

- The Zhou Dynasty
 - 1046BC, Wu seized control of China
 - Declared self – *wang*
 - Launches 3rd dynasty
 - Declares self – “Son of Heaven”
 - Claims “mandate”
 - NOTE: rulers could lose mandate
 - Unique concept = Dynastic Circle
 - Wu claims Hsin lost mandate; justifies overthrow
 - NOTE: precedent lasts into 20th Century AD
 - Zhou control kingdom via hereditary monarchy
 - Establish “feudal” system
 - Some vassals received hereditary power
 - Early Zhou kings = strong leaders
 - Succession of weak kings = reduction in throne’s power
 - Vassals use new military tech
 - Court officials also increase influence
 - 771BC, royal power disappeared
 - Vassals align with barbarians
 - Capital destroyed; King Yu killed
 - Ping moves capital

- Shift marks beginning of gradual decline Zhou authority
 - Warring States Period begins 481BC
- Two significant philosophical movements appear
 - 1st = Confucianism
 - Developed by K'unfutzu aka Confucius
 - Philosophy aims to end fighting
 - Primary focus = achieving harmony & balance.
 - @ core = 5 basic relationships
 - Ideal model = family
 - Core = “do NOT do to others what you would NOT want done to yourself”
 - To achieve, each individual must be “moral” being
 - Ex. Ideal ruler = *Sheng*
 - Ex. Ideal man = *Junzi*
 - Women did not fare well
 - 2nd = School of Law (aka Legalism)
 - No single founder; not school
 - Primary focus = harsh inflexible law code
 - Means = all powerful ruler
 - NOTE: legalism = “absolute monarchy”
 - Would be driving force to end Warring States
- Rise of Qin begins 352BC

- Qin = 1 of 7 major states
 - Xiaogong selects Shang Yang to be minister
 - Lord Shang = advocate of Legalism
 - Implements reforms
 - Focus = *dang fa* & *yi min*
 - Military reforms
 - Lays foundation for future
- Accomplished by Ying Zheng
 - Easily defeats Warring States
 - Takes title - Qin Shih Huangdi
- Centralizes authority over empire
 - Made multiple steps to achieve
 - Move leading nobles to capital
 - Disarmed entire civilian population
 - Replaced all local laws w/ single, harsh law code
 - Divides population into groups of 10 families
 - Divides realm into 40 provinces
 - Appoints generals loyal to him to govern
 - Imposes two of Lord Shang's reforms on all of China
- THEN transformed very nature of China.
 - Engages in public works projects

- Implements universal spoken language
 - Standardized weights & measurements
 - Removed trade restrictions
 - Imposes intellectual conformity
 - Most lasting accomplishment = his tomb
- Emperor's demise was far from August.
- He feared death; sought immortality
 - Dies on inspection tour
- Issue = no will
- Succession = complicated
 - Li Si hides truth
 - Conspires against eldest son – Fusu
 - Has younger son crowned - Qin Er Shi
- Qin Er Shi = inept
- Zhao Gao takes control
 - Triggers rebellions
 - Worst defeat = Battle of Julu
 - Qin Er Shi commits suicide
- Civil war erupts
- Qin defeated by Liu Bang
 - Liu Bang founds new dynasty

- Adopts name Han Gaozu

- Han Dynasty
 - Han Gaozu remains man of people
 - He & successors sought empire/power similar to Qin
 - Yet, Han = moderate; gradual
 - Appease former vassals of Shih Huangdi
 - Reestablish Zhou feudalism
 - Reduce peasant discontent
 - Boosts economy
 - Master stroke = enlist Confucian intellectuals
 - Create examination system
 - Focus = Four Books and Five Classics of Confucianism
 - Exams “open” to all Chinese men
 - Bureaucrats generally from landowner class
 - Highest positions become semi-hereditary
 - High point of Han = reign of Wu Ti
 - Primary concern = conquest
 - Put burden on peasants
 - Result = builds massive armies
 - Unleashes armies; conquest western fringes
 - NOTE: Turkish speaking nomads = Xiongnu

- Reinstates wall-building
- Drives Xiongnu out of Asia
- Simultaneously conquers S. Manchuria & N. Korea
- Also drives southwards
- And, he also sights southwards
- Wu Ti's reign = *Pax Sinica*
 - NOTE: Shorter than *Pax Romana*
- Troubles from weak rulers
 - Greatest challenge = emperor's vast family
- Emperor Cheng died heirless
 - Dynasty – spirals out of control
 - Grand Empress Dowager Wang positions clan
 - Selects Ai to be emperor; dies heirless
 - Empress appoints Wang Mang minister
 - Then selects Ping to be emperor
 - Wang murders; then blocks Ruzi
- Wang Mang seizes control of empire (Xin Dynasty)
 - Goal = rejuvenation of society
 - Tries to improve life of peasants
 - Tries to solve economic problems
 - Reforms blocked by bureaucracy

- Han reinstated to throne
- Eastern Han do not equal Western Han
- End comes quickly
 - Taoist extremists – Yellow Turbans - trigger rebellions
 - FYI: Taoism = another philosophical movement
 - Founder = Lao-tzu
 - Focus = “the path”
 - Heart = *we-wei*
 - Condemns gov’t meddling in life
 - Yellow Turban movement triggered by agrarian crisis
 - Leaders use Taoism to justify rebellion
 - Rebellion + famines + floods + chaos = landowners form private militias
 - Han gov’t unable to react
 - Xian forced to abdicate
 - Empire shatters
- Marks beginning of Three Kingdoms period
 - Warring states reappear
 - It = bloodiest period in Chinese history
 - 3 major kingdoms emerge – Wei, Shu, Wu
 - Jin Dynasty lasts until 420AD
 - NOTE: Dynastic circle again reset

- Han = most significant dynasty
 - Chinese call themselves *Han Ren*
 - Scholarship flourishes under Han
 - Han art = highly realistic
 - Han technology = surpassed levels of rest of world
 - Most significant Han accomplishment = Silk Road

- NOTE: Dynastic Circle cannot be stopped

- Dynastic Circle continues
 - “Middle Ages” = Three Kingdoms period
 - Origins = Three Kingdoms = Wei, Shu, & Wu
 - Each ruled by Han relative
 - 1st to fall = Shu by Wei
 - Then Wei by Jin
 - Then Wu by Jin
 - Jin control = short; chaos continues
 - Collapse triggered by barbarians
 - Lost north to Xi’andbei (aka Northern Wei)
 - Rule south until 420
 - Northern Wei lasts longer
 - » It = 1st non-Chinese dynasty
 - » “Sinification”

» Irony = fall for same reasons

— Southern China = Six Dynasty period

— During chaos, Chinese seek salvation

- For some = Mahayana Buddhism

- Mahayana = “Great Vehicle”

- » Commoners = path to Nirvana

- » Teachers = Bodhisattva

- Challenge = foreign ideas conflict with Chinese

- Monks had to “Sinify”

- » Ex. Genders

- Buddhist “nonviolence” = good for some

- Most = want powerful ruler

- Sui Dynasty

- Parallel to Qin

- Sui accomplishments

- Civil works programs

- “Equal field” system

- Collective responsibility

- Used Wang Mang’s “leveling”

- Unified bureaucracy

- Reestablished militias

- Successful conquerors
- Greatest mistake = patrons of Buddhism
- Result = anger all classes
- 617 = widespread uprising
 - Most significant led by Li Yuan
 - Marches on capital of Chang'an
 - Abducts prince Gong
 - Proclaims him emperor
 - Army mutinies; murders Emperor = Yang
 - Li Yuan deposes Gong; founds dynasty
 - NOTE: Dynastic Circle turns again
- T'ang Dynasty
 - Parallel to Han
 - 1st few emperors = conquerors
 - Added territory = impacts China
 - Li Yuan's rule = brief
 - Deposed by son - T'ai-tsung
 - T'ang T'ai-tsung = great ruler
 - Goal = solve internal problems
 - Reforms
 - » Creates Chinese government system

- It = hierarchy
- Emperor => 3 Councils => provincial gov'ts
- Councils = State, Military, & Censorate
- » Tries to quash clash conflict
- » Imperial exams reestablished
- Efforts = trigger boom
- Most interesting = Wu Zeitan
 - Wu Zeitan = concubine of Gaozong
 - » Took control of government
 - » Deposes own son (Ruizong)
 - » Declares herself = emperor
 - Title = Holy Mother Imperial One
 - Reforms & conquests
 - Viewed as woman; usurper
 - Overthrown; Ruizong restored
- Xuanzong = high point of T'ang
 - Perfected Chinese centralized government
 - Divides China into 15 provinces
 - Military = collection taxed & tribute
 - Launched census for land reform

- Downsizes imperial government
- Invests in society
 - » Massive civil works projects
 - » Opens capital (Chang-an) to outsiders
 - » Triggers cultural boom
 - » New production techniques
 - » Urban centers expand
 - » Merchant class expands
- Yet, Dynastic Circle always turning
 - T'ang decline begins 8th century
 - Parallels all dynasty
 - Barbarians
 - + Corruption
 - + Warlords
 - + Rebellions
 - + Education system declines
 - + Weak emperors
 - Result = collapse
 - Triggers another 100 years of chaos/civil war
 - RE: Period of Five Dynasties & Ten Kingdoms
 - Dynastic cycle repeats over & over until 1912