

Three Schools of Chinese Thought – Qin and Han Dynasties



Confucianism

I. Confucius

- A. Born 551 BC to a noble but poor family → scholar → teacher
 - i. After his death followers collected sayings in Analects
- B. Developed philosophy or system of ideas that concerned worldly goals, how to ensure social order and a good government



Five Relationships

■ II. Five Relationships

■ A. Harmony results when people accepted their place in society

■ Five Relationships

- 1. Father to son
- 2. Elder brother to younger brother
- 3. Husband to wife
- 4. Ruler to subject
- 5. Friend to friend (only equal relationships)

■ B. Filial Piety → respect for parents above all duties



Government

III. Government

- A. A ruler had the responsibility to provide good government
- B. In return, people would be respectful and loyal subjects
- C. Best ruler lead by example
- D. Rulers and officials should be well educated and should take advice of wise men



Spread of Confucianism

III. Spread of Confucianism

- A. Ideas influenced every area of Chinese life
- B. Korea, Japan and Vietnam accepted Confucian beliefs



Legalism





Legalism

I. Legalism

- A. Grew out of the teachings of Hanfeizi who died in 233
 - ❏ “The nature of man is evil. His goodness is acquired”
 - ❏ Greed was the motive for most actions and the cause of moral conflicts
 - ❏ Only way to achieve order was to pass strict laws and impose harsh punishments
 - ❏ Name Legalism came out of emphasis on law
 - ❏ Many feudal rulers chose Legalism as the most effective way to keep order



Daoism (Taoism)



Daoism (Taoism)

- I. Daoism (Taoism)
- A. Laozi → "The Way of Virtue" → not concerned with bringing order to Chinese life but rather living in harmony with nature
- B. Focus on the "Dao" or the way of the universe
- C. Reject conflict and strife
- D. Wanted to end conflict between human desires and the simple ways of nature
- E. Virtue of yielding → water yields to outside pressure → but is an unstoppable force
- F. Some believers became hermits, artists or poets



Government

- **II. Government** → unnatural and the cause of many problems
- A. Best government is one that governs the least
- B. Evolved into a popular religion with gods and goddess and magical practices
- C. Blended with Confucianism
(Confucianism showed them how to behave and Daoism influenced their view of the world)



Strong Rulers Unite China



Strong Rulers Unite China

I. Shi Huangdi (Qin Dynasty)

A. Determined to end divisions that split China

- i. Spent 20 years conquering most of the warring states → centralized power with help of Legalists (harsh rule) → QIN DYNASTY
- ii. Began his rule of age of 13





Unity Imposed

■ II. Unity Imposed

- A. Shi Huangdi abolished feudalism in China → replaced with military districts and appointed loyal officials to be in charge
- B. Spies to inspect local officials and report back to Emperor
- C. Forced royal families to live in capital so he could monitor them
- D. Distributed land to peasants → still had to pay high taxes and serve in the army
- E. Standardized weights and measures → replaced old coins with single Qin currency
- F. Uniformed Chinese writing
- G. Repaired and extended roads and canals → cart axles had to be same width



Dissent

III. Dissent

A. Move harshly against critics

- ❏ i. Jailed, tortured and killed those who opposed his rule
- ❏ ii. Approved ruthless campaign of book burning, ordering the destruction of all works of literature and philosophy



Great Wall of China

■ IV. The Great Wall of China

- A. Ordered that the small walls built to defend individual feudal states be linked together
- B. It is estimated that over one million workers labored to build this wall
- C. Its length is about 4000 miles long (from Washington DC to Denver, Colorado)
- D. Did not keep invaders out but showed strength of human resources



Great Wall of China

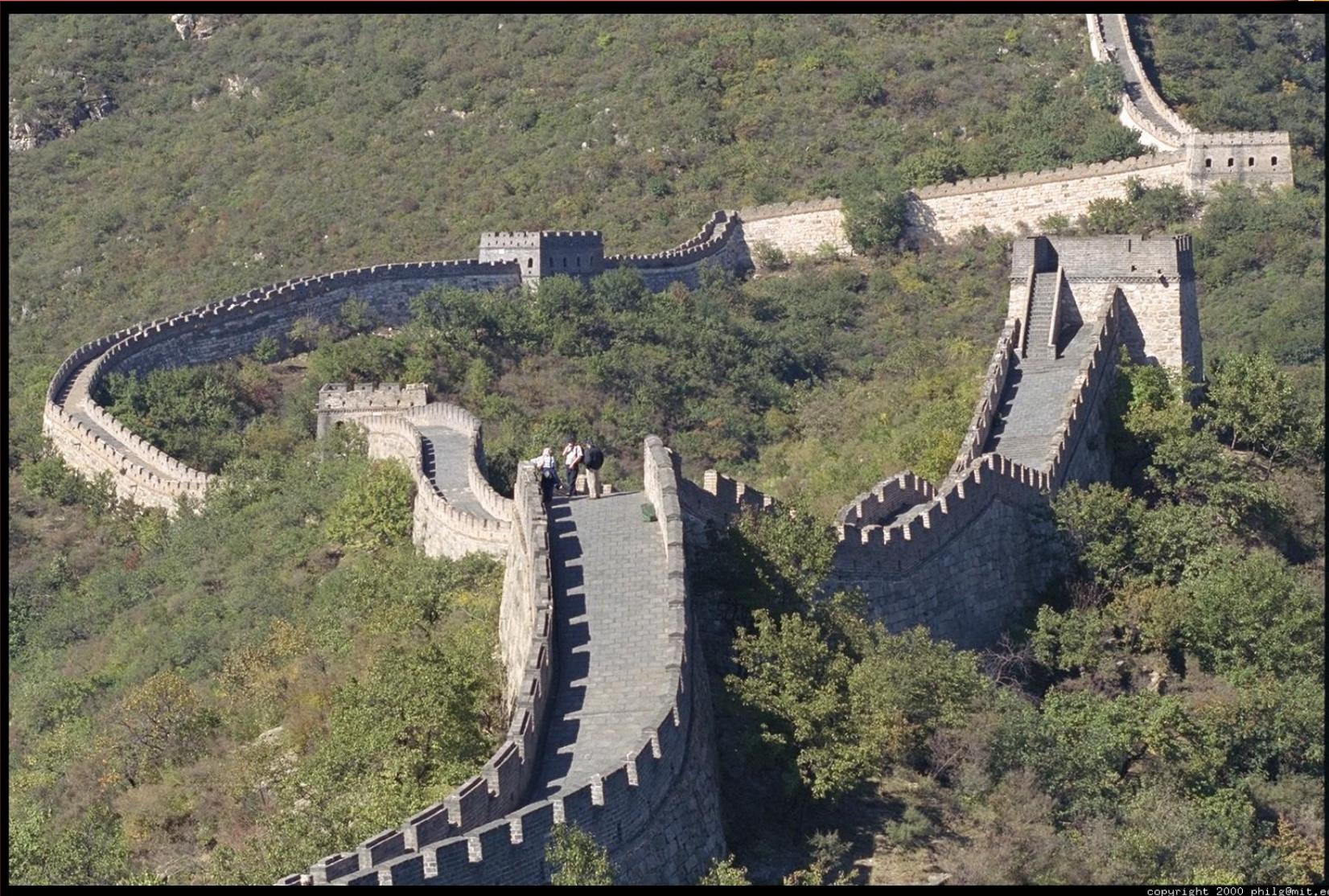






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Collapse of Qin Dynasty

■ V. Collapse of Qin Dynasty

- A. Shi Huangdi → obsessed with finding immortality → buried with terracotta soldiers
- B. Those who knew the secrets of the burial tomb were killed
- C. Collapsed → 210 BC → peasants revolt over high taxes, forced labor and cruel policies
- D. Liu Bang → peasant founded the Han Dynasty





Han Dynasty (Golden Age)





Han Dynasty

I. Han Dynasty (Golden Age)

- A. Liu Bang took the title Gao Zu → wanted to restore order and justice to his empire
 - i. Lowered taxes and erased harsh Legalists' policies
 - ii. Appointed Confucian scholars as advisors
 - iii. Han Dynasty lasted from 206 BC to 220 AD



Government

■ II. Strengthening the government

■ A. Most famous ruler → Wudi

■ B. He strengthened the government and economy

■ i. Improved canals and roads

■ ii. Established granaries across the empire

■ iii. Government monopoly on iron and salt

■ a. Monopoly is the complete control of a product or business by one person or group



Silk Road

■ IV. Silk Road

■ A. Desire for horses → expansion

■ B. Sent silk to tribes in hopes of securing horses

■ C. ESTABLISHED A TRADE ROUTE → SILK ROAD → linked China to the West (would eventually stretch 4,000 miles)





Civil Service Exam

- **V. Han Society (Civil Service Exam)**
- A. Confucianism → official belief system of the state
- B. Relied on well-educated scholars to run the bureaucracy
- C. CIVIL SERVICE EXAM → officials should win positions by merit (system of exams) rather than by family background



Women

VI. Han Society (Women)

A. Banned from taking the civil service exam

- i. Received education as a nun or member of the imperial court
- ii. *Lessons for Women* → book on behavior for women and equal education for both boys and girls



Achievement

■ VII. Han Achievements

■ A. Books on chemistry, zoology, botany and other subjects

■ B. Observed movements of the stars and planets → improved calendars and timekeeping devices



Achievements

■ VIII. Han Achievements (Technology)

- A. Durable paper out of wood pulp
- B. Shipbuilding
- C. Rudder
- D. Bronze and iron stirrups, fishing reels, wheelbarrow and suspension bridges



Achievements

- **IX. Han Achievements (Medicine)**
- A. Diagnosed diseases
- B. Experimented with herbal remedies and other drugs
- C. Developed anesthetics
- D. Acupuncture



Achievements

■ X. Han Achievements (The Arts)

- A. Poets and historians described their grandeur
- B. Produced delicate jade and ivory carvings
- C. Bronze workers and silk makers improved on earlier techniques



Collapse

■ XI. Collapse of the Han Empire

- A. Weak rulers let canals and roads fall into disrepair
- B. Heavy taxes → peasants revolt
- C. Revolt → China broke up into several kingdoms
- D. Invaders poured over the Great Wall and attacked the cities
- E. End of Han Dynasty 220 AD

