

Patterns in Classical China: 3 dynasties : Zhou, Qin, and Han. Dynastic patterns begun in classical Chinese history lasted until early part of the 20th century. Family of kings, dynasty, began ruling China with great vigor, developing solid political institutions, and encouraging active economies. Each dynasty over time grew weaker, tax revenues declined, and social divisions occurred as population outstripped available resources. Internal rebellions and sometimes invasions from outside contributed to each decline. As ruling dynasty began to falter, another 1 arose from family of a successful general, invader, or peasant and the pattern started anew.

Zhou dynasty: Expanded territorial boundaries of China by seizing Yangtze River valley. Territory from Yangtze to Huang is called Middle Kingdom blessed with rich cropland. Promoted Mandarin as standard language. Zhou did not establish strong central government, ruled through alliances with regional princes and noble families. Led to vulnerabilities that plagued Zhou: regional princes solidified their power and disregarded central government. When Zhou began to fail, philosophers sought to explain political confusion. 1 of these, Confucius, became 1 of most important thinkers in Chinese history. His orderly social and political philosophy became an important doctrine of Qin and Han dynasties. Next dynasty, Qin begun by brutal, effective emperor Shi Huangdi. Consolidated his power, built Great Wall, conducted a census, standardized weights and measures, and extended borders of his realm to Hong Kong and northern Vietnam. Upon his death, massive revolts broke out and by 202 B.C.E., Han dynasty established. Han rulers lessened brutality of Qin, maintained its centralized rule. Early Han leaders, like Wu Ti, expanded Chinese territory and set up formal training, based on Confucian philosophy, for bureaucrats. During a long decline, Han faced invasions and eventually fell to outside forces, especially Huns. By the 6th C.E., Han collapsed, not before they established distinctive political and cultural values that lasted into 20th century.

Political Institutions: Throughout the Qin and Han periods, the Chinese state bureaucracy expanded its powers significantly. By the end of the Han dynasty, China had roughly 130,000 bureaucrats all trained by the government to carry out the emperor's policies. Tax collections and annual mandatory labor services ensured the central government held some power over almost every person in the Middle Kingdom, something no other large government accomplished until the twentieth century.

Religion and Culture: China did not produce a unitary belief system. Confucianism and Daoism were 2 of major systems that competed for loyalties of various Chinese communities during years of classical period. Kung Fuzi (Confucius) lived roughly 551 - 478 B.C.E. He was not a religious leader, rather saw himself as defender of Chinese tradition and espoused a secular system of ethics. Personal virtue, he believed, would lead to solid political institutions. Both rulers and ruled should act with respect, humility, and self-control. Classical China produced a more religious philosophy, Daoism, embraced harmony in nature. According to this, politics, learning, and general conditions in this world were little importance. Over time, individuals embraced aspects of both philosophies and also Buddhism.

Chinese art then, largely decorative, stressing detail and craftsmanship. Artistic styles often reflected the geometric qualities of symbols of Chinese writing. Practical application of science superseded learning for learning's sake. Chinese astronomers developed accurate calendars. Scholars studied mathematics of music. Practical focus contrasted with the more abstract approach to science applied by the Greeks.

Economy and Society: As in many societies, large gaps between China's upper class (about 2 % of population) and peasant farmers. 3 main social groups in classical China. Landowning aristocracy and bureaucrats formed top group. Far below were laboring peasants and urban artisans. At the bottom were "mean people," those who performed unskilled labor. Trade became increasingly important, particularly in the Han period. Technology is where classical Chinese clearly excelled. Many developments of this era were centuries ahead of rest of the world. Tight-knit family structures were similar to those in other civilizations, except that parents wielded higher levels of authority over their children. Women were subordinate to men but had defined roles in the family and in larger society.

How Chinese Civilization Fits Together: China's politics and culture were, to them, 2 sides of the same coin, especially after Confucian bureaucracy developed, emphasizing order and stability. Classical Chinese technology, religion, philosophy, and political structure evolved with little outside contact. Political stability aided economic growth and the government took a direct role in agricultural and economic growth. Science focused on practical applications of technology that fostered economic development. Unsurprisingly, the Chinese saw their political and social lives as a whole. There was divergence, however, such as in the differing philosophies of Confucianism, Daoism, and eventually Buddhism. Despite these and other divisions, the synthesis of Chinese life accounts for the durability of Chinese values and for its general invulnerability to outside influence. Classical India was just as vital a civilization but didn't weave its institutions into society as fully and produced a more disparate outcome.

<p>Zhou Dynasty (1029-258 B.C.E.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandate of Heaven- Son of Heaven • Banned Human society • Spoke Mandarin • Confucius- wrote on political ethics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1029-258 B.C.EE • Decline started 700 BCE • Alliance System • Expanded territory to north and south • Ruled w/ local princes
<p>Qin Dynasty (221-202 B.C.E.)</p> <p>Innovations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Census- tax and labor service • Standardized coins • Uniform written language • Irrigation projects • Promoted manufacturing of silk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First emperor was brutal • Nobles brought to emperors home • Extended territory south • Built Great Wall • Burned books, attacked culture <p>Downfall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ High taxes ○ killed men, punished brutally ○ revolts broke out around 210 BCE

Han Dynasty (202 B.C.E.-220 C.E.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal training • Supported Confucianism • Invasions led to decline • 220-589 CE China in chaos • Period of peace • Advancements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 202 BCE-220CE • Kept centralized power of Qin, but reduced repression • extended borders • opened trade routes to India and Mesopotamia
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Social	Political	Economic
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Diffusion • Social Classes • Mandarin • Bureaucracy • The 3 Philosophies • Invention of Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Built big wall to protect from invaders • Dynasty • Bureaucrats • Feudalism • Developed trade routes • Improved militaries • Expansion of territory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invented silk and paper to improve trade • Silk road • Technological innovation made it blossom

Important Key Terms

Laozi: Daoist philosopher. He believed that nature contained a divine impulse that directs all life.

Dynasty: Family of kings who rule in China, which would develop strong political institutions and encourage an active economy.

Analects: A part of a literary work, saying, or philosophy.

Era of Warring States: 402 - 201 B.C.E. Zhou system disintegrated. There was endless wars between the 7 states. The warring states were Qin, Han, Wei, Zhao, Qi, Chu, and Yan.

Mandarins: Any high government official or bureaucrat

Patriarchalism: Form of social organization in which a male is the family head and title is traced through the male line.

Mandarin: The Zhou wanted to unify their empire. To be specific they promoted linguistic unity. The ultimate language spoken over the Middle Kingdom was Mandarin Chinese.

Wu Ti: Ruled from 140-87 B.C.E during Han Dynasty. He urged for support of Confucianism.

Confucius (Kung Fuzi): Lived from 551-478 B.C.E. Was a Chinese philosopher that that things can be achieved peacefully and morally through human relationships.

Mandate of Heaven: Divine source of political legitimacy in China; established under Zhou to justify overthrow of Shang

Shi Huangdi: First emperor of China; founder of Qin dynasty