

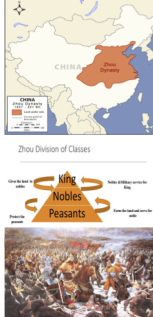
SSWH2: Identify the major achievements of Chinese and Indian societies to 500 CE/AD



Element B: Describe the development of Chinese civilization under Zhou, Qin, and Han Dynasties.


Zhou Dynasty (1027 – 221 BCE)

- Fundamental elements of Chinese governance came with the second Dynasty, the Zhou (1027 to 221 BCE).
 - These principles include the Mandate of Heaven which argues that the ruling dynasty has been charged by Heaven to rule the people with benevolence (called the Dao) and Confucianism.
 - While Confucianism did **not** have a profound political impact until about 200 BCE the basic tenants of filial piety, adherence to tradition, patriarchy and duty were established during the Zhou dynasty.
- The Zhou were only able to maintain centralized authority until about 800 BCE, after that they relied on a system of feudalism to administer the empire and by 480 BCE civil war thrust China into the Warring States Period.




Qin Dynasty (221 – 206 BCE)

- The Warring States Period lasted until the Shi Huangdi emerged victorious and established the Qin Dynasty.
- During these years of conflict a new governing philosophy emerged in China called Legalism.
 - Proponents of Legalism argued that humans were innately self-serving and destructive therefore societal order had to be maintained with strict laws and harsh punishments.
 - Shi Huangdi, prescribed to these beliefs and built a highly centralized bureaucracy around these tenants.
- While the Qin Dynasty was short-lived it is given credit for unifying China politically, economically, and culturally.
 - Under the Qin, weights, measures, coinage, laws, writing, and axle length were all standardized.
 - The state directed the construction of extensive roads and canals, work on the Great Wall of China began, and land reform broke up the power of feudal lords.
 - These reforms laid the foundations for the effective administration of the vast empires of the dynasties that followed.




Han Dynasty (206 BCE – 220 CE)

- ❑ The extensive use of forced labor and excessive taxation quickly led to rebellion after the death of Shi Huangdi in 210 BCE.
- ❑ Out of these rebellions, a peasant named Liu Bang emerged as the new emperor of China and established the Han Dynasty.
- ❑ The Han Dynasty maintained many of the policies of the Qin but tempered the severity of Legalism with the political use of Confucianism which required leaders to earn the respect of the governed.
 - This combination proved durable and long-lived.
 - The Han were able to maintain control of an empire even larger than the Qin.
- ❑ From their capital in Chang'an, the Han directed a vast bureaucracy organized into nine ministries and regional authorities.




Han Dynasty (206 BCE – 220 CE)

- ❑ This bureaucracy was staffed by educated civil servants who received their appointments based on their score on a rigorous civil service examination.
- ❑ The state operated an effective tax collection system, a postal service, built extensive roads, canals, and defensive walls, and protected the empire from the constant threat of nomadic invaders from the north.
- ❑ The security of the Han period led to a thriving economy that engaged in extensive internal and international trade, profiting tremendously from the export of silk.
 - Economic growth was also aided by advancements in farm technology like the horse collar and better irrigation.
- ❑ The Han Dynasty began to decline around 200 CE, contributing factors included: bureaucratic corruption and infighting, food shortages, epidemic disease, banditry, and pressure from nomadic invaders along the northern border.




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Element C: Explain the development and impact of Confucianism on China.


Confucianism

- ❑ Confucius (c551-479 BCE) lived in the waning days of the Zhou Dynasty, a period of social and political upheaval.
- ❑ His philosophy, recorded by his followers in the Analects, proposed a solution to this unrest.
 - He argued that the long established traditions of filial piety and the Mandate of Heaven held the key to social order.
 - For Confucius, the family served as a model for society as a whole. The eldest male of the family held a moral obligation to lead and care for his household with wisdom and benevolence in exchange each member of the family was obliged to obey.




Confucianism

- ❑ Confucius believed that the hierarchy of family could be expanded to bring order to society as a whole.
 - Arguing that humans were innately good and that if treated with respect would obey righteous leaders, the Analects laid out five relationships that were rooted in long held Chinese traditions and would bring peace and order to society.
 - Each relationship was based in reciprocal respect and duty, they include ruler and subject, father and son, husband and wife, older brother and younger brother, and friend and friend.
- ❑ In an ideal Confucian society, wise superiors protect and respect their subordinates, subordinates obey and respect their superiors and all obey the golden rule: "never do to others what you would not like them to do to you."
- ❑ Confucianism created a fairly rigid social hierarchy, strongly supported patriarchy, encouraged education, and supported the tradition of ancestor veneration in China from the Han Dynasty onward.



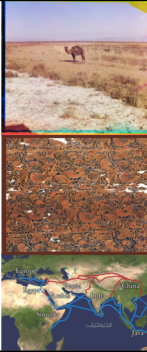
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Element D: Explain how geography contributed to the movement of peoples, ideas, include: Silk Roads and Indian Ocean Trade.


Silk Roads

- The vast open steppe land of Central Asia was home to numerous nomadic societies.
 - These societies relied on a pastoral economy that exploited the natural resources of the open steppe.
 - This reliance on pastoralism made these societies experts on the use of pack animals including horses, camels and oxen.
 - These transport technologies combined with potential for vast profits from the trade in silk, glassware, cotton cloth, horses, spices, perfumes and slaves led to the rise of the Silk Road.
- The Silk Road operated in two principle phases, the first from about 100 BCE to 800 CE.
 - In this period the trade route linked the Roman Empire in the west, the Chinese dynasties of the Han, Sui and Tang in the East, the Indian empires of the Mauryan and Gupta in the south, and the Persians in the middle.
 - The Silk Road peaked again from 1200 to 1500 (see SSWH4e).



Silk Roads

- During the first phase of the Silk Road, it functioned primarily as a relay system with each merchant only traveling a portion of the full length of the road.
- Major trading cities developed as a result of this system like Chang'an, Samarkand, and Bukhara.
- While individuals rarely traveled the full length of the trade routes, elements of culture and technology did.
 - Some key examples of this include: -Buddhism spread from India to China - Christianity spread to the east -the stirrup spread from Central Asia to Europe, China, and the Middle East -horse technology spread to China -New crops were introduced to China (alfalfa, grapes), Rome (peaches, apricots), and the Middle East (rice, sugarcane, and cotton).



Indian Ocean Trade

- The predictable nature of the monsoon winds of the Indian Ocean eased open-water navigation and led to the rise of a vast network of exchange between East Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and China in the Classical Age.
 - Mariners, motivated by potential profits from the exchange in goods like ebony, ivory, copper, myrrh, frankincense, dates, spices, jewels, cotton cloth, and silk developed technologies that capitalized on the monsoon winds and allowed the efficient transport of massive amounts of goods.
 - These technologies include the dhow and lateen sail developed by Arab sailors and the junk developed by the Chinese.
- The seasonal nature of the monsoon winds forced long stays by sailors in their various ports of call.
 - This led to the establishment of diasporic communities in the major ports of the Indian Ocean Maritime System.
 - Several of the diasporic communities left an enduring impact of the host culture. For example the Swahili language of East Africa is a product of the blending of Arabic with indigenous Bantu languages and the Malay Peninsula has a Chinese community that endures to this day.

