**Qin 秦朝 Dynasty** 221 –207 BCE –very short lived; name of China comes from this dynasty; ended feudalism & united China

1. Qin gradually took over the other kingdoms of Han, Wei, Chu, Yan, & Zhao under Shang Yang (later dismembered by chariots)

a. Shi Huangdi (means “first Emperor”) was a brutal ruler who took over lands abolishing feudalism & appointed bureaucrats

to rule provinces who acted w/ the authority of the emperor after kicking out the landlords; also abolished primogeniture allowing the number of small landowners to grow

b. Pushed south into modern Vietnam (Annam) & built on the Great Wall

c. Army had iron weapons

d. National census, standardized weights, coinage, axles, irrigation canals

e. single law code (incl. extracting ribs & boiling) & a uniform tax system—based on a common written language which sought

to instruct & maintain class distinctions

f. Legalism grew as a belief/philosophy—promoted authoritarian state; humans were evil & needed discipline; humans could

only understand strict laws; army would control the people & they would work

--Banned books—seen a subversive & burned in 213 BCE followed by the execution of 460 scholars by burying them

alive; kept some scientific books; during the Han many books recovered

g. was a short-lived empire due to harshness, excessive taxation, attacks on thinking; peasants broke out when Shi Huang

died & rebelled against his son

--made the former landowners move to the capitol (120,000 families) to keep them under watch; made them melt

down all their weapons to make 12 gigantic human figures in the capitol

--had a preference for agriculture over merchants (established bias against merchants)

h. Tomb of the Terra Cotta soldiers

--700,000 workers; all childless wives killed & buried w/ him; 3 pits w/ +7000 statues

**Classical Civilization--Han (漢朝) Dynasty** in China est. 202 BCE & lasted until 220 CE

1. After the Qin collapsed due to pressure from the peasants, General Xiang Yu successfully reunited the area & begin expanding
   1. Basis of Power
      1. Largest political system in the world w/ strong local units & tight knit patriarchic families
      2. combined Legalism & Confucianism—while Rome placed emphasis on laws, China emphasized trained officials
      3. W/in Chinese civilization politics, family, values, & trade all supported one another while isolation supported the viewpoint that China was at the center of the world w/ barbarians all around--books (Conf) united politically while canals united geographically
      4. Wealthy families practiced ancestor worship while peasants had village authority
      5. Expanded power of the bureaucracy w/ bureaucrats (rise of the scholarly gentry) who had to pass examinations on the Five Classics—reach of the govt was omnipotent & omnipresent (civil service exams)
      6. Expanded territorially into northern Vietnam, Korea (Silla), & into Central Asia.

II. Political

A. Wu Ti (劉) (140 –87 BCE) brought peace & prosperity; adopted principles of Confucianism as the state philosophy & code of

ethics until Confucianism over Daoism; continued to abuse the power of the emperor

* 1. Empire was divided into 13 circuits each w/ a govt inspector
  2. 2 systems of appointing gov’t bureaucrats developed: recommendation & civil service exam established by Wu Ti

a. the National University would eventually have 30,000 students—an educated gov’t in the Five Classics

3. Confucian thought revitalized the Mandate of Heaven--the emperor was the link b/t earth & heaven

4. Biggest city & capital was Chang’an laid out in a grid pattern w/ walls totally 16 miles

5. Wu Ti expanded in Korea (Silla) & Vietnam (Annan)

B. Govt was active in the economy & was a producer of iron & salt

C. Expanded territory to reach south & east to India & then to Rome—doubled its size

1. Han gov’t had a tributary policy; surrounding states retained autonomy—sent taxes & intermarried to form alliances

D. emperor had power but many decisions rested w/ the prime minister until Wu Ti

III. Religious

A. Introduction of Buddhism via Silk Road (絲綢之路) trade from India during the later Han Dynasty

1. Mahayana or “Greater Vehicle” Buddhism diffused into China, Japan, & Korea; Buddhism has been sent out from

India under the leadership of Ashoka

--Mahayana emphasized personal devotion to Buddha & the role of the bodhisattvas

--Why so fast in China? Intellectually challenged elite w/ doctrines; egalitarianism in gender/soc status

--By 477 CE there were over 6,400 temples in northern China

2. states that everyone will become a Buddha & one should become a bodhisattva & help others do the same; each

bodhisattva has six virtues or perfections (paramitas): virtue, energy, patience, meditation, concentration, & generosity.

3. Holy books incl. the sutras of the Perfection of Wisdom, the Lotus Sutra, & the Nirvana Sutra

4. Mahayana began in the Kushan area of central Asia before diffusing to China in the 1st century CE

5. Emphasis on stupas—devotional places of prayer

B. Shrines to Conf. were built & he became godlike & a pantheon of gods developed

C. among the peasants, Daoism continued to be strong w/ its rejection of hierarchies, contentment of the simple, & the urge

to follow one’s own path

IV. Science & Technology

--Had an accurate calendar by 444 BCE based on 365 ½ days

--Ox-drawn plows by 300 BCE – non-choking horse collars

--First water powered mills, sternpost rudders aided navigation, & invention of the crossbow

--Iron metallurgy introduced which helped agriculture; coal used as a fuel over charcoal

--by 1st BCE steel began to be smelted

--Porcelain, compasses, paper invented officials kept track of land/households, observed sunspots, first maps developed

--gunpowder was developed but it wasn’t mixed w/ carbon until around 900 becoming an explosive

--After the Qin & into the Han there was one standardized language (Mandarin)

V. Social

--Family was patriarchic w/ Conf. values promoting strong parents; each person had their own roles, incl. women; hierarchy

in the family w/ subdued emotions; inheritance based on primogeniture; arranged marriages

--Large gap b/t wealthy (2%) & commoners—rapid population growth, concentrated land control greatly weakened the

status & living status of the peasants

--Wealthy were literate & peasants were not

--Social status was passed on to next generation

--Economy & culture divided the social groups

Social Structure

--Land-owning & educated bureaucrats (aka scholar-gentry)—often the only ones who could afford to take the civil service exam

--Peasants & artisans—labor intensive demands of agriculture contributed to the importance of family in China

--Mean people (wore green scarves)--artists

--Slaves (few)

--Women: Ban Zhao, one of the great female intellectuals who wrote *Admonitions for Women* declaring the proper code of

conduct for women; sole role of the woman was to serve her man

--3 submissions: submit to father then husband then son (no remarriage)

--4 wifely virtues for women: virtue, work, expression, & accomplishment

--Sima Qian, first major historian who wrote Shiji (spoke out against a general & was castrated)

--Sima Xiangru, famous poet

VI. Economically the Han military opened up the Silk Roads & exported silk (#1 export) & porcelain

--The Silk Roads stretched over 5,000 miles long & under the combination of Romans & Han China, trade along the routes

increased significantly; Chinese silk was high in demand & at times the Roman gov’t tried to stop the trade due to currency leaving the country

--206 BCE to 220 CE first major period of trade; silk main commodity; sericulture (raising silkworms) was closely

guarded; Roman desire for silk drained imperial resources; dev. of stirrups accelerated diffusion; Turkic nomads became important middleman; conduit for religious diffusion; Pax Han + Pax Romana; helped spread diseases (from 165 – 180 CE epidemics killed up to 25% of the population)

--Several Chinese expeditions were made to the Parthians & Romans

--Han Dynasty was built on agriculture—used seed selection, irrigation, manure, multi-cropping, & crop rotation

--Han govt saw its tax base shrink over time & taxed the remaining peasants even more; upper classes were exempt

from taxation; often peasants &/or children were sold into slavery

--Over time peasants lost their land due to the inability to pay taxes & large land-owners took over; tradition of dividing land

equally among surviving sons meant smaller tracts of land which meant less productivity

--153 CE a plague of locusts devastated the area leading to more problems

--Advanced plows varied the depth of the furrow & the use of oxen drawn plows increased

--Use of the donkey (imported from Europe) & the wheelbarrow

--Gov’t established monopolies in salt, iron, & booze for a short time but that did not work

VII. Collapse of the Han

Causes: --Invasion by northern nomadic tribes; skilled horseman; known as the Xiongau; Han paid off for awhile; in 51 CE

the Xiongau split into two & one invaded; cost the Han more to pay off

--internal weaknesses=corrupt politically causing central gov’t. power to decrease while the aristocracy

& merchants’ power increased becoming wealthy & powerful

--foreign soldiers were hired

--epidemics killed ½ the people

--encroachment of Buddhism broke the cultural unity

--social unrest increased—Yellow Turbans (scarves) (黃巾之亂) who promised a Golden Age; the Y.T, were Daoists in

184CE who were supported by the landless peasants; the Yellow Turbans were up against a corrupt govt—ten court eunuchs were controlling the emperor & the revolters saw the Han as losing their Mandate; the leaders of the revolt saw themselves as followers of the “Way of Supreme Peace” & pushed for equality & equal distribution of the land; when the revolt started it had 360,000 followers; by 205 the revolt had lost steam & failed

Collapse: Nomadic Invasions led by tribes who had been paying tribute & were being acculturated into the Chinese system;

in 200 CE warlords (Huns) depose the Han & 350 years of disunion begins w/ the 3 kingdoms w/ the Wei in the NE, Shu in the West, & Wu in the South & East