

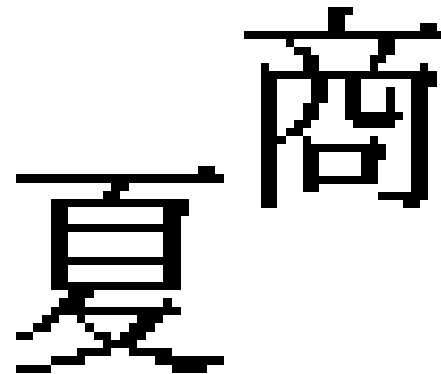
# Ancient China: Xia to Han Dynasties



# Overview



- A dynasty was a system of government where the king (and from the Qin dynasty onwards an emperor or empress) passed on his or her title to another member of the same family.
- Time span of the dynasties  
21st century BCE thru 1911 CE
- Almost 4000 years
- Over 30 different dynasties



# Xia Dynasty 2205-1766 BCE

- ⌘ The Xia dynasty (pronounced *Shar*) has been called the first dynasty in Chinese history.
- ⌘ It is thought to have been founded by Yu the Great, who was considered a descendant of the Yellow Emperor.
- ⌘ King Yu was the first king to be succeeded by his son instead of a man chosen for his virtue. This made the Xia the first Chinese dynasty.
- ⌘ King Yu's capital was at Yang City.
- ⌘ It was a totalitarian, hereditary state.
- ⌘ The Xia under King Yu probably had about 13.5 million people.

# Xia Dynasty 2205-1766 BCE





# Xia Dynasty 2205-1766 BCE

- ⌘ The Xia dynasty was the first to irrigate, produce cast bronze and had a strong army.
- ⌘ It used oracle bones and had a calendar.
- ⌘ Xi Zhong is credited in legend with inventing a wheeled vehicle. He used a compass, square and rule.
- ⌘ People were yeomen, ie it was a feudal system.
- ⌘ The Xia dynasty was said to have ended only when a Xia ruler Jie mistreated his people and was overthrown.

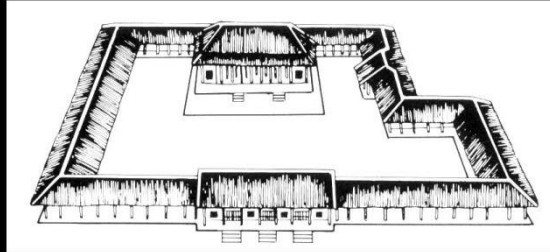




Yu the Large one

The first Chinese legendary monarch of the Xia Dynasty, considered as the founder of the dynasty.

Vessels from the Xia Dynasty period



Palace at Erlitou



Burial complex of the Xia dynasty



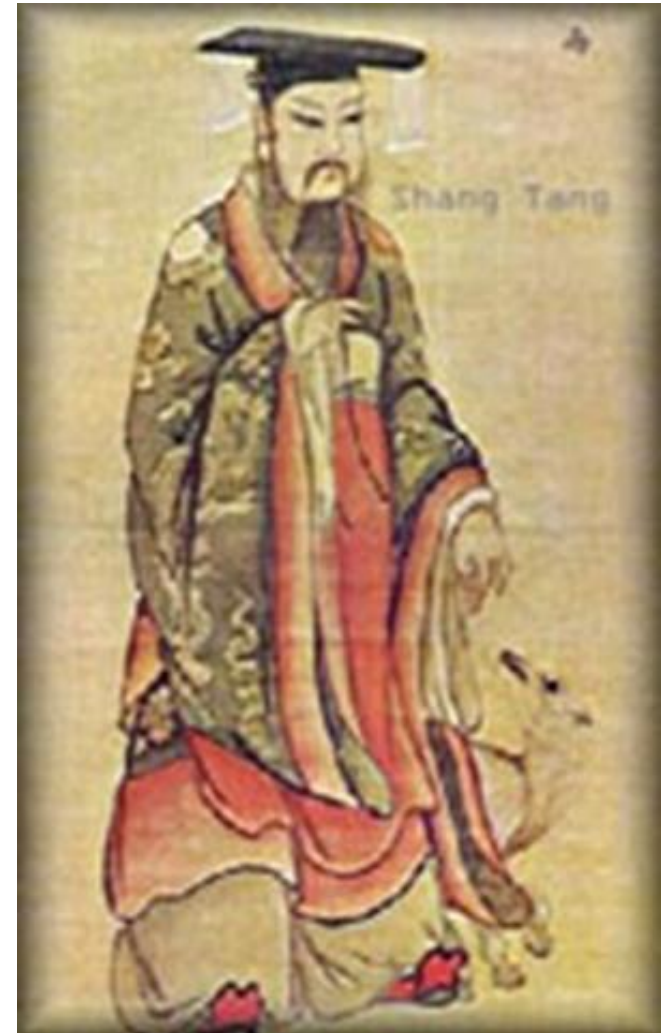
陶器 (he) (青铜)  
夏代 (公元前2070 - 前1600年)  
偃师市二里头出土  
Pottery He, wine vessel  
Xia dynasty (2070 - 1600 B.C.)  
Excavated at Erlitou, Yanshi city





# The Shang Dynasty 1766- 1122 BCE

- The Shang or Yin dynasty was founded by a rebel, Tang (Tai Yi) Shang, who overthrew the last Xia ruler, Jie.
- Has been called the 'Cradle of Chinese civilization'.
- The dynasty lasted for nearly 600 years and was ruled by 31 kings, beginning with Tang (Tai Yi) and ending with King Zhou.
- As a ruler, Tang was noble and benevolent. Also, known as the Sage king, Tang ruled for nearly 30 years.



# The Shang Dynasty 1766- 1122 BCE

- Its civilization was based on agriculture, augmented by hunting and animal husbandry.
- Two important events of the period were the development of a writing system, as revealed in archaic Chinese inscriptions found on tortoise shells and flat cattle bones commonly called oracle bones and the use of bronze metallurgy.
- A number of ceremonial bronze vessels with inscriptions date from the Shang dynasty period; the workmanship on the bronzes attests to a high level of civilization.





# The Shang Dynasty 1766- 1122 BCE



# The Shang Dynasty 1766- 1122 BCE

- A line of hereditary Shang kings ruled over much of northern China, and Shang troops fought frequent wars with neighbouring settlements and nomadic herdsman from the inner Asian steppes.
- The capitals, one of which was at the site of the modern city of Anyang, were centres of glittering court life. Court rituals to honour sacred ancestors were highly developed.
- Religion, religious practices and rituals held a very prominent place in the Shang civilization.
- In addition to his secular position, the king was the head of the ancestor- and spirit-worship cult.



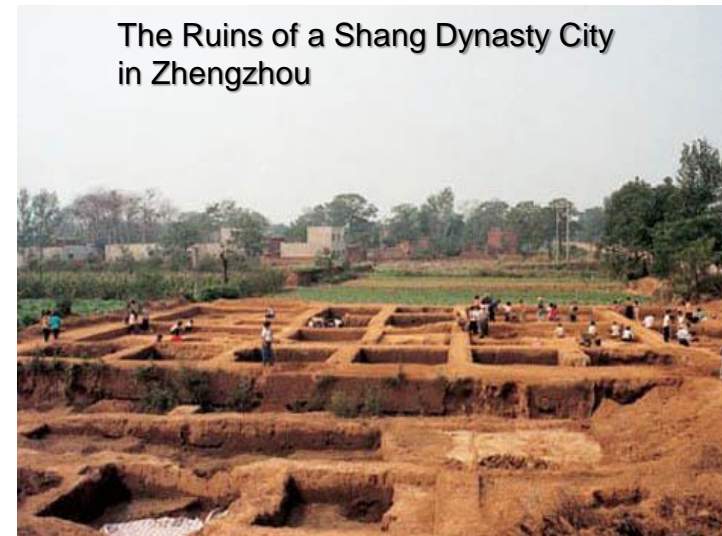
# The Shang Dynasty 1766- 1122 BCE



Oracle bones



The Ruins of a Shang Dynasty City  
in Zhengzhou





# The Shang Dynasty 1766- 1122 BCE

- Evidence from the royal tombs indicates that royal personages were buried with articles of value, presumably for use in the afterlife. Perhaps for the same reason, hundreds of commoners, who may have been slaves, were buried alive with the royal corpse.
- Shang dynasty was one of the greatest dynasties of ancient China. Sometimes, it is also said that the history of China and its glorious civilization begins with this dynasty.





# The Zhou Dynasty 1050- 221 BCE

- The Zhou or Chou dynasty lasted for more than 800 years after Zhou people conquered the Shang dynasty under their leader Wu Wang.
- The Zhou Dynasty is divided into two periods: the Western Zhou (11th century BC to 771 BC) and the Eastern Zhou (770 BC - 221 BC).
- Ruled much of China north of Yangtze river.
- Extended Shang culture.

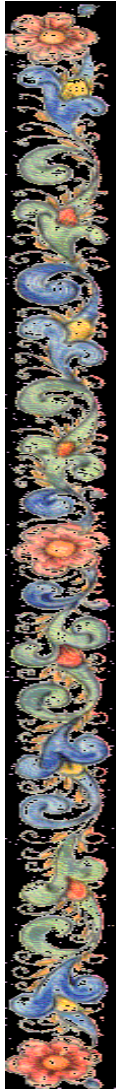


# The Zhou Dynasty 1050- 221 BCE



# The Zhou Dynasty 1050- 221 BCE

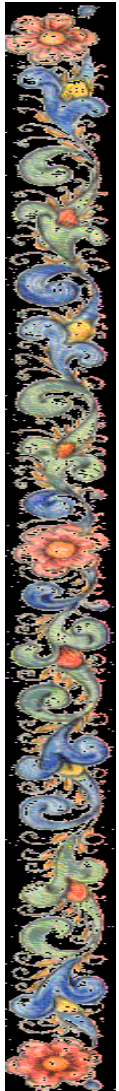
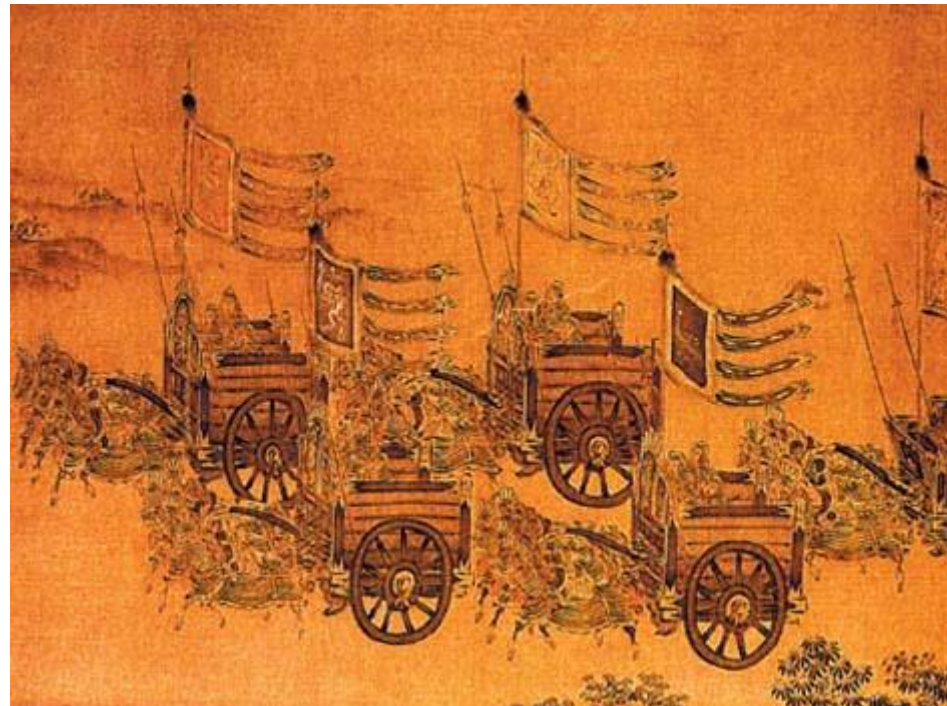
- Control by this dynasty was the longest in Chinese history.
- Copper and gold were used for the first time. Local princes owned the land but owed military service and other support to the king.
- China became the world's most populous country during these years.
- Ruled by the “Mandate of Heaven” the divine right to rule through orders from the gods.





# The Zhou Dynasty 1050- 221 BCE

- During the Zhou dynasty, China underwent quite dramatic changes.
- Iron, ox-drawn ploughs, crossbows, and horseback riding were all introduced; large-scale irrigation and water-control projects were also instituted for the first time, greatly increasing the crop yield of the North China Plain.
- The communication system was also greatly improved through the construction of new roads and canals. Trade was increased, towns grew up, coinage was developed, chopsticks came into use, and the Chinese writing system was developed out of its primitive beginnings in the Shang period.





# The Zhou Dynasty 1050- 221 BCE



# The Zhou Dynasty 1050- 221 BCE

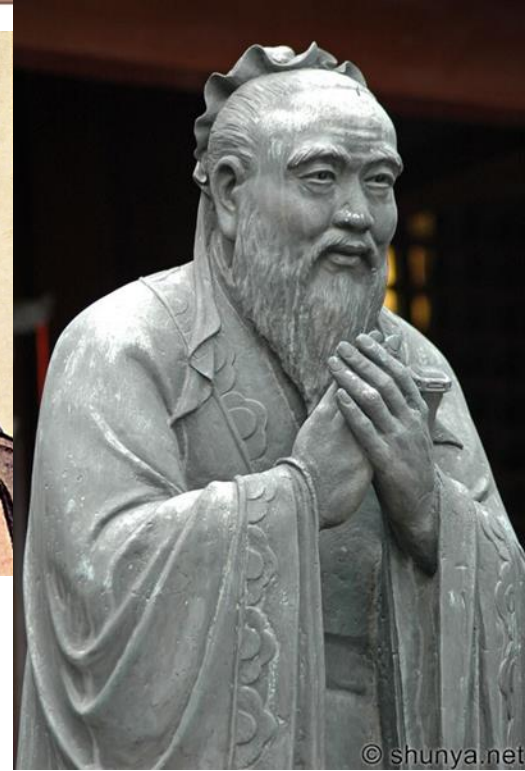
- There was also a great philosophical flowering: the schools of Confucianism, Daoism, and legalism developed in this period.
- Literature flourished with Confucius and other great Chinese philosophers.
- Later generations of Chinese have regularly studied the Zhou dynasty for information regarding the origin of their civilization.





# Confucious

In the year 551 BCE the famous thinker and educator of ancient China, Confucius, was born. He had been advocating his political views and seeking to have his service accepted by different states. To his disappointment, no one appreciated his ideas. So he devote all his energy to education.



Confucius' Five Principal Relationships-

(1) ruler and subject; (2) father and son; (3) elder brother and younger brother; (4) husband and wife; and (5) friend and friend.



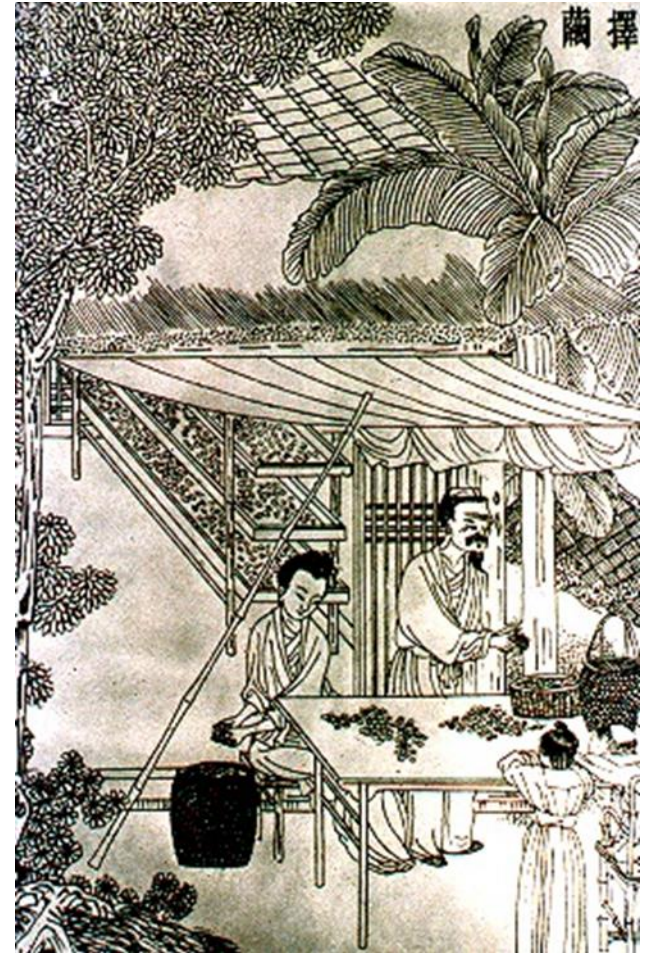
*"To know your faults and be able to change is the greatest virtue."*

*"What you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others."*

# The Zhou Dynasty New Technologies

During the Zhou era, the Chinese discovered how to make silk from the cocoons of silkworms.

Silk would become China's most valuable export, eventually linking them with most of the world through trade.





# The Zhou Dynasty New Technologies

- Chinese artisans learned how to bind together long, thin strips of wood or bamboo to make books

Chariots also became common place



# The Zhou Dynasty New Technologies

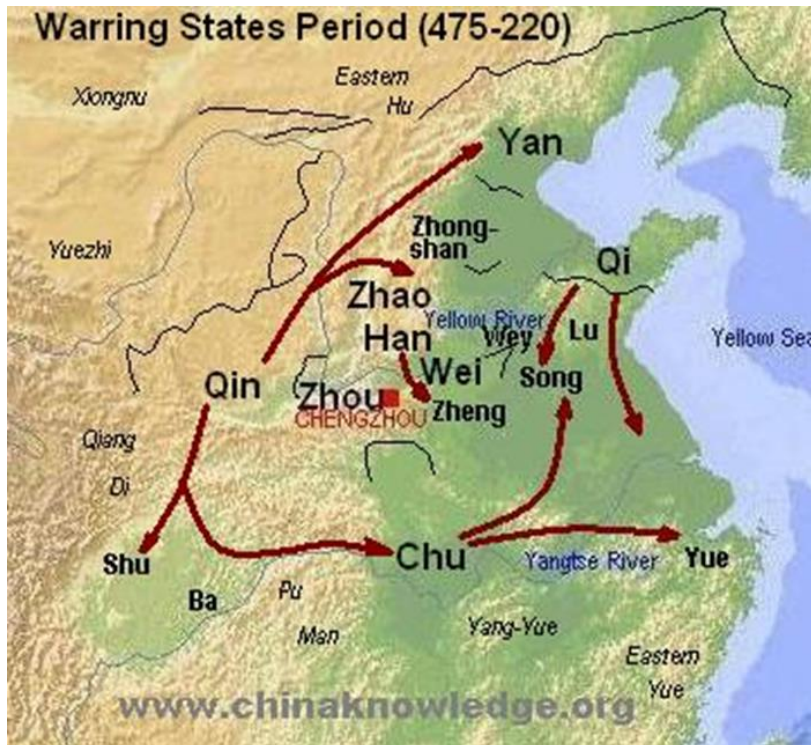
- The Great Wall of China originated as a defensive barrier against tribal intrusions
- Construction started in the seventh century BCE and spanned over 20 states and dynasties
- Two sections were built during the Zhou era
- As China unified, the various sections were connected





# Warring States Period 475-221 BCE

The Zhou Dynasty ended in 221 BC. The 250 years between 475 and 221 BC is called the Warring States Period because the region was divided among 8 warring states. Qin conquered them all by 221.



# Qin Dynasty 221-207 BCE

- Name China derived from the Qin or Ch'in Dynasty.
- When Qin Shi Huang Di united China in 221 BC, he felt that his achievements had surpassed those of all the rulers who have gone before him. So he combined the ancient titles of Huang (皇) and Di (帝) to create a new title, Huangdi (皇帝), usually translated as Emperor.
- Setup the first Chinese Empire.
- Although the Qin dynasty was short-lived it was crucial to the formation of China as a unified and homogeneous state.





# Qin Dynasty 221-207 BCE



# Qin Dynasty 221-207 BCE

## Elements:

- Legalist rule
- Bureaucratic administration
- Centralized control
- Military expansion
- Book burnings targeted Confucianists
- Buried protestors alive!



The rulers of Qin espoused the political theories known as Legalism - a theory based on the belief that humans are undisciplined and can only be kept in order by fierce and harsh punishments.



# Qin Dynasty 221-207 BCE



## Achievements:

- Standardized language and writing
- Standardized currency
- Standardized measurements
- Public Works
- Built large sections of the Great Wall
- Roads and Irrigation canals

# Qin Shi Huangdi's Terra Cotta Army

The terra cotta army was discovered by accident in 1974 at Xian, when local farmers digging wells about a mile west of the mausoleum broke into a pit containing 6,000 life-size terracotta figures.

Altogether over 7,000 terra cotta soldiers, horses, chariots, and even weapons have been unearthed from these pits. It is believed that an army of more than 8,000 terra cotta soldiers were buried fifteen to twenty feet beneath the earth not far from the tomb where Emperor Qin is believed to be buried.







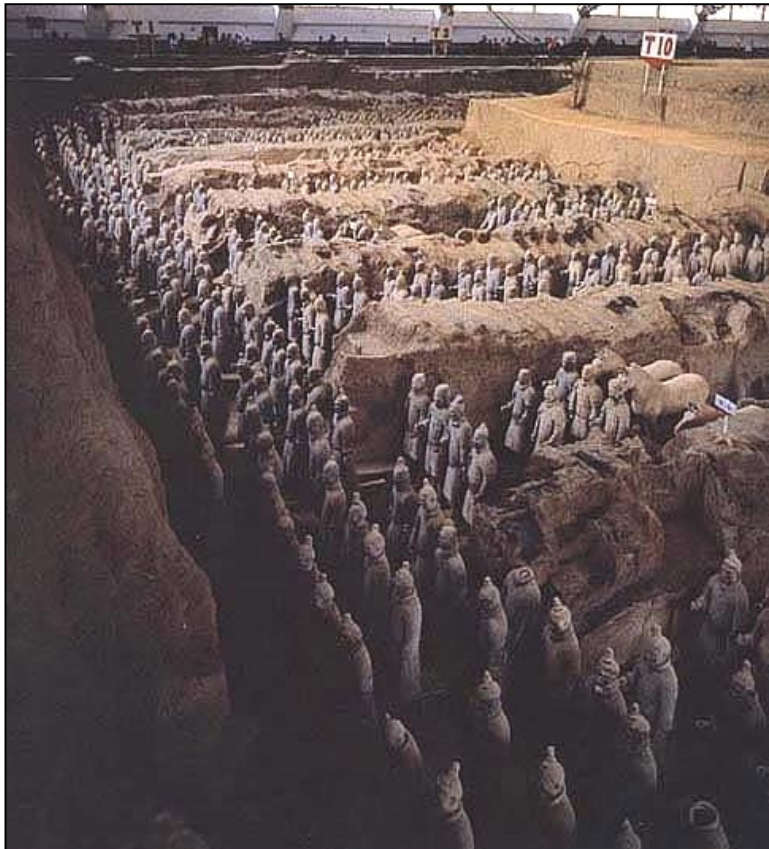
The workers who made the soldiers may have modelled after the real soldiers of Emperor's army. Each soldier appears to have his own individual personality. Some are almost smiling; some look very stern. Some look like they are middle aged, and some are very young. Each has his own moustache and different hairstyles. The soldiers were set up in real battle formation. Each man held an actual weapon. They are as sharp today as they were twenty-two centuries ago.

The ancient Chinese had a very strong belief in the afterlife. The army was meant to protect Emperor Qin in death, that's why there were such incredible efforts to be realistic. The more lifelike the soldiers looked, the more effective they would be in guarding the Emperor against his enemies in the afterlife. He was a ruthless leader who ordered people to work on his huge projects. Historians believe that during Qin's rule, one out of every ten Chinese was put to work creating not only Qin's terra-cotta army but also 270 magnificent palaces.



Archeologists are convinced that Qin is buried in a spectacular tomb located inside a tomb pyramid in the center of the field where the terra-cotta army was found. In ancient Chinese history books, the tomb is called Mount Li, and is said to contain fabulous jewels, miniature cities, and rivers of mercury that flow to a man-made sea.

# Qin Shi Huangdi's Terra Cotta Army





# Qin Shi Huangdi's Terra Cotta Army

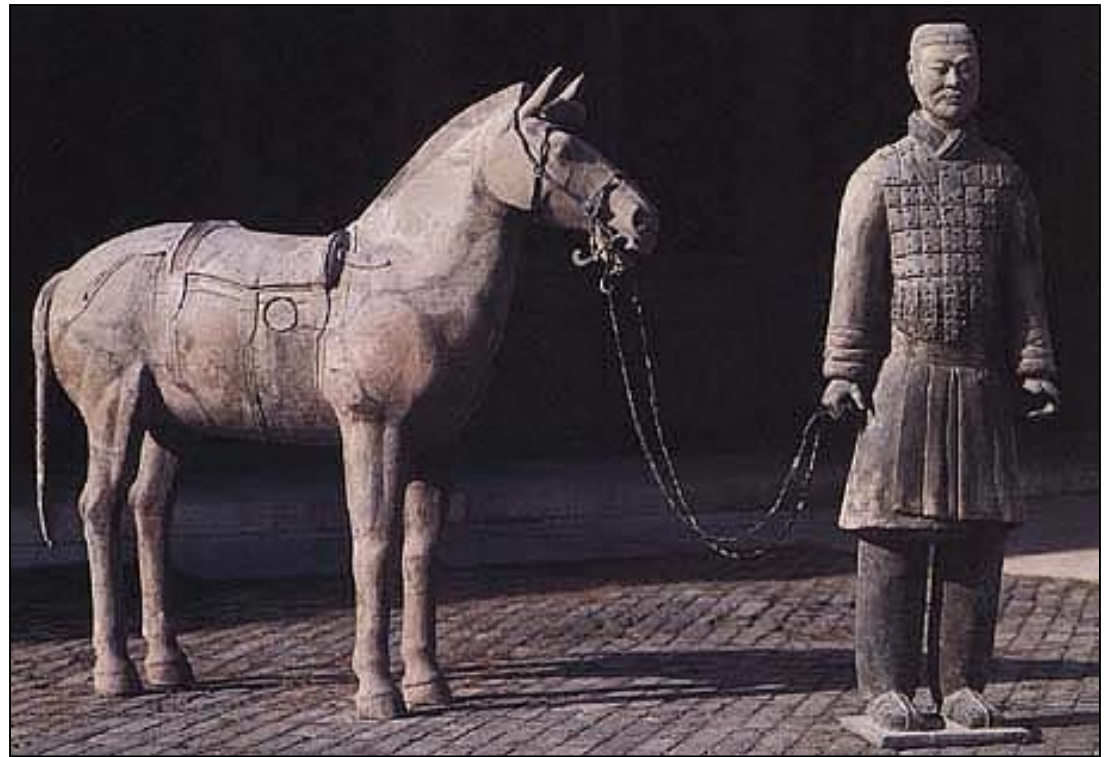




# Qin Shi Huangdi's Terra Cotta Army



# Shi Huangdi's Terra Cotta Soldiers & Cavalrymen





# Cavalry





# Individual Soldiers



# The Details of an Individual Soldier





# Individual "Tombs"



# The Great Wall

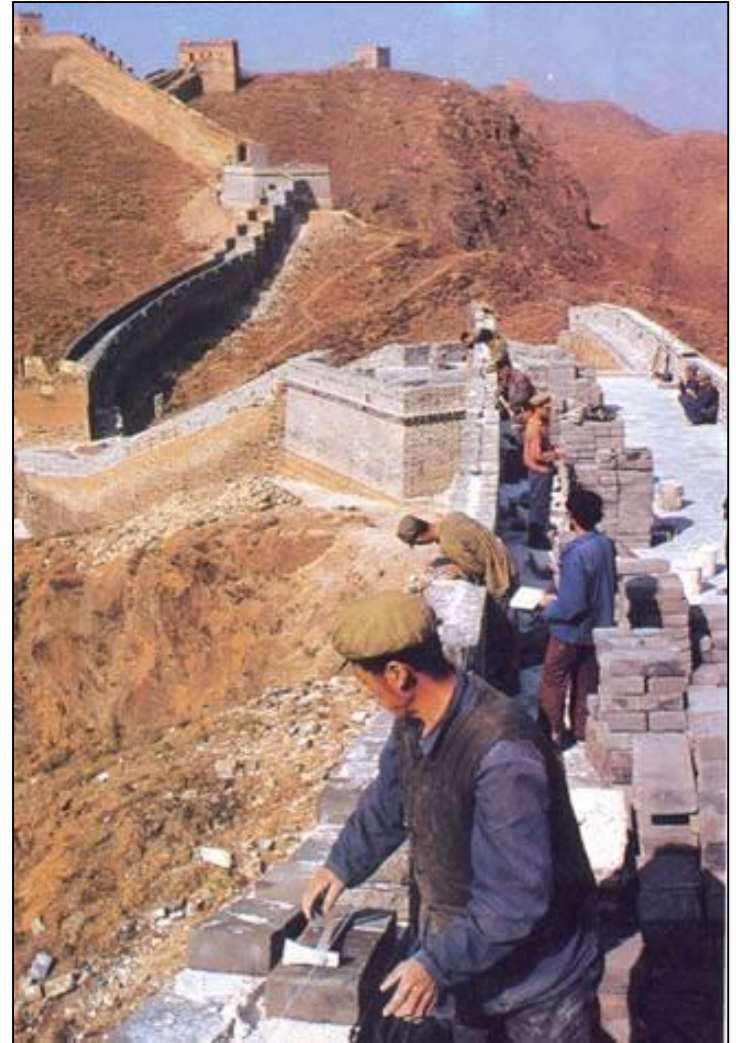


- To fend off nomad invasion, the fortification walls built by various Warring States were connected to make a 3,107 miles Great Wall.
- The Great Wall is actually four great walls rebuilt or extended during the Western Han, Sui, Jin and Ming periods.





# The Great Wall with Towers





# The Eastern terminus of the Great Wall, Shanhai Pass





# Han Dynasty 206-220 BCE

## China's Golden Age





# Han Dynasty 206-220 BCE

- Liu Bang defeats Xiang Yu, a rival for power, and founds the Han Dynasty
- The Han Dynasty begins about 206 BCE and lasts about 400 years.
- Han Dynasty has great influence on Chinese people and culture
- Liu Bang establishes centralized government—a central authority rules, lowers taxes and reduces punishments to keep people happy



# Han Dynasty, 206-220 BCE



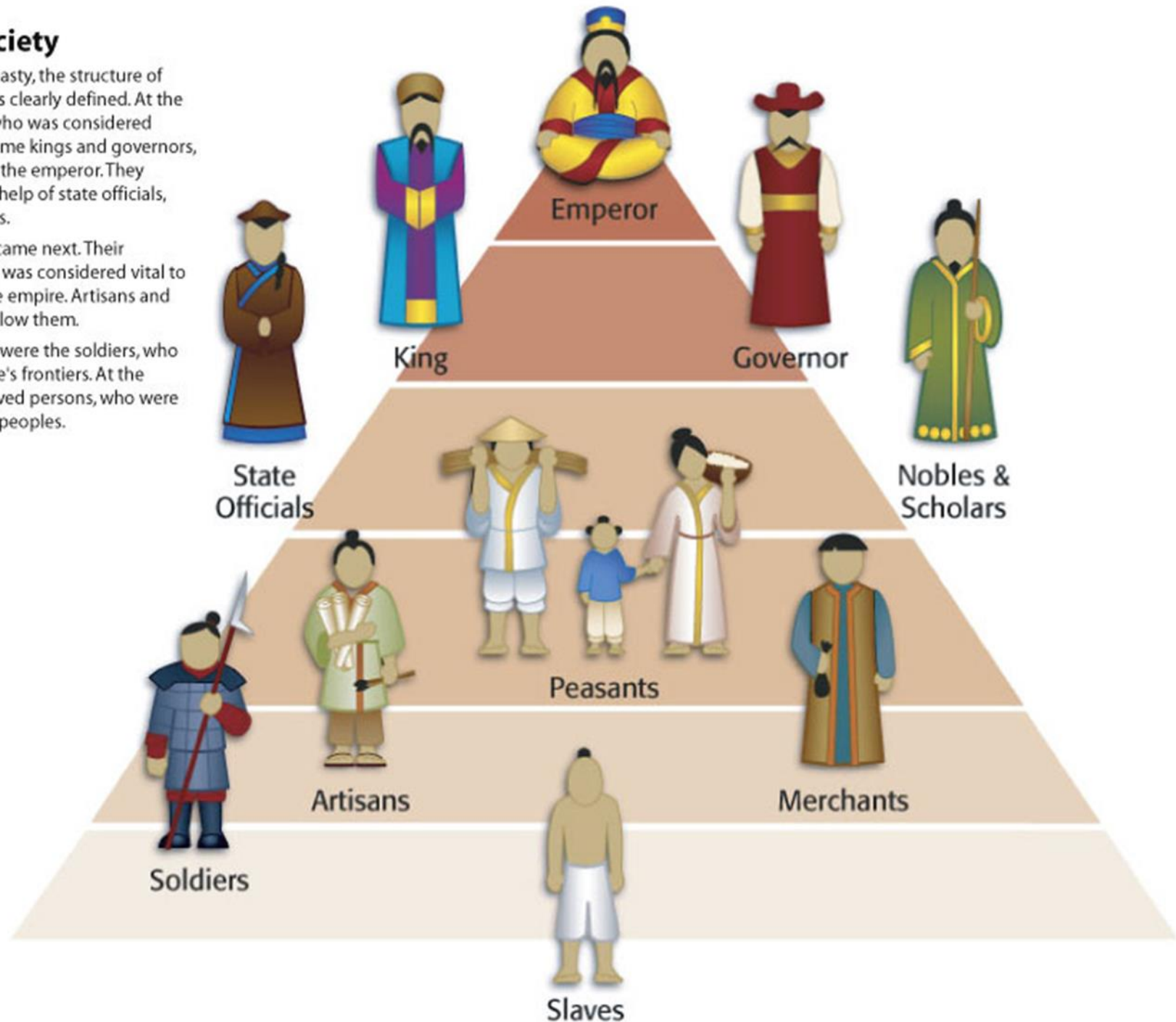


## Chinese Society

Under the Han Dynasty, the structure of Chinese society was clearly defined. At the top was emperor, who was considered semidivine. Next came kings and governors, both appointed by the emperor. They governed with the help of state officials, nobles, and scholars.

Peasant farmers came next. Their production of food was considered vital to the existence of the empire. Artisans and merchants were below them.

Near the bottom were the soldiers, who guarded the empire's frontiers. At the bottom were enslaved persons, who were usually conquered peoples.



# Social Classes



scholars

Respected by everyone because they could read & write



peasants

The country depended on them to produce food



artisans

Used their skills to make things that people needed (weapons, tools, & cooking utensils)



merchants

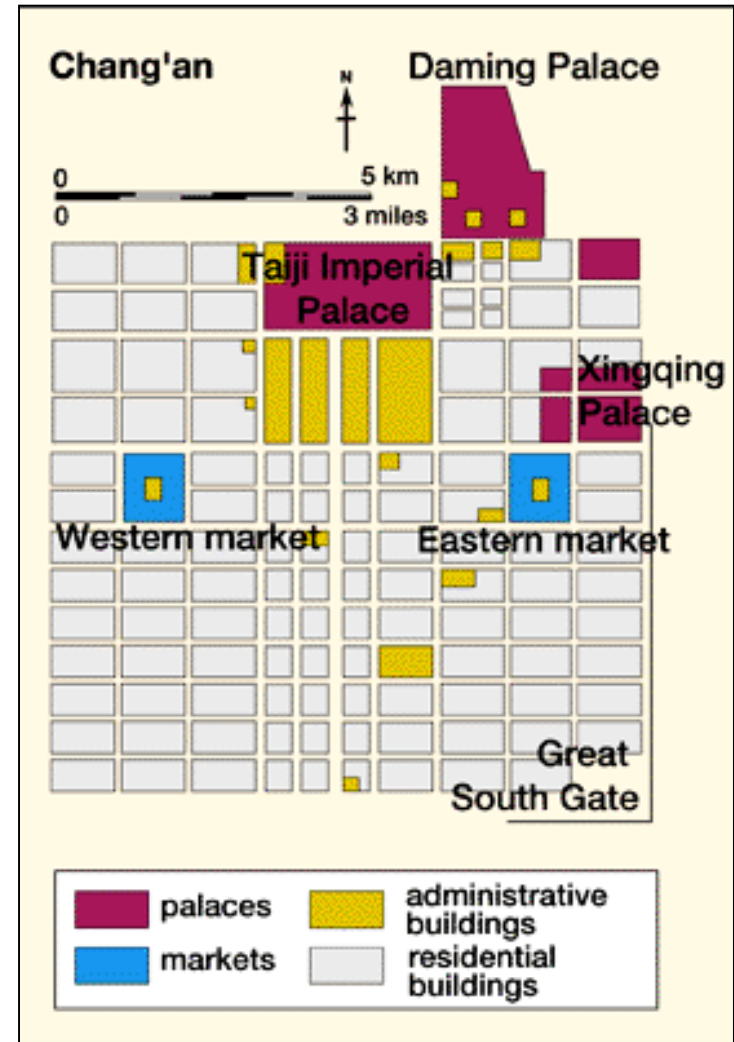
They made nothing, yet grew rich by trading goods.



# Han - Roman Empire Connection



# Chang'an - The Han Capital





# Liu Sheng Tomb (d. 113 BCE)



**His jade suit has 2498 pieces!**

# Emperor Wudi, 141-87 BCE

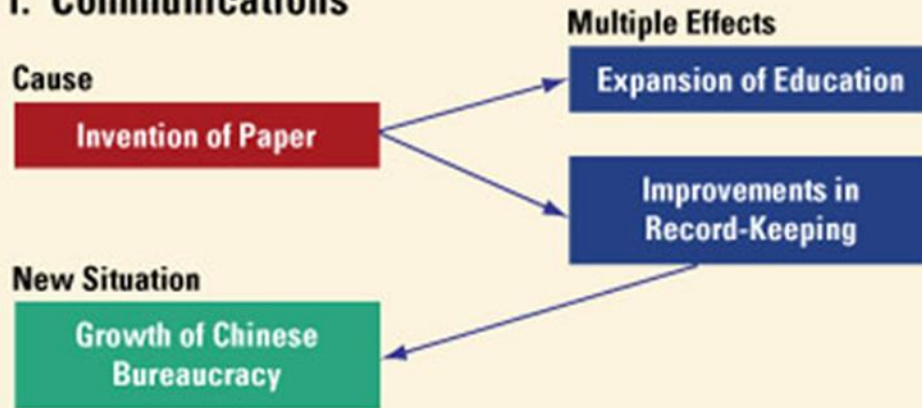
- ⌘ Started public schools.
- ⌘ Colonized Manchuria, Korea, & Vietnam.
- ⌘ Civil service system runs Han government
  - bureaucrats
  - Confucian scholar-gentry
- ⌘ Revival of Chinese landscape painting.
- ⌘ People pay taxes and supply labour and military service
- ⌘ Government uses peasant labour to carry out public projects



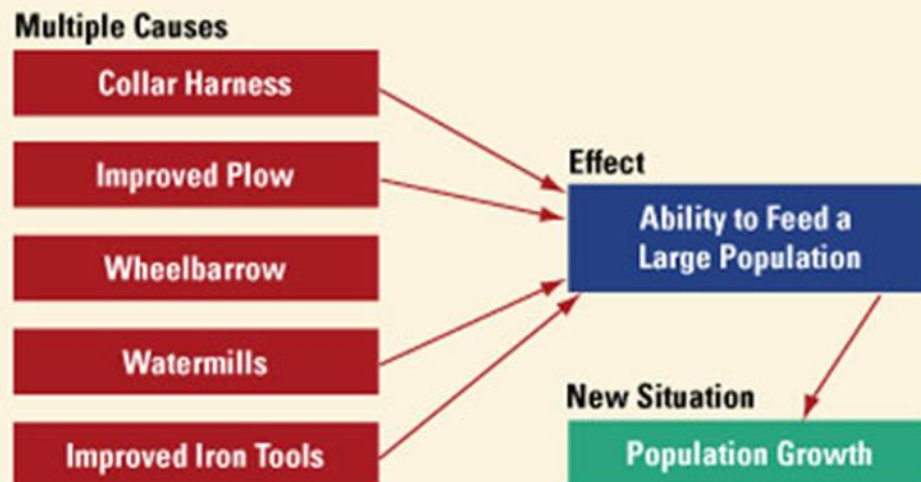


# The Technological Revolution in Han China

## I. Communications



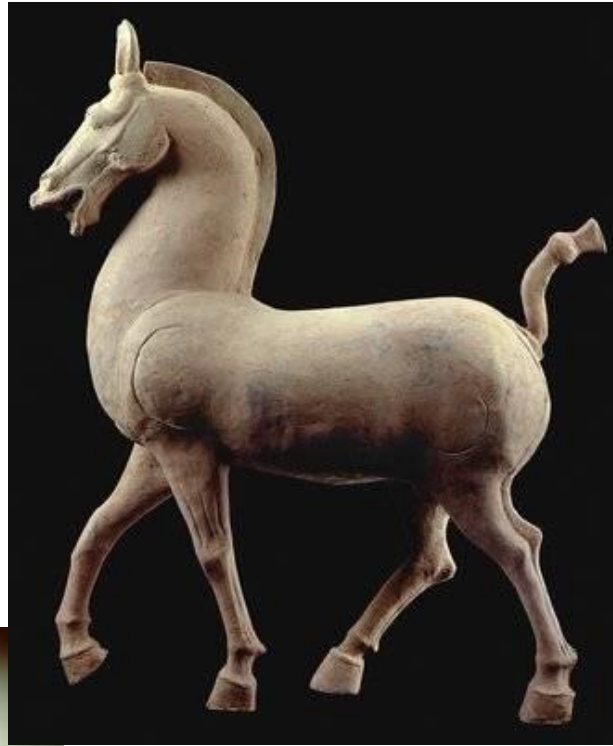
## II. Agricultural Improvements



# Han Artifacts



Imperial Seal



Han Ceramic House



# Ceramics, Later Han Period

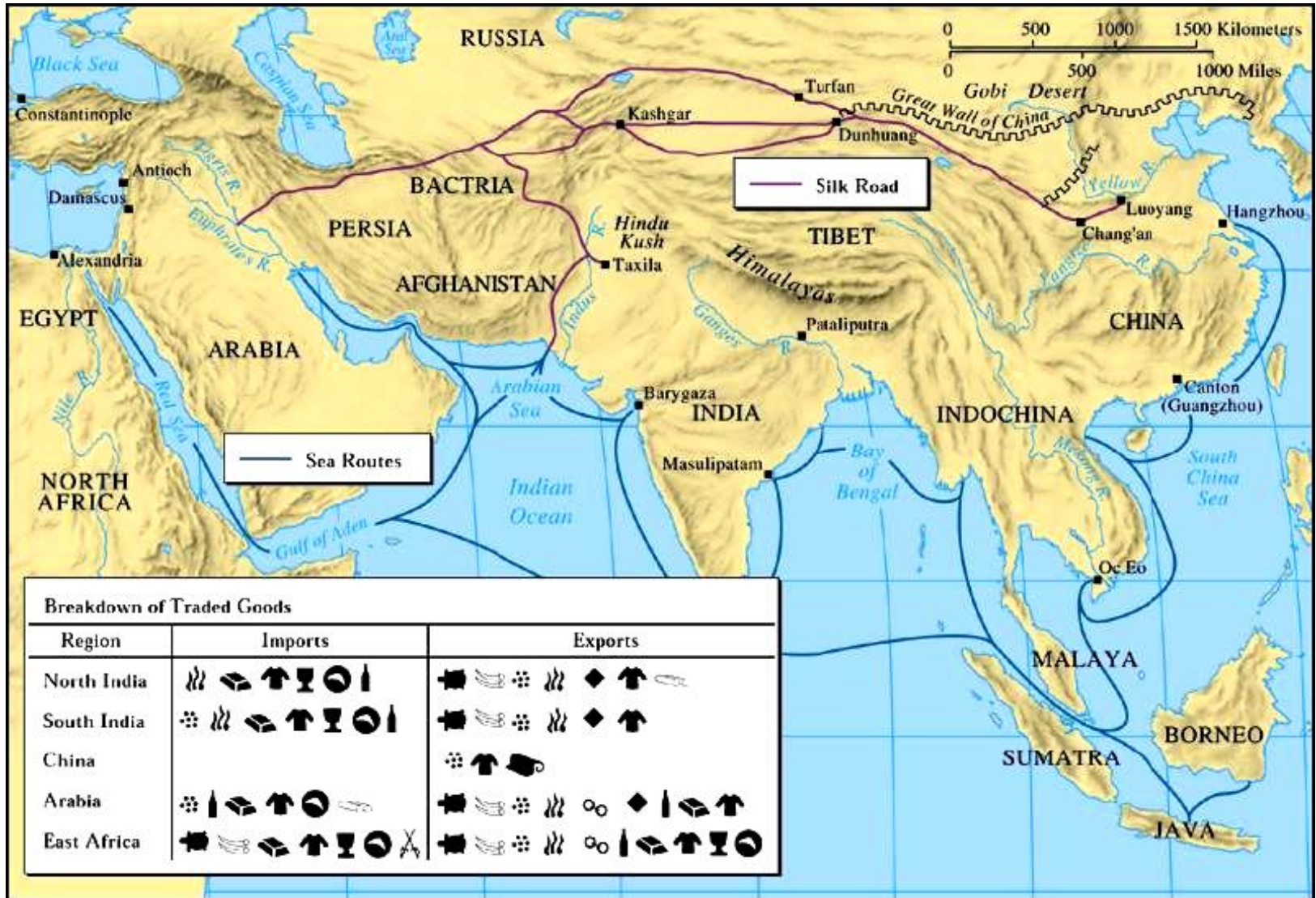


# Later Han Period



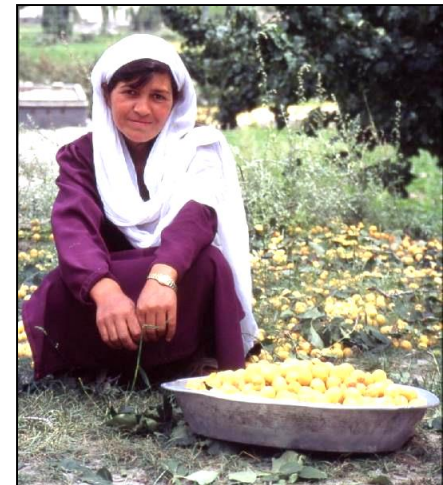
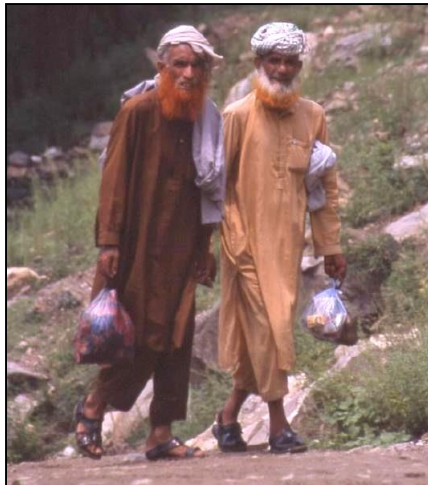
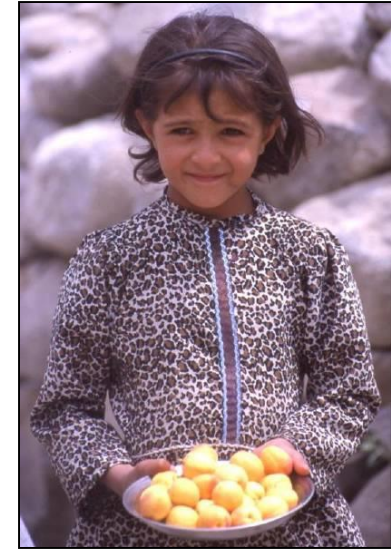
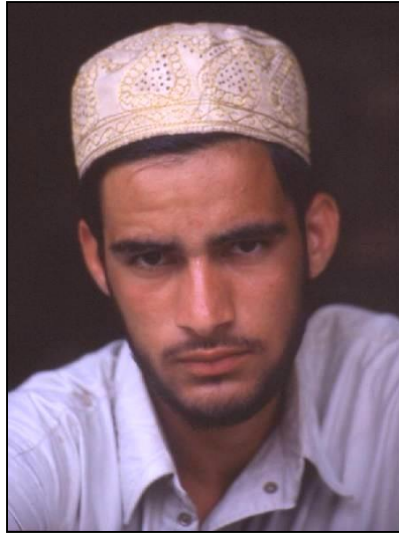


# Trade Routes of the Ancient World



| Breakdown of Traded Goods |                 |                |
|---------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Region                    | Imports         | Exports        |
| North India               | 🌊 🏠 🧥 🍷 🕒 🕯️    | 🏠 🌊 🍷 🕒 🕯️ 🧥 🏠 |
| South India               | 🍷 🌊 🏠 🧥 🍷 🕒 🕯️  | 🏠 🌊 🍷 🕒 🕯️ 🧥 🏠 |
| China                     |                 | 🍷 🧥 🕒          |
| Arabia                    | 🍷 🏠 🧥 🕒 🕯️ 🌊    | 🏠 🌊 🍷 🕒 🕯️ 🧥 🏠 |
| East Africa               | 🏠 🌊 🏠 🧥 🕒 🕯️ ✂️ | 🏠 🌊 🍷 🕒 🕯️ 🧥 🏠 |

# Multi-Cultural Faces -- People Along the Silk Road





# Ruins of Jiaohe, Turpan depression. Han dynasty outpost in Central Asia

