophy interpreted natural disasters as signs that a dynasty lost Mandate of Heaven
    - A ruler would be foolish not to consider lives of the nung, as it could cause his rule and that of his family to hang in the balance
* King Emperor and Peasant Emperor
  + Shi Huangdi was successful in gaining unity in Chinese empire through standardization (weights, written language, measures, etc)
    - Even cart axle width in terms of roadways
      * Previously, axle widths in one state did not fit roads in another, so loads had to be transferred to new carts and weighed, which was not standardized
  + Liu Pang still followed standardization policy, but avoided harshness of Legalism
    - Qin dynasty abused corvee in building Great Wall, Shi Huangdi’s palace
* Commerce in Chaos
  + Merchants under Liu Pang begin filling power gaps after feudal collapse
    - Hard to check
      * Merchants had local monopolies under trade
        + Purchase grain at very low prices at harvest time, hoard until scarcity forced price up
        + Allows monopolists to become extremely wealthy
  + Stress of economy
    - Government reserves drained by maintaining forces in North.
      * Results in tax increase
    - Minting of money by individuals leads to continual rise in price of grain (inflation), threatened to make people financially stronger than emperor
    - Virtual monopolies of salt and iron, merchants become exceedingly wealthy
      * Veneer of prosperity, conceals underlying chaos
    - Nung suffering at hands of grain speculators, incomes falling behind level of prices
* Nationalization
  + 140 BCE: Emperor Wu comes to power, wrestles wealth from merchants and industrialists to finance military expeditions
    - Courts them to civil service, angering shih
  + Subjects population to heavy taxes, increases production of worthless coinage
  + Nationalization of iron and salt, beer and wine
  + Barter begins to replace cash transactions
  + Establishment of public granaries to prevent fluctuation in food prices
    - P’ing chun (leveling system), designed to break monopoly of local merchants
  + After death of Wu, empire on brink of ruin with famine and war
* Revolutionary Reformer
  + Wang Mang, member of empress’s family, sees it as his chance to save China
    - Establishes Xin dynasty (9-23 CE)
    - Rebellion ends reign, becomes known as “the Usurper”
  + Landlords dominated agriculture, buying out smaller farmers
    - Small farmer in debt due to bad harvest may mortgage land and lose it when he could not pay it back
    - Qin and Han dynasties could not prevent this
      * Permitted increase in productivity, which higher population needed
      * Landowners were influential and some account must be taken of their interests
    - Wang Mang’s reforms
      * No buying and selling of land permitted; it belonged to the nation
      * Each farmer allocated land according to his needs
      * Ide land was triply taxed
      * Reintroduction of the ‘leveling system’
      * Government banks to give small loans to farmers at low interest
      * Administrative expenses met out of existing monopolies of liquor, salt, iron, coinage
      * No buying and selling of slaves allowed
  + Mang’s reforms create bitterness and resentment
    - Leads to nung joining shih, and overthrow of Xin dynasty

Chinese Expansion and the Discovery of the World

* Chinese empire expands south when population dramatically expands due to improved agriculture (400-200 BCE)
  + Conflict with indigenous people of south rare
    - Indigenous people=forest dwellers; Chinese=plains farmers
    - Four groups of people in the South
      * Liao: primitive tribe living in forests south of Yangtze, seen as backwards by Chinese
      * Yao: lived in hill country of South China, practiced primitive agriculture, hunters and gatherers
      * Tai: lived in flatter lands of Yangtze Valley, spread throughout SE Asia (Thailand and Burma), sophisticated agriculture based on rice, spread agricultural ideas and water buffalo to Chinese
      * Yueh: lived in SE coastlands, displayed most resistance to Chinese encroachment, masters of the maritime, surrounded by mountains and seas, which provided protection from Chinese
* Nomadic herdsmen in north and west seen as barbaric by Chinese
  + Tibetans: depend entirely on sheep, without highly organized military and political system, fought on foot, protected by mountains
  + Mongols: lived in steppes and plateaus of Tarim Basin to N. China, economy based on cattle, sheep, camels, goats.
  + Turks (Huns): constant threat to n. China, wealth based on horses, highly mobile and well-organized, fierce fighters, involved in barter trade and pillaging
  + Tungus: lived in Manchuria and Hopeh, lived in forest with economy based on pigs, rarely fought Chinese
* The Great Wall and the Huns
  + 200-140 BCE: Huns persuaded to adopt policy of peaceful coexistence and trade with China, accepting gifts of silk and other luxuries, adopting Chinese customs
  + 141 BCE: Emperor Wu (the Warlike) tries to ambush Hun chief at frontier post of Great Wall
    - Leads to outbreak of war
  + China has upper hand in war against Hun
    - Increasing competence as horsemen
    - Fortifications of Great Wall
    - Longer range of the crossbow
  + War comes to temporary truce in 51 BCE due to civil war in Hun nation
  + War resumes in 73 CE, as nomadic raiders took advantage of discord in China
  + Significance of war with Hun:
    - China attempts to obtain allies and outflank the Hun
      * Leads to era of exploration and expansion beyond Yellow and Yangtze River alleys
        + Chinese annexation of N. Korea and Japan
* Discovery of the West
  + 138 BCE: Emperor Wu dispatches Chang Ch’ien to find Ta Yueh Chi nomads in the west
    - Finds them living in modern day Russian Turkestan and Afghanistan (then part of Greek empire)
  + Chang Ch’ien sends back amazing reports
    - “cities, mansions, and houses as in China”
    - Large horses that could carry heavily armed men against Huns who rode smaller Mongolian pony
      * Emperor Wu sends delegation to obtain enough horses for breeding purposes (102 BCE)
  + China establishes overlordship of Central Asia (including parts of India) from 73-102 CE
    - Leads to transplantation of Buddhism and Indian practices into greater Chinese culture
  + China does not open interactions with Roman empire
* The Coming of Buddhism
  + Han Empire officially welcomes Buddhism circa 65 CE
  + Embassy sent to India to collect copies of sutras (holy books) and Indian scholars to translate them
  + Buddhism doesn’t become an official religion until 400-599 CE

Science and Technology

* Because nature held so high a place in Chinese society, astronomers, engineers, magicians become part of civil service
  + Science and magic coexisted because natural phenomena (flooding, eclipses) were related to the supernatural
* Cheng Heng (78-139 CE)
  + Government official versed in science, mathematician, astronomy
  + Most accurate calculation of pi for the time
  + Improvement of process of understanding heavens
  + Modification and clarification of existing astronomical theories
  + Introduction of grid system of coordinates in cartography
  + Construction of seismograph to record direction of earthquakes
* Chinese Inventions of Daily Significance
  + Harness
    - Breast-strap harness (200 BCE) improves haulage capacity of horses (similar to horse collar of Europe, 1000 CE)
    - Wheelbarrow (200s CE) used for supplying armies (Europe, 1200s CE)
    - Stirrups (100s BCE) stimulated by Indian toe stirrup, making Chinese cavalry rival force to Huns, fusing horse and rider into one immovable force (Europe, 1100 CE)
    - Rudder (1st century BCE) used as stern post rudder to steer boats (Europe, 1100 CE)
    - Paper (105 CE) led to loss of important Chinese records that may have survived if written on cruder parchment of bark.
      * Printing developed by 500s CE
* Technical Education
  + Medical examinations first used during Han period
  + Teacher’s training college founded in 145 BCE
* Medicine
  + Seen as balancing forces of Yin and Yang within the body’s main organs
  + Diagnosis developed in 255 BCE
    - Each wrist had six pulses indicating condition of each of 12 organs
      * Pulses could be superficial, deep, slow, fast
      * Seven pulses signified death
  + Acupuncture
    - Use of cold or hot, long or short, coarse or fine needles of silver or brass
    - Used to release yin and yang
    - 365 points of puncture recognized
  + Tsang Kung (180 BCE) first uses drugs as opposed to palpation or acupuncture
  + Hua To first uses anaesthetics, learns about anatomy through dissection of corpses

Agricultural Basis of the First Empire

* First census of China (2 CE) reveals that 75% of China’s 58 million people lived in Wei and Yellow River Valleys
  + Lower Yangtze valley was sparsely populated pioneer frontier
* Northern Farmer
  + Peasants of Wei valley abandoned wasteful and destructing shifting cultivation, increased output from fragile loess (silt) soils of hills
  + Leads to complex system based on
    - Cooperative use of labor for irrigation and dyke building
    - High and continuous inputs of labor in care of land
    - Intensive use of fertilizers
    - Adoption and development of new crops and techniques
* Irrigation and flood control
  + Many agricultural crops were drought resistant, but could be increased by more water
    - Initially supplied by strategic military and transport canals
      * Beneficial when rice is discovered
  + Cheng Kuo Canal (246 BCE) increased power of Qin state by watering 182,000+ hectares, increasing productivity in Wei valley fivefold
  + Chang-an Canal (129 BCE) reduces distance from Yellow River to capital by half, irrigates further 182,000 hectares
  + Magic Canal (215 BCE) connects Yangtzee and West Rivers, allowing Shi Huangdi to send troops into Yueh, begins agriculture in the South
* Tenure and Technology
  + Well-field system of farm holding
    - Farms grouped in nines
    - Eight operated as family units, ninth exploited jointly for benefit of landlord or ruler
  + Small farmer under constant pressure to sell land to pay debts, loses independence as tenant
    - Laws introduced to prevent handing-over of intact estates from father to son, does not stop landlords from accumulating large tracts of land
  + Technology
    - Ox-drawn plows fitted with iron plowshares and molding boards
    - Water and animal power used to mill grain by tilt hammers and stone grinding
    - Prototype seed drills
  + Nung forced to retain ancient methods and crops
    - Millets and beans, wooden hand hoes, manually operated grain mills, carrying water using yokes and buckets
* Fertilizers
  + Early on, river silt and canal mud used as fertilizer
  + All waste material was saved (ashes, manure, silkworm debris, human excrement)
    - Becomes daily collection of city ‘night soil’ as a commercial enterprise
    - Stored as liquid in stone jars
  + Processed by composting and mixing with soils prior to application
  + Some crop rotation also used
* Crops and Stock
  + High encouragement of peasants as agriculturalists
    - If not supported, peasants would become nomadic
    - Discouragement of large-scale livestock raising
      * Overgrazing could hasten soil erosion
      * Output of livestock did not outweigh foodstuffs gained by crops
      * Cows milk seen as drink of barbarians, used as draught animals
        + Livestock such as dogs, chicken, geese, pigs instead
  + Growth of indigenous cereals (millets and wheat) and beans and root crops
    - Cereals provide bread, porridge, thatch, fuel, fertilizer
* Rice
  + Introduced in North sometime in 1st century BCE
  + Only grown in summer and with irrigation
  + Because it was not grown all year, it was considered a luxury crop with medicinal value
  + Improved techniques lead to increased productivity, exceeding all other crops
  + Dependent on cooperation and joint action by all farmers
  + Use of terracing to minimize erosion in hilly areas
* Silk
  + Previously, linen made from hemp
    - Most common and cheapest form of clothing
  + Wool previously used as protective padding between two layers of linen against bitter winters
  + Also usage of rice straw for rain-resistant capes and sun shade hats
  + Cotton introduced in south
  + Silk discovered in 1000 BCE
    - Chinese held monopoly on silk until silkworm eggs smuggled into Korea in 100s CE
  + Silk harvesting
    - Cocoons spun by silkworms unraveled into single thread of fiber
      * Fiber was of long staple and high tensile strength
    - Silkworms eventually domesticated and reared wherever mulberry trees grown for food
    - Cocoons soaked in hot water before silk wound onto reels
  + Silk becomes extremely valuable luxury commodity
    - Ceremonial robes, ‘best suits’ made from silk
    - Chinese use silk to buy off potential enemies
  + Trade of silk encourages east-west contact, keeps open major trade routes

New Territories and the Movement South

* During Han dynasty, military colonies established in two directions
  + Northern arm of Kansu from Sinkiang to Tarim Basin
  + Lowland river valleys of the south
* Northern oasis settlements maintain garrisons to protect and extend Chinese influence along Silk Roads
* Southern settlements intended to ‘civilize’ native populations by spreading Chinese culture
* South known as ‘land of rice and fish’
  + Peopled by two main groups of agriculturalists
    - Shifting cultivators of hills and settled farmers of coast and valleys