One of the greatest untold secrets of history is that the “modern world” in which we live is a unique mixture of Chinese and Western ingredients. Possibly more than half of the basic inventions and discoveries upon which the “modern world” rests come from China. And yet few people know this.Why?

The Chinese themselves are as ignorant of this fact as Westerners. From the seventeenth century onwards, the Chinese became increasingly dazzled by European technological expertise, having experienced a period of amnesia regarding their own achievements. When the Chinese were shown a mechanical clock by Jesuit missionaries, they were awestruck. They had forgotten that it was they who had invented mechanical clocks in the first place!

It is just as much a surprise for the Chinese as for Westerners to realize that modern agriculture, modern shipping, the modern oil industry, modern astronomical observatories, modern music, decimal mathematics, paper money, umbrellas, fishing reels, wheelbarrows, multi-stage rockets, guns, underwater mines, poison gas, parachutes, hot-air balloons, manned flight, brandy, whisky, the game of chess, printing, and even the essential design of the steam engine, all came from China.

Without the importation from China of nautical and navigational improvements such as ships’ rudders, the compass and multiple masts, the great European Voyages of Discovery could never have been undertaken. Columbus would not have sailed to America, and Europeans would never have established their colonial empires.

Without the importation from China of guns and gunpowder, the knights would not have been knocked from their horses by bullets which pierced the armor, bringing the age of chivalry to an end.

Without the importation from China of paper and printing, Europe would have continued for much longer to copy books by hand. Literacy would not have become so widespread.

These myths and many others are shattered by our discovery of the true Chinese origins of many of the things, all around us, which we take for granted. Some of our greatest achievements turn out to have been not achievements at all, but simple borrowings.

Why are we ignorant of this gigantic, obvious truth? The main reason is surely that the Chinese themselves lost sight of it. If the very originators of the inventions and discoveries no longer claim them, and their memory of them has faded, why should their inheritors trouble to resurrect their lost claims? Until our own time, it is questionable whether many Westerners even wanted to know the truth. It is always more satisfying to the ego to think that we have reached our present situation alone and unaided, that we are the masters of all abilities and crafts.

What does the author imply by saying “the Chinese became increasingly dazzled by European technological expertise, having experienced a period of amnesia regarding their own achievements”?

A. The Chinese were completely inferior to Europeans in technology.

B. The Chinese overestimated European technology and forgot their own past glories.

C. European technology was far more advanced than Chinese technology in all aspects.

D. The Chinese were eager to learn from European technology without hesitation.

2. Why were the Chinese awestruck when shown a mechanical clock by Jesuit missionaries?

A. Because they had never seen such a complex device before.

B. Because they were amazed by European technological expertise.

C. Because they forgot that they were the ones who invented mechanical clocks originally.

D. Because they wanted to learn how to make it from the missionaries.

3. How did the importation of Chinese inventions impact Europe?

A. It only had a minor influence on European culture and society.

B. It led to a decline in European innovation as they relied too much on Chinese inventions.

C. It made Europe more dependent on China for further technological advancements.

D. It completely transformed Europe's economic, technological and social landscapes.

4.What is the main reason for people's ignorance of the fact that many modern things originated from China, according to the author?

A. Westerners deliberately hid this fact.

B. The Chinese themselves lost sight of their own achievements and didn't claim them.

C. There was no record of these inventions in history.

D. People were more interested in Western inventions.

5.What can be inferred from the passage about western people's attitude towards their own achievements in history?

A. They are always eager to admit that they borrowed from others.

B. They usually prefer to think that they achieved things independently without outside help.

C. They are indifferent to where the inventions and discoveries came from.

D. They are proud of borrowing from other cultures.