

# China

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# China's Geographical Influence

- Only 10% of China was suitable for farming
- Flooding was unpredictable
- China is protected by the desert and Himalayan Mountains

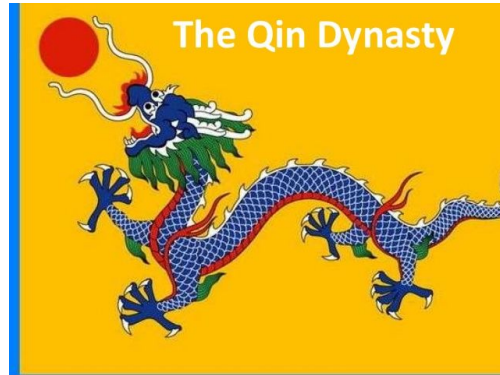
# Qin Dynasty

221–206 BC

# Qin Dynasty

## Politics:

- China was ruled by families called dynasties
- Rulers justified their power by claiming the mandate of heaven (approval of gods)
- China was also ruled by confucianism



# Qin Dynasty



## Economy and Trade:

- The Qin state's economy was organized to create an agriculture-based, militarized society and to enhance the power and wealth of its ruler.
- Road and canal systems enabled internal trade in the Qin's newly conquered territories.
- The Qin pioneered foreign trade through the establishment of the Marine Silk Road which was a sea route starting at Guangzhou on the Pearl River that flows to the South China Sea.

# Qin Dynasty

Religion:

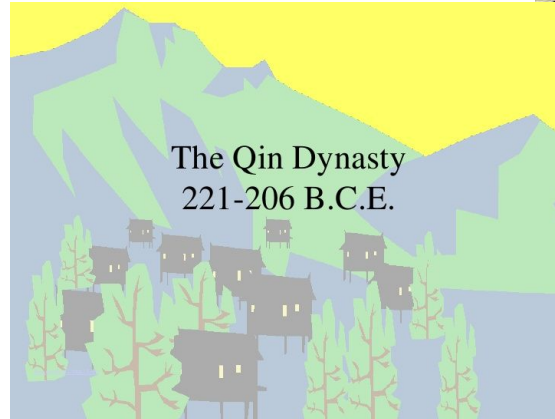
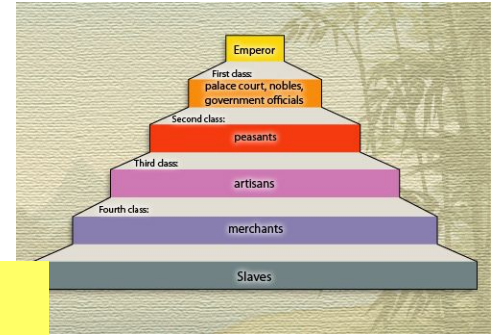
- Confucianism was the dominant and officially sanctioned religion
- Two other faiths were permitted official recognition: Buddhism and Daoism, sometimes called Taoism



# Qin Dynasty

## Social Structure

1. Emperor
2. Nobles/Government Officials
3. Peasants
4. Artisans
5. Merchants
6. Slaves



# Bronze Sword

The ancient sword was presented to George C. Marshall on December 30, 1941 as a birthday present from T. V. Soong, the newly appointed Foreign Minister of China and brother of Madame Chiang Kai Shek.







# Han Dynasty

206 BC–220 AD

# Han Dynasty



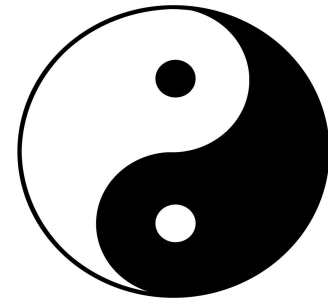
## **Politics**

The government structure had a combination of a central bureaucracy and feudal structure, similar to the Qin Dynasty.

## **Economy and Trade**

The beginning was bad due to the construction of the Great Wall and heavy taxes. An emperor of the Han Dynasty abolished the Qin dynasties harsh policies by lowering taxes to common folk, as well as confiscating land from nobles to encourage farming. Great contributor to Han economics and trade was silk trade and the start of the silk road.

# Han Dynasty



## Religion

The Han Dynasty oversaw the development of Confucianism and Daoism, the latter of which became China's main indigenous religion, as well as the acceptance of Mahayana Buddhism in the Western Han period.

## Social Structure

The Han Dynasty was divided into four social classes, each strongly defined. These classes are the emperor, who is at the top, then the upper class, made of bureaucrats and aristocrats, then the middle class, made up of skilled workers and farmers, and finally the lower class, those who made goods for the kingdom, artisans and craftsmen.

# Han Dynasty

## Intellectual Advancement

- Acupuncture: which was used as a way to cure many illnesses, a natural pain-reliever, or small illness fixes such as a headache
- Two biggest mathematical creations during the Han Dynasty were square roots and negative numbers

## Arts and Technology

- Calligraphy
- Statues: bricks were stamped and carved, as was stone, with scenes similar to those seen in paintings and were particularly common in tombs.
- First Seismograph: if an earthquake occurred, the ground would cause a seismograph to shake, and a ball would fall from the dragons above into the mouth of the toads, making a large sound as it landed, the genius thing was, it could actually indicate the direction from which the quake was coming.



# Central Watchtower

Period: Eastern Han  
dynasty (25–220)

Date: 1st–early 3rd  
century

Culture: China



Used often in Eastern  
Han burials to help the  
deceased in the  
afterlife

Medium: Earthenware  
with green lead glaze  
Dimensions: H. 41 in.  
(104.1 cm); W. 22 5/8  
in. (57.5 cm); D. 11  
3/4 in. (29.8 cm)

# Tomb Panel with Relief Figures in a Pavillion

Period: Eastern Han  
dynasty (25–220)

Date: early 2nd  
century

Culture: China



Medium: Limestone

Dimensions: H. 31  
1/4 in. (79.4 cm);  
W. 50 in. (127 cm);  
D. 8 in. (20.3 cm)

The bird-like figure at the top left is said to represent Xiwangmu, the Queen Mother of the Afterlife, the ruler of the land of immortals.

# Animal Pen with Figures

Period: Eastern Han  
dynasty (25–220)

Date: 1st–early 3rd  
century

Culture: China



Medium: Earthenware  
with green lead  
glaze

Dimensions: H. 9 1/4  
in. (23.5 cm); W. 14  
3/4 in. (37.5 cm)

Typical of structures like  
this one to accompany those  
in the afterlife, believed to  
provide nourishment and  
amusement for the soul.



# Yuan Dynasty

1279–1368 AD

# Yuan Dynasty

## Politics

- The Yuan Dynasty followed the same political pattern as the Han.
- It was ruled by the emperor Kublai Khan.



## Economy and Trade

- The Emperor focused on agriculture and water for economy.
- Trade was very good under the Yuan Dynasty. They traded silk, porcelain and more.

## Religion

- The Yuan dynasty practiced Taoism and Buddhism



# Yuan Dynasty

## Social Structure



- They instituted a very different social structure from past dynasty for example they mingled with foreigners

## Intellectual Advancements

- advancements were made in areas such as mathematics, medicine, printing technology, and gunpowder warfare

## Arts and Technology

- Art was very important in Yuan Dynasty
- They made music and poetry



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