

Readings: Day 4 = chap 5 p.90-97; chap 2 p.31-37

## China

- Life in China began in a river valley

- Huang-ho

- “China’s Sorrow”

## Longshan, or Black Pottery

- Chinese Neolithic people

- Domesticated pigs and dogs

- Cultivated millet

- Ornate pottery jars

- Using bronze

- Unique dwellings

- Large-scale silk production

- Existence of specialized classes
  
- Emerged from Neolithic period in 2205 BC
  
- Xia (Hsia) Dynasty (2205-1766 BC)
  - Yu the Great
  
  - Emperor Shun
  
  - Erlitou
  
  - G'ich/Jié was overthrown by Tang the Victorious

#### Shang Dynasty (1766-1050BC)

- Laid foundation of China.
  - *Zhongguo* – “the Middle Kingdom”
  
- Shang kings exploited religion
  - Kings viewed as high priests

- Not divine
- Ruled with consent of Council of Great and Small
- Emperor Huangdi
- The Council served *T'ien*
- *T'ien ming*
- Both animals and humans were sacrificed
- Lesser levels of society also worshipped own local gods

— Majority of pop = peasants

- Farming = primitive
- Cultivated fields using Neolithic farming techniques

— Family

- Chief source of well being for an individual

- Society was patriarchal
- Men usually governed all aspects of women's lives

— Last Shang king, Hsin (Xin) overthrown by the Zhou

The Zhou (1050-221BC)

— Led by Wuwang

- Dynastic Circle

- Wuwang charged :

— 1) Hsin failed to rule fairly or wisely, &

— 2) that *T'ien* gave him mandate to replace Shang

- Introduced a new aspect to Chinese thought

- Sons of heaven

— Dynasty was longest in Chinese history

- Dynasty divided: 1050-771BC Eastern Zhou; 771-221BC Western Zhou

— Zhou kings setup feudalism

- Gave local authority & land
- ~50 nobles entered into a contract w/ king
- Held position “at will”
- Sometimes vassals received hereditary power
- Others had to renew contract
- Peasants viewed as part of property

— Early Zhou kings were strong leaders

- Zhou capital = Hàojīng
- Complacency set in
- Vassals became more independent

- Court officials increased influence
- Granted privileges associated with nobles
- 771 BC alliance of disloyal vassals & barbarians destroyed capital; killed king (**Yu**)
  - Louyang
  - Several mini-states began asserting themselves.
  - Period of Warring States
  - Zhou removed by the Qin
- Zhou period = strongest period of material & cultural progress
  - Mastered use of iron
  - In agriculture
  - Large-scale irrigation & water control projects

- Money
  
  - Massive canals
  
  - Merchant & artisan classes
  
  - Division between kings/nobility & mass of people increased
- 
- Emergence of a group of teachers & philosophers
    - the Hundred Schools
- 
- Confucianism
    - Developed by K'ungfutzū
  
    - concerned with behavior of man to man & w/ organization of government
  
    - Composed or edited 13 texts - Confucian Classics
  
    - Analects

- Gathered disciples
- Created a class of ideal gentlemen (*junzi*)
- Moderation of all things & hierarchy of superior-inferior relationships
- Everyone had to be aware of proper place & responsibility to those above & below
- 5 basic relationships
- Ideal model was family
- Even an evil ruler should be obeyed
- Ideal ruler devoted to truth & justice
- Confucius on women
- Core of Confucian thought: “Do not...what you would not...”
- Tried to make each individual a moral being
- Confucius’s teachings became basic training for members of civil service



## — Taoism

- Teachings of Lao-tzu
- Means “the path”
- Confucius defined Tao as standard of ethics
- Lao-tzu believed Tao was course of nature
- Goal of Taoism could be achieved by living in conformity w/ nature
- Concept of *wu-wei*
- Nonassertive or spontaneous life
- All things in nature work silently
- Thus, Taoism is more philosophical than religious
- Both philosophies – Confucianism & Taoism - often viewed as complimentary

— School of Law – Legalism

- Had no single founder
  
- Was a value system
  
- Emphasized importance of harsh & inflexible law
  
- Believed people only acted good when they were forced to do so
  
- Believed power of a ruler had to be enhanced
  
- Goal = creation of a centralized state