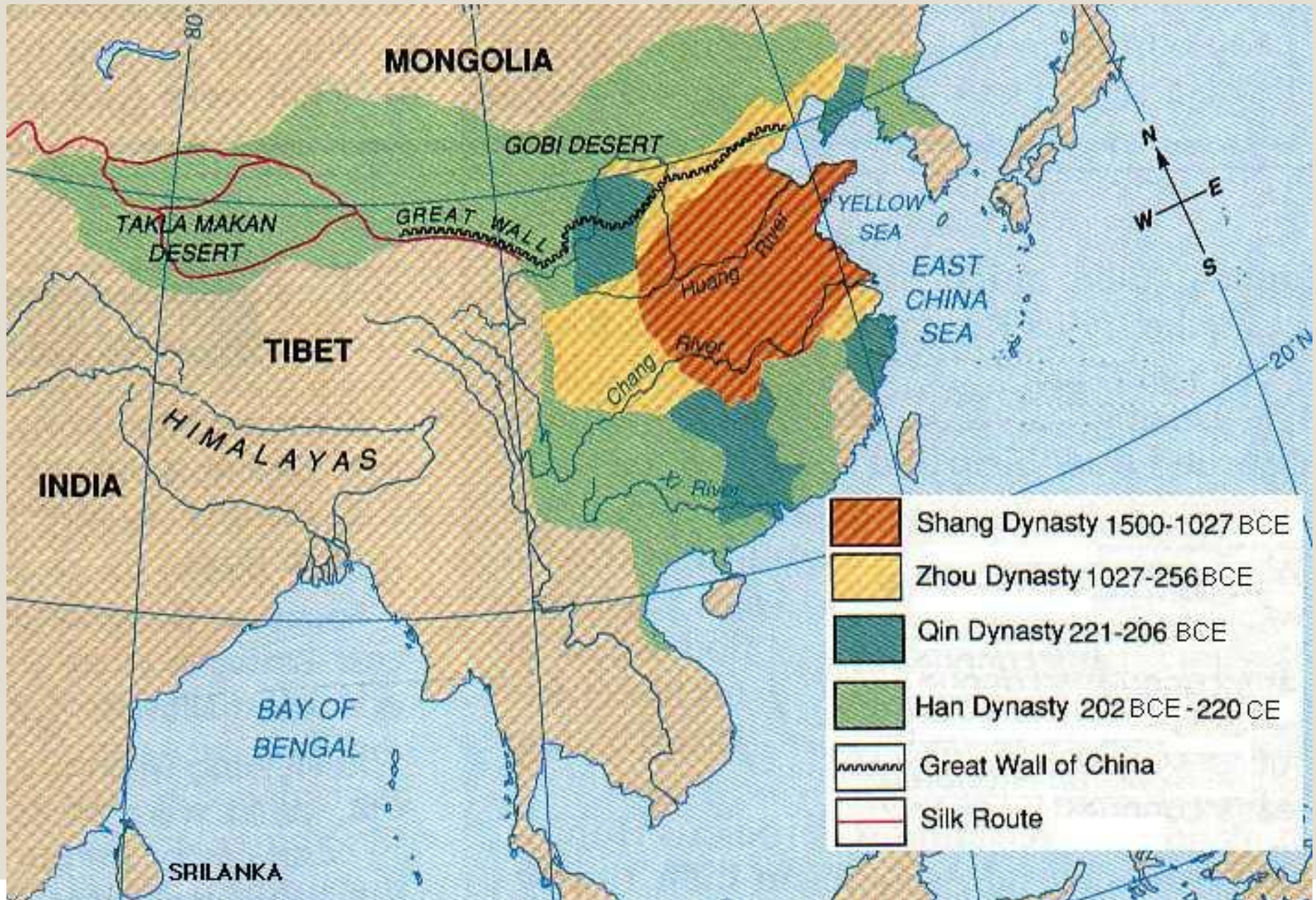


Classical China

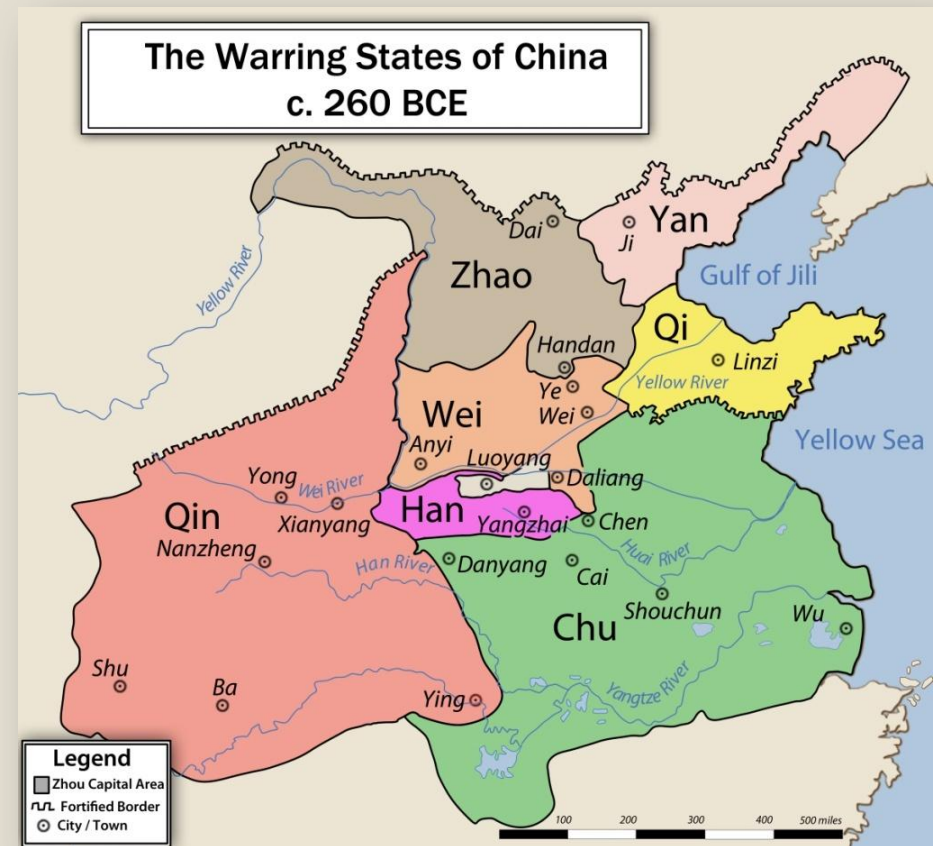


1. The Zhou Dynasty and Era of Warring States

A. 402 – 201 B.C.E. –

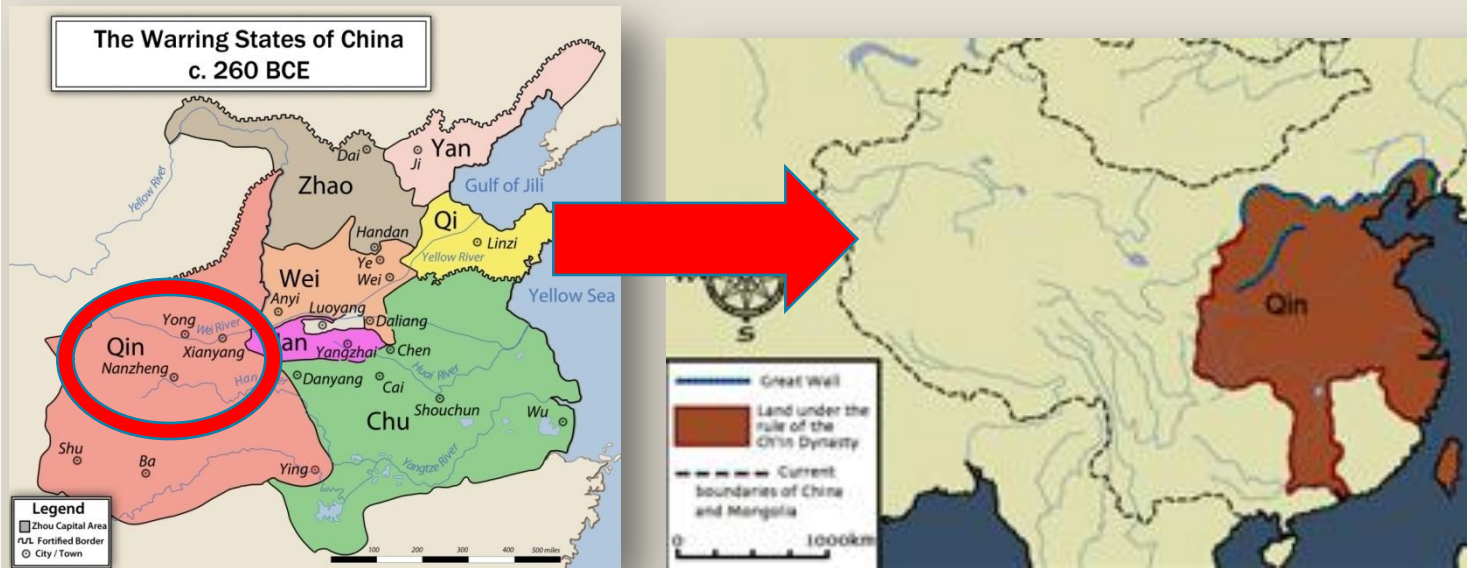
Era of the Warring States

- Noble families (landowners) formed independent armies, fought over territory, forced Zhou dynasty leaders from power





2. The Qin Dynasty



- A. Qin region = most powerful, eventually took over
- B. Shi Huangdi – First Emperor
 - Unified all regions under the name China, 201 BCE

THINK QIN
(Chin)
THINK CHINA



Qin Dynasty – Now we are China!



Mini Challenge

Question: Why is this style of importance?

- B. Emperor Shi Huangdi also:
 - Appoints new leaders
 - Leaders take over for former noble/aristocratic families in charge
 - Leaders picked from non-aristocratic families

Qin Dynasty – Innovations

C. Innovations under Shi Huangdi

1. Standardization

- Coins
- weights and measures
- written script

• Why important?

2. Completed new irrigation projects for agriculture

3. Promoted manufacturing – silk cloth, terra cotta, iron



| | horse | cart | fish | dust | see |
|--|-------|------|------|------|-----|
| Small Seal Script (<i>xiaozhuan</i> , 小篆) (246–207 B.C.E.) | | | | | |
| Official Script (<i>lishu</i> , 隸書) (200 B.C.E.–588 C.E.) | | | | | |
| Standard Script (<i>kaishu</i> , 楷書) (after 588 C.E.) | | | | | |
| Simplified Script (<i>jiantizi</i> , 簡體字) (after 1949 C.E.) | | | | | |

BEFORE STANDARDIZATION



AFTER STANDARDIZATION



Qin Dynasty – Innovations



4. The Great Wall – connected separate parts built during Zhou, added to it
 - Purpose: keep out “barbarians” from the north, keep own people in
 - How: Built using conscript (forced) labor

DID YOU KNOW?

-Workers who died were sometimes buried in the wall

-Sticky rice mixed with limestone was used at times



Shi Huangdi Hero or Villain?

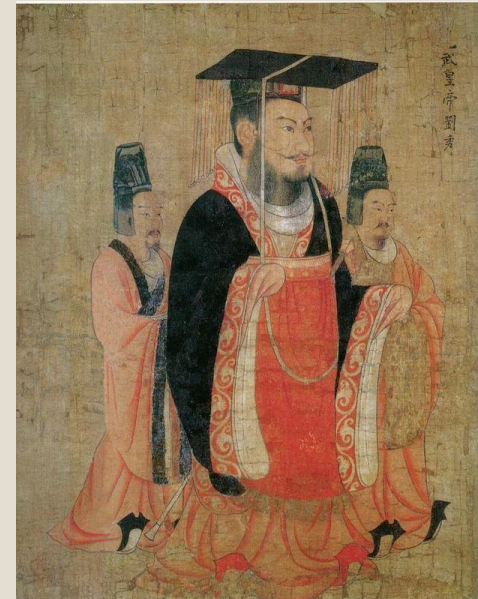
D. Harsh rule

- ***Burned/banned many written documents*** – prevent criticism/opposing ways of thinking
- ***Used Legalism:***
 - Harsh punishments for breaking laws
- ***High taxes and oppressive taxes***
 - Led to peasant revolts and end of dynasty























3. The Han Dynasty

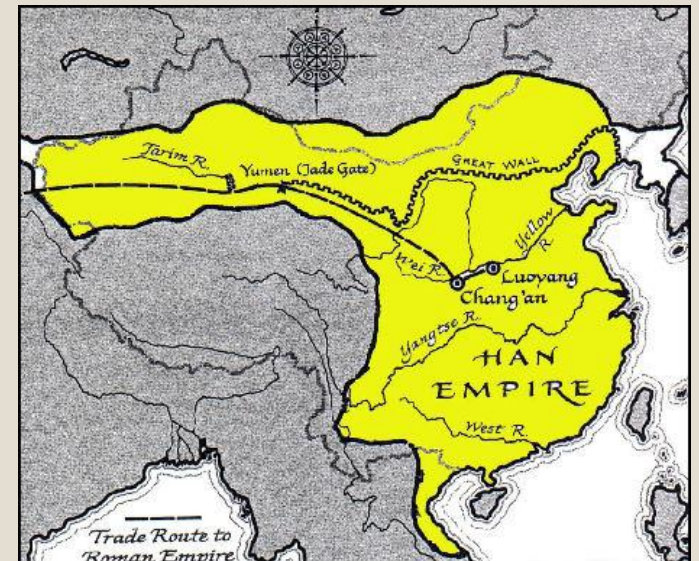
- A. After Shi Huangdi's death, series of rebellions lead to new dynasty
- Retained the centralized gov't of Qin Dynasty
 - Got rid of legalism, transitioned to Confucian teachings
 - Confucianism focused on education/training
 - Creation of a bureaucracy – trained government officials



Han Dynasty – Continuities and Changes

- **B. Reduced oppressive laws/taxes** – population happy
- **Continued innovations** –
 - Further standardization of script
 - Confucian education centers
 - Exam system for better gov't leaders
- **Expanded empire** – central Asia, Korea, southeastern Asia
 - Would eventually lead to weakening of empire (stretched too thin)

| | horse | cart | fish | dust | see |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Small Seal Script (<i>xiaozhuan</i> , 小篆) (246–207 B.C.E.) |  |  |  |  |  |
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4. Comparing Political Developments of Classical China

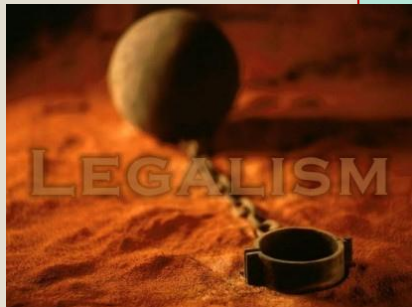


- Overall, Classical China was the largest political system in the world
- Clear evolution of political thought seen in dynasties, many lasting gov't traditions:
 - Judicial system for enforcing laws
 - Organized, centralized military
 - Scientific research – ushered in the Iron Age
 - Historical record keeping

Comparing Political Developments



- **Zhou dynasty** = *strong local governments/rulers*
 - Depended on a network of patriarchal families (would become nobility)
 - Village leaders important to peasants



- **Qin dynasty** = *strong unified society/government, with harsh punishments (Legalism)*
 - Established a single law code
 - Uniform tax system



- **Han dynasty** = *perfected the bureaucracy*
 - Required leaders to take a civil service test
 - Lower class citizens could achieve increase in status (though very difficult)

5. Economy of Classical China

- Agricultural society
 - Rice and wheat the main commodities
 - Most people were peasant farmers

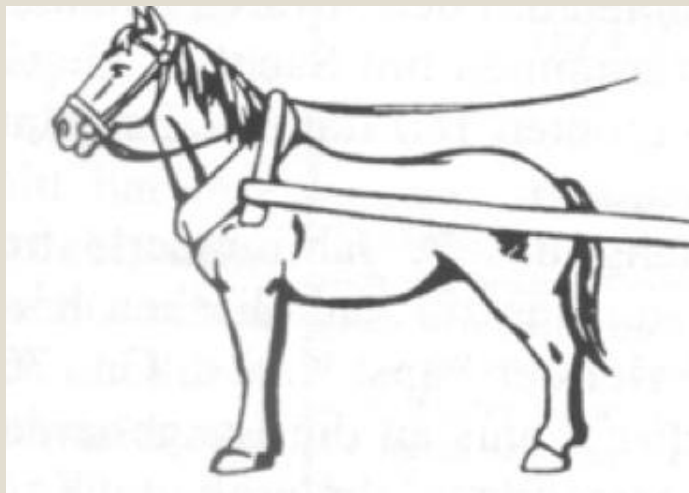


- Trade
 - Mostly within China, but Silk Road would become more important over the centuries
 - Silk, jewelry, leather goods, metal tools
 - Society did not hold merchants in high regard
 - More respect for learning and political service (strong Confucian influence)

6. Technology of Classical China

Invented/innovated many things that would be used all over the world for centuries

- Harnesses that allowed animals to pull carts and wagons without choking
- Ox-drawn plows for farming
- Iron tools – better than bronze
- Paper



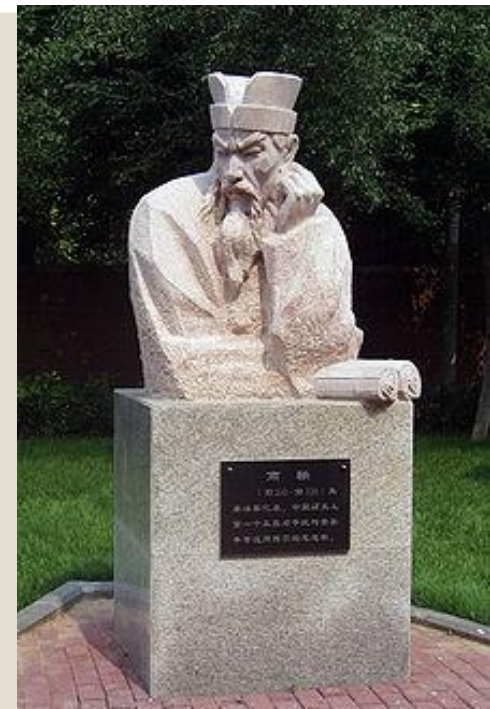
7. Belief Systems/Philosophies of Classical China

- Confucius (551-478 B.C.E.)
 - Lived during the Zhou Dynasty
 - Promoted history and moral character
 - Believed in social order, harmony, good government
 - Five basic relationships:
 - 1. ruler and subject
 - 2. father and son
 - 3. husband and wife
 - 4. older brother and younger brother
 - 5. friend and friend



- Code of conduct regulated these relationships
 - Example: rulers should be kind, subjects should be loyal
- Stressed importance of respect for one's family
- Ideas about government
 - Taught the importance of training and educating government leaders (bureaucracy)
- Confucianism laid foundation for Chinese government and social order for centuries

- Legalism
 - Founded during the Qin Dynasty by politician/advisor, Shang Yang
 - Believed in a powerful, authoritative government
 - Necessary for social order/harmony
 - Use force to gain control; good citizens rewarded well, disobedient citizens punished harshly
 - Education and philosophy strictly controlled by the government
 - Opposing views not allowed, created disharmony



- Daoism (Taoism)
 - Laozi, founder in the sixth century B.C.E. (possibly student of Confucius)
 - A spiritual alternative to Confucianism
 - Shares many similar ideas regarding harmony and relationships
 - Natural order – relationships among all living things, not just in society
 - A universal force (Dao) guides all things
 - Live simply and in harmony with nature; stressed humility and frugal living

