

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>

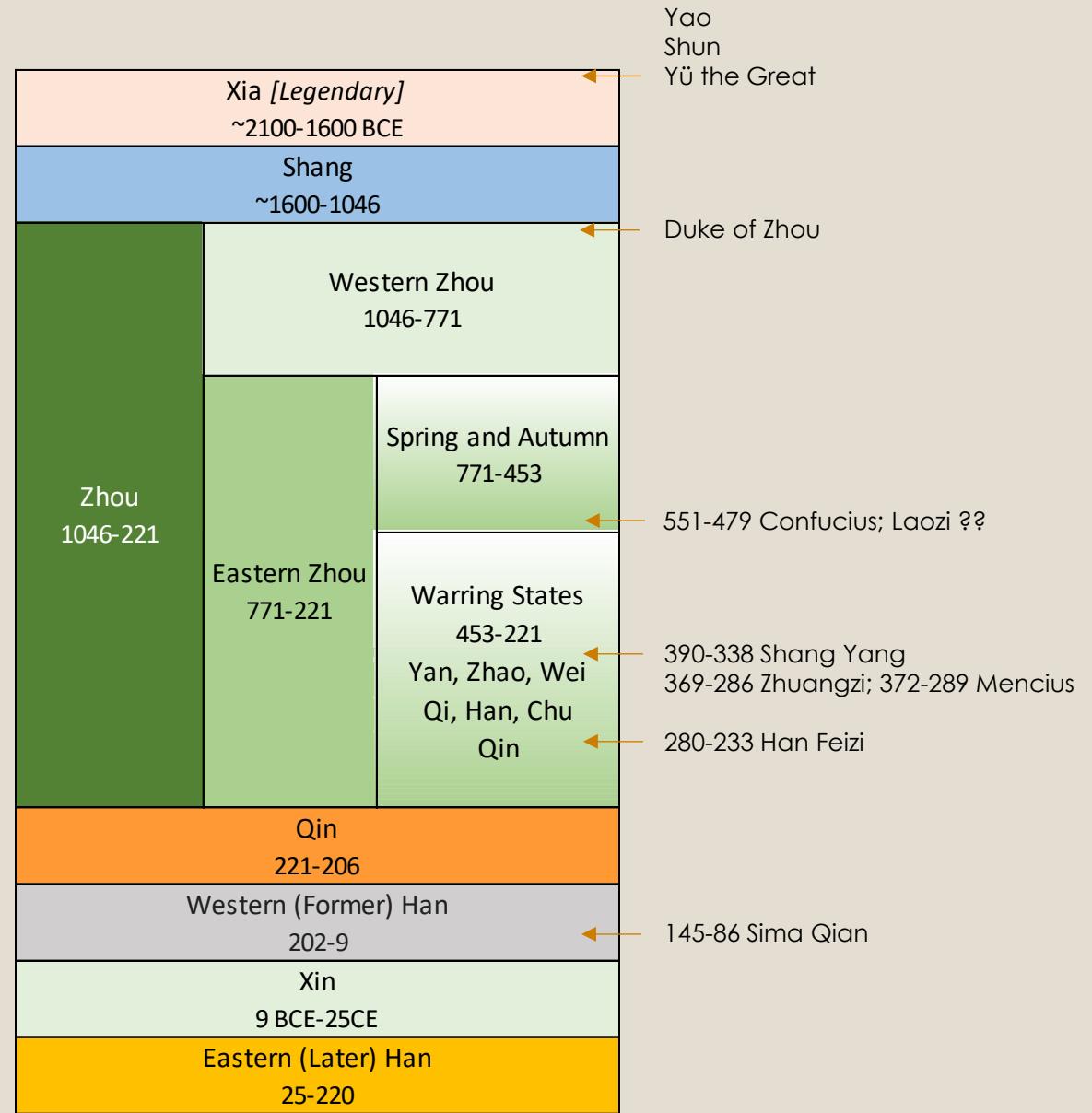
Lecture One

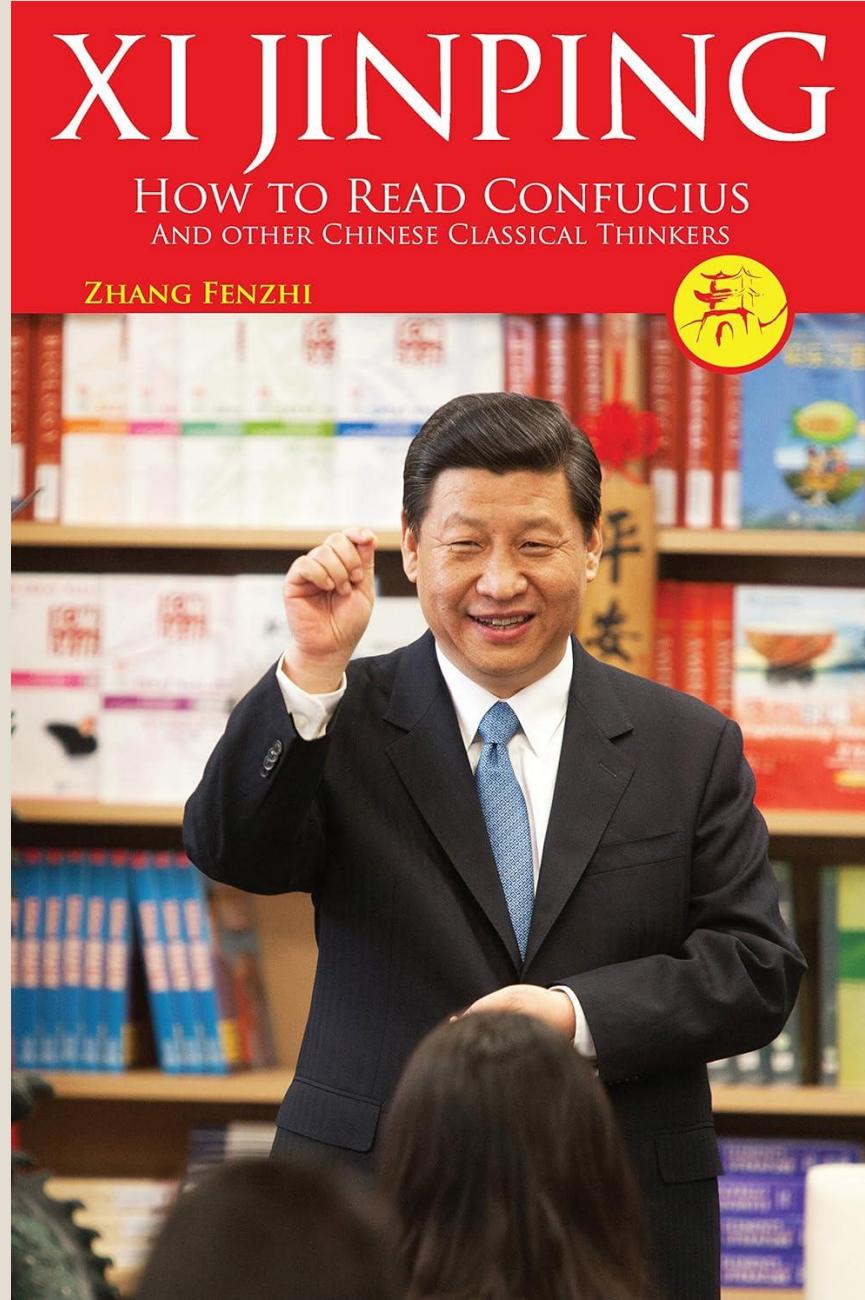
The Pattern of the Chinese Past

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

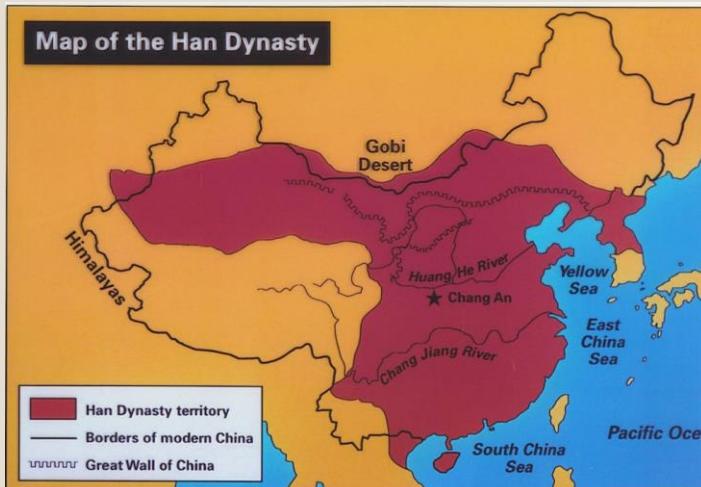


Area: 9,596,961 km²

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

Three Great Chinese Empires

Han: 202 BCE – 220 CE



Tang: 618 – 907



Song: 960 – 1279



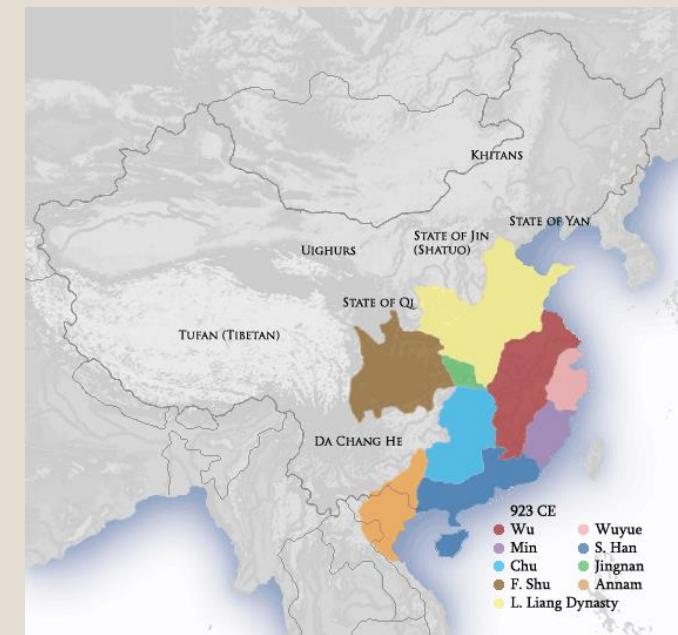
Periods of Disunion



China ca. 500 BCE
“Spring and Autumn Period”



China ca. 250 CE
“Three Kingdoms”



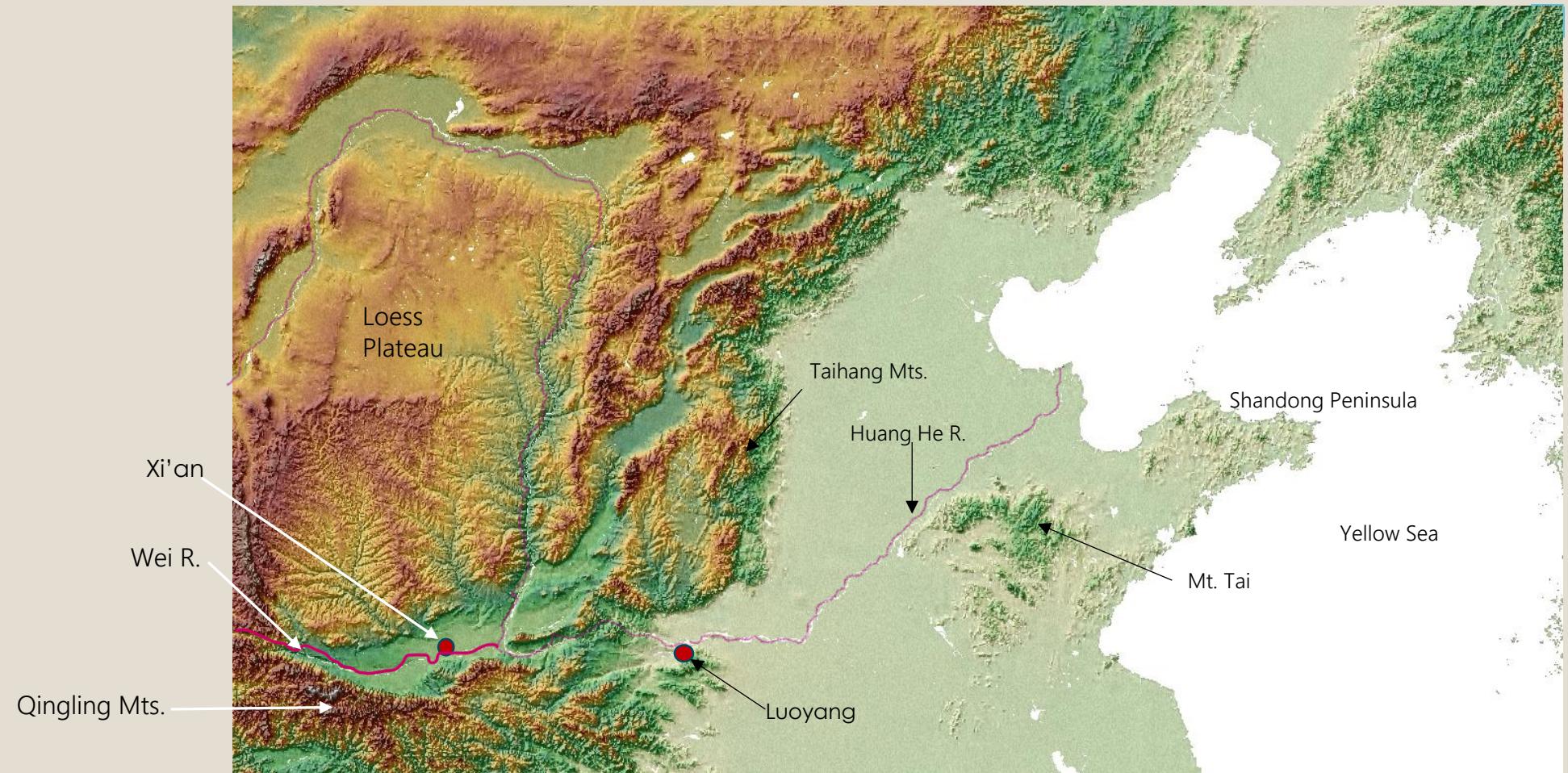
China ca. 920 CE
“Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms”



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





Li Food Warmer, 12th century BCE

Some Shang-era Ritual Bronze Vessels



Ding tripod, 12th century BCE

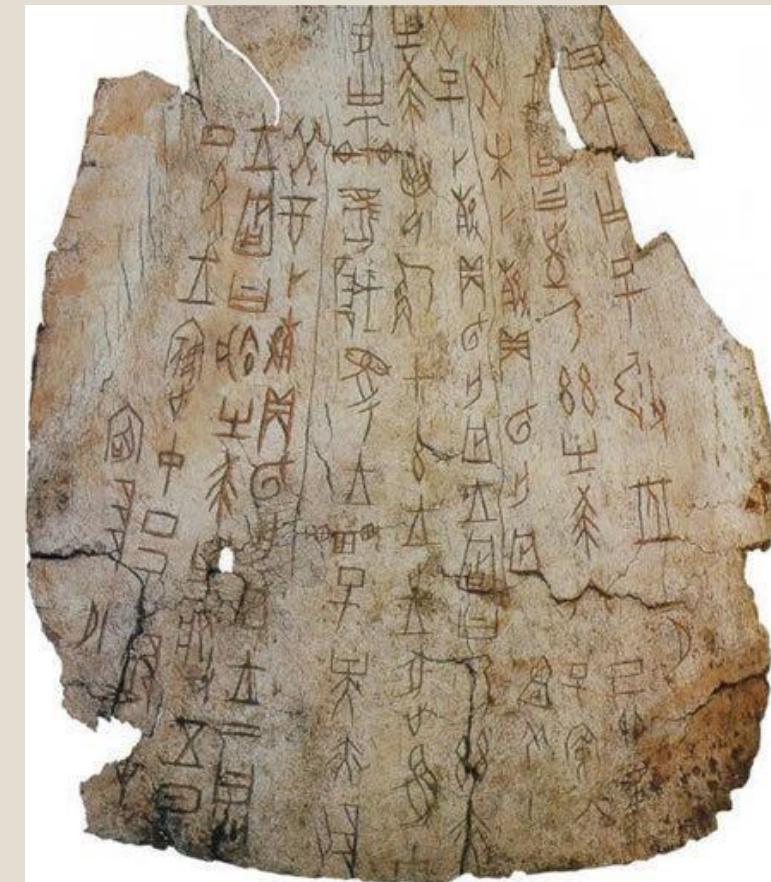


Gong wine
vessel, 13th
century
BCE



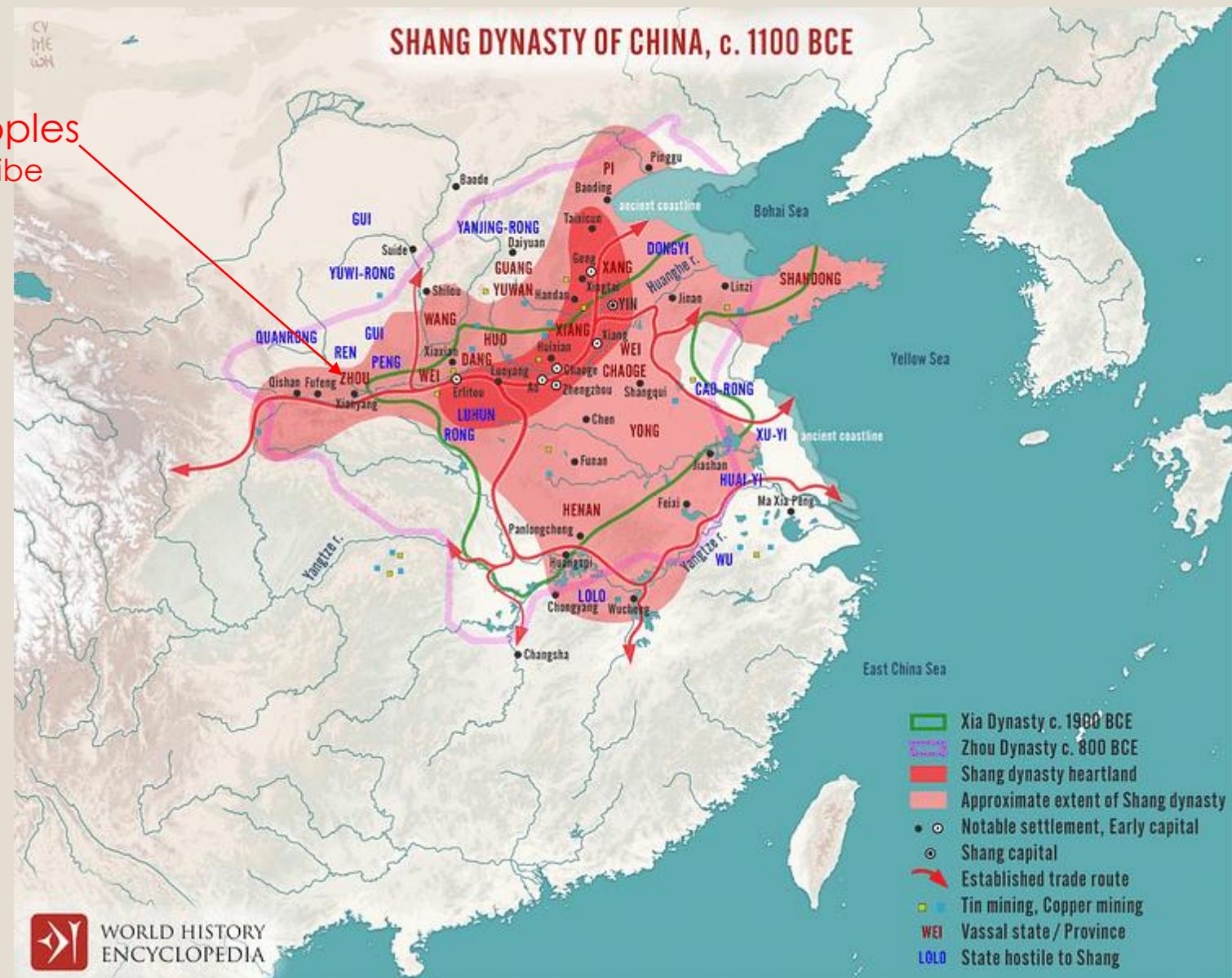
Gu goblet, 1200-1050 BCE

Shang-era Oracle-bone Inscriptions



China during the Shang Period c. 1100 BCE

The Zhou Peoples
A peripheral tribe



WORLD HISTORY
ENCYCLOPEDIA

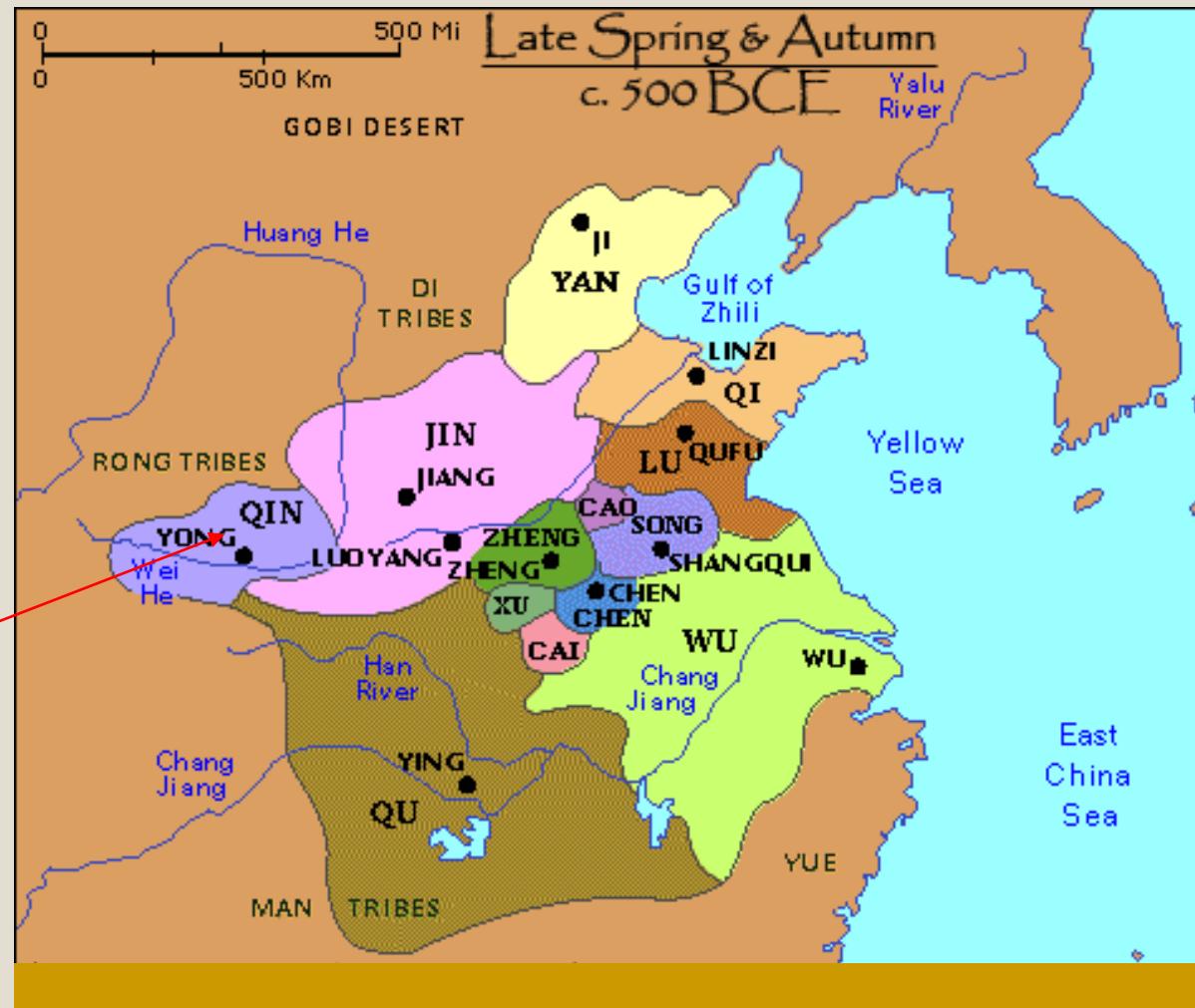
China during the Western Zhou Period 1046-771 BCE



China during the Spring and Autumn Period

771-453 BCE

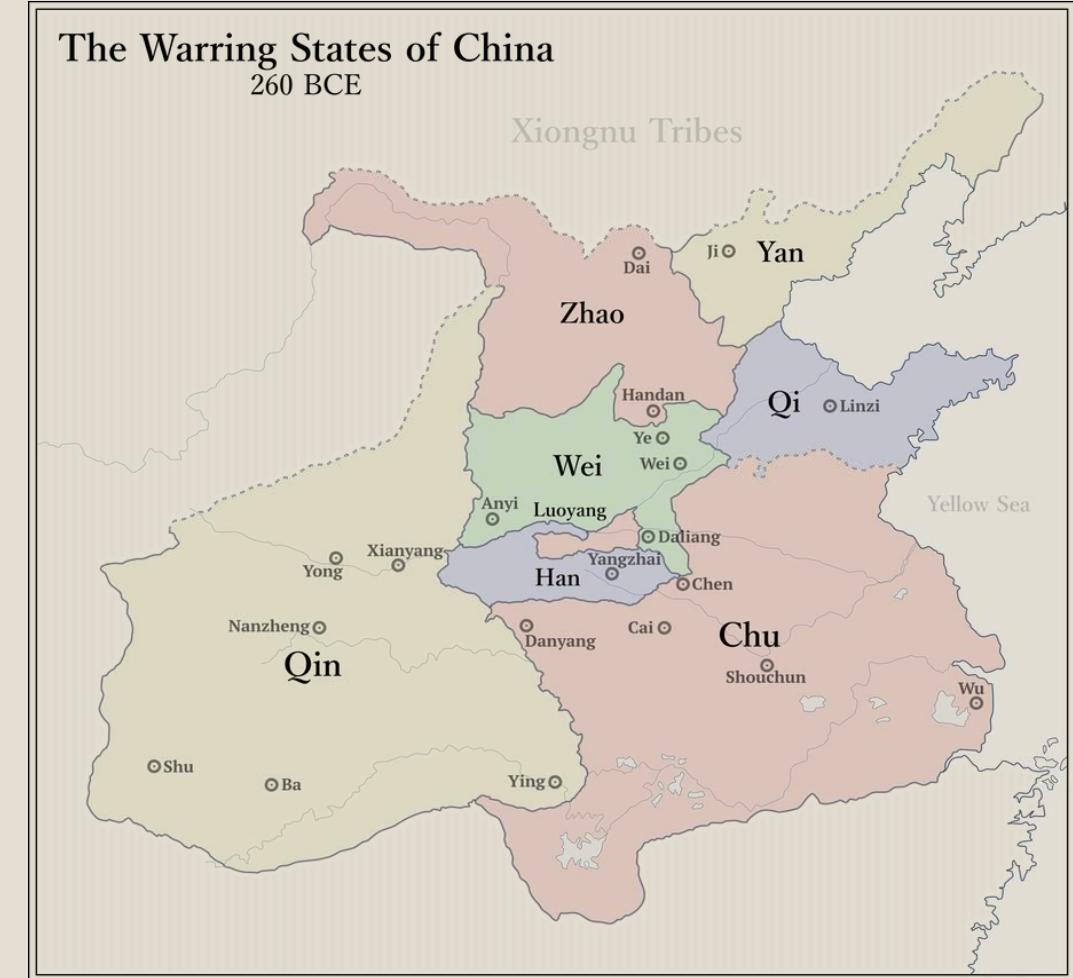
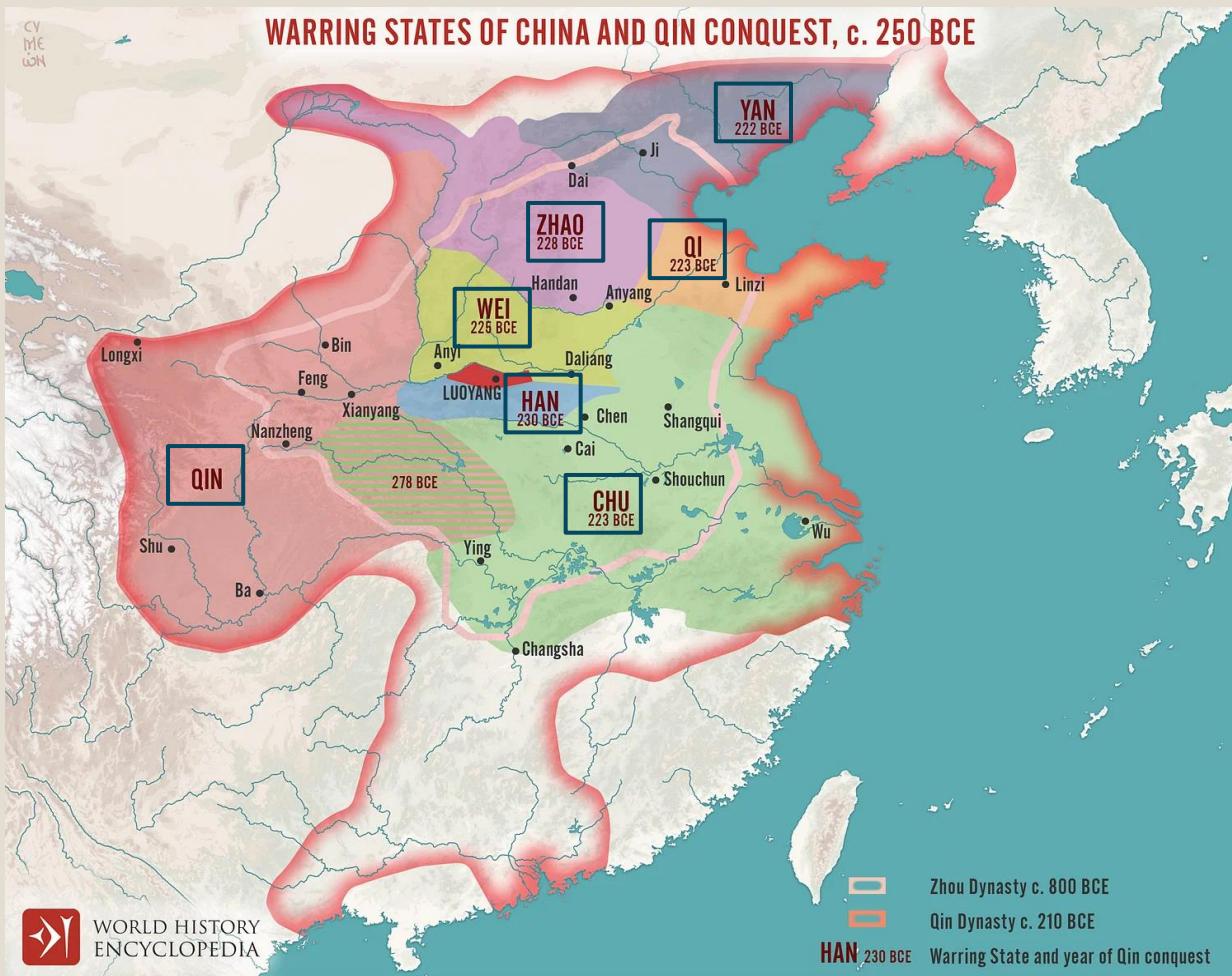
Qin
A peripheral state



Lecture Two

Early Confucianism: Human Nature Perfected

China during the Warring States Period, 453-221 BCE

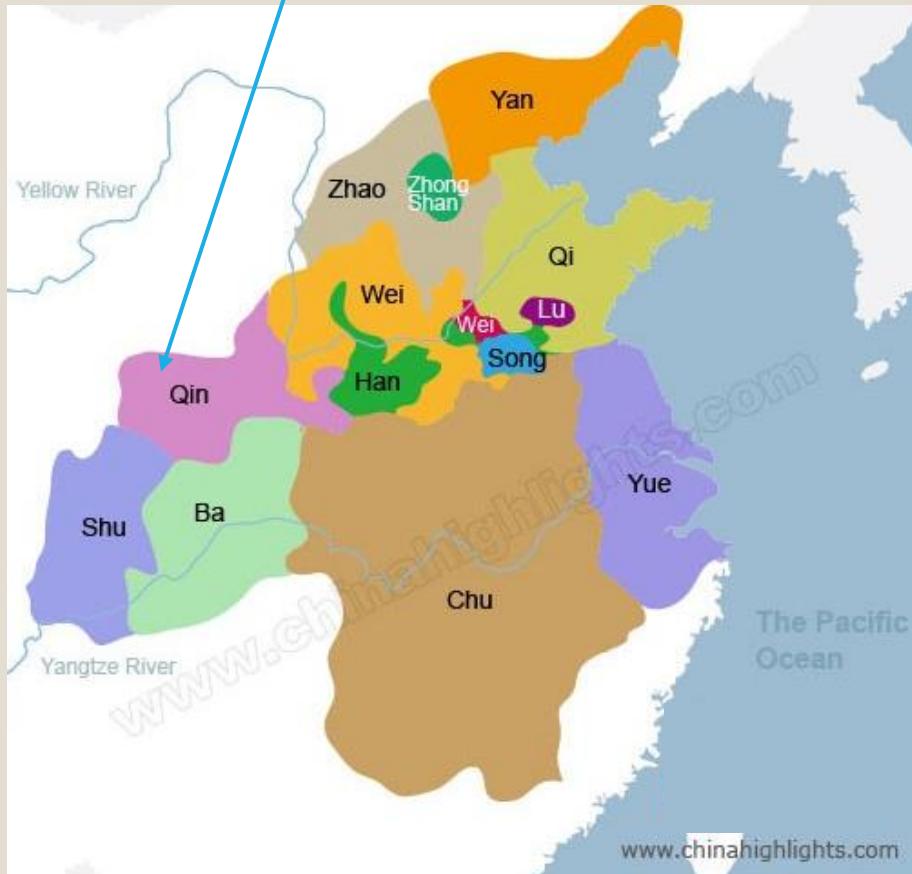


Lecture Three

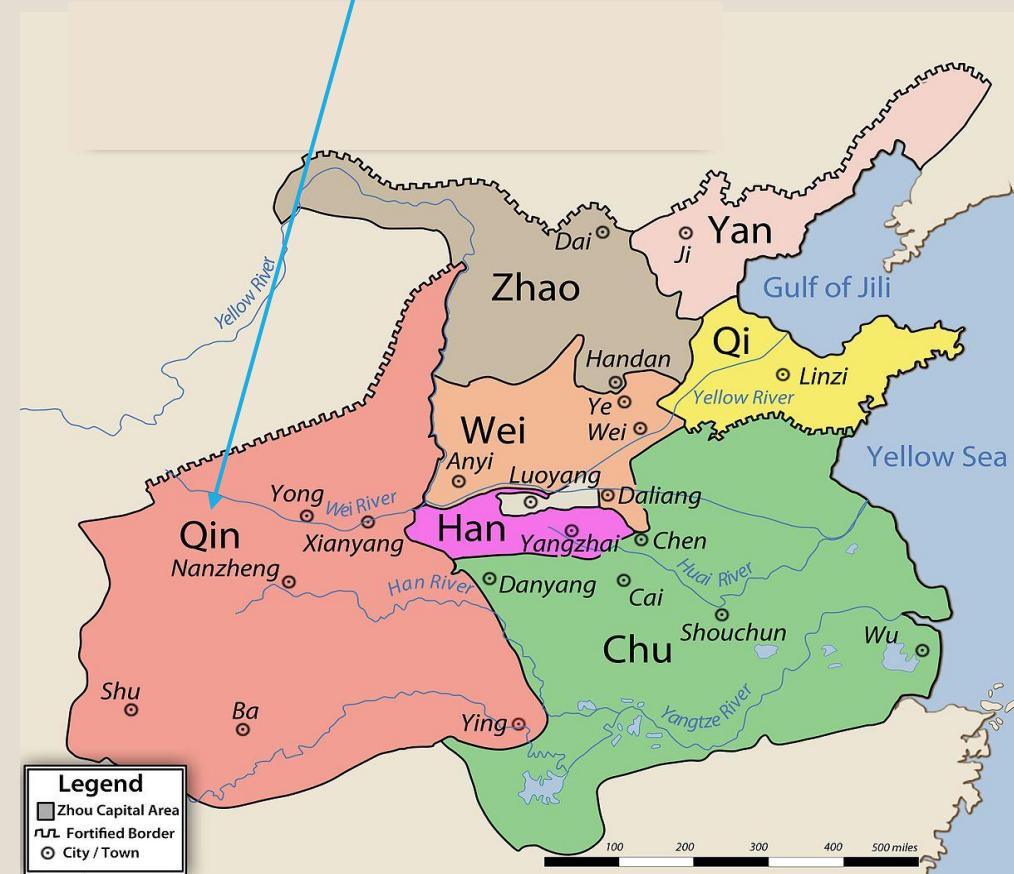
"A Weak People Means a Strong State":
A Chinese *Realpolitik*

The Expansion of Qin

Qin ca. 360 BCE



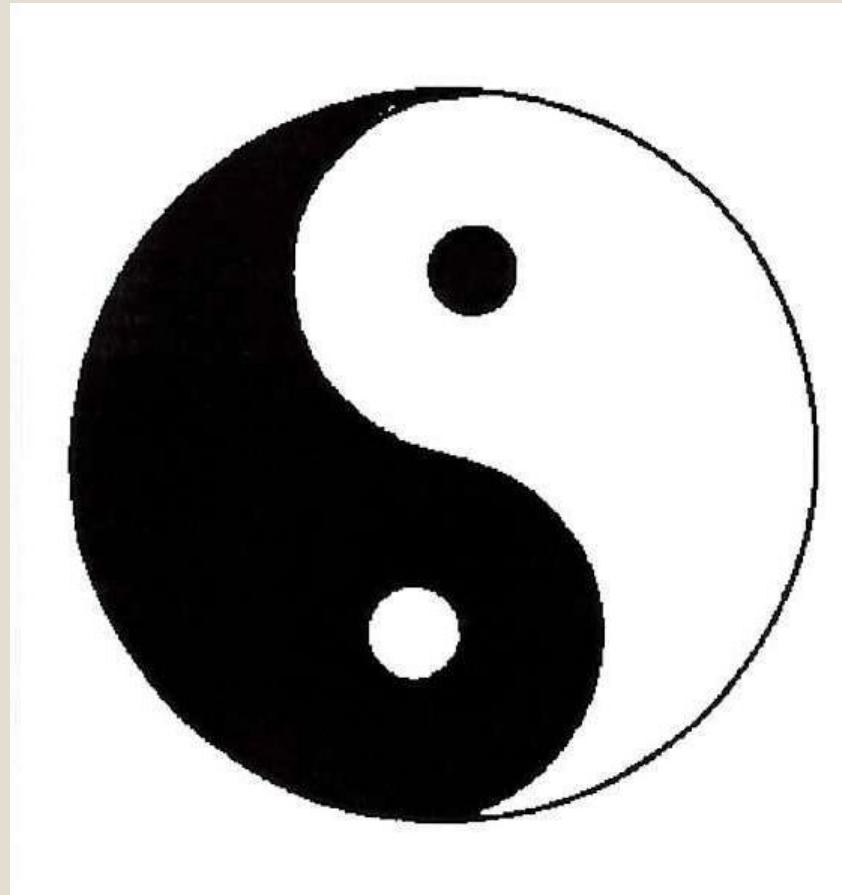
Qin ca. 260 BCE



Lecture Four

The Mysterious Female: Immanence and Transcendence in the Daoist Tradition

The Alternation of Yin and Yang



The First Two Verses of the *Daodejīng*

有名万物之母 无名天地之始
道可道非常道 名可名非常名

A dao that can be dao-ed is not the eternal Dao.
A name that can be named is not the eternal name.

Nameless, it is the beginning of Heaven and earth.
Named, it is the mother of the ten-thousand-things.

The First Two Verses of the Daodejīng

有名 无名 天地之始
万物之母 名可名非常名
道可道非常道

A dao that can be dao-ed is not the eternal Dao.
A name that can be named is not the eternal name.



Nameless , it is the beginning of Heaven and earth.



Named , it is the mother of the ten-thousand-things

The First Two Verses of the Daodejīng

有 无 名 可 道
名 无 道 可 道
万物之母 天地之始 可名非常道

A dao that can be dao-ed is not the eternal Dao.
A name that can be named is not the eternal name.



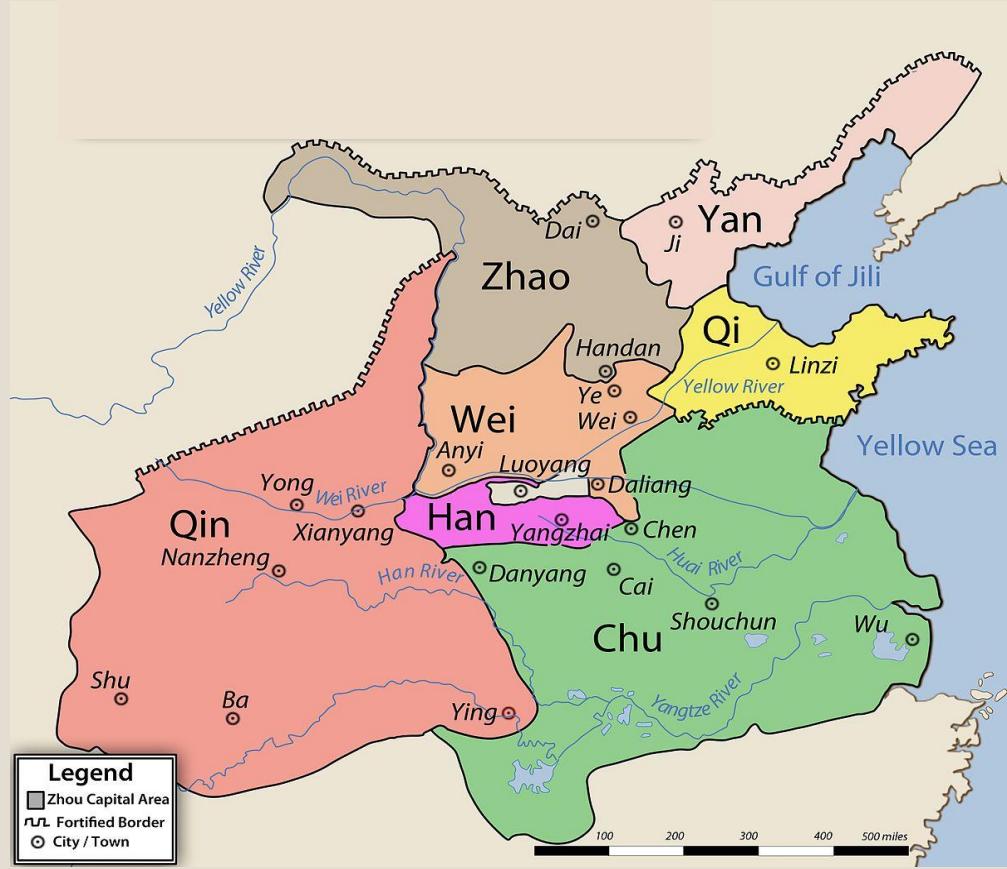
Nonbeing  is called  the beginning of Heaven and earth.



Being  is called  the mother of the ten-thousand-things

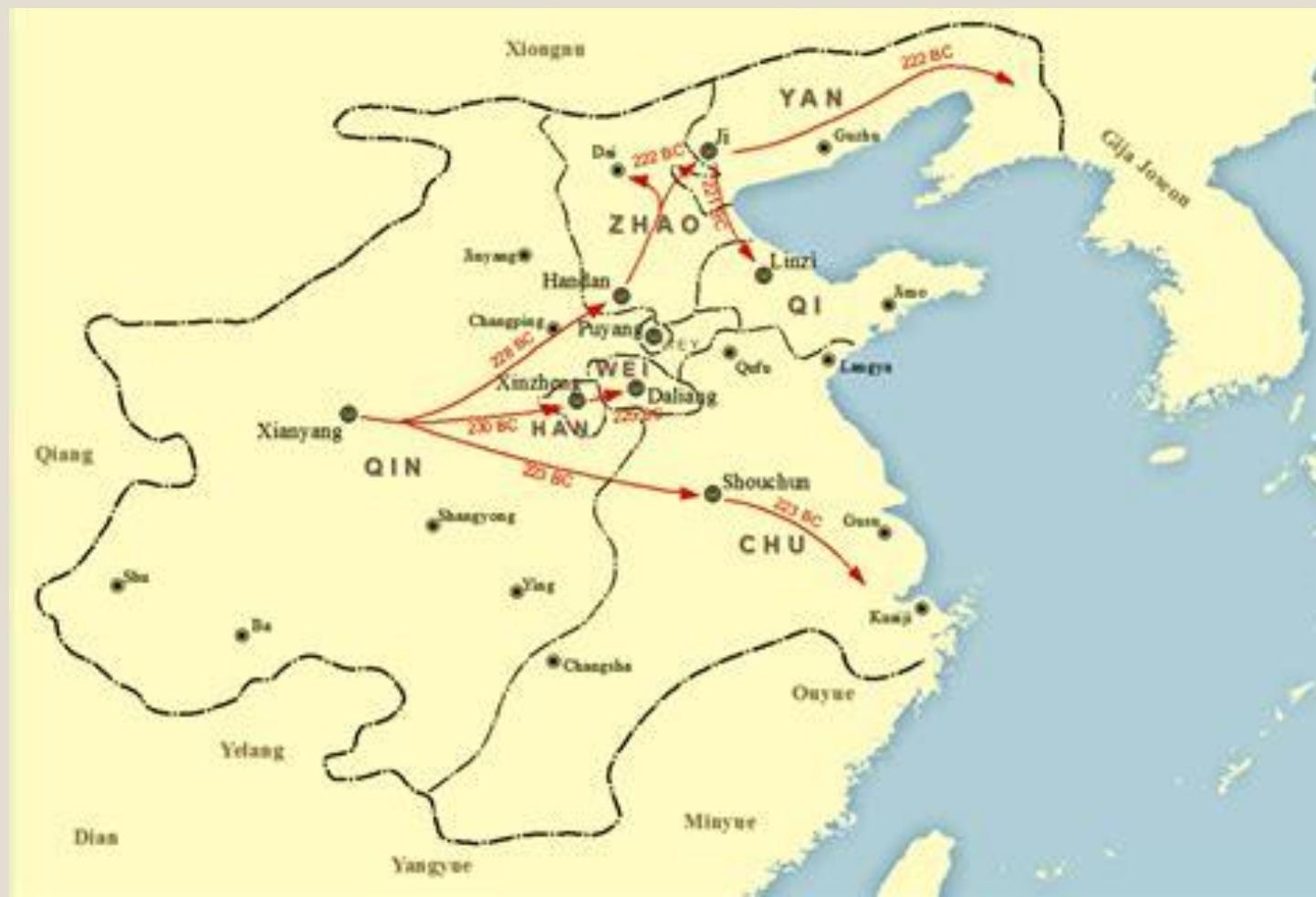
Lecture Five

The Formation of the Confucian State



Qin at the accession of King Zheng

ca. 246 BCE

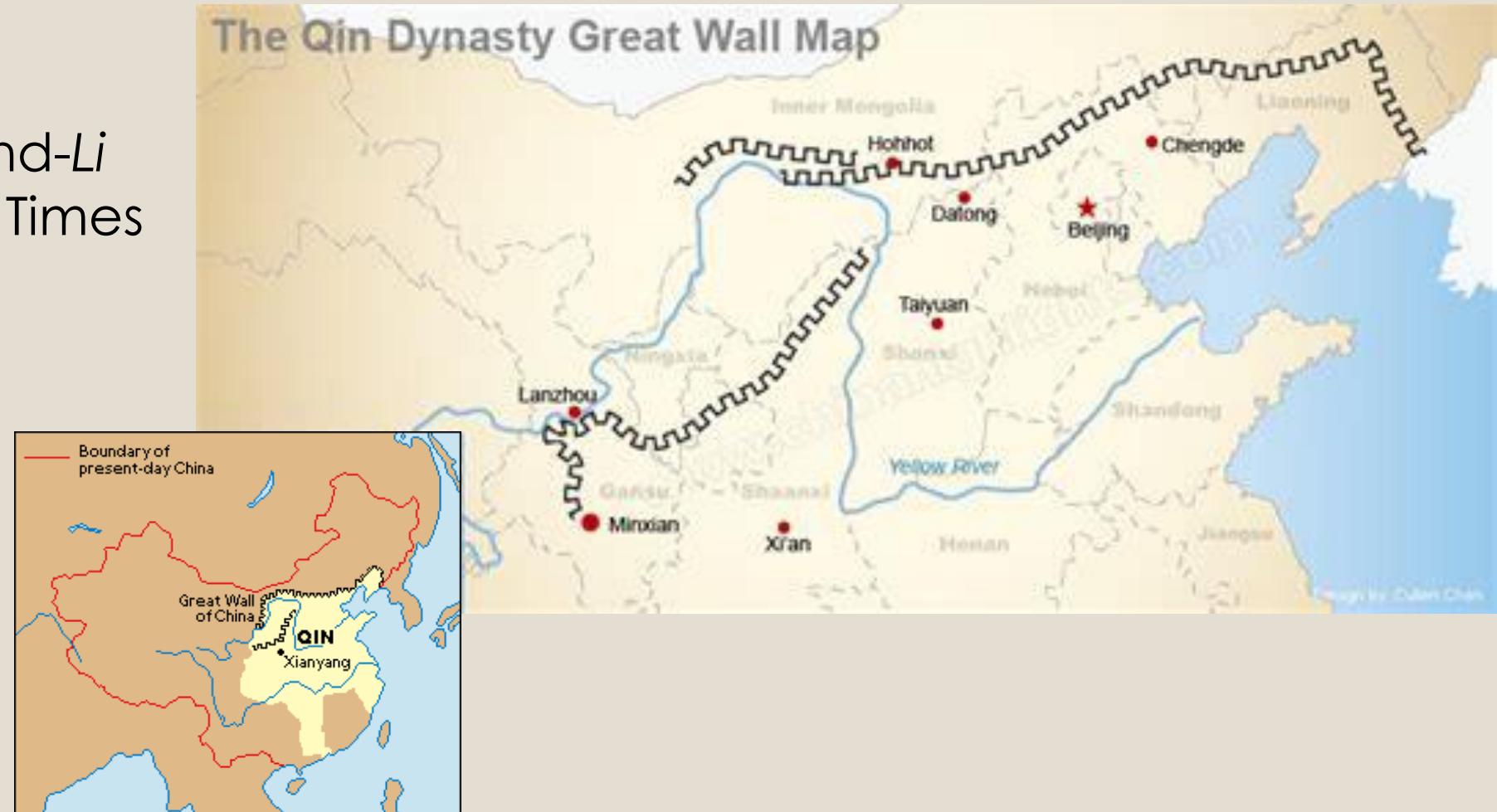


Qin Conquests,
230-221 BCE



Qin, the First Chinese Empire 221-206 BCE

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



Western (Former) Han Dynasty, 202 BCE-9 CE



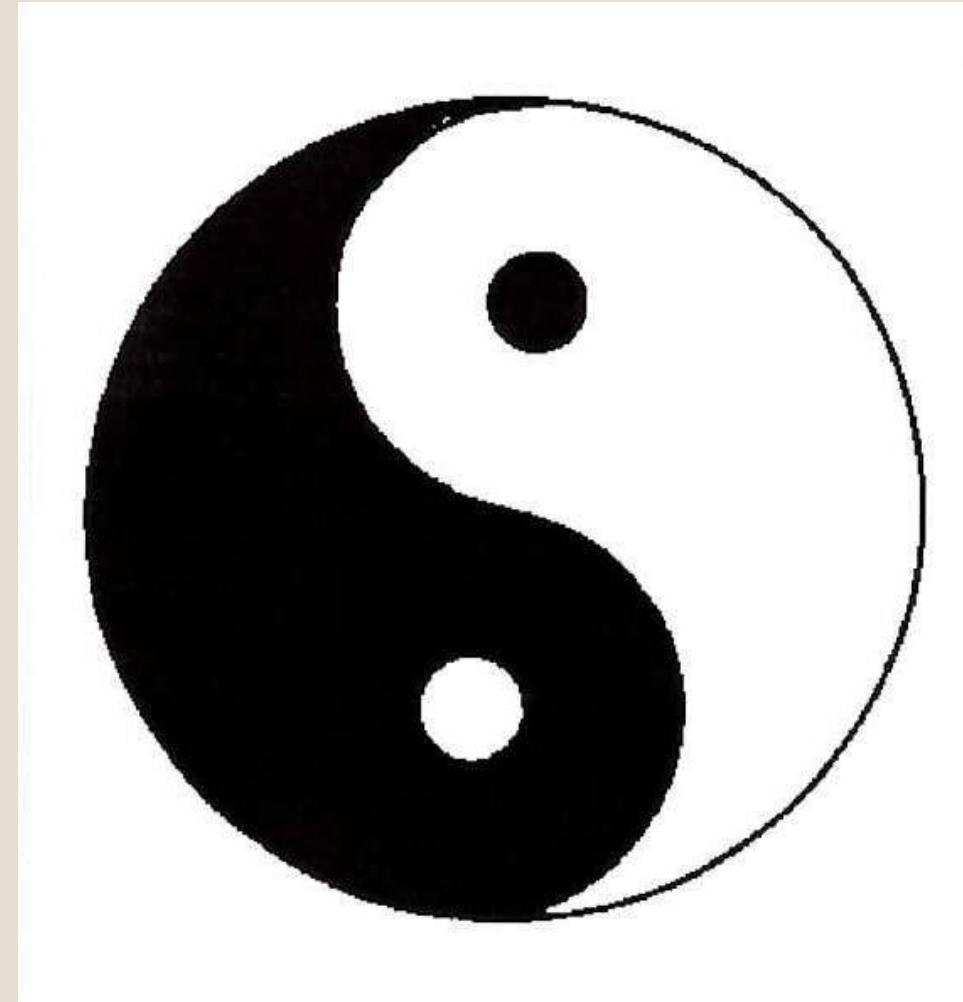
The “Silk Road” ca. 300 BCE—100 CE



The Alternation of Yin and Yang

"The Dao begets one
One begets two
Two begets three
Three begets the ten-thousand things"

Daodejing verse 42

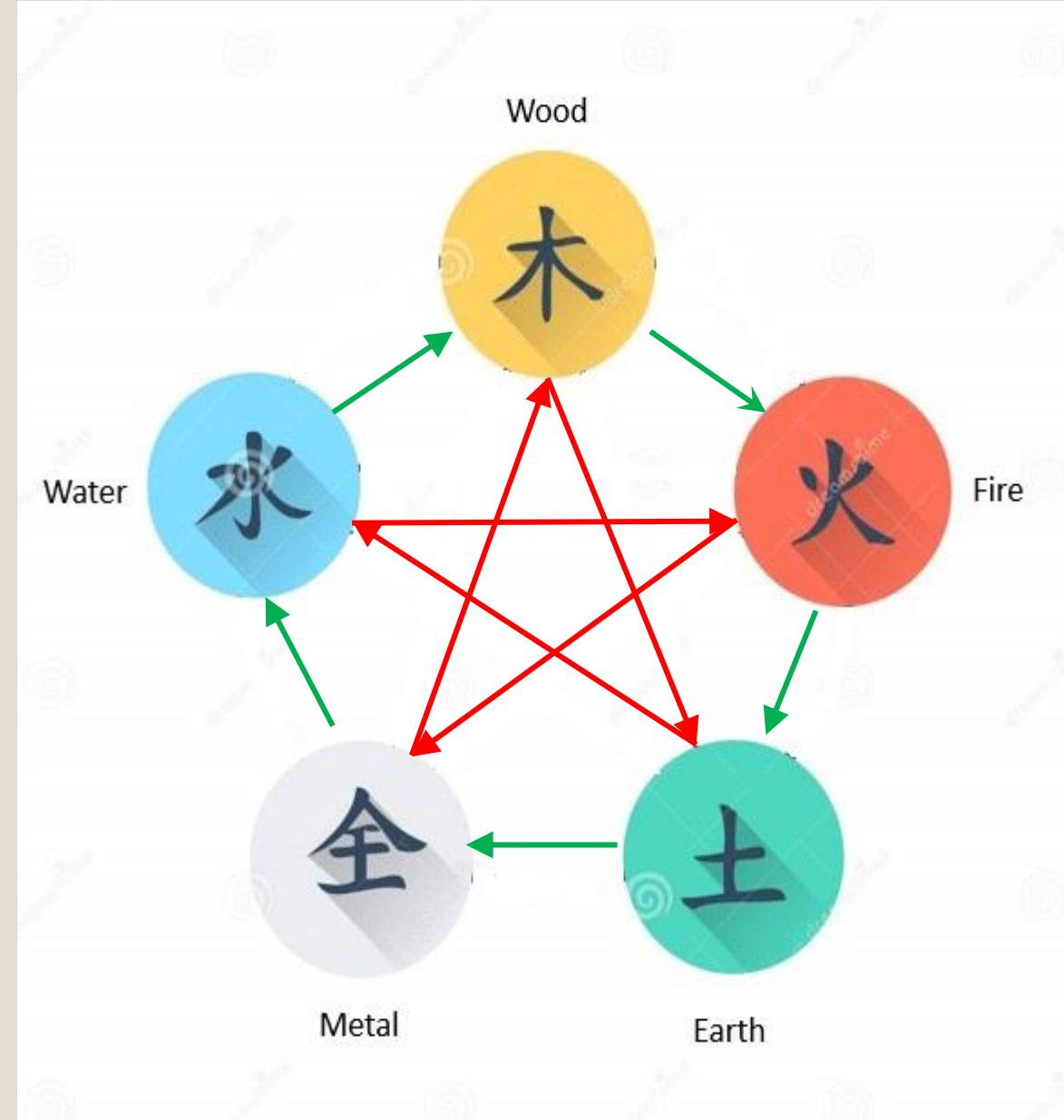


Wuxing

The Five Phases

Chunqiu Fanlu 58.1, 59.1

→ Generation,
Mutual Engendering
→ Mutual Conquest



The Five Phases:
 Table of Correspondences
 Han-era “Generation” Series
 (Based on the *Huainanzi*)

	Wood	Fire	Earth	Metal	Water
Seasons	Spring	Summer	None	Fall	Winter
Directions	East	South	Center	West	North
Colors	Green	Red	Yellow	White	Black / Dark Blue
Tastes	Sour	Bitter	Sweet	Pungent	Salty
Climates	Wind	Heat	Dampness	Dryness	Cold
Planets	Jupiter	Mars	Saturn	Venus	Mercury
Ying Yang	Lesser Yang	Utmost Yang	Centre	Lesser Yin	Utmost Yin
Animals	Fish	Birds	Human	Mammals	Shell-Covered
Ying Organs	Liver	Heart	Spleen	Lungs	Kidneys
Yang Organs	Gall-Bladder	Small Intestine	Stomach	Large Intestine	Bladder
Sense Organs	Eyes	Tongue	Mouth	Nose	Ears
Tissues	Sinews	Vessels	Muscles	Skin	Bones
Emotions	Anger	Joy	Pensiveness	Sadness	Fear
Sounds	Shouting	Laughing	Singing	Crying	Groaning

The Sexagenary Cycle

甲 Jia
乙 Yi
丙 Bing
丁 Ding
戊 Wu
己 Ji
庚 Geng
辛 Xin
壬 Ren
癸 Gui

Ten Heavenly Stems

1. 甲子	11. 甲戌	21. 甲申	31. 甲午	41. 甲辰	51. 甲寅
Metal	Fire	Water	Metal	Fire	Water
2. 乙丑	12. 乙亥	22. 乙酉	32. 乙未	42. 乙巳	52. 乙卯
Metal	Fire	Water	Metal	Fire	Water
3. 丙寅	13. 丙子	23. 丙戌	33. 丙申	43. 丙午	53. 丙辰
Fire	Water	Earth	Fire	Water	Earth
4. 丁卯	14. 丁丑	24. 丁亥	34. 丁酉	44. 丁未	54. 丁巳
Fire	Water	Earth	Fire	Water	Earth
5. 戊辰	15. 戊寅	25. 戊子	35. 戊戌	45. 戊申	55. 戊午
Wood	Earth	Fire	Wood	Earth	Fire
6. 己巳	16. 己卯	26. 己丑	36. 己亥	46. 己酉	56. 己未
Wood	Earth	Fire	Wood	Earth	Fire
7. 庚午	17. 庚辰	27. 庚寅	37. 庚子	47. 庚戌	57. 庚申
Earth	Metal	Wood	Earth	Metal	Wood
8. 辛未	18. 辛巳	28. 辛卯	38. 辛丑	48. 辛亥	58. 辛酉
Earth	Metal	Wood	Earth	Metal	Wood
9. 壬申	19. 壬午	29. 壬辰	39. 壬寅	49. 壬子	59. 壬戌
Metal	Wood	Water	Metal	Wood	Water
10. 癸酉	20. 癸未	30. 癸巳	40. 癸卯	50. 癸丑	60. 癸亥
Metal	Wood	Water	Metal	Wood	Water

子 Zi
丑 Chou
寅 Yin
卯 Mao
辰 Chen
巳 Si
午 Wu
未 Wei
申 Shen
酉 You
戌 Xu
亥 Hai

Twelve Earthly Branches