

中国历史·文化和语言

China

— History, Culture and Language

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1. History

- About 2600 B.C. ago
- The three tribes: Huangdi, Yandi and Chiyou (Miao) in Central China

Huangdi and Yandi combined

Chiyou retreated in defeat

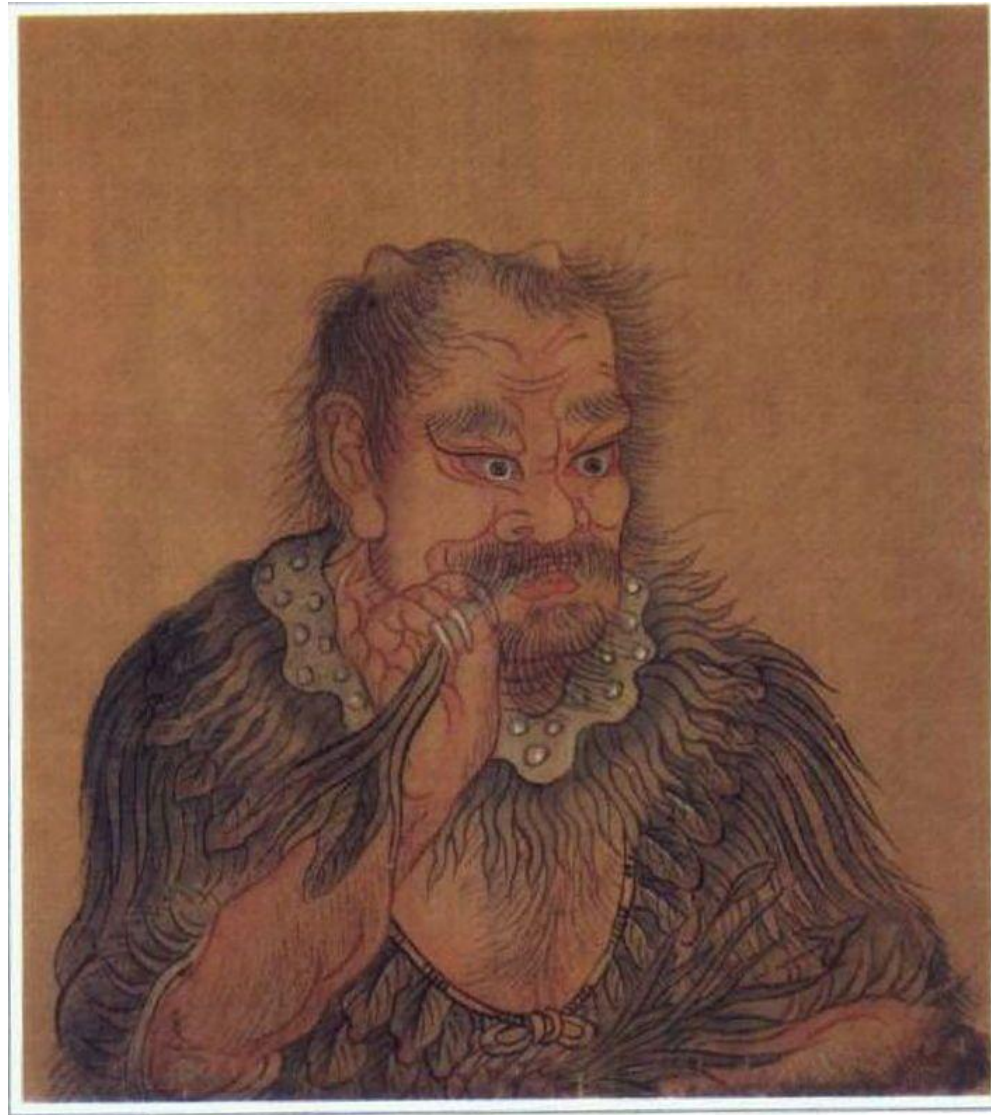
Chinese people also simply called the descendent of Yan-Huang

Huangdi



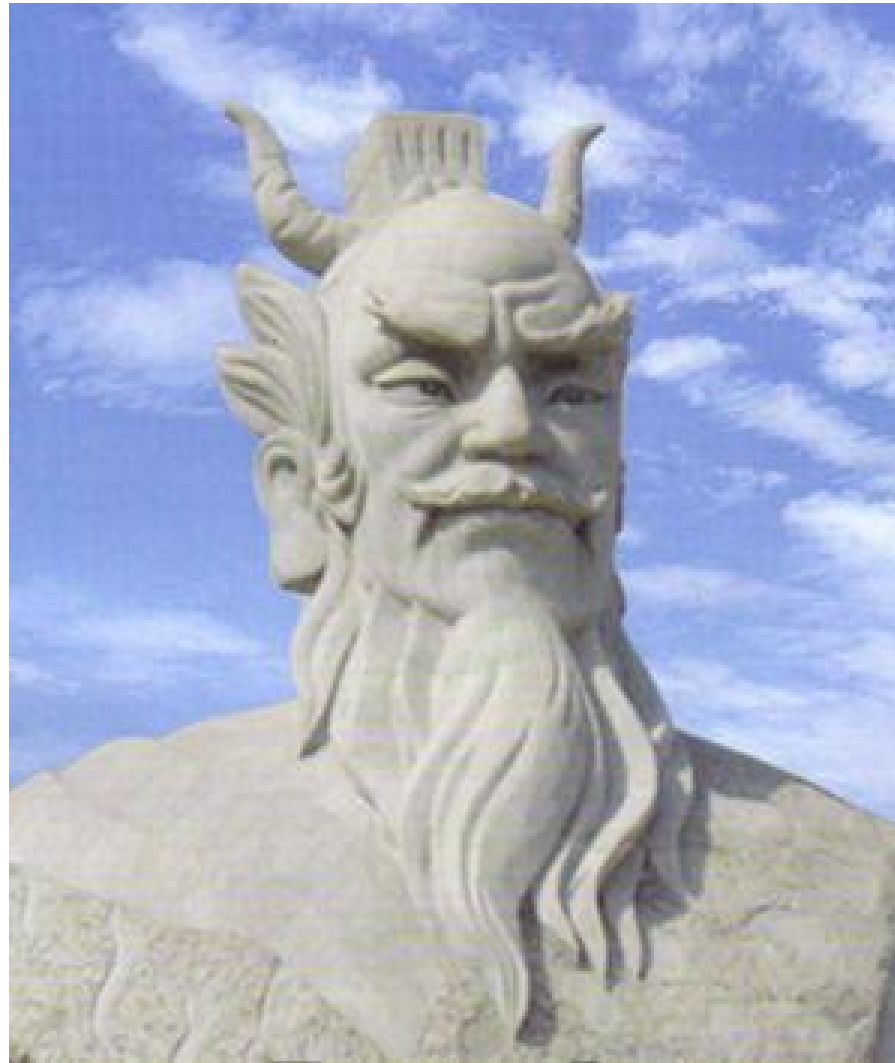
黃帝像

Yandi



炎帝（远古）
清人绘

Chiyou (Miao)



1.1 Nationality

- Chinese is composed of 56 nationalities. The Han nationality is the major, occupying 91.51%. And the minority occupies 8.49% (statistics in 2011).
- The appellation of Han was started from the Han Dynasty (206 B.C. — 25).
- The population is about 1.37 billion.

1.2 Qin, Han and Tang Dynasty

- The Qin Dynasty began the centralist feudal society.
- The ancient China developed to prosperous society in Han Dynasty (206 B.C.—220) and in Tang Dynasty (618—907).
- China get higher achievements in S&T in Song Dynasty (960 —1279).
- After the middle period of Ming Dynasty (1368 — 1644), China turned downward.

1.3 Sima Qian·Historical Records

- "The Historical Records ", written by Sima Qian (145 B.C. — 87 B.C.) of the Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.- A.D.24), was the world's earliest biographical work of literature, covering a history of 3,000 years. Its contents rang from the legendary Huangdi, to Emperor Wudi of the Han Dynasty (206B.C.-A.D.220).It is a significant historical epic of China.
- Sima Qian is the greatest historian, litterateur and ideologist. He is called Saint Historian. His biographical style, and truly writing influenced the later ages very much.

Sima Qian(145 B.C. — 87 B.C.)



Ancestral and Memorial Temple of Sima Qian

鼎 Ding

For Chinese history, here I'd like to talk about 鼎 Ding.

- Ding is an ancient cooking vessel made of bronze with two loop handles and three or four legs.
- Usually it was used as symbol of power, dynasty and state or country in ancient times, especially before Zhou Dynasty (1046 B.C. — 256 B.C.).
- Ding of three legs — Political power — In modern times, Separation of Three Powers (tripartite political system).

鼎 Ding

symbol of power



1.4 The Four Great Inventions of Ancient China

- Gunpowder
- Compass
- Papermaking. The greater improvement for the papermaking was made by Cai Lun (63—121).
- Printing press. Bi Sheng (970 — 1051) invented movable-type printing.

The Four Great Inventions played a major role in advancing world civilization.

1.4 The Four Great Inventions of Ancient China

- In ancient times, China led achievements in astronomy, calendar, architecture, metallurgy etc of the world. Silk and porcelain etc are originated from China.
- Zu Chongzhi (429 — 500), one of the greatest mathematician in ancient China, calculated π to 3.1415926 — 3.1415927. The same result was gotten in Europe after 1100 years later.
- The War Arts written by Sun Wu (B.C.535 — B.C.470). His War Arts is still used in modern times.
- Acupuncture — a miraculous medical skill.

1.4 The Four Great Inventions of Ancient China

- Wan Hu · the first flyer to the sky

In Ming Dynasty (1368—1644), a wise people Wan Hu sat and tied on a chair bound with many rockets, with each hand holding a big kite, experimenting to launch himself to the sky. Although he was crushed, his spirit inspired people in the later times to explore the outer space. And a lunar crater has been named Wan Hu for commemorate him.

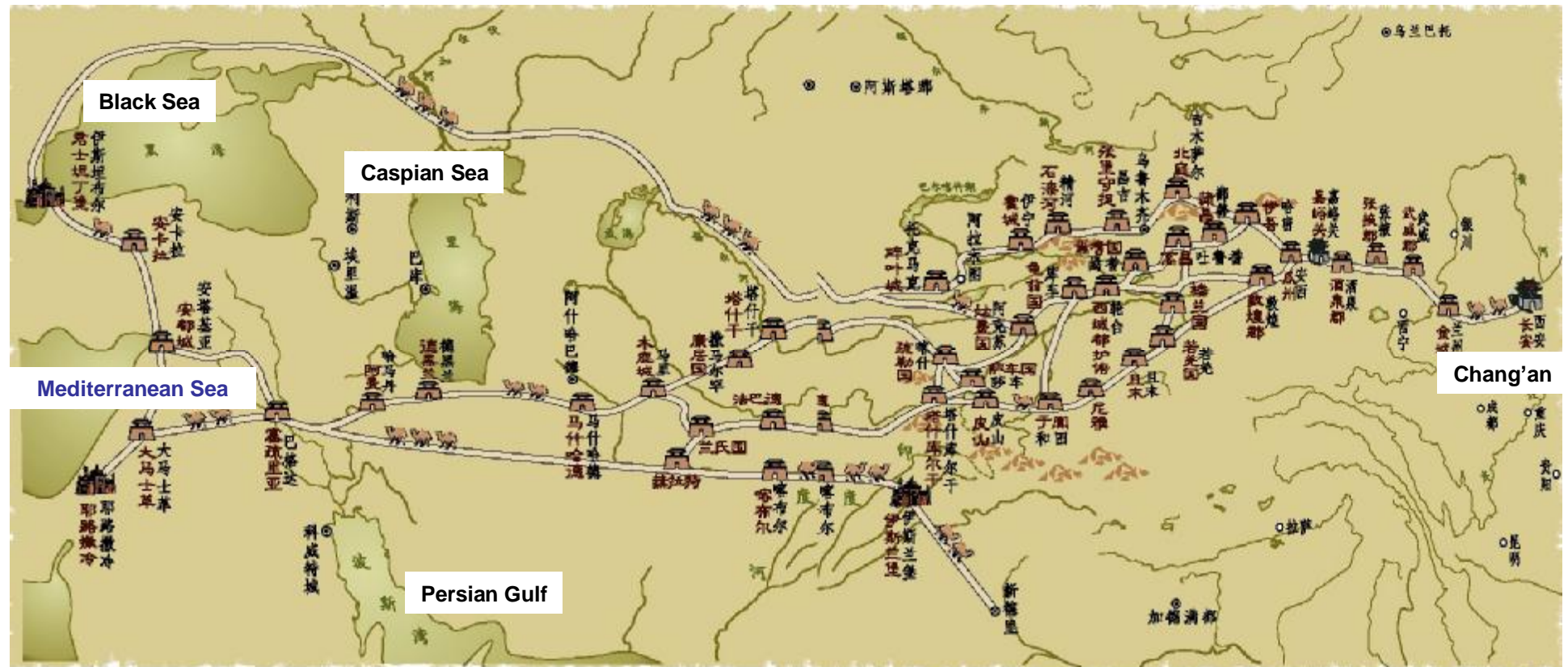
- Nowadays, China has realized this dream, and become the third country in the world to launch cosmonauts to the outer space.

1.5 Connection with other Countries in Ancient China

1.5.1 The Silk Road

- In Han Dynasty, Zhang Qian opened up the Silk Road. It started from Chang'an (Capital of Han Dynasty) to Central Asia and West Asia via Gansu and Xinjiang, connecting the Mediterranean countries. The major goods on this road is silk produced in China, so it's called the Silk Road.
- The Silk Road has a great significance in the world history and civilization. It's the communication artery of Eurasian Continent, and is the joint bridge of three culture of China, India and Greece.

The Silk Road



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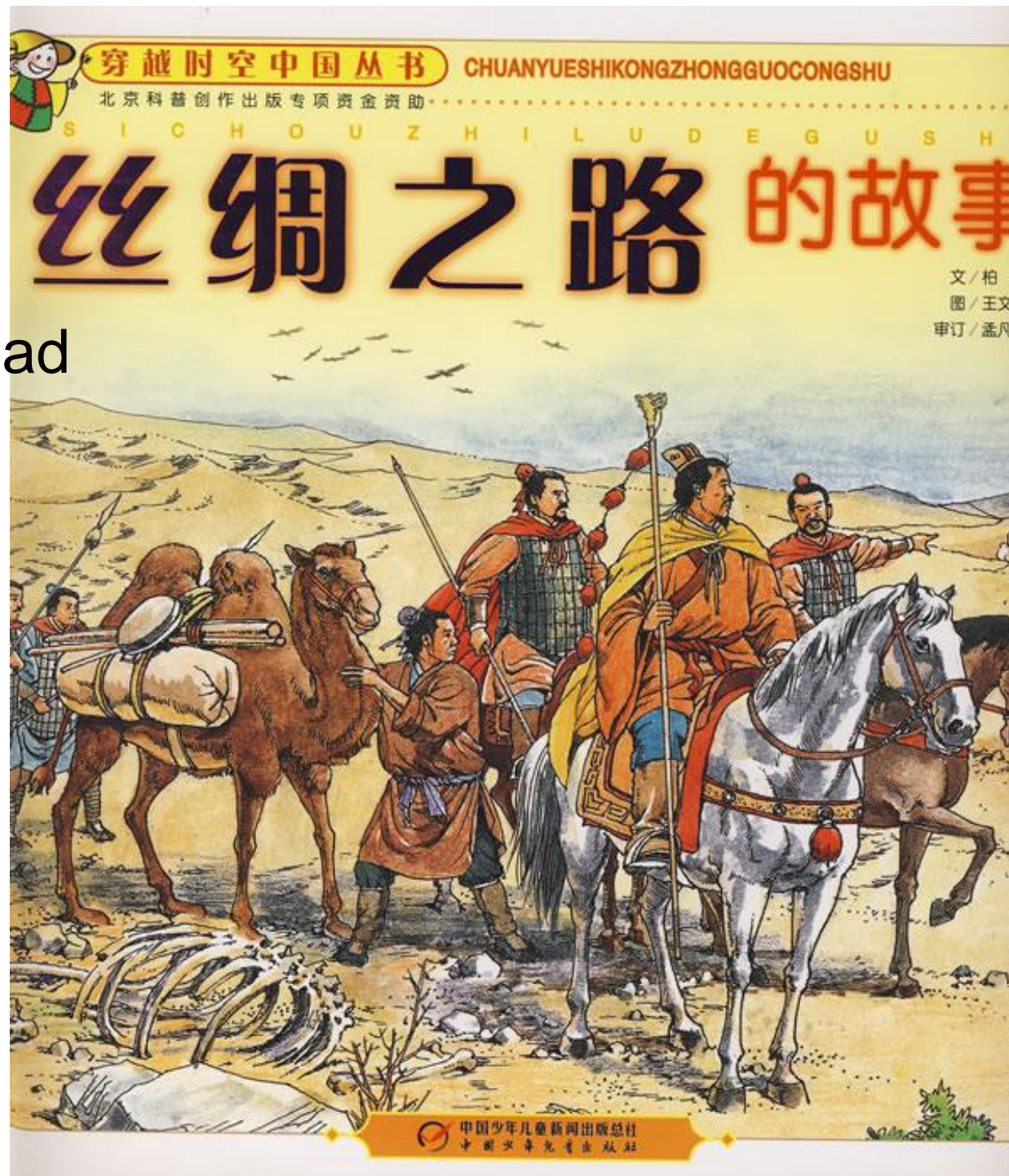
The Silk Road



The Silk Road



The Silk Road



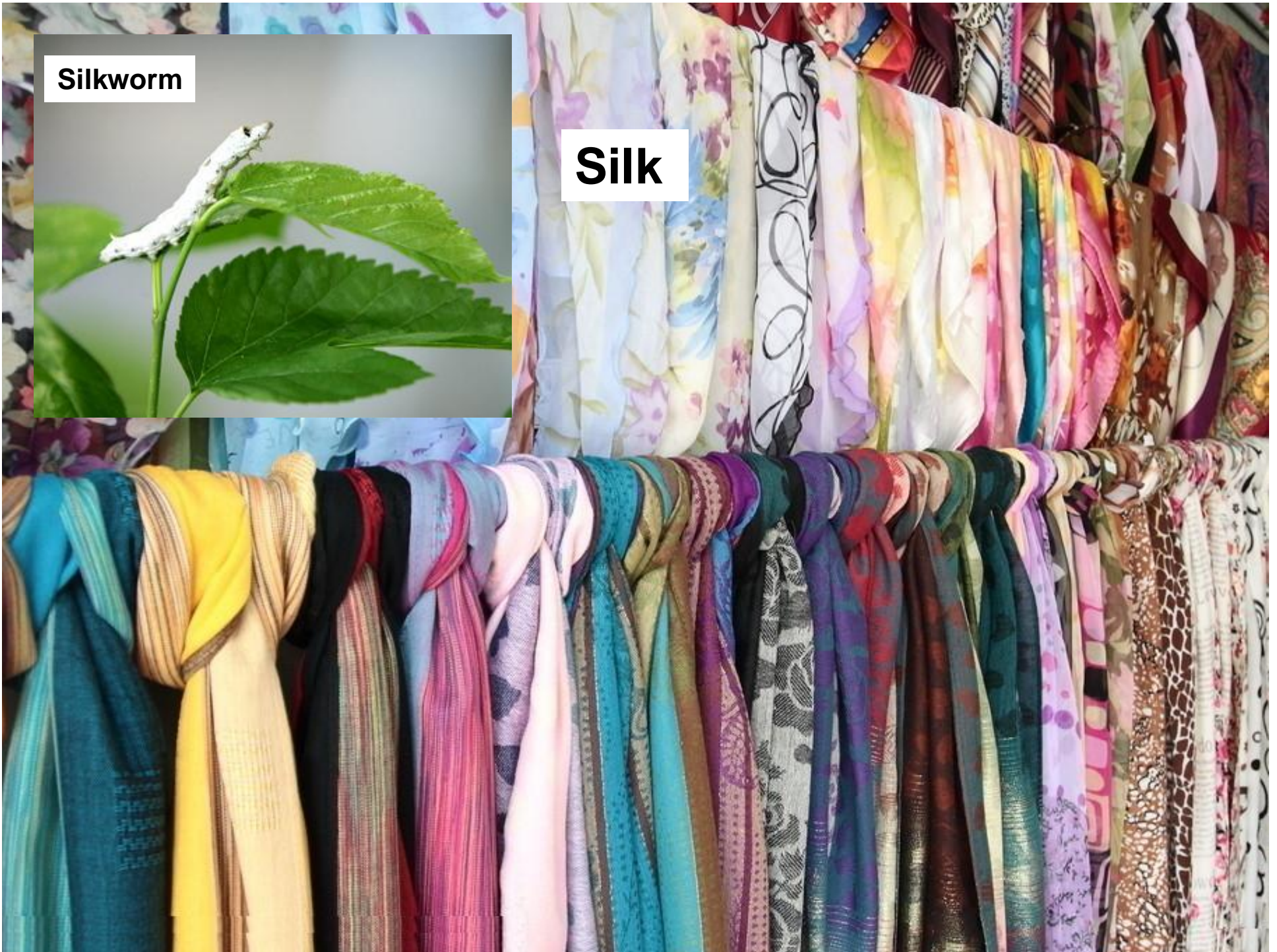
The Silk Road



Silkworm



Silk



- Zhang Qian (164 B.C. — 114B.C.) was a distinguished explorer, traveler and diplomat. He greatly contributed to the exploitation and pioneering of the Silk Road. Also He introduced Ferghana horse, grape ,megranate, walnut etc. from Western Regions or countries.

Zhang Qian (164 B.C.—114 B.C.)



王可伟油画 - 张骞出使西域

Hillfox Art Series

Zhang Qian (164 B.C.—114 B.C.)



- **Shepherd Su Wu**

In Han dynasty, another famous diplomat was Su Wu(140 B.C. — 60B.C.), who was a minister in the court.

In 100 B.C., as a diplomat, Su Wu was dispatched to Hun (Hsiung-Nu), and was detained. And then the Hun used the carrot and stick, intending to get his surrender. The chief of Hsiung-Nu said to Su Wu: “Waiting for buck give birth to lamb, I will let you back to your country”.

Su Wu then was arranged to work as a shepherd at the side of Baikal in Siberia.

Suffering from all bitterness, Su Wu always held the tally. When he finally get back to his country in 81 B.C., all his beard and hair turned to white. He was greatly esteemed by the whole Han Dynasty.

Shepherd Su Wu (140 B.C. — 60B.C.)



1.5.2 Xuan Zang · Records of The Western World

Xuan Zang (602—664) is one of the greatest translator and creator of Chinese Buddhism.

In Tang Dynasty, in 629, experienced much hardness and bitterness, Xuan Zang arrived India. In India, firstly he studied at Nalanda Monastery, and then studied touring almost the whole India. In 645, he return back Chang'an, the capital of Tang Dynasty. He brought many Buddhism bibles and translated them mostly in the style of literal translation with careful and precise writing style. Records of The Western World is a great work wrote by him (English version by Prof. Samual Beale: Hsuan-Tsang, Si-yu-ki, Buddhist Records of The Western World. London, 2 vols., 1884.). The work has become very important material for investigate ancient history and geography of India and Central Asia.

Xuan Zang (602—664)



1.5.3 Zheng He Sails the West World

Zheng He (1371 — 1433) was the greatest navigator and Diplomat in Ming Dynasty and in that times.

Zheng He belongs to the Hui nationality. His persian name is called Hajji Mahmud Shamsuddin (حاجی محمود شمس الدین). His sixth progenitor (Sayyid Ajjal Shams al-Din Omar) was a nobleman from Central Asia in Yuan Dynasty, and was the descendant of the King of Bukhara.

On July 11, 1405, under the order of the emperor, he began the great voyage, leading a fleet of 27,400 sailors equipped with more than 240 ships. By 1433, totally he has voyaged 7 times, visited more than 30 countries of Western Pacific and Indian Ocean, which highly developed the friendship with these countries on culture, politics and economics. He devoted most to the better mutually understanding of these countries with China. According to the records, he has reached at farthest to the east coast of Africa, the Red Sea and Mecca. And possibly he has been to Australia, America and New Zealand. He is the precursor of the Great Voyage Age. Several hundreds years after him, his achievements enjoys a second to none.

Zheng He (1371 — 1433)



2. Culture

2.1 Confucianism and The Yi Bible

- Confucianism was originated from Confucius (Sep.28, B.C 551 —Apr.11,B.C 479), the greatest ideologist, politician and educationalist.
- Mencius (B.C 372—B.C 289) contributed to Confucianism. The doctrine of Confucius and Mencius.
- The Yi Bible was created by Fuxi, the primogenitor of Chinese human culture, and greatly developed, compiled and completed by King Zhouwenwang (B.C 1152— B.C 1056) in Zhou Dynasty.

2.1 Confucianism and The Yi Bible

- Confucius contributed two important papers to Yi Bible generalizing and summarizing it.
- Taoism is a compositional element of the theory of Yi Bible. It was originated from Laozi (about B.C 600— about B.C 470), the greatest ideologist and philosopher.

Fuxi



King Zhouwenwang (Ji Chang)



Confucius



Laozi



2.2 The Chinese Culture Bases

- Confucianism deals with the relationship of man and man, man and society. Its thinking and doctrine is concentrated in The Analects of Confucius. Its content is composed of social system, law, humanity, ethic, morality etc.

- In the beginning of The Analects of Confucius, it says that:
- **“Self-cultivation → regulating the family → governing the country → establishing peace throughout the world”**
- If you want to manage the state affairs, you must regulate (or manage) well your family. And if you want to manage your family well, you must cultivate yourself in a right way.

- **The core of Confucius is:**

仁 (**ren**): humanity, benevolence, love each other

义(**yi**): appropriate behavior

礼(**li**): morals standard and deed rule in the society and life

智(**zhi**): learning and understanding

信(**xin**): truth, faithfulness, trust

恕(**shu**): forgiveness, tolerate with others

忠(**zhong**): honest, loyalty

孝(**xiao**): filial piety

悌(**ti**): respect and love brothers and elders, intimate

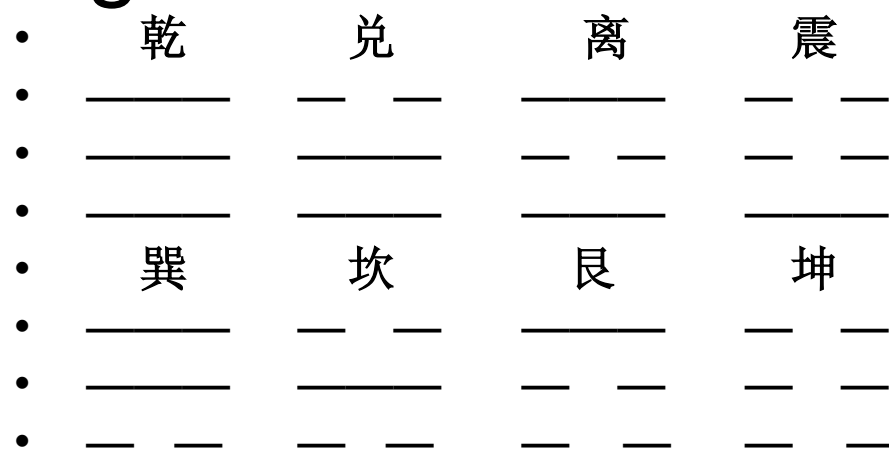
2.2 The Chinese Culture Bases

- The Yi Bible deals with the relationship of man and the nature.
- The Yi Bible was ranked the first of the Six Sutra of Chinese Culture.
- The Yi Bible has another translation name:

The Book of Changes.

- The Yi Bible has three basic regulations or rules:
- **Simplification**
- **Changes**
- **Constant (No Change)**
- The world develops according to the three regulations.

- The Yi Bible highly abstracting and symbolizing describe the world in 64 principles.
- The Yi Bible has 2 basic elemental symbols: Yang Yao (positive: —) and Yin Yao (negative - -). From the two symbols, the Eight Diagrams are generated:



- 乾qian, 兑dui, 离li, 震zhen, 巽xun, 坎kan, 艮gen, 坤kun
- From the Eight Diagrams, the 64 Diagrams are formed, which hint 64 principles.
- The Yi Bible thinks that the world was created from Wuji (Nothingness), Wuji generates Taiji (Chaos, a Point), Taiji generates Liangyi (——, — — duality), and Liangyi generates the Four Elements

———	— —	———	— —
———	———	— —	— —

and the Four Elements generates the Eight Diagrams.

Taiji Eight Diagrams



The Yi Bible—Scientific comparison

- Big Bang theory — Big bang from a point
- The world generates from chaos
- — — — — — and Computer binary system
- Eight Diagrams and octal system
-

2.2 The Chinese Culture Bases

- The Chinese culture are based on this two foundations — Confucianism and Taoism (Yi Bible).

2.3 Religion

- China is a multi-religion country. The faith in religion are free in China.
- Buddhism was introduced from India in 67 in Han Dynasty.
- Buddhism got prosperous in Tang Dynasty.
- Taoism as a religion is native one. It was founded 1800 years ago in Han Dynasty.
- Islam was introduced to China in 651 in Tang Dynasty.
- Catholicism and Christianity was firstly introduced to China in Tang Dynasty.

3. Language

3.1 The character of Chinese Language

- In ancient times, nearly all languages were expressed in hieroglyph.
- In modern times, nearly all hieroglyphic languages are disappeared and have been changed into spelling languages.
- Chinese character (Hanzi) is a carrier of much more information than that (the word) of spelling languages.

- Chinese language has the following characters: **hieroglyph, meaning expression and pictophonetic (with one element indicating meaning and the another pronunciation). Pictophonetic characters occupies over 80% of the total characters.**

3.2 How to understand Chinese language

- Starting from Chinese characters (Hanzi)
- Examples: 人, 大, 小, 天, 山, 门(門), 水
- Examples: 田, 力, 男; 木, 林, 森; 人, 从, 众; 八, 刀, 分, 刃; 买(buy), 卖(Sell); 王, 皇, 主
- Chinese characters of numbers: 〇, 一, 二, 三, 四, 五, 六, 七, 八, 九, 十, 百, 千, 万, 亿.
Complex form(usually used for finance): 零, 壹, 貳, 叁, 肆, 伍, 陆, 柒, 捌, 玖, 拾, 佰, 仟, 万, 亿(hundred million), 兆(trillion)

- One character has isolated meaning. By combination (usually two characters), characters can make into a word.
- Character components
- 言 → 讠 (word, speak): 认, 访, 讲, 谈, 论, 说, 译, 语, 语言
- 水 → 氵 : 流, 汁, 汗, 江, 河, 海, 洋, 泪(目), 汤, 汽(气), 浇, 洗, 渔(鱼), 瀑布, 泥
- 土: 地, 坐, 城, 垦(cultivate), 埋(burying), 土壤, 坝dam, 堆 pile, heap

- 木: 松, 柑(orange, wood feature, sound 甘 “gan”), 柏(cypress), 植, 树, 桥, 林, 梓(catalpa)
- 火: 烧, 灰, 灯, 炊, 烤, 烟, 炉(爐, 鑪)
- 金→钅 (金): 金, 银, 铜, 铁, 锡, 铅, 锌, 钨 (osmium). Special case: mercury 汞, 水银
- 石: 矿, 砂, 砖, nonmetals: 硅, 硒(selenium)
- 女: 妇女, 她(she), 妈, 奶, 妹, 姑, 姨, 娩 childbirth, 娉婷graceful, 妻
- 丝→纟 (糸), related with silk, 丝绸, 缎 damask, 织weaving, 绕, 线

- 人→亻 :体, 伸,住,任, 你you, 他he, 伯uncle
- 刀→ 刂: 剑sword ,刺puncture ,削chip, cut, 刻carve,
- 心→忄 : 心(heart)→ emotional thing: 愉快pleasure, 怕fear, 悦pleased ,悟realize, 悔regret, 惊surprise, 慌flurry
- 草→艹: 芦苇bulrush, 茅草couch grass, 莴苣lettuce, 萝卜radish,
- 手→扌 :打beat, strike, 扔throw , 扛lift with hands, 扫sweep, 护protect, 把,挡shield

- 口: 叫, 吐spit, 嘴, 吼roar, 唱, 呵, 哈
- 日: 早上morning, 晚上night, 时间time, 日期date, 暖warm
- 虫insect, worm : 蚊mosquito, 蚂蚁ant, 蚕silkworm, 蚯蚓earthworm, 蛇snake, 蝴蝶butterfly
- 酉: related with fermentation, 酱soy sauce, 醋vinegar, 酒wine, 酸acid , 发酵fermentation

- 鱼: different kinds of fish, 鲤鱼carp, 鲨鱼shark, 鲫鱼crucian, 鲸鱼cetacean
- 食→亠: 饮drink, 饮食diet, 饭meal, 餐dinner, 饿hungry, 饲料feedstuff
- 雨: 雨raining, 雾fog,mist, 雷thunder, 雪snow, 雹hail, 露dew
- 病→疒: 病illness, 治疗cure, 疼pain, 痘pox, 痢疾dysentery, 疾病disease
- 走→辵: 前进go forward, 达arrive, 迈步stride, 迁移migration, 巡逻patrol, 途road, way

- Attention must be paid to the Chinese character's different pronunciations. A certain amount of Chinese characters have at least two pronunciations. For example: 重复repeat, 重量weight; 快乐joy, 乐曲music; 扇动to fan, 扇子the fan; 行列row, 行走walk.

- Simplification of the Chinese character. In the main land of China, simplified Chinese character is used. In Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macao, the complex one is used. The complex one is also used in Singapore, where people also speak Chinese. In Japan and Korea, people use the complex Chinese character in their Hanzi (kanji) based languages. But most people think the simplification of the Chinese character is the tendency toward modern living requirement. Complex thing consume much time, waste a lot of resources and introduce much trouble in digital times.

3.3 Some basic daily use

- 你ni: you, 我wo: I, 他ta: he, 她ta: she, 它ta: it,
- 你好!ni hao: How do you do! How are you!
- 请!qing: Please!
- 欢迎! Huan ying: Welcome!
- 请问qingwen: Excuse me
- 多少钱?duo shao qian: How much?
- 买东西mai dong xi: Go shopping
- 哪个? na ge: which one? 那个: That one

- 〇 ling, 一 yi, 二 er, 三 san,
四 si, 五 wu, 六 liu, 七 qi,
八 ba, 九 jiu, 十 shi,
- 百 bai, 千 qian, 万 wan, 亿 yi.
- 餐厅 canting, 早餐 zaocan, 中餐
zhongcan, 晚餐 wancan

Thank you!

谢谢!

Xie xie