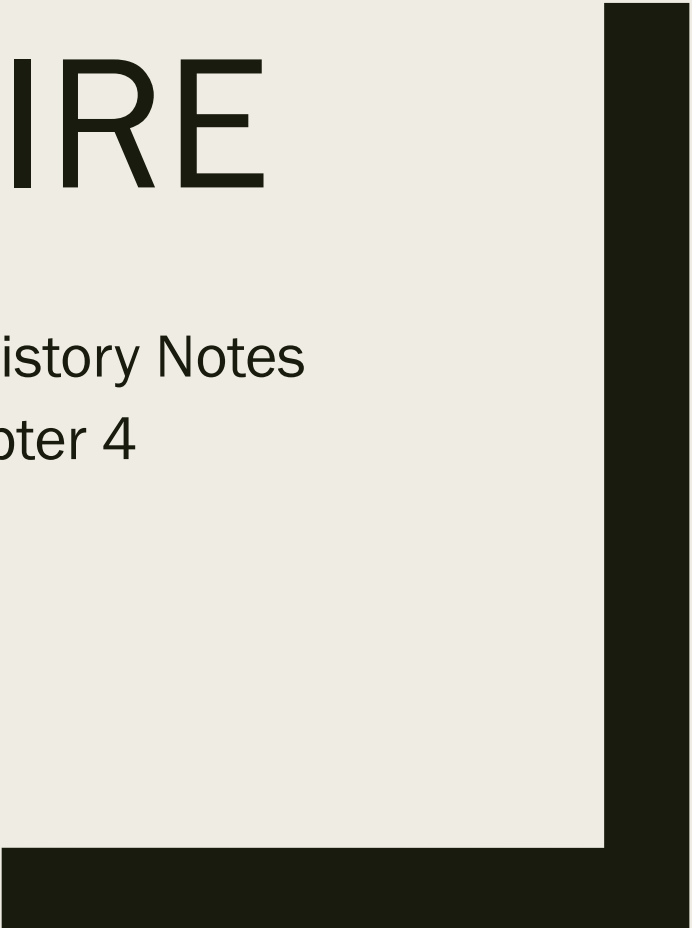




CHINESE EMPIRE

AP World History Notes
Chapter 4



From 1100 BCE until the 200s CE -->

3 great dynasties ruled China

= Zhou (JOH)

= Qin (CHIN)

= Han (HAHN)

The Enduring Zhou

- Ruled China for more than 800 years – more than any other dynasty
- Zhou dynasty conquered the Shang dynasty
 - *Claimed rule under Mandate of Heaven*
 - *Said Shang lost mandate by ruling poorly*



The Enduring Zhou

- To control their land, the kings set up an agricultural system in which nobles owned the land & peasants worked it
 - *Kings gave their relatives city-states*
 - *Each of these lords had total authority over their city & had their own armies*
 - *Eventually, the lords had more power than the king*
 - *City-states warred with each other -- locked in a struggle that ended the Zhou era*

The Enduring Zhou

- Technological advances of the Zhou Dynasty:
 - *Built roads & expanded foreign trade*
 - *Formed **cavalleries** = groups of warriors on horseback*
 - *New weapon: the crossbow*
 - *Iron plows*
 - *Irrigation & flood-control systems*



The Enduring Zhou

- China's population grew quickly during the Zhou Dynasty



The Mighty Qin

- Conquered the Zhou
- “First Emperor” = Qin Shihuangdi



The First Emperor

- United much of the nation under 1 strong government
- Organized the empire into military districts -- 1 official per district
- Created a universal system of weights & measures
- Standardized coins, created a uniform writing system & set up a law code throughout China
- Used forced labor to dig canals & build roads

Terra Cotta Army



Terra Cotta Army



The Great Wall of China

- Built in northern China to prevent attacks from the north
- Connected a series of walls that already existed
- Took several years & over 300,000 Chinese peasants --> thousands died
- Stretches over 4,000 miles



Qin's Strict Rule

- Imposed a tax on landowners
- Appointed only educated men as officials to run his government
- Censored & burned books
 - *People couldn't write about the past*



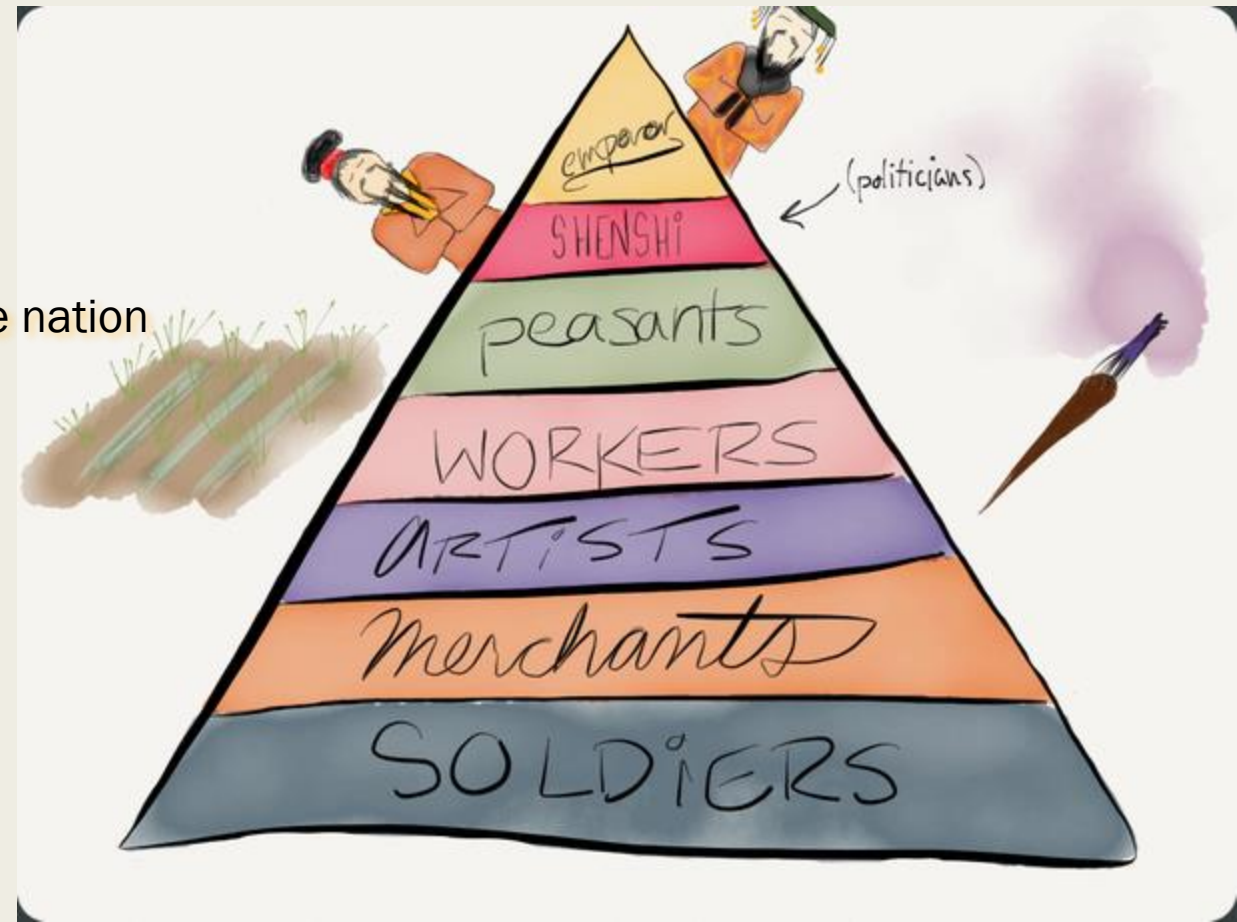
Legalism

- Legalists = scholars that opposed Confucian ideas
- Legalism = philosophy that rejected Confucian idea of learning by example and emphasized strict laws and harsh punishments

Qin's Strict Rule

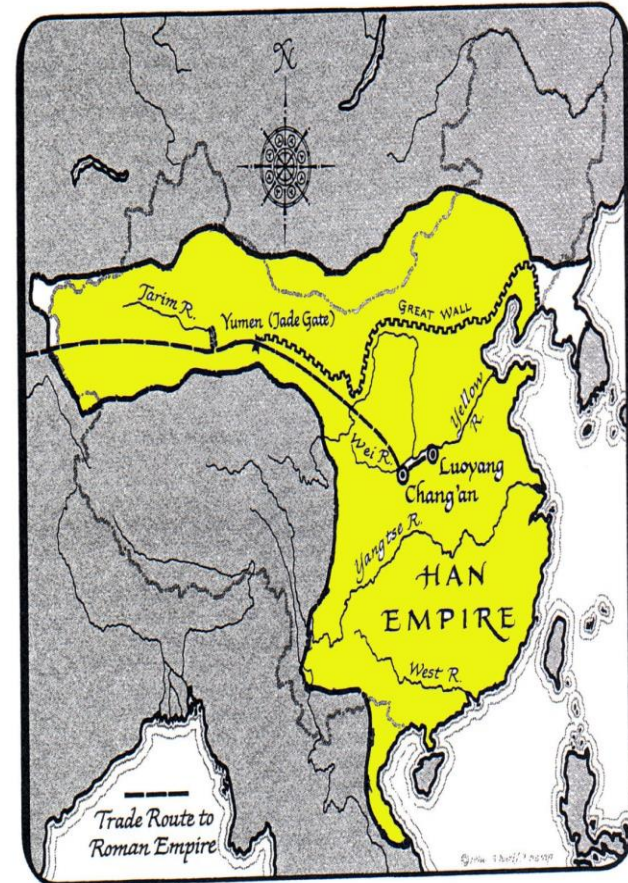
- Subjects saw Qin as a cruel tyrant
 - Nobles = mad he destroyed aristocracy
 - Peasants = mad about the forced labor
 - Scholars = mad about book burning

210 BCE = Qin died & dynasty soon came to an end
Lasting Legacy = new ways of organizing & unifying the nation



The Glorious Han

- Ruled China for more than 400 years until 220 AD
- Used same forms of centralized power as the Qin, but not as harsh
- Rivalled Roman Empire in its power & achievement



Han Dynasty Empire (206 B.C. - A.D. 220)

The Glorious Han



- Reached its peak during the reign of **King Wudi**
 - *Extended the empire*
 - *Sent armies against nomadic invaders*
 - *Interested in the West -- especially the Roman Empire*

The Glorious Han

- Trade routes to the West developed
 - Major trade route = **Silk Road**
 - Linked East & West
 - Allowed traders to exchange Chinese silk for Middle Eastern & European products



The Silk Road



Pax Sinica

- Chinese Peace = 400 year period of prosperity & stability
- China fed its population by storing grain during times of plenty & selling it when harvests were poor



Advancements in Farming & Transport

- Veterinary medicine
- Complex irrigation systems
- Advancements in fertilizing crops
- New canals
- Better roadways

Inventions

- Silk
- Paper
- Gunpowder
- Wheelbarrow
- Printed books
- Suspension bridge
- Compass
- Iron drill bits

Pax Sinica

- Talented, intelligent people were appointed to government jobs – NOT family
 - *They were given tests to see if they were qualified*
 - *Evolved into civil service system = a system that allowed anyone with ability to attain public office --> unfortunately, this usually favored the wealthy because education was expensive*
 - *Created a new class of well-educated civil servants = called mandarins*
 - Controlled government until early 1900s
- Han power declined & dynasty fell apart after Wudi's reign ended