A large, stylized red dragon is the central focus, coiled across the page. It has a long, flowing mane, a long tail with a flame-like tip, and a body covered in a grid-like pattern. The dragon is set against a bright yellow background with a solid red sun in the upper left corner.

ANCIENT CHINA

**HOW DID THE PEOPLE OF ANCIENT CHINA
MAKE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON HISTORY?**

**By: PAIGE BUNDON, STEWART WALTERS, ELI SCHMIDLY, WORTH THOMPSON, JAMES
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GEOGRAPHIC INFLUENCE:

The geographic influence of Ancient China had a big impact on trade. Ancient China was surrounded by mountains, rivers and deserts. The Himalayan Mountains were the mountains surrounding Ancient China. The mountains protected China from all outside invasions. The two rivers surrounding China were the Yellow River and the Yangtze River. These two rivers were a great supply of food, fresh water, fertile soil and transportation. The Taklamakan Desert had different impacts on China. The positive impact this desert was that it protected them from invasions. In a negative way, this desert blocked China off from the outside world. This is why they referred to themselves as the “Middle Kingdom.”



POLITICS:

Qin: Emperor Qin was in charge of the politics, economy, military affairs, and culture. He was the Emperor of the state. He also made the round coin with the square hole their form of currency.

Han: Liu Bang recruited people based off of ability, not birth or wealth. Emperor Wen and Jing reduces the people's taxes

Yuan: Kublai Khan created their political system. He set up the department 'Zhongshu Sheng' to administrate the national affairs, the department 'Shumi Yuan' to govern the national military affairs, the ministry 'Yushi Tai' functioned as the supervision department, and administrative unit called 'Xingsheng' (equal to current provinces of China). The central court was created by Kublai Khan. The 'Yizhan' System was set up by him to strengthen the imperial ruling. He founded a centralized political system which provided stability for the whole nation.

Ban Liang Coin



ECONOMY AND TRADE:

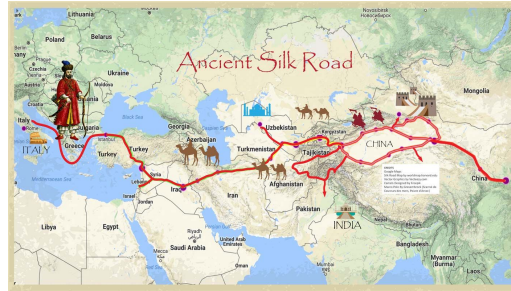
The overall Chinese economy evolved around the trade of many items. They traded along the Silk Road, which was a system of trade routes that made it easy for the Chinese to trade.

Qin: They had an agrarian economy and mostly traded food and agriculture. It was one of the earliest Chinese empires so there wasn't as much wide spread trade.

Han: The Han dynasty was very important for Chinese trading history. During this time the Silk Road was established. They Han traded iron, copper, salt and silk. Also, Buddhism came to China during the Han dynasty.

Yuan: Agriculture was the main part of the economy. The trade during the Yuan dynasty expanded to foreign trade.

ECONOMY AND TRADE ARTIFACTS:



The silk road was a network of trade routes the chinese used.

Agriculture in China

Silk was a major part of trade in China

RELIGION:

Ancient China had a main religion of Buddhism. While Buddhism was the main religion, there were other ethical systems that they lived off of like Confucianism and Taoism. Islam was introduced in the 7th century by the Tang Dynasty, and there are smaller branches of Islam still used in China today.

Qin Dynasty: The main religion for the Qin Dynasty was Buddhism. Towards the end of the reign, the monotheistic religion of Islam was introduced and started to spread across the dynasty.

Han Dynasty: The religion for the Han Dynasty was a new version of buddhism called Mahayana Buddhism. This became known as their religious legacy over the 400 year reign.

Yuan Dynasty: The Yuan dynasty was a dynasty that went through an all around development in religion. The two original religions were called Shamanism and Totemism. They believed in the existence of Jinn, an early religious figure. They also worshipped the mongols before receiving the idea of Buddhism on the Silk Road, where most of the dynasty converted to Buddhism.

RELIGION ARTIFACTS:



The stone slab with 12 characters was used to show unity in the religions.



The early religious figure for the Yuan Dynasty



The main idol that was worshipped by the Han Dynasty for their religion.

SOCIAL STRUCTURE:

The social structure of Ancient China was mostly family ruled dynasties. There were 3 main dynasties in Ancient China the Qin, Han, and Song. In Ancient China they didn't have very much farmable soil, this led to the farmers being in a higher social class.

The Qin Dynasty (221 BC) had 5 main social classes, landlord, farmer, craftsman, merchants, and then soldier at the bottom tier.

The Han Dynasty (206 BC) is considered the “golden age” of China. The top tier of The Han Dynasty is the emperors, who had total rule. After them were aristocrats, and bureaucrats, followed by farmers, and at the bottom were slaves and soldiers.

The Yuan Dynasty (1271 AD) was established and ruled by the Mongolian leader, Kublai Khan. The top class was the ethnic Mongolians, then the northern Han, and in the last were the southern Han

SOCIAL STRUCTURE ARTIFACTS:



This picture shows a Terracotta soldier from the Qin Dynasty. It shows the control the emperor's power because he made someone build over 8,000 statues.



This is a picture of Kublai Khan, the emperor of the Yuan Dynasty.



This picture shows a lacquerware from the Han Dynasty that was only affordable for the upper class.

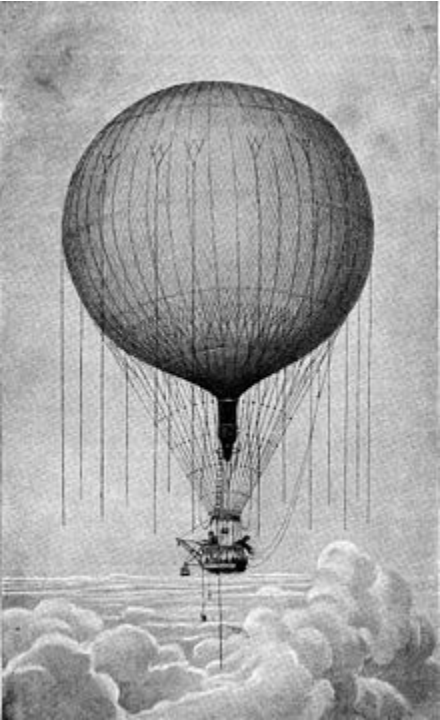
INTELLECTUAL ADVANCEMENT

Three major schools of philosophy that were present during the time of Ancient China were: Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism. Confucianism was the first and most influenced. The founder of Confucianism was Confucius. He valued the past and wanted people to know more about it. He believed if they adopted ancient truths, society would return to peace and harmony. The next was Daoism. This was the Chinese origin that emphasized living in harmony with the Tao. This is the fundamental idea in philosophical schools. It is the substance of everything that exists.

ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY:

When the Qin dynasty was in full affect, the best technology that he ever made was controlling waterways. He created canals, roads, and irrigation systems for China. He started the beginnings of the great wall of China and created a chinese writing system. Han Wudi was the emperor of China from 141-87 B.C. Han has had some of the best technological inventions the world has seen, his dynasty invented paper, the silk road, the hot air balloon, wheelbarrows and cast irons. The art of the Han dynasty had mansions, palaces, portraits, and ancestral halls painted. The Yuan dynasty was made by Kublai Khan (1279-1368 A.D.). The Yuan dynasty made some important technological discoveries such as; medicine, printing technology, gunpowder and warfare. The Yuan dynasty was an important time for painting poetry and theatre. We base our art that they use today off of what they did 2,000 years ago.

ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY ARTIFACTS:



One of Shu Han King's advisors in 220 A.D. realized that hot air rises and that gave them the idea for a floating object made from hot air rising.



The Qin Dynasty started to build the great wall of China to protect themselves from northern invaders.



The Yuan dynasty made gunpowder accidentally when they were trying to make an elixir of immortality.

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