

Foundations of Chinese Intellectual History

. . . to the Beginning of the Common Era

Foundations of Chinese Intellectual History

Lecture Topics

- Lecture One: The Structure of the Chinese Past
- Lecture Two: Early Confucianism: Human Nature Perfected
- Lecture Three: "A Weak People Means a Strong State": A Chinese *Realpolitik*
- Lecture Four: The Mysterious Female: Immanence and Transcendence in the Daoist Tradition
- Lecture Five: The Formation of the Confucian State

Course Materials

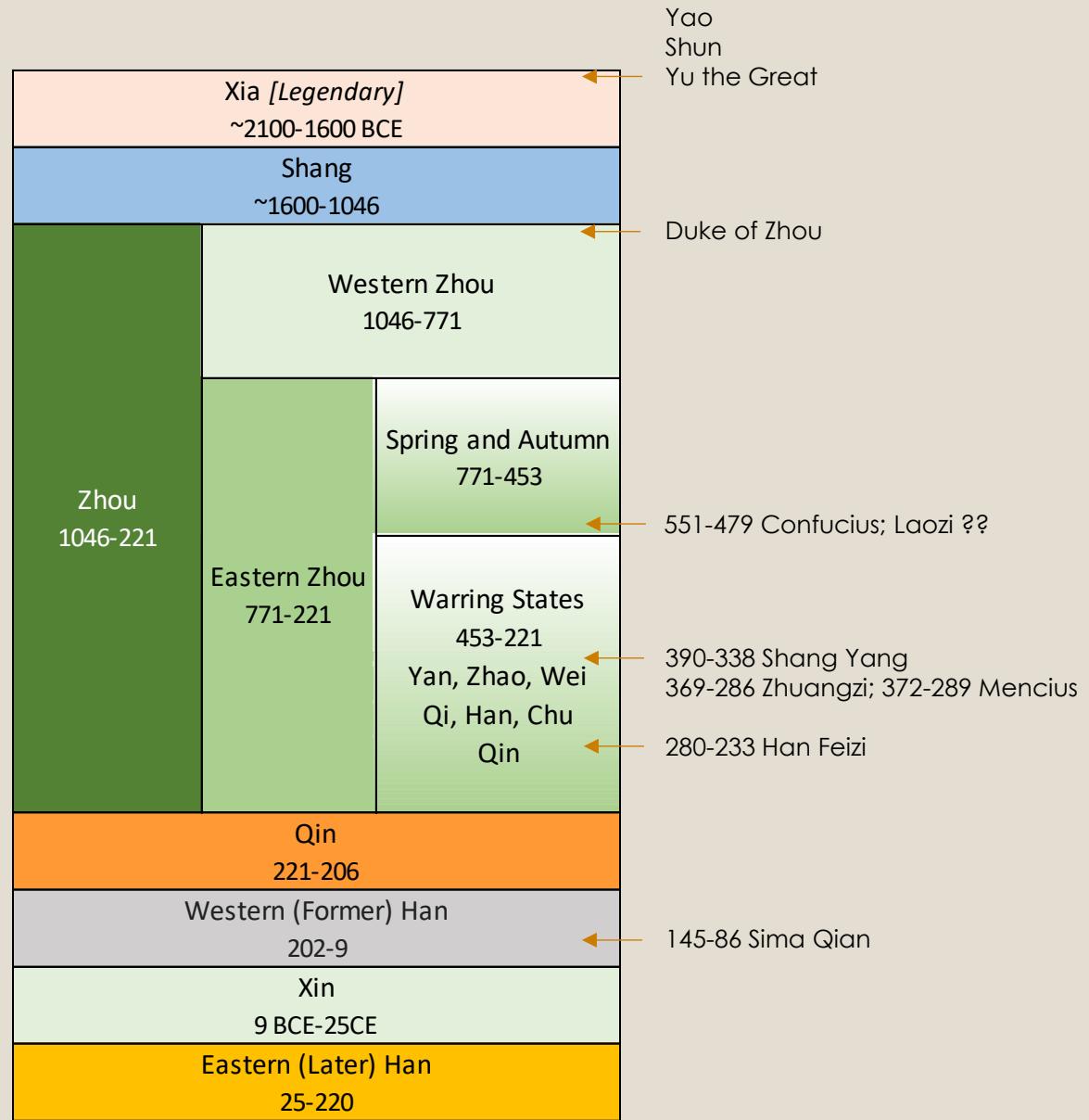
Although of course there are no “assigned readings” for these lectures, your understanding will probably be enhanced by reading excerpts from the texts we will be discussing. If you wish to do so, you can download them by clicking on the following link:

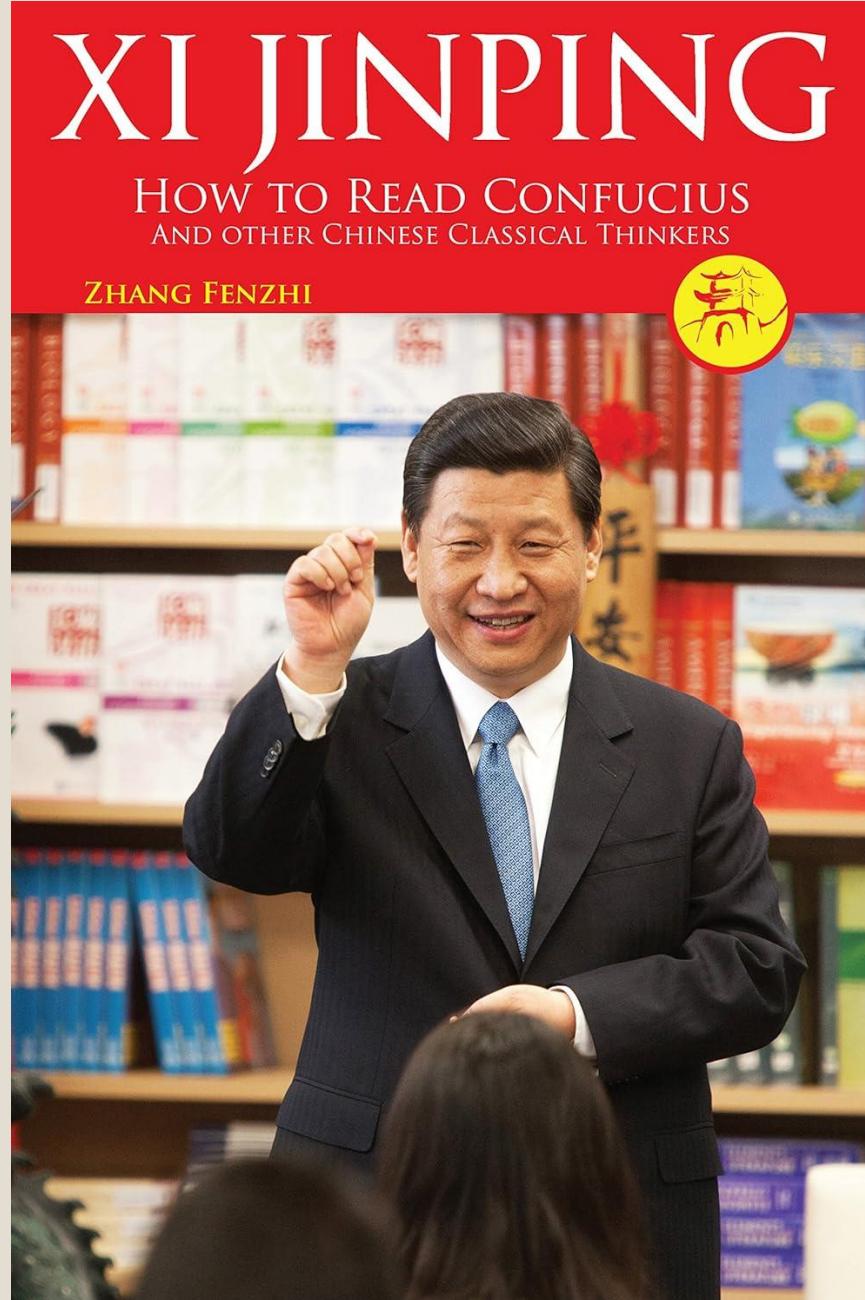
<https://github.com/mcummingsny/Chinese-Intellectual-History>

Dynastic Chronology

To 220 CE

Course materials are available at:
[https://github.com/mcummingssny/Chinese-
Intellectual-History](https://github.com/mcummingssny/Chinese-Intellectual-History)





"In the past two years, Xi Jinping, in significant domestic and international speeches, has often quoted Chinese classics or the proverbs of other countries to reinforce his important points and demonstrate his disciplined pursuit of wisdom. These quotations contain profound philosophy and radiate the ray of intelligence."

"This new collection, *Xi Jinping: How to Read Confucius and Other Chinese Classical Thinkers*, lists over 200 classical quotations and reflects the achievements of Xi Jinping's extensive reading and diligent studies."

The “Economy of Words” in Classical Chinese

Classical Chinese

(30)

莊子釣於濮水，楚王使大夫二人往先焉，曰：“願以竟內累矣。”莊子持竿不顧，曰：

Modern Chinese
(vernacular)

(70)

莊子在濮水邊釣魚，楚王派遣兩位大夫到濮水那兒去先去見莊子說明他的願望，兩位大夫說：“楚王希望請您到楚國來做宰相，管理全國的政事。”莊子拿著釣魚竿不回頭看，說：

English Translation

(73)

Zhuāngzǐ was fishing by the Pú River. The king of Chǔ sent two high officials to go there first to see Zhuāngzǐ and to make the king's wishes known. The two high officials said: "The king of Chǔ has now expressed a desire to invite you to Chǔ as prime minister to supervise the administration of the whole kingdom." Zhuāngzǐ, holding his fishing pole and not turning round to look at them, said:

Contemporary China

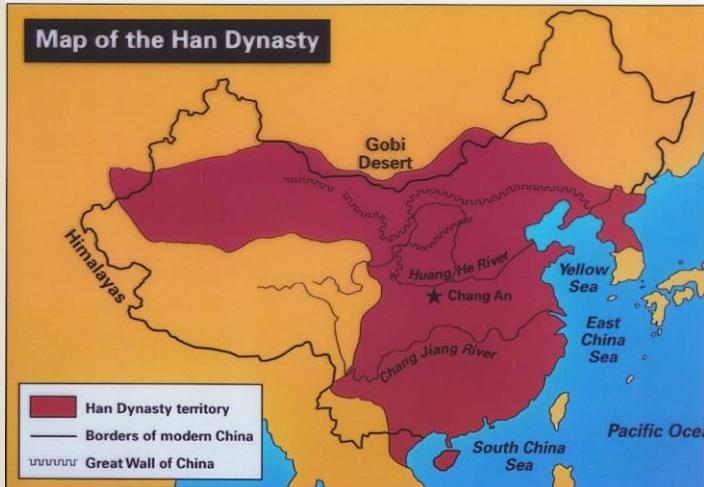


Area: 9,596,961 km²

Population: 1,409,670,000 (est.)

Three Great Chinese Empires

Han: 202 BCE – 220 CE



Tang: 618 – 907



Song: 960 – 1279



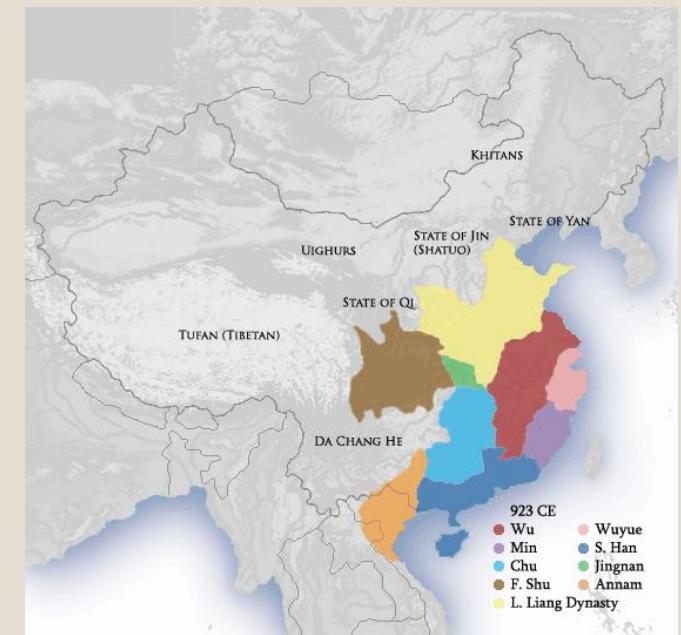
Periods of Disunion



China ca. 500 BCE
“Spring and Autumn Period”



China ca. 250 CE
“Three Kingdoms”



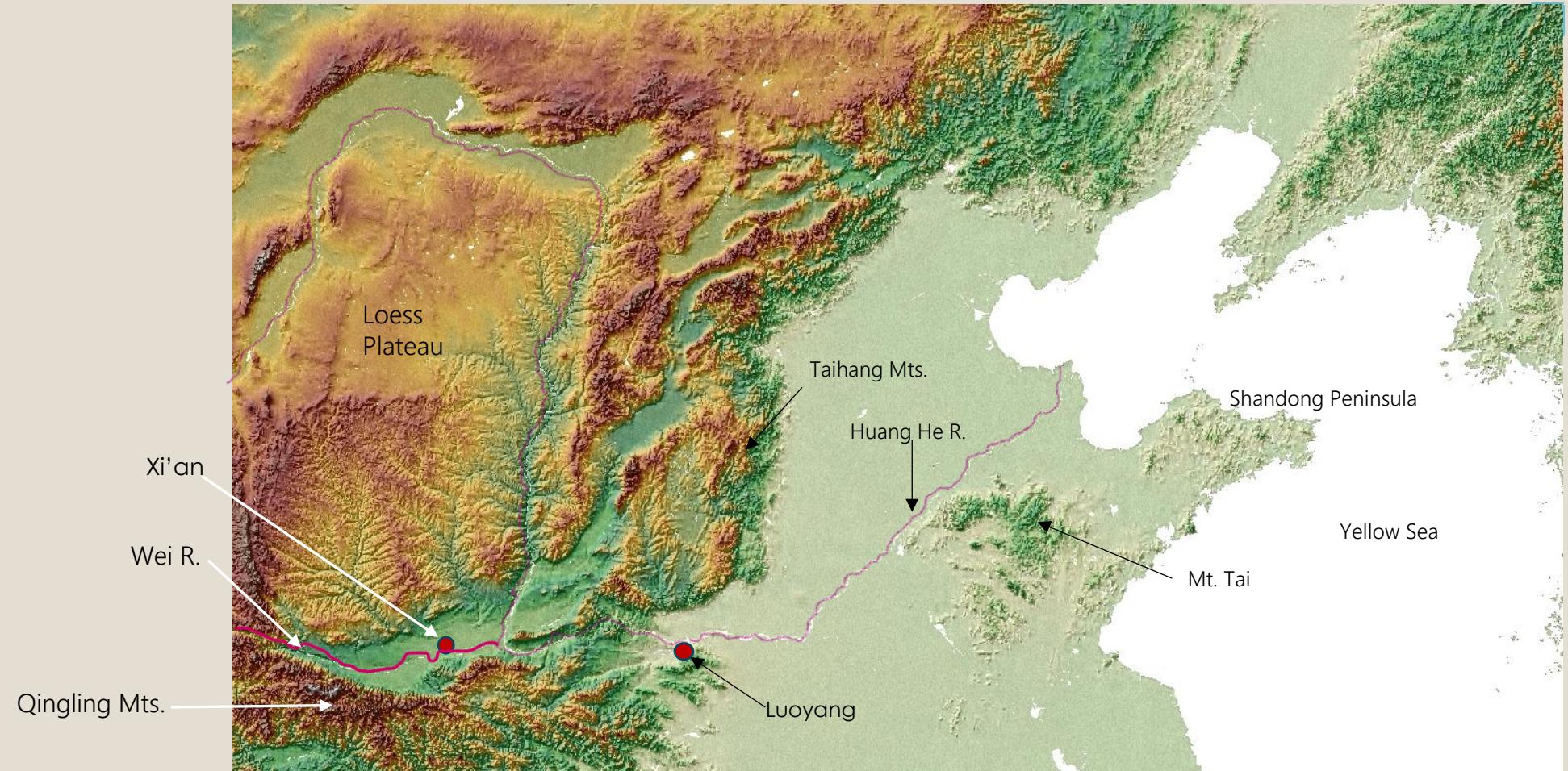
China ca. 920 CE
“Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms”



China ca. 471CE
“Northern and Southern Dynasties”

The North China Plain

“Cradle” of Chinese Civilization



Some Erlitou and Erligang Sites c. 1100 BCE

Erlitou
Zhengzhou, principal Erligang site



By Ismoon (talk) 18:54, 16 July 2014 (UTC), based on the map in *Art and Archaeology of the Erligang Civilization*, Princeton University Press, 2014

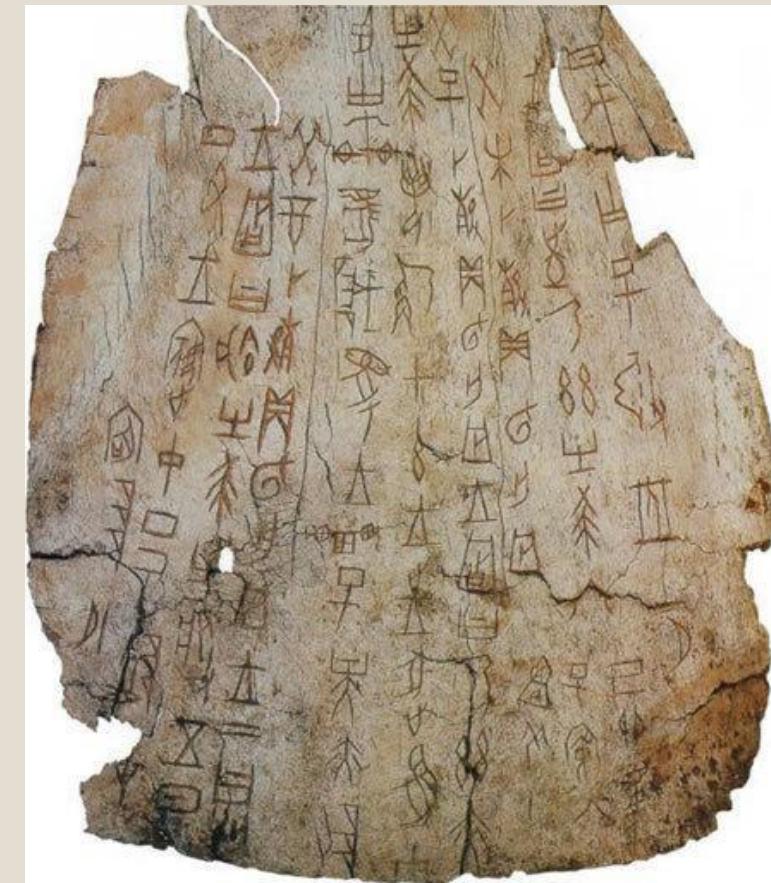
Erlitou-era ritual
wine vessel (Jue)
c.1600 BCE



China during the Shang Period c. 1100 BCE



Shang-era Oracle-bone Inscriptions





Li Food Warmer, 12th century BCE

Some Shang-era Ritual Bronze Vessels



Ding tripod, 12th century BCE



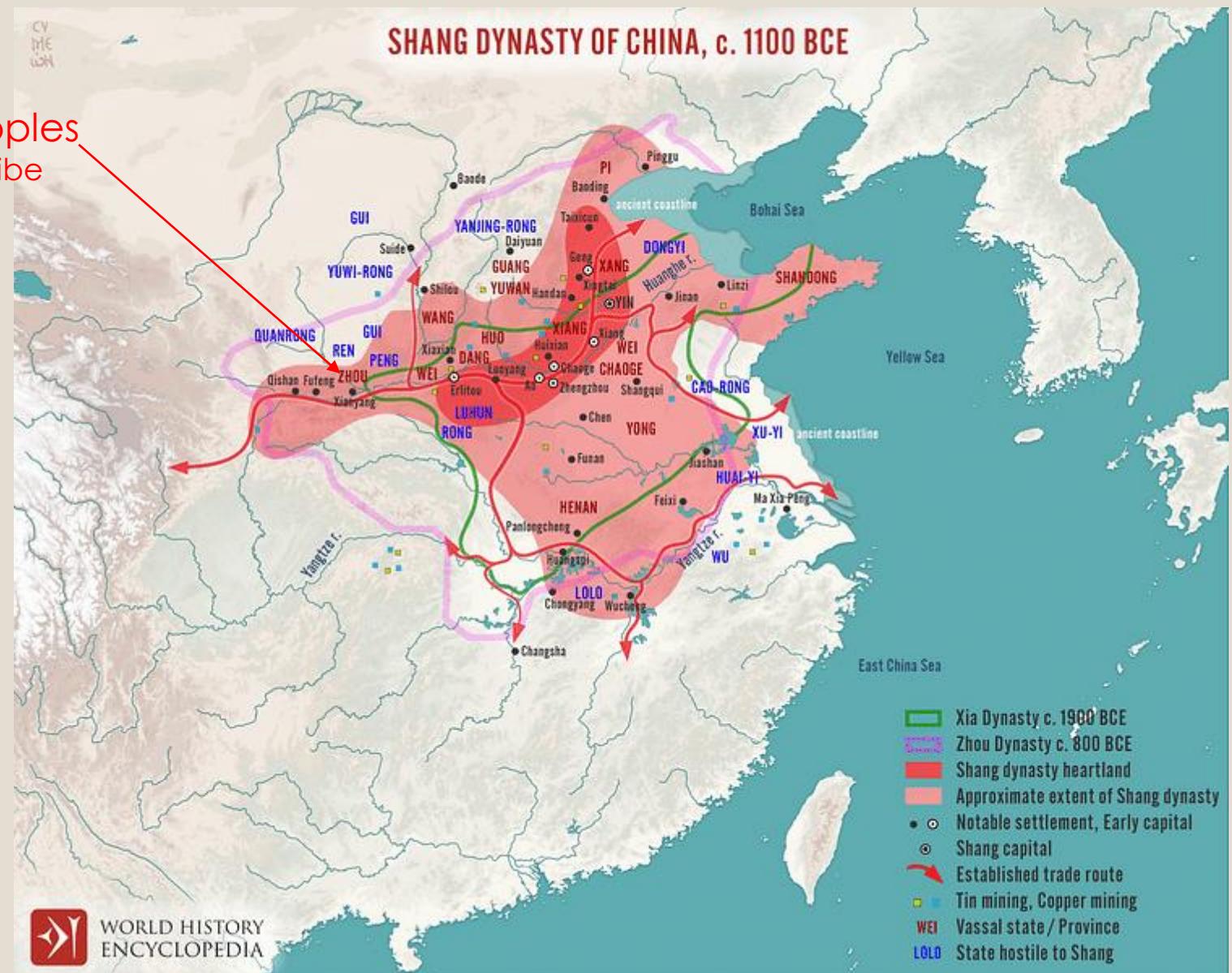
Gong wine
vessel, 13th
century
BCE



Gu goblet, 1200-1050 BCE

China during the Shang Period c. 1100 BCE

The Zhou Peoples
A peripheral tribe



WORLD HISTORY
ENCYCLOPEDIA

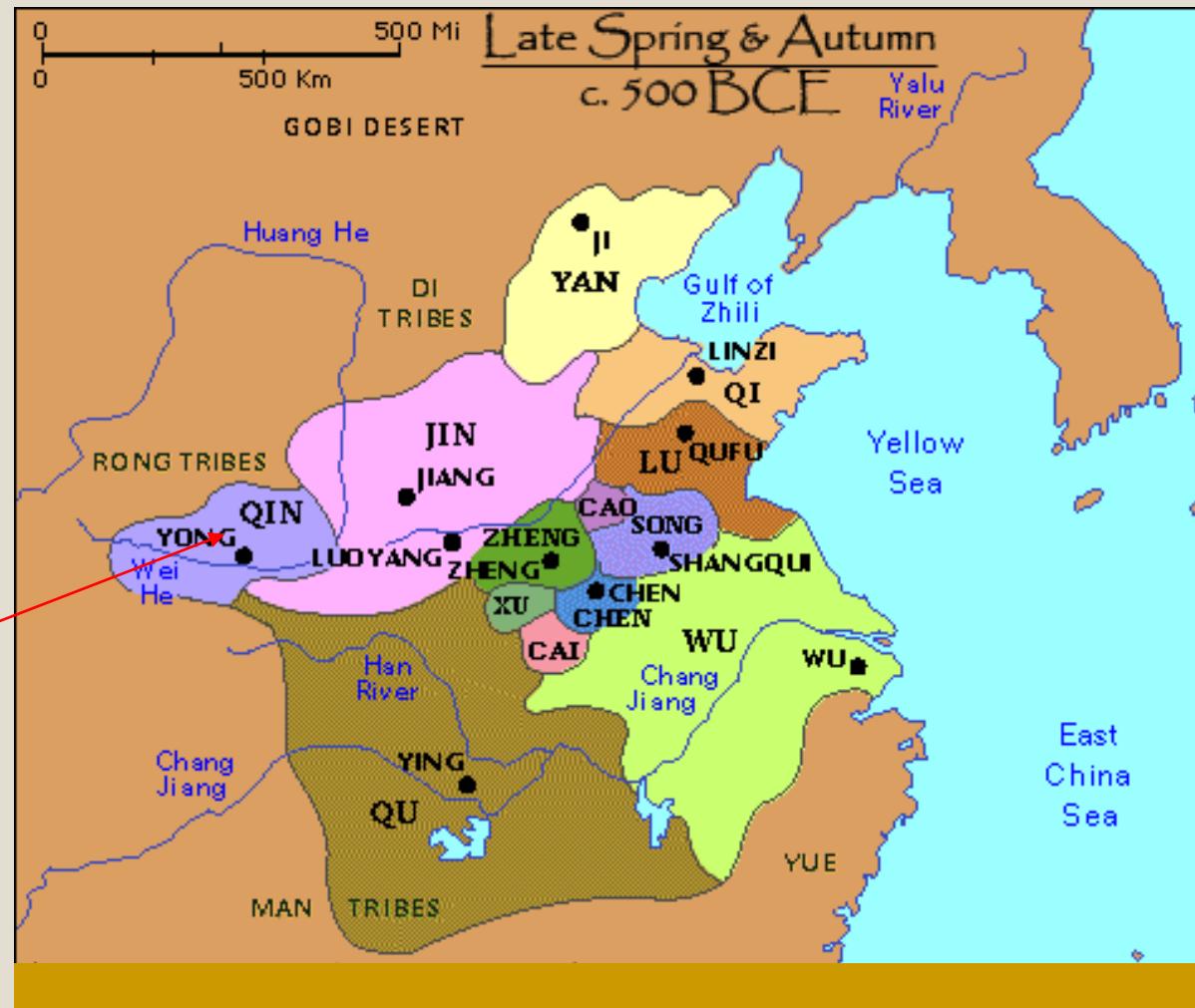
China during the Western Zhou Period 1046-771 BCE



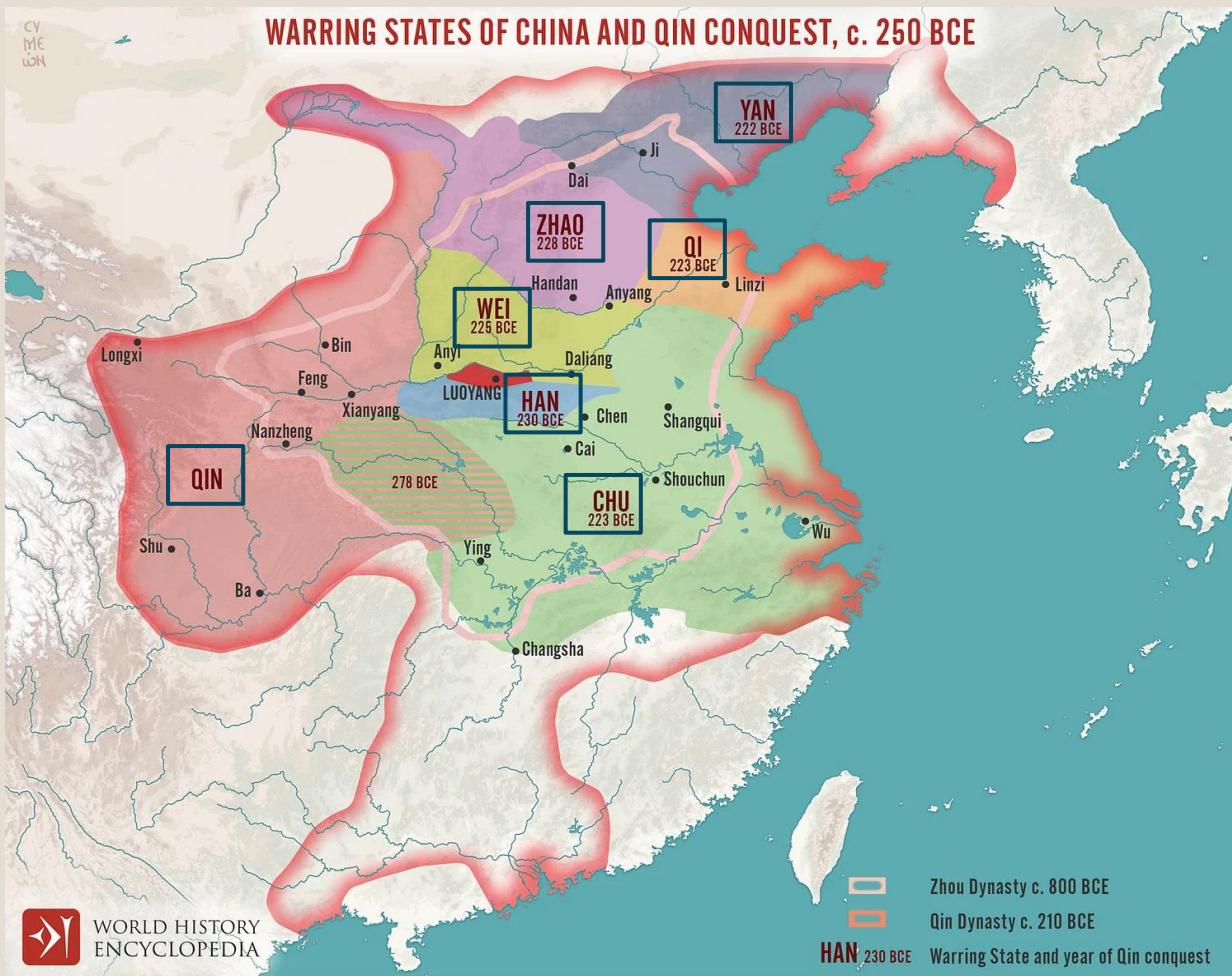
China during the Spring and Autumn Period

771-453 BCE

Qin
A peripheral state

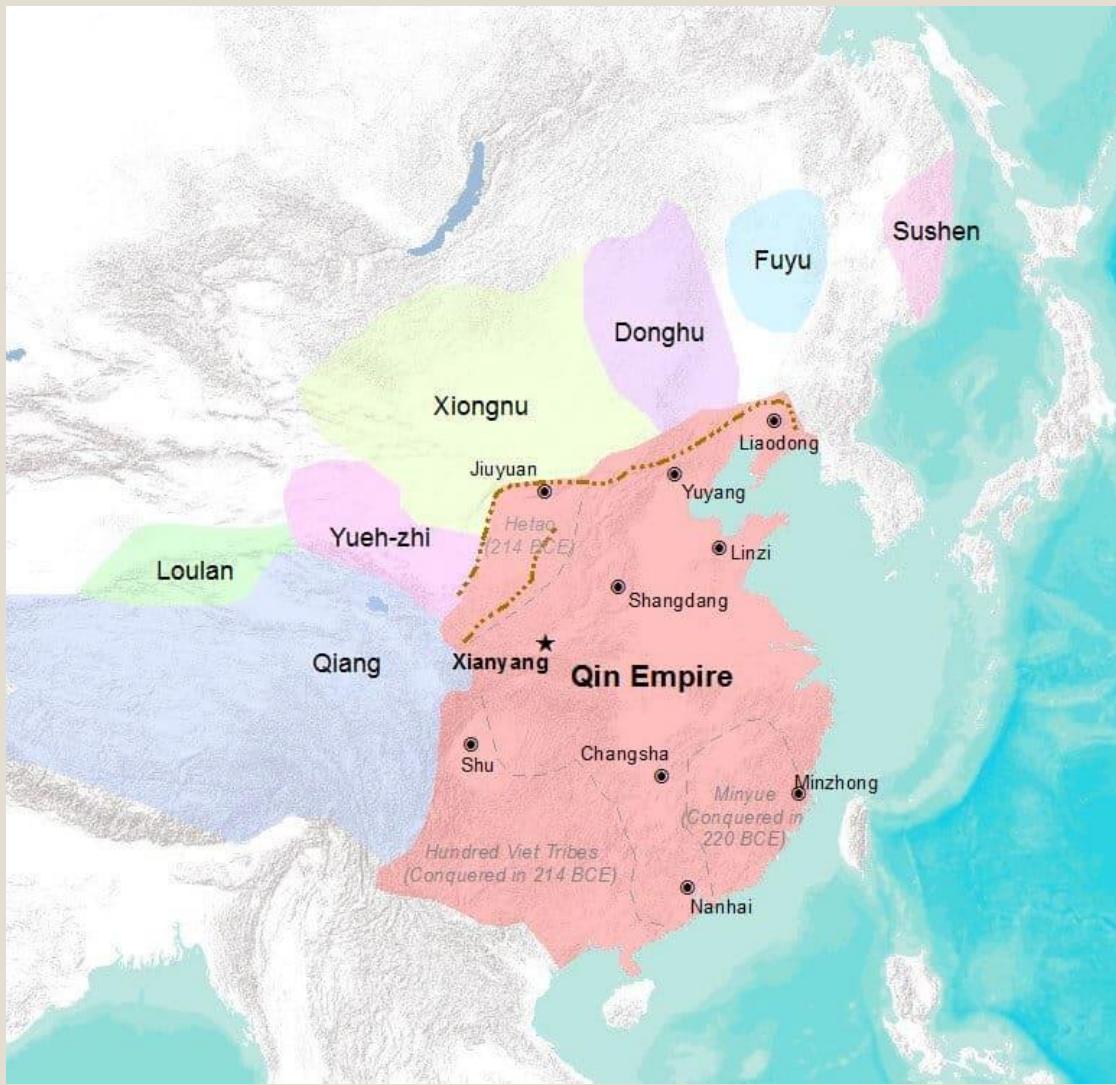


China during the Warring States Period, 453-221 BCE



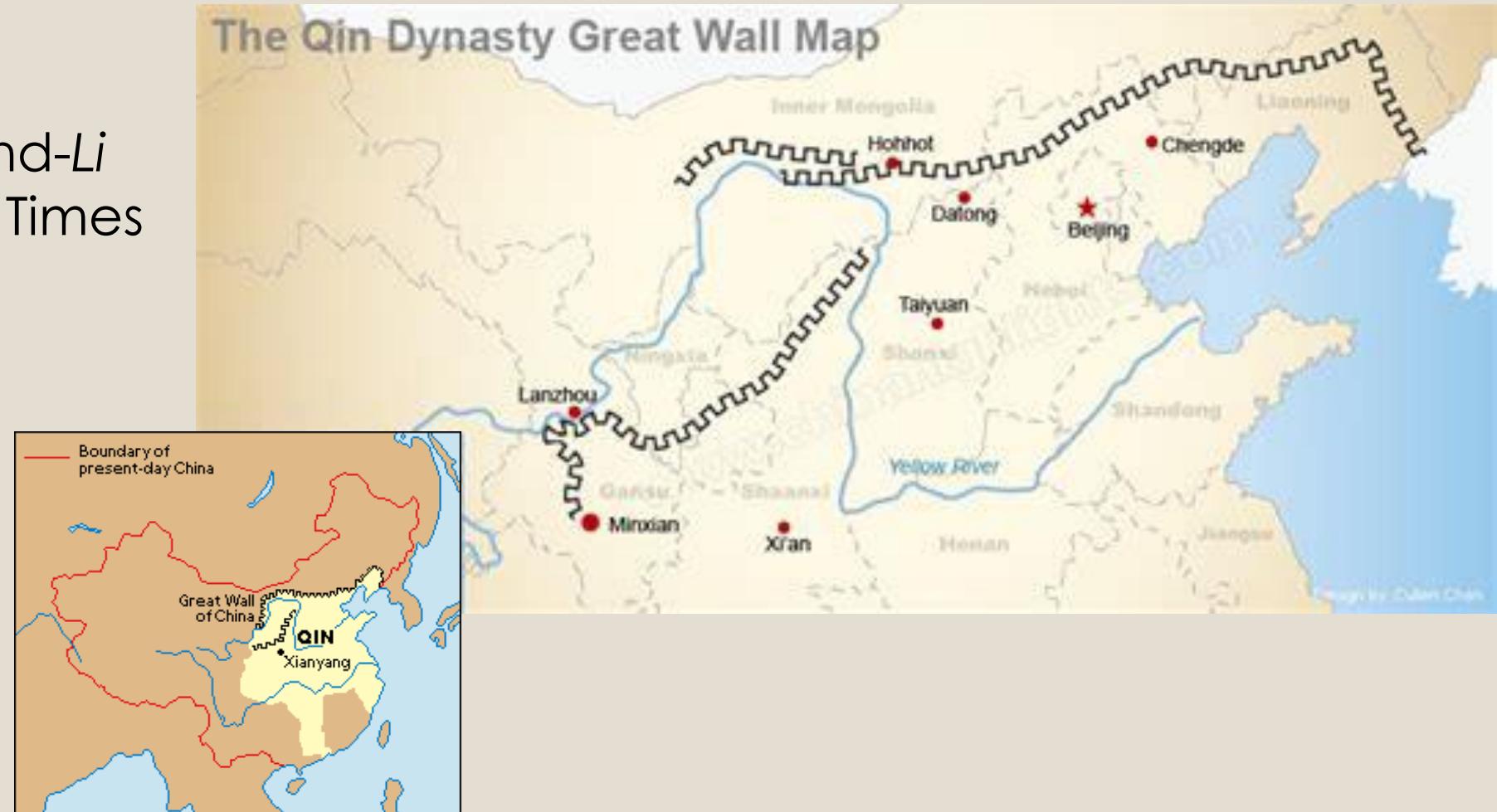
The Warring States of China
260 BCE





Qin, the First Chinese Empire 221-206 BCE

The “Ten-Thousand-Li Long Wall” in Qin Times



Western (Former) Han Dynasty, 202-9 BCE



The “Silk Road” ca. 300 BCE—100 CE

