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Chapter 2 Reading Questions
Mr. Stenger's AP World History

1. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of classical Chinese society.
 - A. When the primitive society of early China moved to the more classical society, several changes were made. Once a central beurocracy was made and China was at least partially unified, specialization could happen and scholars could come out of the woodwork. This caused a massive leap forward in technology, science, and the arts. The only disadvantages are due to this new political structure, including a weak government or conflicting philosophical ideologies.
2. Trace the rise of Confucianism.
 - A. Confucius came up with the idea of Confucianism during the Zhou dynasty, where all ideals were practiced. Since all three ideologies were clashing, Confucianism couldn't thrive. It was then banned in the Qin dynasty under Legalism. In the Han dynasty, they wanted their people to flourish and work in government. So, they promoted Confucianism and this caused it to spread all over China.
3. Identify the ways that Confucian philosophy supported the political structure in China.
 - A. Since the political structure in China was drifting away from totalitarianism, the Han dynasty wanted the best and brightest to become civil servants and take their test. The best way to do this was to make them comfortable and allow scholars to emerge from all classes. Encouraging Confucianism helped the useful people come out of the woodwork.
4. Summarize why bureaucracy developed in classical China.
 - A. Bureaucracy developed in China because in order to truly unify China, more than one absolute ruler was necessary. It made them more efficient at coordinating large amounts of money and civil servants. They also had many different channels of control to keep their empire in check.
5. How was China able to accept two major belief systems, Confucianism and Daoism?
 - A. It came after a time of brutality and war, and both of these involved peace and harmony, and only disagreed on minor things. This was enough for the Chinese people, who were tired of their previous legalistic society. Confucianism was also more of a form of government than an ideology (like Daoism) so they could coexist.