

Eastern Religions

Religion in China 1

1. Geography East and West
2. Middle Eastern Religions
3. Geography: China
4. Origins of Chinese Civilization
5. Ancient Taoism



1

Geography: China

中国

China

Zhong guo



“THE MIDDLE KINGDOM”

Chinese people also refer to their country as Huaxia, or “the great civilization.”

Chinese Transliteration

- Wade-Giles Chung Kuo, Kung Fu, Tao, Lao Tzu
- Pinyin Zhong guo, Gongfu, Dao, Laozi

Q=Ch, e.g. Qin Dynasty

X=Sh, e.g. Xin Jiang province

I use a mix of both systems.

highlighted on map:

The Far East

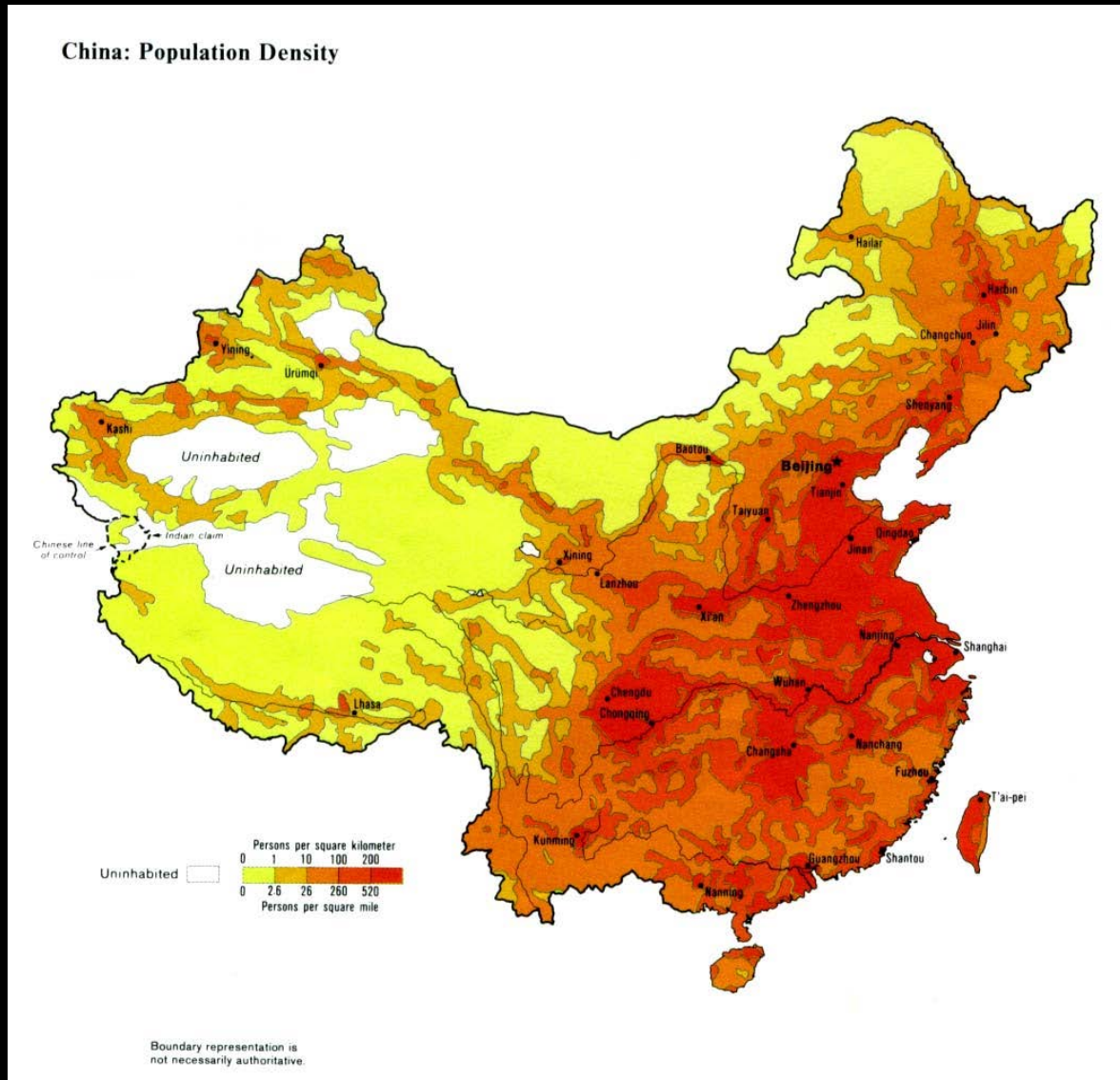
1.3
billion people
in China

compared to
300 million
people in the U.S.



An enormous population.
But in a very large area of
land, right?
Well, not so fast....

The Chinese population is concentrated mainly in the East (in the red areas).
The mountains and desert make other areas less inhabitable.



This is a view of China from the East... from the Pacific Ocean.



1 Hainan Island; 2 Leizhou Peninsula; 3 Hong Kong; 4 Guangzhou (Canton); 5 Shanghai; 6 Beijing; 7 Tianjin; 8 Wuhan; 9 Xi'an

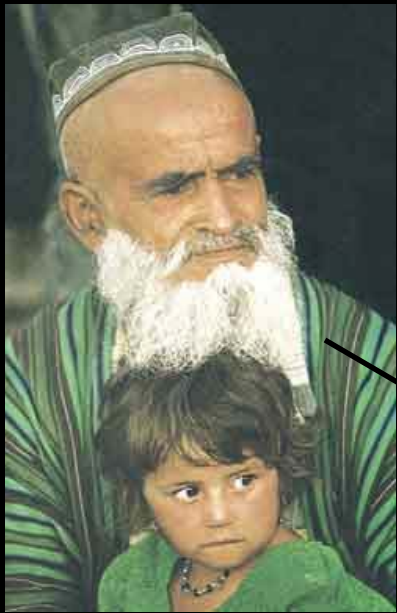
Topographical map of China



Taklamakan Desert

Himalayan Mountains

Kunlun Mountains



Turkestanis



Mongolians



Manchurians



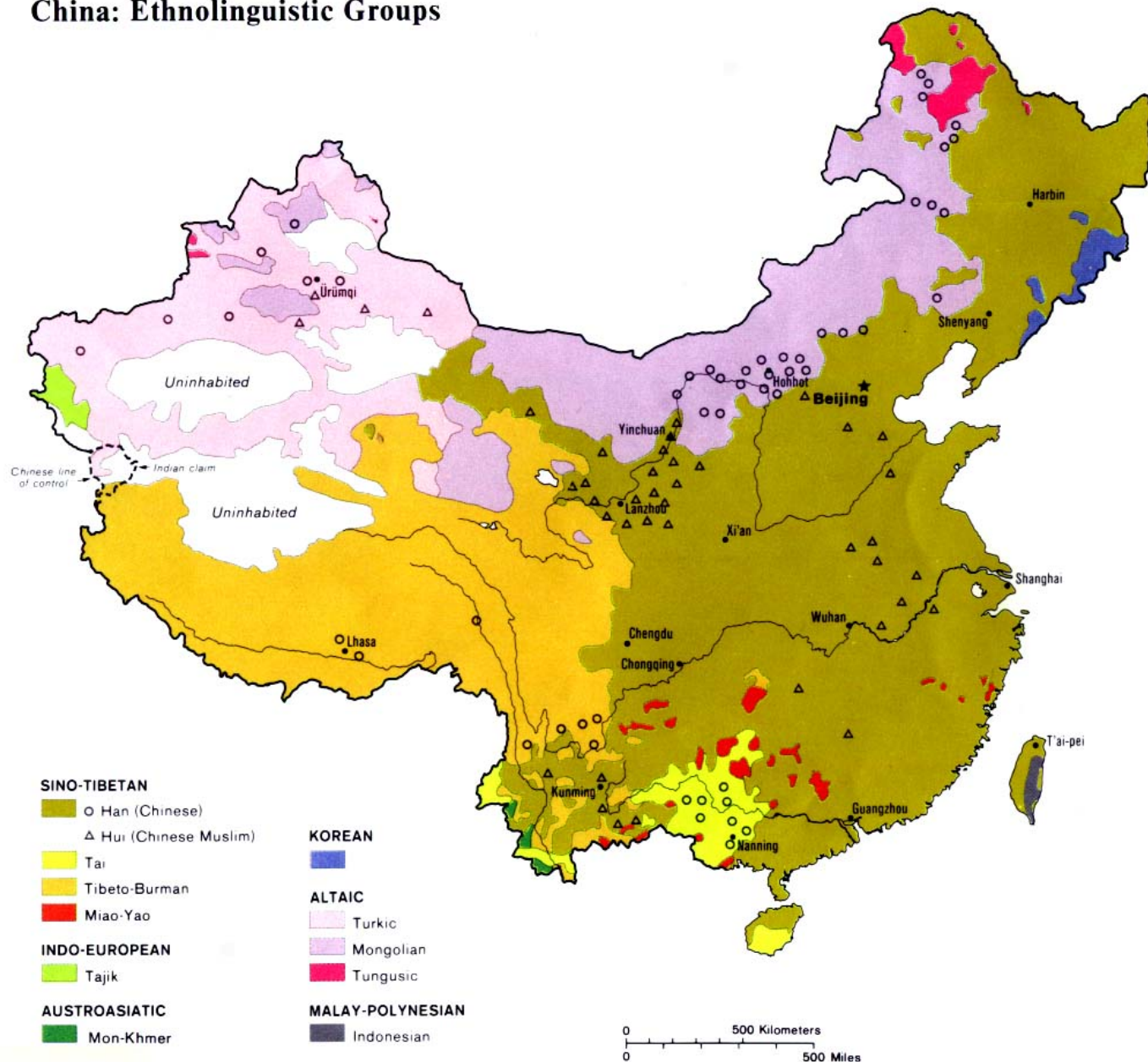
Han: 98% of Chinese

Tibetans

The People's Republic of China

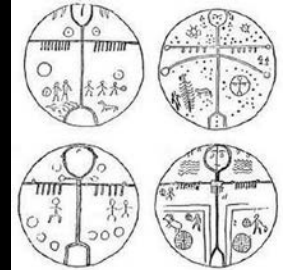
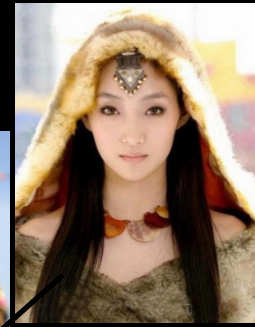
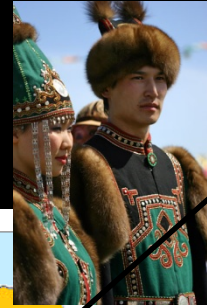
56 recognized ethnicities

China: Ethnolinguistic Groups



just a side note...

Turkic Peoples



... more than %70 speak Turkic lang.

Kazakhstan and China are separated by the Tian Shan Mountains.



Tengri Sky Father





Turkestanis



Mongolians



Manchurians



Han: 98% of Chinese



Tibetans

The People's Republic of China

56 recognized ethnicities



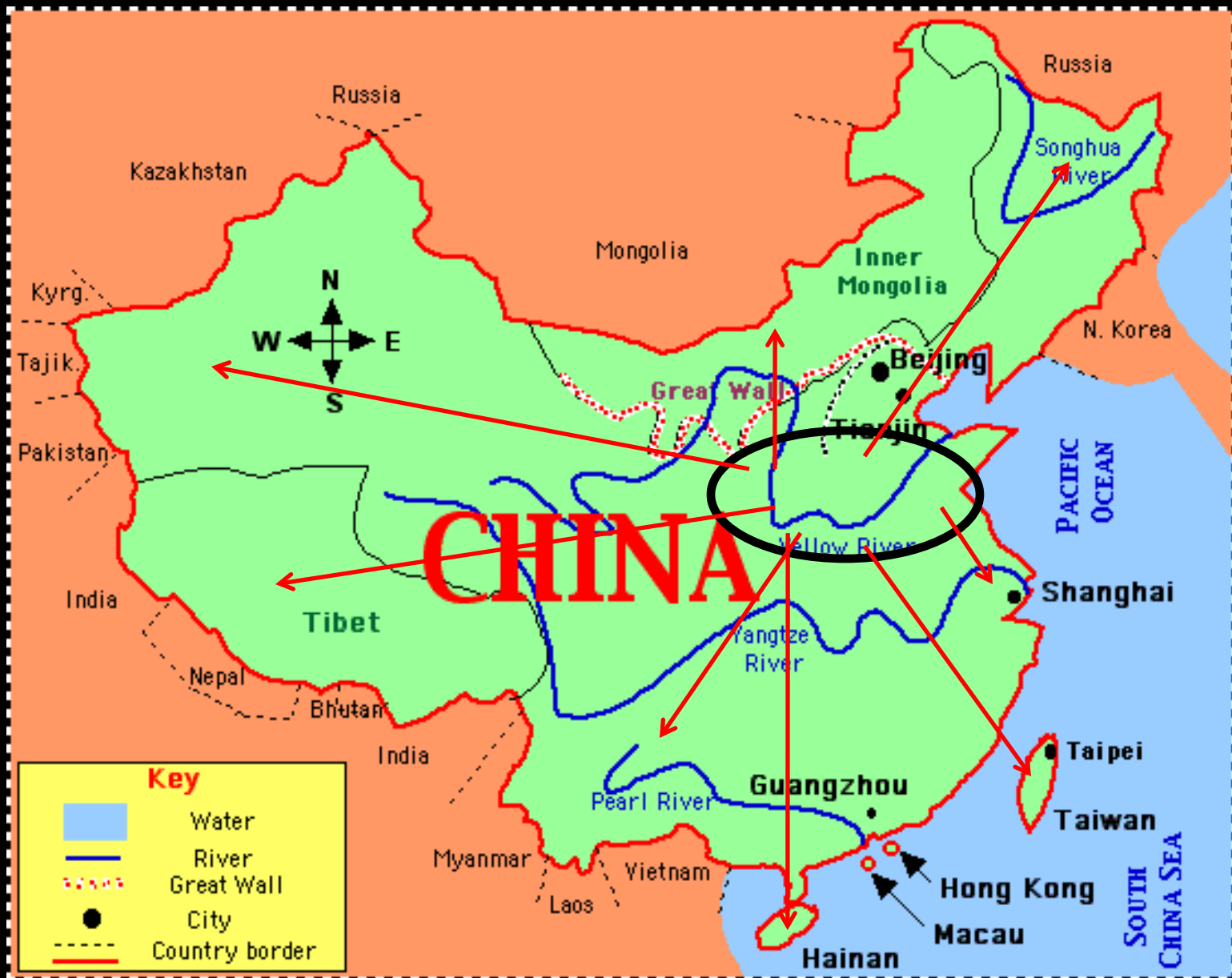
The Han people originated with the Huaxia tribes along the Yellow River and now make up nearly a quarter (22%) of the of the world's population.

traditional Han clothing and pa



REVIEW A

Origins of Chinese Civilization



The Yellow and Yangtze Rivers are the major rivers of the north and south in China.
 The ancient Han Civilization began near the big bend of the Yellow River
 with the tribes of the Huaxia.

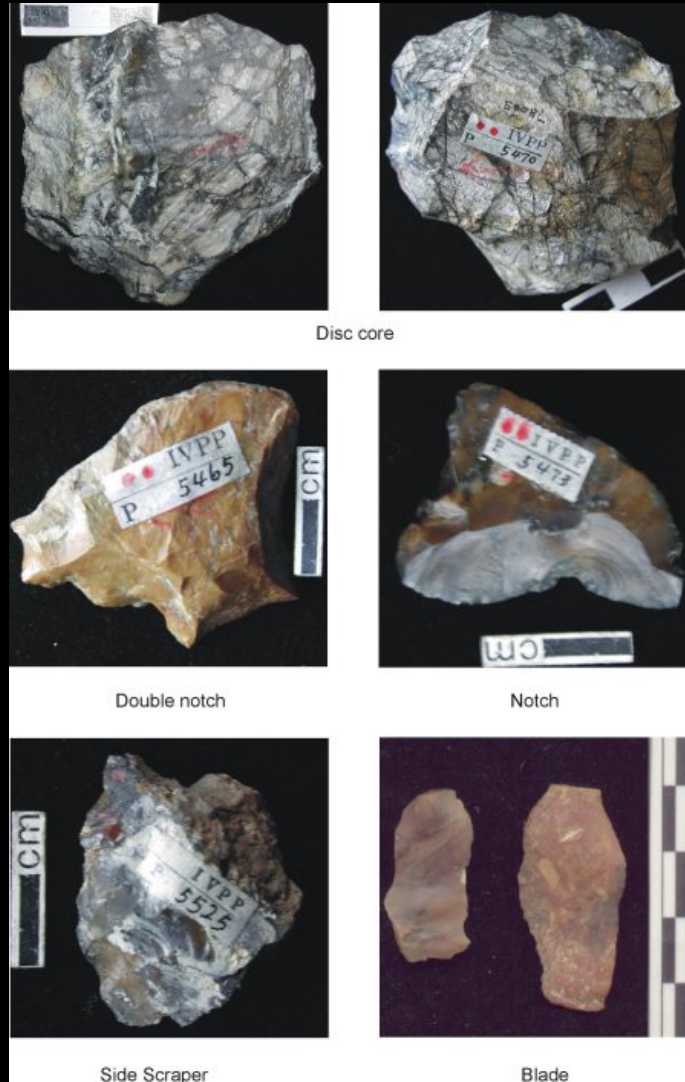


The Mother River statue erected along the banks of the Yellow River

Paleolithic Period



The "Peking Man" was discovered in 1929.



Homo Erectus arrived in the Yellow Sea region almost a million years ago.

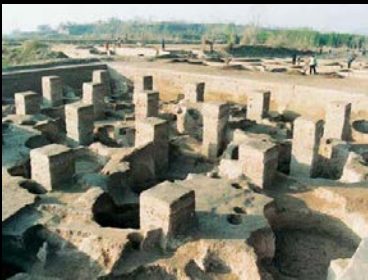
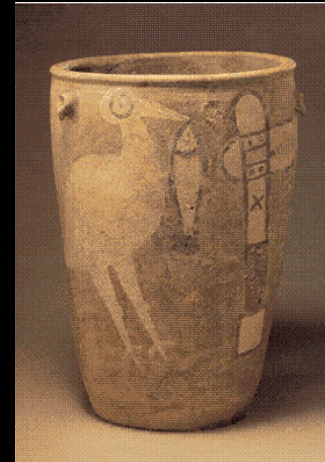
Neolithic Period



The Jiahu began growing and grinding millet about 7000 BC. There was some rice cultivation as well.



The Jiahu Culture also made flutes and had one of the earliest forms of writing in the world (right). It lasted from about 7000-5700BC. This was followed by the rise of the Yangshao Culture (5000-3000BC), and the Longshan Culture (3000-2000BC). It's during the Longshan period that the legendary kings called the Flame and Yellow emperors would have lived.



Most of the items on this page are dated from about 6,000-4,000 BC

Myths and Legends of Ancient China



The Kunlun Mountains are the home of the gods.

AXIS MUNDI (Latin): cosmic center



Peach Tree on Kunlun is the Tree of Life

Xi Wang Mu: Queen Mother of the West



Worship of this Mother Goddess
goes back at least to the 15th-c BC

Myths and Legends of Ancient China



Fu Xi and Nuwa
Great Flood



I Ching



Fu Xi is said to have originated the principles of the *I Ching*.

Nuwa

1. patched the slit in the sky with 5 colored stones, and
- 2.. created the Han people out of the yellow earth.

Gonggong, a sea dragon had created the hole.

FLAME (possibly lived as early as 3100 BC)

3000 BC 2600 BC

Myths and Legends of Ancient China



Father of Chinese Agriculture and Medicine



Shennong, The Divine Farmer
The 1st Flame Emperor (Yan Di)



Sheep's Head Mountain
in the Shan Xi Province

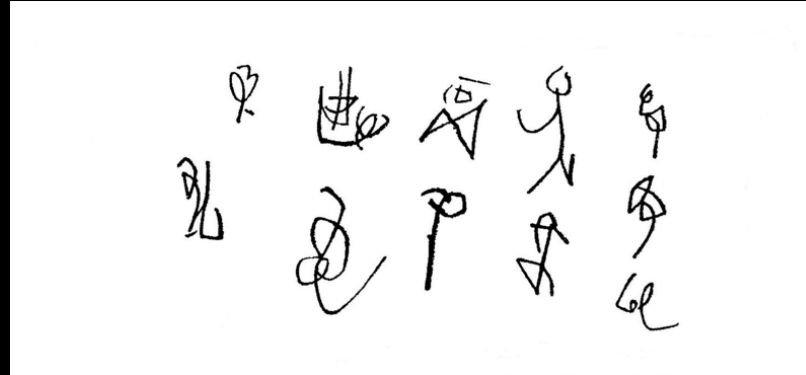
YELLOW (reign and calendar began in 2698)

3000 BC 2600 BC

Myths and Legends of Ancient China



Gōngsūn Xuānyuán
The Yellow Emperor
(Huang Di)
Father
of
Chinese
Civilization



Ancient Characters
from Dingong in
Shandong Province

WRITING

The Yellow Emperor
assigned Cang Jie the task of
developing China's first writing system



**SILK
PRODUCTION**



Guqin

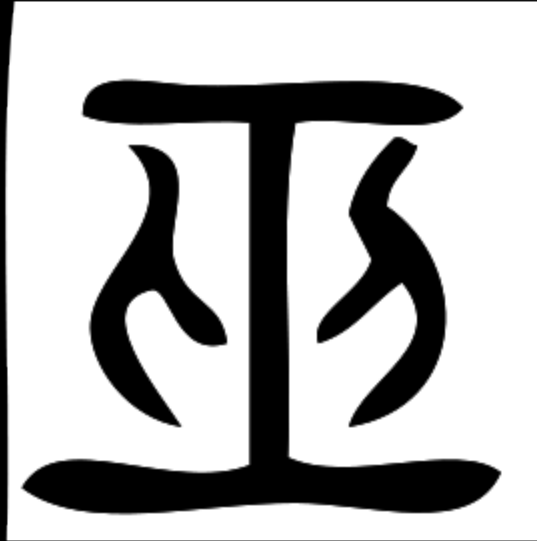
MUSIC

REVIEW B

Roots of Chinese Religion

巫

Wuism



Last Oroqen Shaman



Chinese religion began with Wuism. A Wu is a Shaman. And even Church Taoism honors the Shaman goddess Xi Wangmu

Genesis 1: 1-2



“¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. “



The Wu Chi, or CHAOS



ORDER:
The Tai Chi, or Supreme Ultimate

individual things emerged in a



harmonious balance of opposites

Yin and Yang

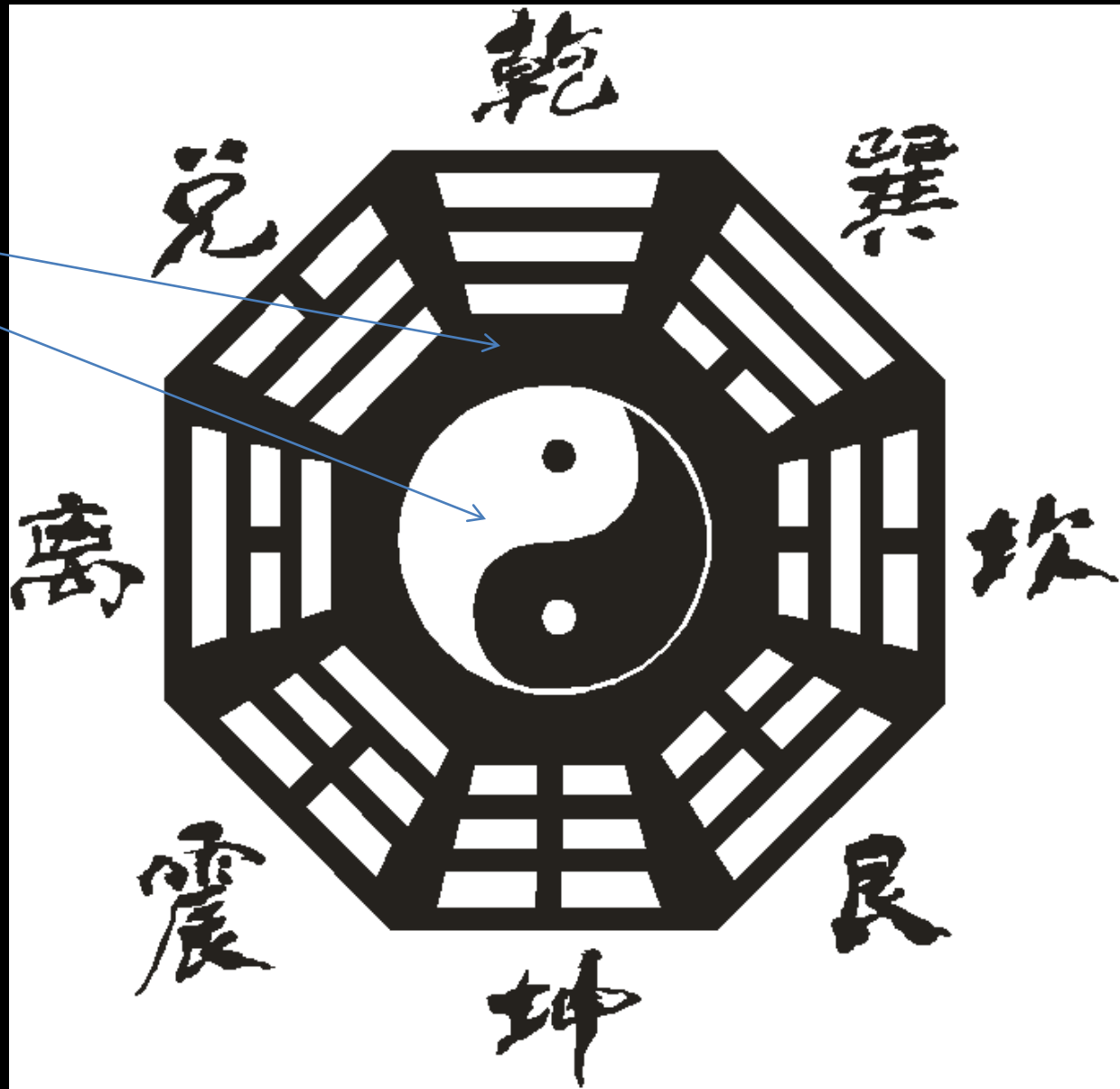
Chaos
Order:
a harmonious balance
of opposites

Wu Chi
Tai Chi

The Supreme Ultimate
The Source of Being

Ba gua: 8 trigrams
representing the
4 cardinal directions
and the elements

Maintaining
Balance and
Harmony
became an important
aspect of
Chinese religions.



Tai Chi Tu (the yin/yang symbol)

DIVINATION: divine guidance through a ritual process

destiny
chance
choice

pyromancy: divination by fire



Short and Long Sticks



Tossing
3 coins



Jiaobei blocks

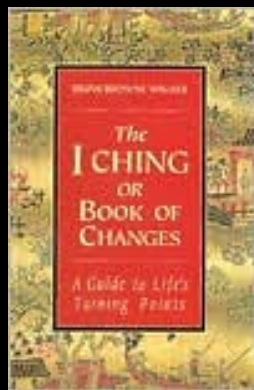
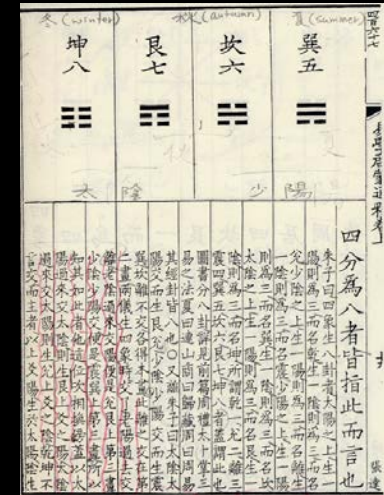
Oracle Bones
used until Shang dynasty

Oracle Blocks
after that



I Ching: Book of Changes

8 Trigrams and 64 Hexagrams



"Creativity comes from awakening and directing men's higher natures, which originate in the primal depths of the universe and are appointed by Heaven."

The *I Ching* was originally a sacred philosophical text about the nature of existence that later also became a tool of divination.

Chinese Medicine



balancing
yin
and
yang



acupuncture
improving and maintaining
the flow of chi



4

the earliest dynasties of China

XIA

3000
BC

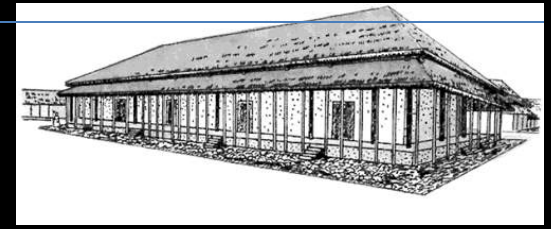
2000
BC

1600
BC

#1

Xia Dynasty

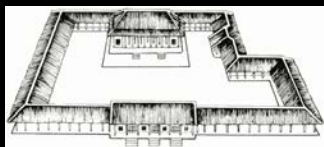
note: X denotes an 'Sh' sound



Bronze with
Jade inlay



Yu the Great



Yu became famous for controlling the flooding of the Yellow River.

SHANG

3000
BC

2000
BC

1600
BC

1000
BC

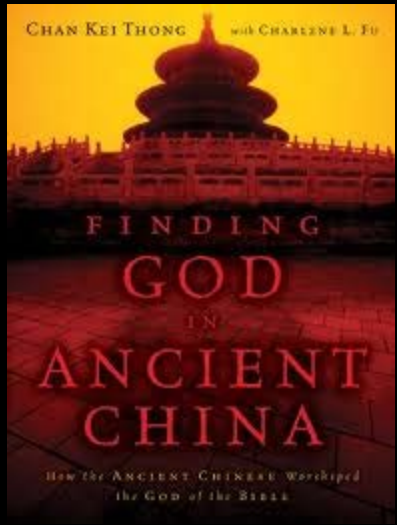
#2 Shang Dynasty



Tang, 1st Emperor of the Shang

Shang Di: Lord of Heaven

上帝



Azure Temple



Fengshan sacrifices



The Earthly Emperor was called the "Son of Heaven"

In Shandong Province

Many subsequent emperors climbed the 7200 steps of Mt. Tai.



What I like to call

“Miniature Mountains”



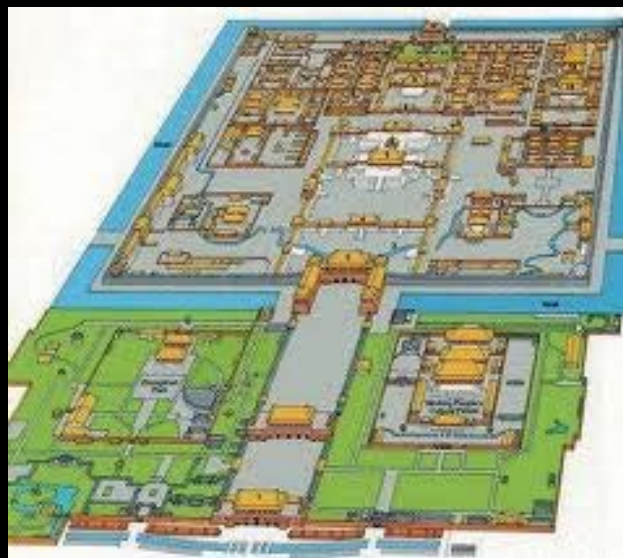
Shang Altar



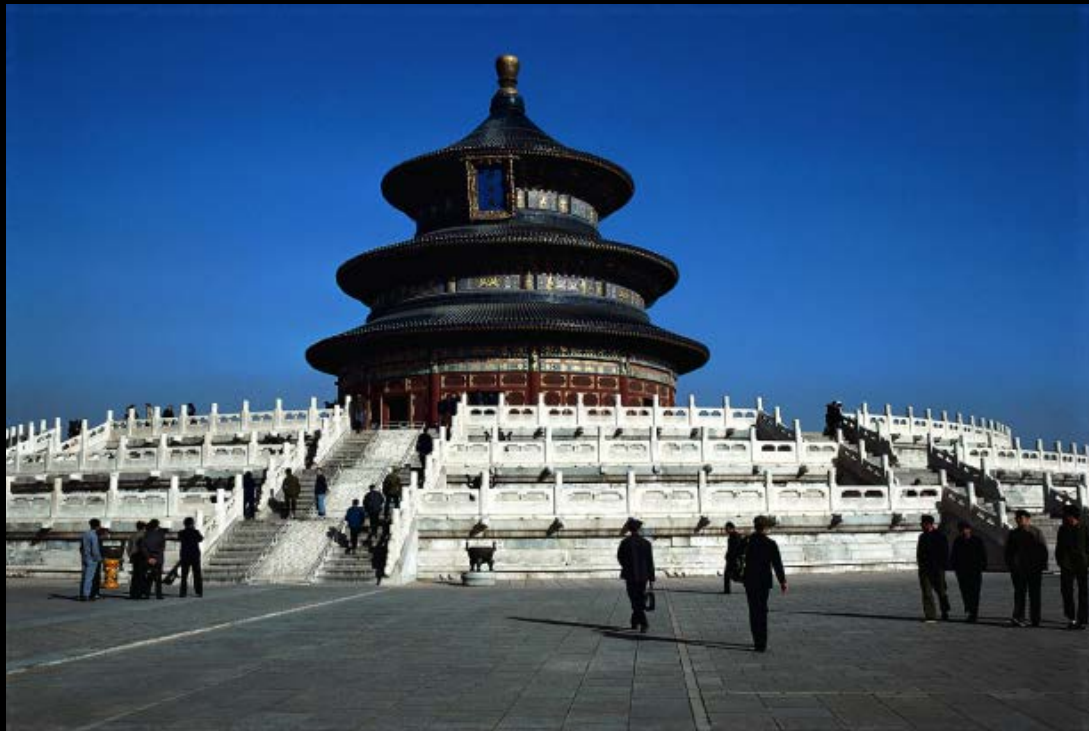
The Forbidden City



is the modern form
of Shang Di worship



Outside, offerings were made to gods of the Land (She) and Grains (Ji).



Temple of Heaven

Inside the Temple of Heaven, the Emperor worshipped Shang Di, Lord of the Heavens.



Temple of Heaven during the Lantern Festival



**The throne of Shangdi at the Temple of Heaven is empty.
No images were to be made of Shang Di.**

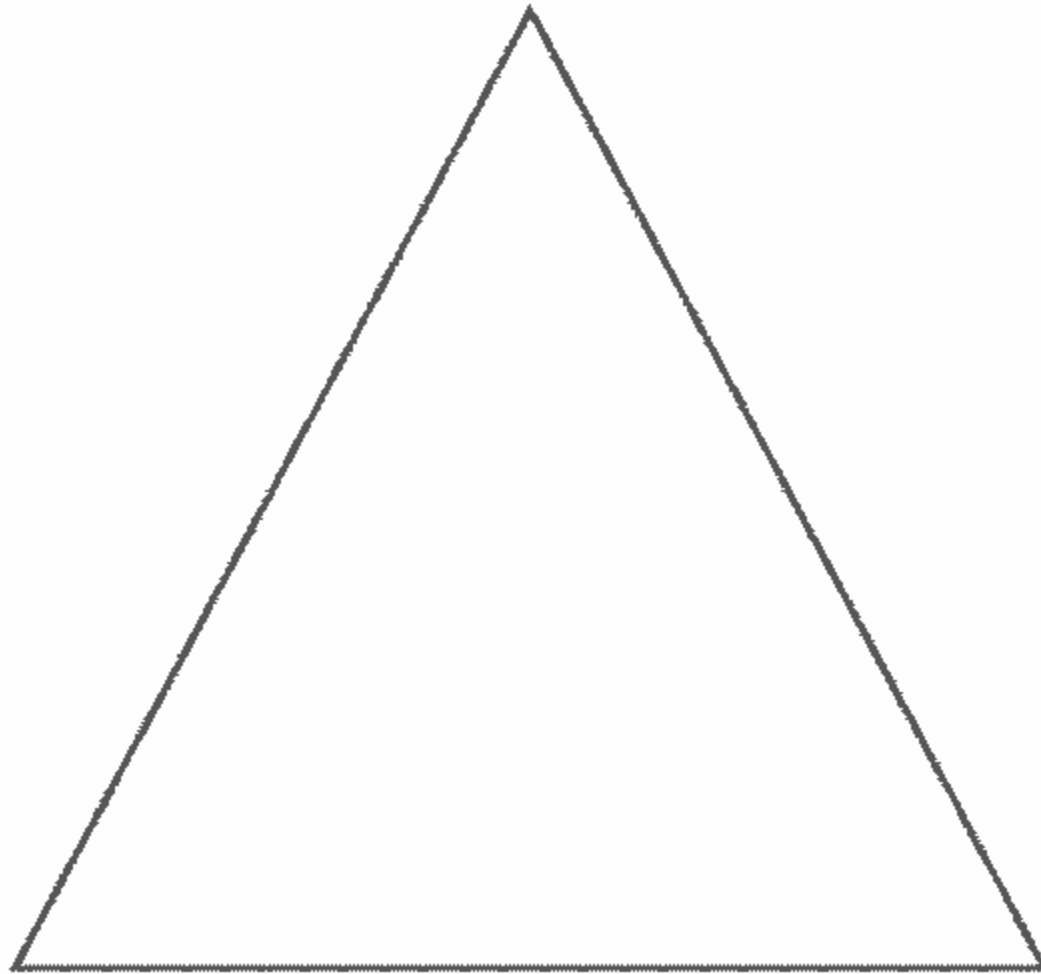
Creator/Godhead

These
gods
and
spirits
were
called

SHEN

**NATURE
SPIRITS/
GODS**

**ANCESTRAL
SPIRITS**



Great heroes, unlike common ancestors, were often thought of as shen after they died.

SHANG DI

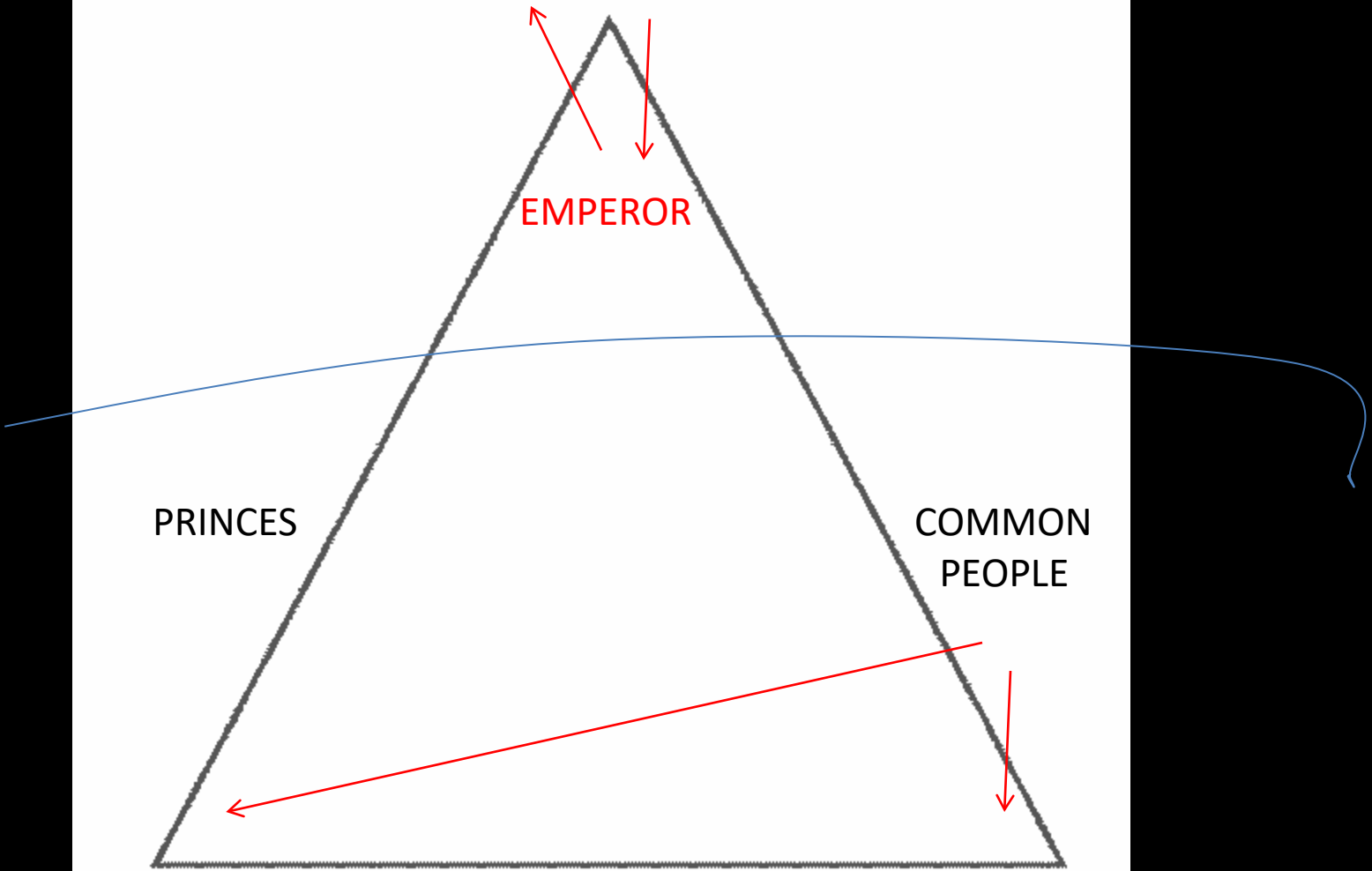
EMPEROR

PRINCES

COMMON
PEOPLE

Nature Spirits

Ancestral Spirits



5a

the period of the Hundred Philosophers

ZHOU

3000

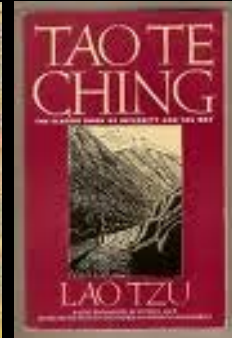
2000

1000

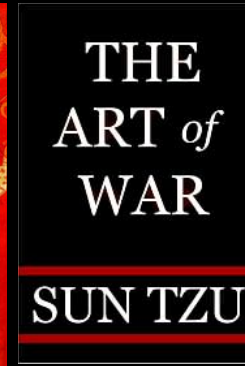
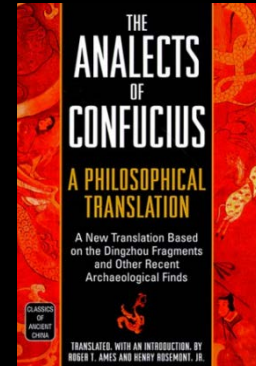
300 BC



#3 Zhou Dynasty



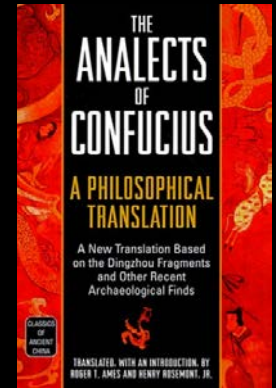
AS3353 Alamy Images





Confucius (Kung Fu Tzu)

551–478 BC



The Thinker by Rodin

Period of the Hundred Philosophers



“What happened? And how can we fix it?”

In Confucius's time, the divine was referred to as Tian more often than as Shang Di.

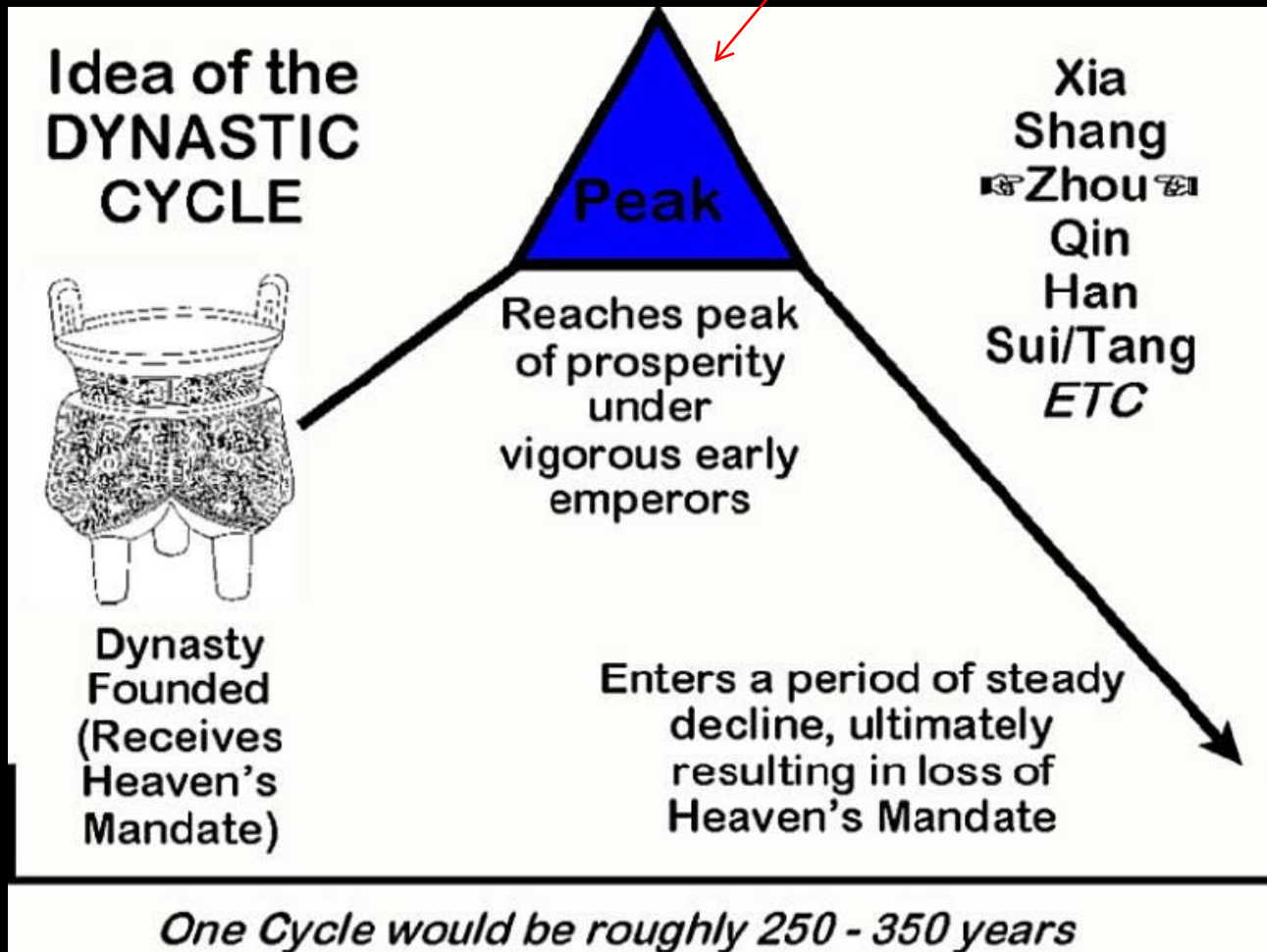


Tian: Heaven

天命

Mandate of Heaven

moral corruption



Unjust Rulers Lose the Mandate of Heaven and are overthrown.

Good leaders rise with the Mandate of Heaven

Goal:

to create a well-ordered, harmonious society



chun tzu

superior person

noble person

as in

an ideal human being

For example,

“A noble man (chun tzu) is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions.”

He was very humble:

only a teacher passing on the knowledge of the past.

Ren



The chief characteristic of a chun tzu.

WE CAN CHANGE
THE WORLD



with KINDNESS

Love
Being good to
and with Others
Humaneness
Kindness
Compassion
Benevolence

[AI-REN]

Behaving in a way that creates harmony
between you and others.



REVIEW E

Ethics



(1) DOCTRINE OF THE MEAN

Zhu Xi

Chung Yung: Being Centered (Unwobbling Pivot)

(2) SILVER RULE

Tsze-Kung asked, saying, "Is there one word which may serve as a rule of practice for all one's life?" The Master said, "Is not Reciprocity such a word? **What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.**"

Being centered involves knowing your role in society, and knowing precisely how to speak and behave.

Rectification of Names

Zi-lu said, "The ruler of Wei has been waiting for you, in order with you to administer the government. What will you consider the first thing to be done?"

The Master replied, "What is necessary to rectify names.... If names be not correct, language is not in accordance with the truth of things.

Therefore a superior man considers it necessary that the names he uses may be spoken appropriately, and also that what he speaks may be carried out appropriately. What the superior man requires is just that in his words there may be nothing incorrect."
(*Analects* XIII, 3, tr. Legge)

Li “Propriety”

Etiquette



The Five Principle Relationships



(c) www.BeijingChinaWorld.com

Li=rituals, too



Father and Son
Husband and Wife
Brothers
Friends
Ruler and Ruled



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Confucius thought the most important relationship was between parent and child.



The strength of a nation is derived from the integrity of its homes.

Confucius

The ideal parent, who attends to children's needs with love, gains natural respect.

Xiao “Filial Piety”



**Respecting and Honoring one's
Parents, Elders, and Ancestors**

This should set an example for all the other relationships, including the ruler and ruled.

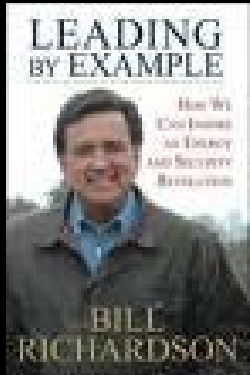
The Story of the Woman and the Tiger



Confucius sighed and turned to his disciples, "You must all remember this. An oppressive government is worse than a man-eating tiger."

- Book of Rites

Natural Leaders have TE, “The Power of Moral Example”



Yue Fei, famous Song Dynasty General



Teddy Roosevelt's
“Bully Pulpit”



“He who exercises government by means of his virtue may be compared to the north polar star, which keeps its place and all the stars turn towards it.” --Confucius



Culture:
The cultivation
of character.

WEN “Culture”



Yi Jing: The Book of Changes

The Five Classics



Music



Poetry

History



Chinese
Poetry



Rites

REVIEW F