

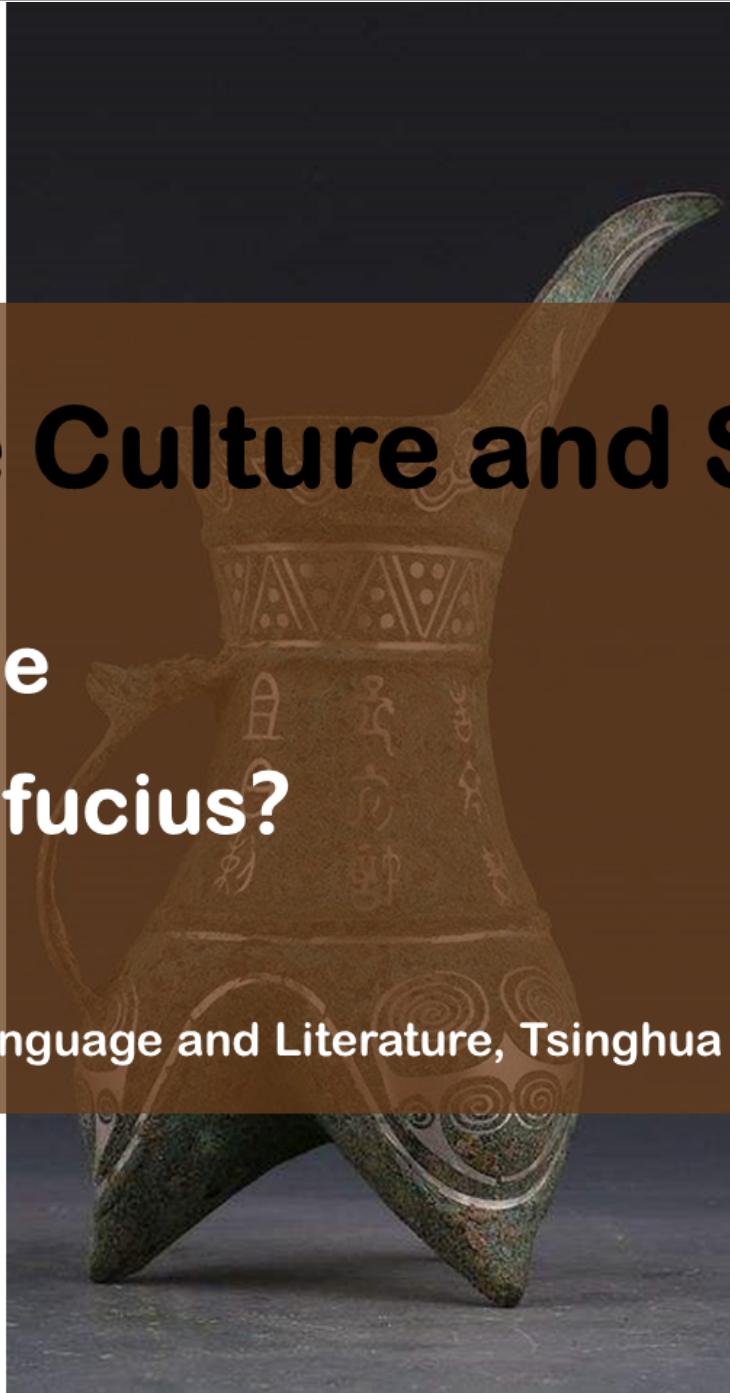
Chinese Culture and Society

Lecture One

Who is Confucius?

GAO Jin, Lecturer

Dept. of Chinese Language and Literature, Tsinghua University



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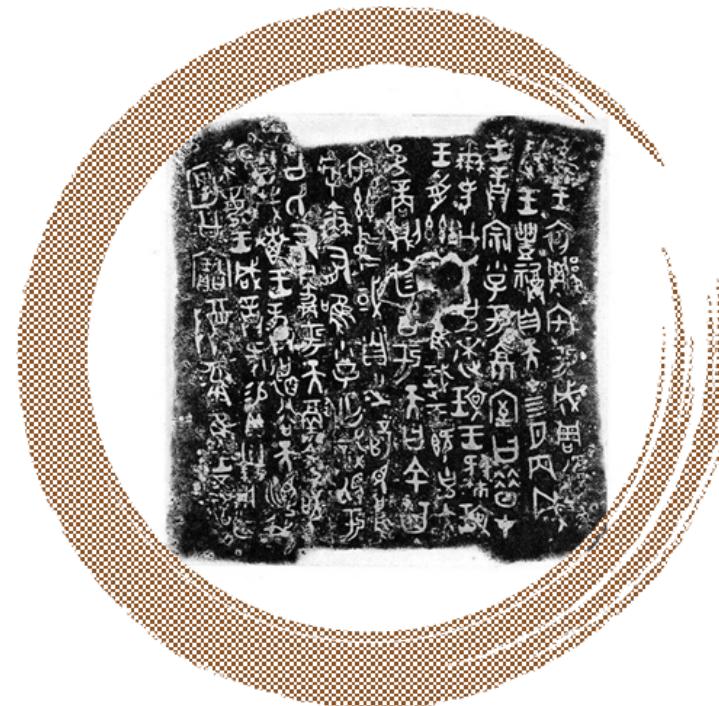
Dao of Confucius

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Music and Ritual



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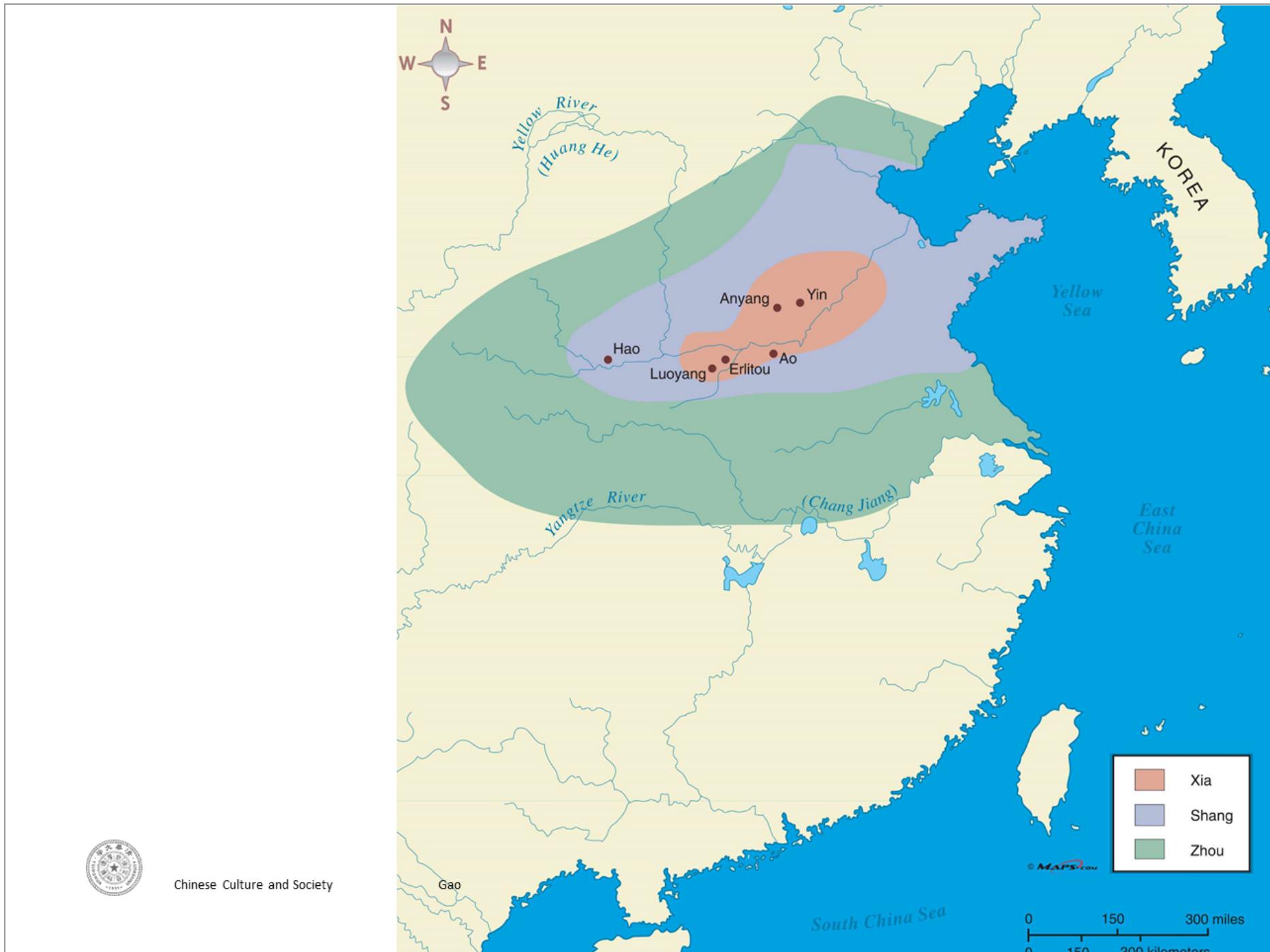
Music and Ritual



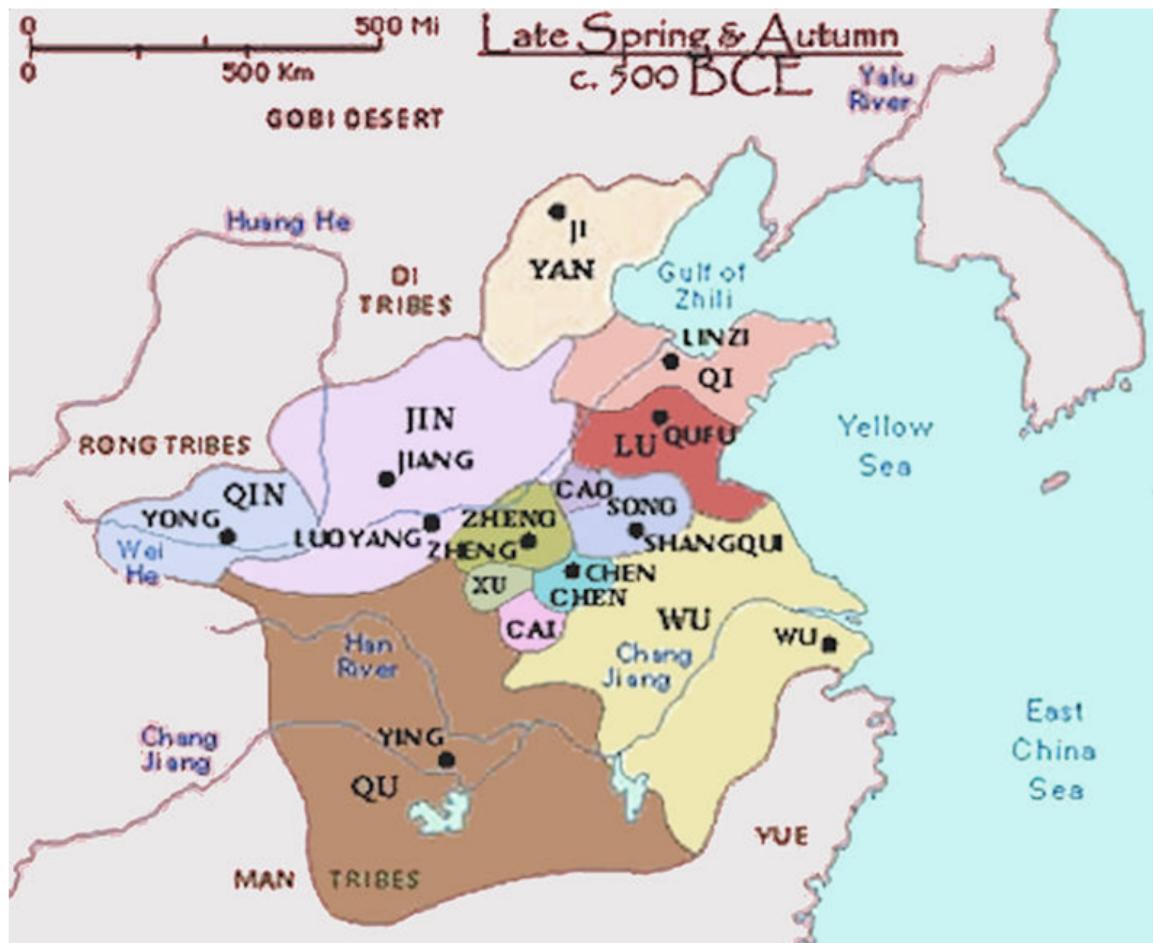
Xia, Shang, Zhou Chronology

2070-1600 BC	Xia Dynasty		
1800-1046 BC	Shang Dynasty		
1046-249 BC	Zhou Dynasty	Western Zhou 1046-770 BC	
		Eastern Zhou 770-249 BC	Autumn and Spring 770-476 BC
			Warring States 475-221 BC





Late Spring and Autumn Map



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Seven Largest States



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Karl Jaspers (1883-1969): The Axial Age

“The period around 500 BC, in the spiritual process that occurred between 800 and 200 BC”

Karl Jaspers, *Vom Ursprung und Ziel der Geschichte* (1949);
The Origin and Goal of History, 1953)

The greatest single turning point in world history so far as things of the mind (Geist) are concerned.



Karl Jaspers (1883-1969): The Axial Age

“

What is new about this age ... is that man becomes conscious of Being as a whole, of himself and his limitations. ... He asks radical questions. ... By consciously recognising his limits he sets himself the highest goals. ...

In this age were born the fundamental categories within which we still think today, and the beginnings of the world religions, by which human beings still live, were created. The step into universality was taken in every sense (Jaspers, 2).



Warring States Social Condition: War and Strife



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Shaanxi Musuem

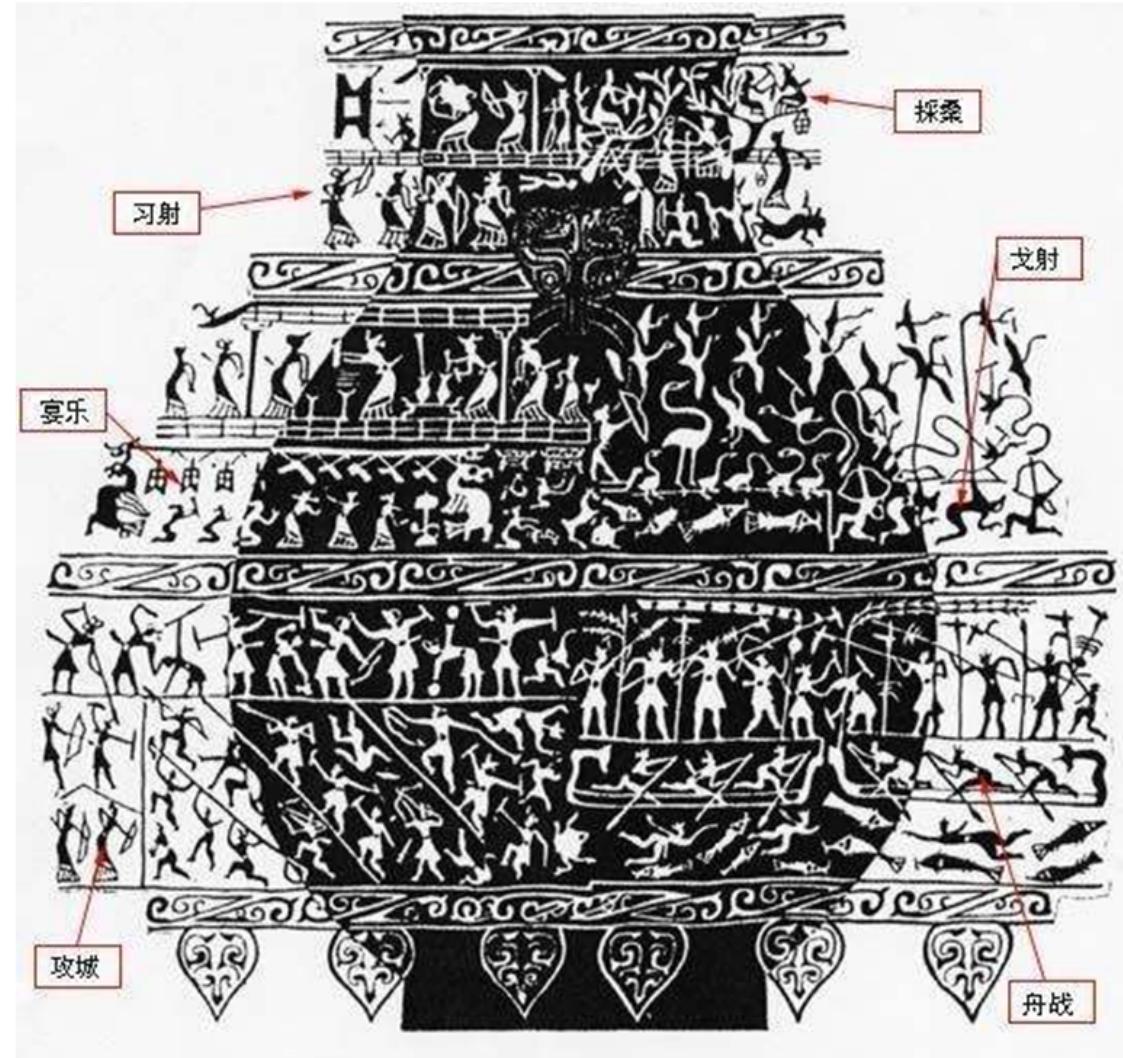
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Warring States Social Condition



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Warring States Social Condition: Prosperity



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Warring States Social Condition: Prosperity

Crystal and agate necklace

Warring States

Hunan Museum

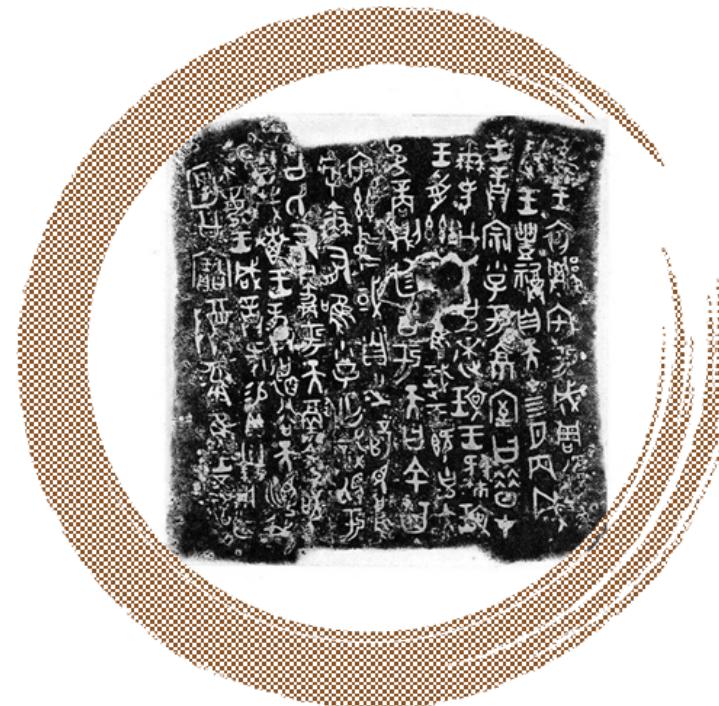


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Types of writing in Ancient China

- **Daily usage:** written on softer materials such as bamboo strips and silk
 - Hard to preserve, most discovered in the past 30 years
- **Monumental usage:** bronze, ceramic, stone, bone (inlayed, casted, carved etc)
 - Easier to preserve



Types of writing in Ancient China

- bamboo strips



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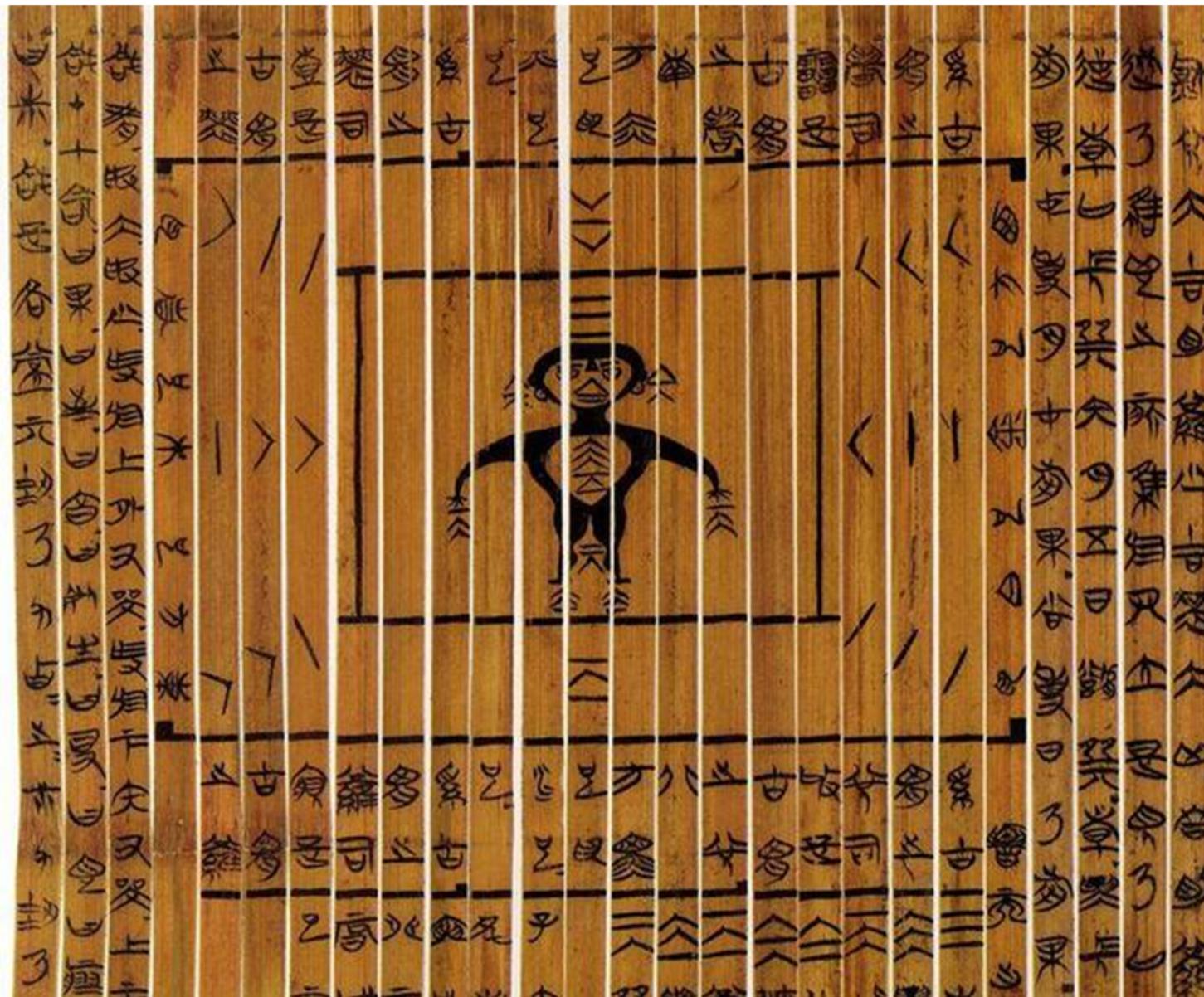
王曰勘姦御吳亡國余弗造民庚余亦夏窮亡可事余一人無盡夕【一】

雖卽庭園才慕余亦聞于四方忘賢亡讀甚至我邦之若否享少大命轉余【二】

清华大学藏西汉竹简(图)·清华

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Bamboo Strips in Tsinghua Collection



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Warring States: The Chu Silk Manuscripts



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Transformation of Scripts

Oracle Bone Script

- Shang Dynasty (c. 1600-1046 BC)
- Zhou Dynasty (1046-249 BC)

Bronze Inscription

- Later Shang dynasty
- Zhou Dynasty (more common)

Small Seal

- Qin Dynasty (221 BC- 21 AD)

甲骨文	水	土	天
金文大篆	水	土	天
小篆	水	土	天

水

土

天

water earth heaven



Variations of Scripts



“Sheep” in bronze inscriptions



Bronze Vessels



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Bronze Vessels



- Aversion to verisimilitude
- Bulging dots: probably represent animal eyes

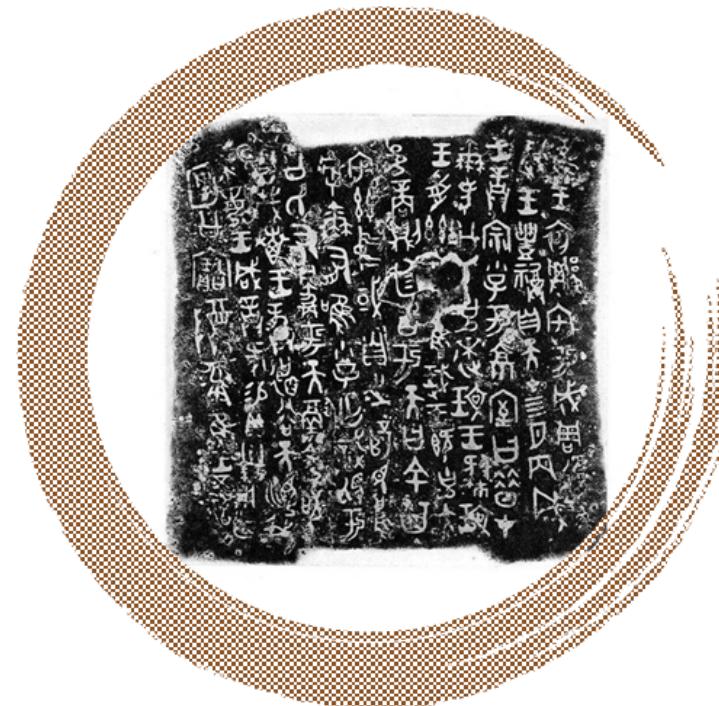


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Confucius and the Dao of Benevolence

仁 (rén)

body (person)

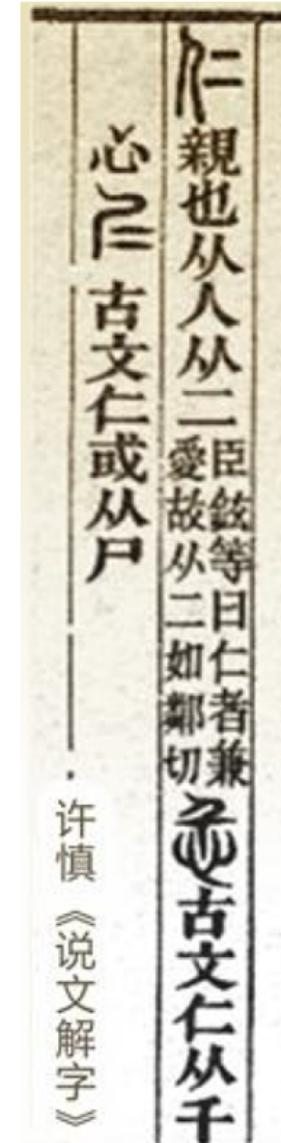
+

heart



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· 许慎《说文解字》

Confucius and the Dao of Benevolence

“In my way there is one thing that runs through out.”

(One string runs through all my *dao*.)

吾道一以貫之 (4.15)

“...loyalty and reciprocity” 忠恕



Confucius and Religion

Jilu asked about serving spiritual beings. Confucius said, “Before you have learned to serve human being, how can you serve spirits?”

(Jilu:)“I venture to ask about death”

(Confucius) “When you do not yet know life, how can you know about death?”



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Music and Ritual



Criticism of ritual practice in the Warring States

“

Ritual, is that only jade and silk?
Music, is that only bell and drum?
(17.11)

礼云礼云,玉帛云乎哉?乐云乐云,鐘鼓云乎哉



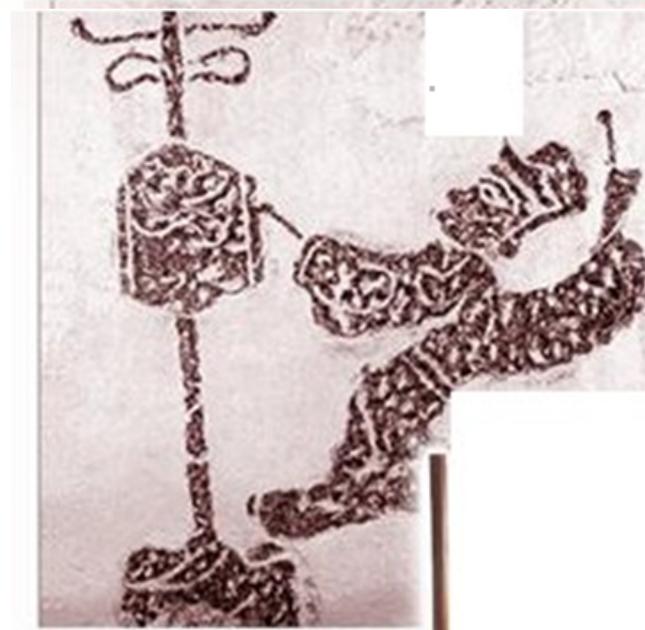
Marquis Yi of the Zeng State and his Chime Bells



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Thank you!

