

# Chapter 9 China's Flourishing Civilization

## Sec. 1

### 3 Great Dynasties

- Zhou "Joh"/Qin "Chin"/ Han "Hahn"
- Zhou Dyn. Began 1028 BC
- conquered previous Dyn. (Shang) b/c ruled poorly and lost Mandate of Heaven  
loss of Mandate allowed Shang to be overthrown
- Set up agricultural system w/nobles owning land and peasants working it
- Kings appointed relatives to govern city-states  
local lords had total authority on own land  
had to pledge allegiance to king (son of heaven)  
b/c of local freedom, some lords became powerful and challenge Kin.
- 771 B.C Zhou Dyn. Suffered major defeat in border war  
political power shifted to local nobles  
city-states fighting each other for power  
by 200 B.C too much fighting collapsed Zhou Dyn.
- **Technological Advances**
  - Cavalry w/chariots
  - crossbow
  - iron plows and irrigation and flood control systems

### - Qin "Chin"

- w. edge of China/ city-state ruled by Qin
- 221 B.C taken last of Zhou controlled territory and rest of N. China  
brought most of nation under strong central gov. for 1<sup>st</sup> time  
Name China from Qin  
1<sup>st</sup> ruler added title Shihuangdi. "shur-hwong-dee" (1<sup>st</sup> emperor)  
Qin shihuangdi reorganized emp. into military districts  
appointed educated officials to govern  
kept local lords weak and not oppose  
taxed and took away land too  
Standard system of weights and measures and coins  
Uniform writing system and set up law code for entire emp.  
Used forced labor for lg. Public works  
Connected N. defensive walls (Great Wall)  
Roads and canals  
Employed censorship  
213 B.C ordered books burned that not "practical"  
ok with science/agriculture/medicine/magic  
approx 460 scholars resisted and put to death  
Subjects viewed him as cruel tyrant and lost mandate  
Nobles angry about loss of power and land  
Scholars angry b/c of burnings and executions  
Peasants angry b/c of work gangs  
210 B.C dies and son takes control

### - Han

- 207 BC Liu Bang "Lyoh-Bong" overthrew Qin gov.  
military official and born peasant/ defeated rival in 202 BC

- declared himself emp. Of new Dyn. – Han
- Han Dyn. 202BC-220BC
  - used same gov. as Qin but w/o oppression
  - can be compared to Roman emp. For power
- Peak under Wudi. 141-87 B.C
  - supervised all aspects of gov.
  - sent army to conquer non-Chinese and nomadic invaders
    - Korea/manchuria/N. India/ S.E. Asia
  - 139 BC sent expedition led by Zhnag Qian “Jahng Chyen”
    - returned 13 yrs. later w/most army gone b/c barbarians
    - 10 yrs. captive
    - reported on huge emp. In W. (Rome) very advanced
  - Wudi began expanding trade routes W. b/c of Rome emp.
    - Silk road through mts. And desserts linked E and W
    - Traded silk for glass-gold-wool-fabrics
- Han Dyn known as Pax Sinica (same time as Roman Pax)
  - Wudi cont.
    - Stored food when bumper crop to sell when crops fail
    - Gov. positions based on talent not connections
      - Took difficult tests to get jobs(civil service exam)
      - Still forward wealthy b/c \$ to educate
      - Class of wealthy civil servants-mandarins
      - Ran gov. until early 1900’s
  - Wudi dies and Dyn. Power declines
  - Dyn. Falls in 220 AD

## Sec. 2

### Three Ways of Life

- Confucianism
  - Cina’s most influential scholar Kongfuzi “Koong-foo-deuh”
    - born 551BC to peasant family
    - wanted political post but want w/teaching
    - said social harmony and good gov. return to China w/good ethics
    - one word serve as principle for conduct-reciprocity
  - 5 Relationships – important moral behavior between groups (duty to each of the
    - ruler and subject
      - ruler rule justly/subject loyal and obey laws
    - parent and child
      - filial piety(children’s respect of parents)
    - husband and wife
      - husband protects, earns living and wife runs house and children
    - old and young
      - old made future and young preserve and make new future
    - friend and friend
      - mutual respect
    - All a code of proper conduct
  - Dies 479 BC and work collected into one work-Analects-
    - During Han, ethics became basis for civil service exam
- Opposition to Confucianism from scholars known as Legalists

rejected learning by example emphasized strict laws and harsh punishment  
developed from teachings of Hanfeizi “han-fay-dzee”  
humans evil by nature and need strong gov and laws to obey  
many Nobles liked(why?) became official policy of Qin Dyn.  
Confucianism eventually won out

#### - Daoism

- Confuc and legalism stress importance of orderly soc.
- Daoism stressed living in harmony w/nature  
rejected formal social structures and idea of people filling specific roles
- Origins in teachings of Laozi “Low-dzuh” around 500 BC  
ideas recorded in Dao De Jing and followers called Daoists
- People renounce worldly ambitions and turn to nature and Dao  
Dao is universal force that guides all things  
Harmony with/nature and influenced art in China and Japan
- People be both Confuc. And Daoist  
Confuc. Provide pattern of gov. and social order  
Daosim provide harmony within order and nature w/person
- Yin and Yang – 2 opposing forces in nature present always  
Yin – cool/dark/female/submissive  
Yang – warm/light/male/aggressive  
All things have both elements and for harmony both need balance  
Person can be both good and bad as long as balanced

#### - Buddhism

- Reached China as Han Collapsing
- Ideas of Salvation in nirvana appealed b/c many seek escape from suffering
- Confucians could follow 8fold path
- Daoists used ideas of Meditation to reach harmony

### Sec. 3

#### Society and Culture (Han Dyn)

- Confucianism based
- each had role to follow in family
  - strict hierarchy –father/oldest son/younger sons/mother/daughters  
each expected to respect next higher on ladder  
all understood duties and would dishonor family if not do  
even pay respect to deceased members
- early in Han only nuclear not extended family
- supported elderly/young/sick
- father head
  - arranged marriages/controlled finances/sons edu.
- women subservient to husband and sons as get older  
young girls often sold  
mothers respected though (opinions given but no clout)  
under Han/ inherit property – remarry if widowed  
after Han lose all rights
- 3main social classes (top to bottom)
  - landowners  
wealthy/lived in large house w/court yards and gardens

walled property for protection  
overtime became scarce  
property spit up and given to sons  
several generations nothing left

- Peasants (90% pop)

lived in rural villages  
simple homes and plain diets – millets/rice/fish/beans  
paid rent in form of percent of crops to landowner  
gov. required taxes and one month of work per year  
could be drafted if military service needed

- Merchants

shopkeepers- traders-service workers-bankers  
despite wealth-looked down upon  
Confucianism said pursuit of profit unworthy for superior people  
merchants not allowed take civil-service exam

- only civil-service system offer opportunities for advancement and money

- Literature

- Qin burned many books but many survive – hidden libraries

- most prized was collection of books – 5 classics

used w/ civil service exam

oldest of 5 –books of songs

political themes/romance/rituals

Book of Documents

Political speeches and earliest example of Mandate of Heaven

Book of Changes

System for telling future and how to make decisions

Spring and Autumn Annals

Events recorded by Confucius in state of Lu 722-481 B.C

Studied b/c believed could solve most problems

Officials studied and used to strengthen positions

Kept accounts of drought-floods-nat. des.-comets-meter

- First true history of China-Historical Record-

written by Sima Qian during Wudi reign

- Sci and tech.

- calculated solar year

- astromeric sightings

- Nutrition understood and some diseases from vitamin deficiencies

- Acupuncture to restore yin and yang

- During Han irrigation systems/swamps drained/canals

- Silk important and domesticated

- Paper invented-used instead of tree bark

- mining w/drill bits and used machines powered by humans

- wheel barrow/gunpowder

- cast bronze/suspension bridge/compass