

THE “Classical Era” – EAST

WORD WALL #3:

Aryans	Emperor Asoka	Confucius
Hinduism	Mauryan Empire	Qin Dynasty
Reincarnation	Gupta Empire	Shih Huang-ti
Caste System	Zhou Dynasty	
Great Wall of China		Buddha
Mandate of Heaven		Han Dynasty

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS:

What were the major accomplishments of the civilizations of India and China during the “Classical Era”?

How did these civilizations compare with the civilizations of the West?

What factors contributed to the rise and fall of empires and dynasties in the East?

Empires of India

▶ ARYAN INVASION

- Indus River Valley Civilization Collapses...
- Aryans conquered Dravidian that lived there...

ARYANS:

1500 B.C. came across the Himalayas through a mountain pass from Asia.

---OR---

Developed locally as a separate group of people.

ARYAN INVASION contd.

- ▶ Aryans were nomadic
 - Herded cattle and fought for their resources.

Contributions:

- Iron weapons
- Horse drawn chariots
- Sanskrit (writing) – taught to only the wealthy higher castes.

Aryans would eventually move toward the Ganges River and push Dravidians further south.

900 B.C. Aryans had set up city/states in the major river valleys, each with its own ruler

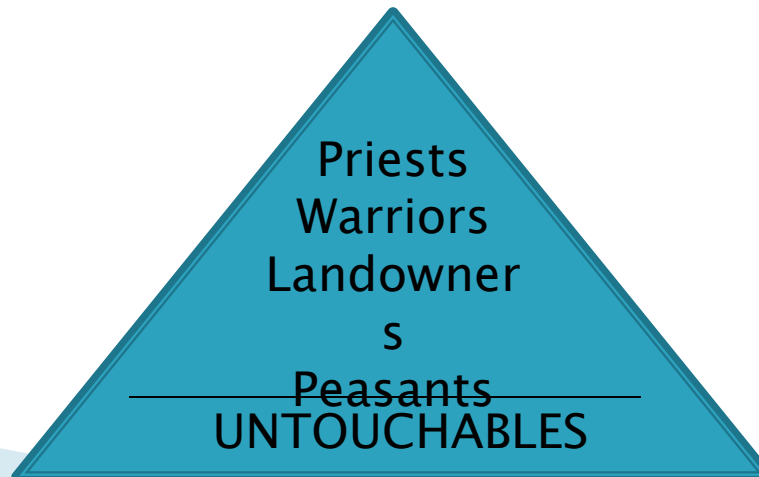
Hinduism – Aryans

- ▶ Hinduism – New religion brought by the Aryans.
 - Provided an entire way of life
 - Served as a guide from Birth to Death
 - No Single Text...
 - Upanishads
 - Bhagavad Gita
 - VEDAS

CASTE SYSTEM

▶ New Social Order:

- Mixing of Dravidian and Aryans led to a new system of social organization
 - Social and Religious rules for a CASTE
 - Only Aryans could occupy a high social class
 - People were divided into 5 hereditary classes



Caste System contd.

- ▶ How it was built...
 - Castes were rigid and based on birth
 - NO SOCIAL MOBILITY
 - Could not marry outside of caste
 - Untouchables are completely outside the social order (handled the dead and swept streets)

Buddhism

- ▶ Began in India 500 B.C.
 - Siddhartha Gautama was a wealthy prince in Nepal
 - Ventured outside palace walls and saw human suffering
 - Left his wife and two kids in search of truth
 - 6 years of searching he found that suffering was caused by selfish human desires
 - To end suffering a person has to accept the world as it is and block out desires.
 - He became “Enlightened One” = BUDDHA

Spread of Buddhism

- ▶ Many followers were attracted to Buddhism
 - REJECTED THE CASTE SYSTEM
 - Spread to: (missionaries)
 - Northern India to Sri Lanka
 - Burma
 - Thailand
 - Indochina
 - Bhutan
 - Nepal
 - Tibet
 - Mongolia and Central Asia
 - China
 - Korea
 - Japan

Mauryan Empire (321 B.C. – 232 C.E.)

- ▶ Shortly after Alexander the Great invaded NW India, Chandragupta Maurya establishes the Mauryan Empire and challenged the Greeks
 - Mauryan Empire stretched from Afghanistan to the Ganges River.
 - After Chandragupta, his grandson Asoka became the next great ruler.

Asoka

- ▶ Loyalty from his people through acts of kindness.
 - Promoted welfare and happiness
 - People of all religions will coexist
 - Improved roads
 - Built hospitals
 - Built up education system with teachers
 - Promoted Buddhism:
 - Built shrines
 - Sent missionaries throughout India and beyond

(Upon Asoka's death, the empire fell apart)

Gupta Empire (320 A.D. – 535 A.D.)

- ▶ Gupta family became the ruling family
 - United the territory around the Ganges River
 - Encouraged peace, prosperity and trade with foreign lands – China especially

200 years of Gupta rule became known as the “Golden Age of Hindu Culture”

What does it mean to be labeled the “Golden Age”?

Golden Age of Hindu Culture

- ▶ The Gupta Empire:
 - Period of time marked by peace and stability
 - Great strides in art and literature
 - Built universities
 - Supported learning
 - Murals adorned the cities
 - Music and plays written in sanskrit

Gupta Contributions

- ▶ Contributions:
 - Excelled in science and mathematics
 - Concept of ZERO
 - Infinity
 - Decimal system
 - Arabic numerals first developed in India
 - Earth is round
 - Astronomy (Earth rotates on axis)
 - Calculated the solar year
 - Physicians set bones and skin grafts

Gupta Empire Ends (500 A.D.)

▶ Huns

- From Central Asia
- Warlike tribe
- Invaded Northeast India
- Gupta Empire disintegrated into smaller states

Dynasties of China

- ▶ 1027 B.C – 220 A.D.
 - Chinese history is divided into periods of history based upon the Dynasty (ruling family)
 - China was ruled by three main dynasties during this period

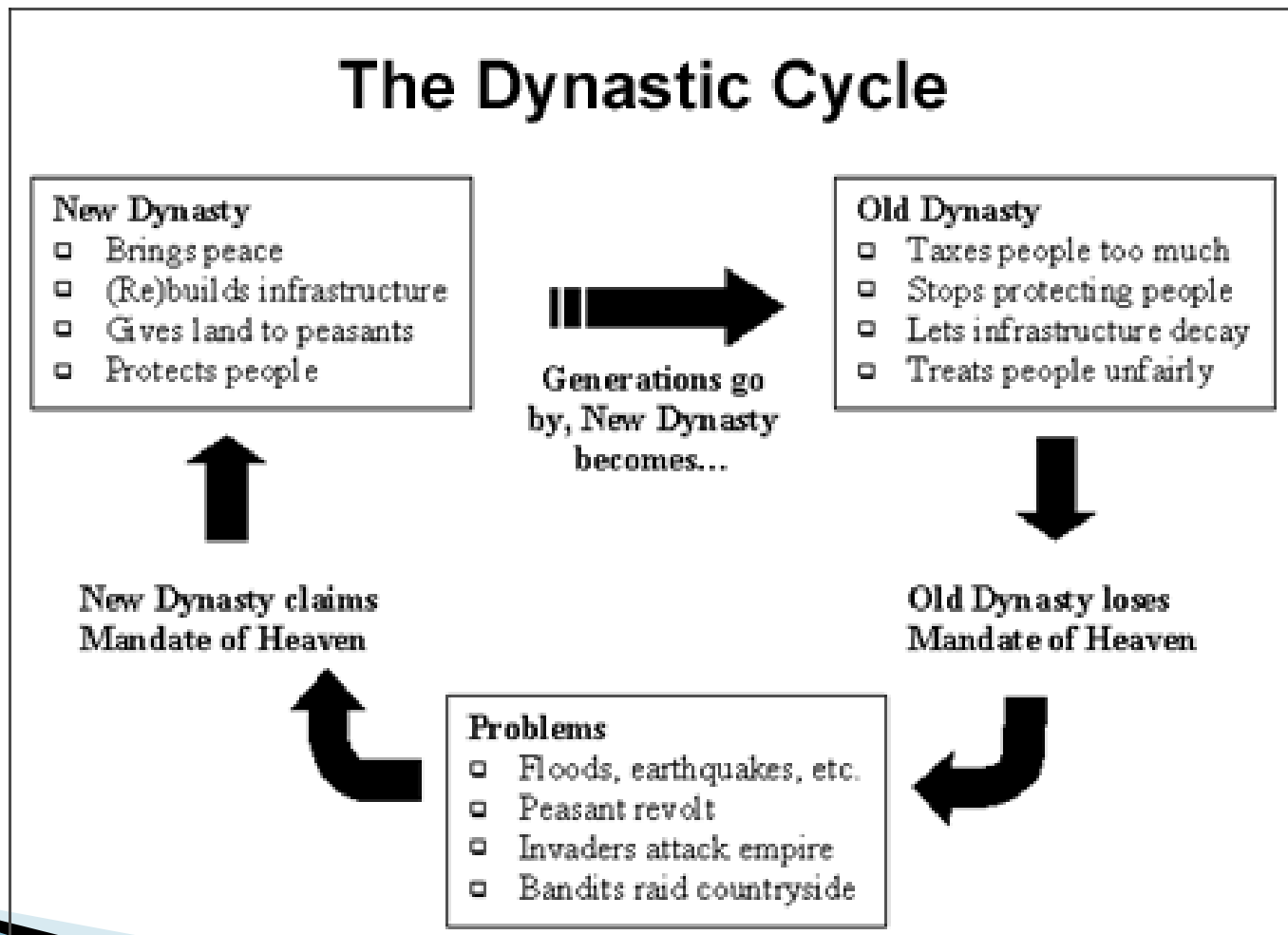
Zhou Dynasty

- ▶ (1027 B.C. – 221 B.C.)
 - 1027 B.C. the Shang were conquered
 - Zhou dynasty took over justifying his rule through the “Mandate of Heaven”
 - Ruler was chosen by the rule of Heaven
 - Heaven will also overthrow a bad ruler

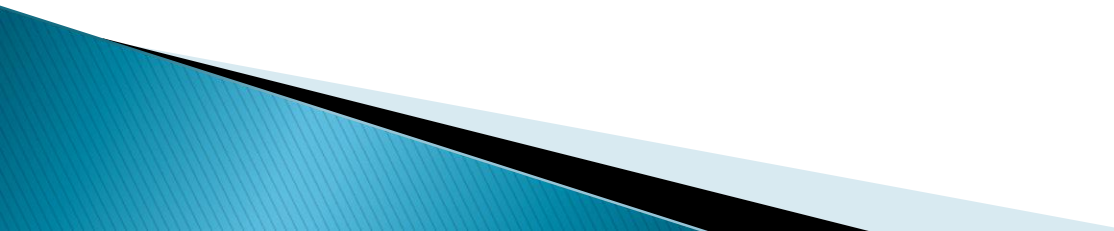
If a ruler thought of himself before the people, then heaven would bring floods, riots and revolts that would mark the end of the dynasty’s reign.

Later rulers would use this as a basis for their reign and authority.

Dynastic Cycle



Zhou Rulers

- ▶ System of giving land to nobles in exchange for military service
 - ▶ Rulers began to expand and conquer neighboring peoples
 - ▶ In the 6th century B.C., nobles became too powerful to control
 - ▶ Civil war began
- 

Zhou Contributions

▶ Philosophers:

- Confucius (Confucianism)
 - Sought to bring order to China's social and political life
- Lao Tzu (Daoism)
 - Looked more to peace and inner stability for individuals

Confucianism

- ▶ Philosophy of:
 - Based on what be believed was the basic order of the universe
 - Stressed following traditional ways, which worked in the past towards peace and harmony
 - Live up to your name, fulfill your social obligations

Confucianism contd.

- ▶ Stress points:
 - Values (obedience and order)
 - Family
 - Filial Piety – children's devotion to parents and family
 - Family served as a model for society
 - Emphasized duties
 - Emphasized good deeds

Daoism (*Taoism*)

- ▶ Chinese Philosophy (5th century B.C.)
 - Based on teachings of Lau Tzu
 - Nature has a “WAY” – Dao – in which it moves
 - You should accept the “WAY” rather than try to change
 - If you fight against it, it will work against you
 - Enlightenment achieved through “non-striving”
 - Enjoying nature
 - Using contemplation to let go of earthly concerns

APPLYING WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED

Compare Confucianism and Daoism by describing how they are similar and different.

Qin Dynasty (221 B.C. – 206 B.C.)

- ▶ Shih Huang-ti – lord of Qin (Chin)
 - Ruler who unified all of China through conquest
 - First Chinese ruler to call himself “Emperor”
 - “All power should be in the hands of a single, absolute ruler
 - Believed that people are not good, and they need a strong government to punish wrongs
 - Harsh ruler – rejected Confucianism
 - Persecuted scholars and burnt Confucian books

Qin Dynasty contd.

▶ Shih's Accomplishments

- Centralized power by dividing China into districts
 - Each district had its own civil and military administrator
- Constructed roads to unite distant regions
- Uniform system of writing and measurement
- Joined walls to form Great Wall of China
 - Protection from nomadic peoples
- Immense tomb with an army of clay soldiers
- **UNIFIED AND CENTRALIZED CHINA**

Han Dynasty (206 B.C. – 220 B.C.)

- ▶ Shih dies and people rebel (rule was harsh)
 - Civil War breaks out
 - Han Empire emerges

Han Contributions:

Invented paper

Lead glazed ceramics

silk weaving

Civil Service Exams

Civil Service Exams

▶ Based on Confucian Teachings

◦ Criteria for Imperial Service

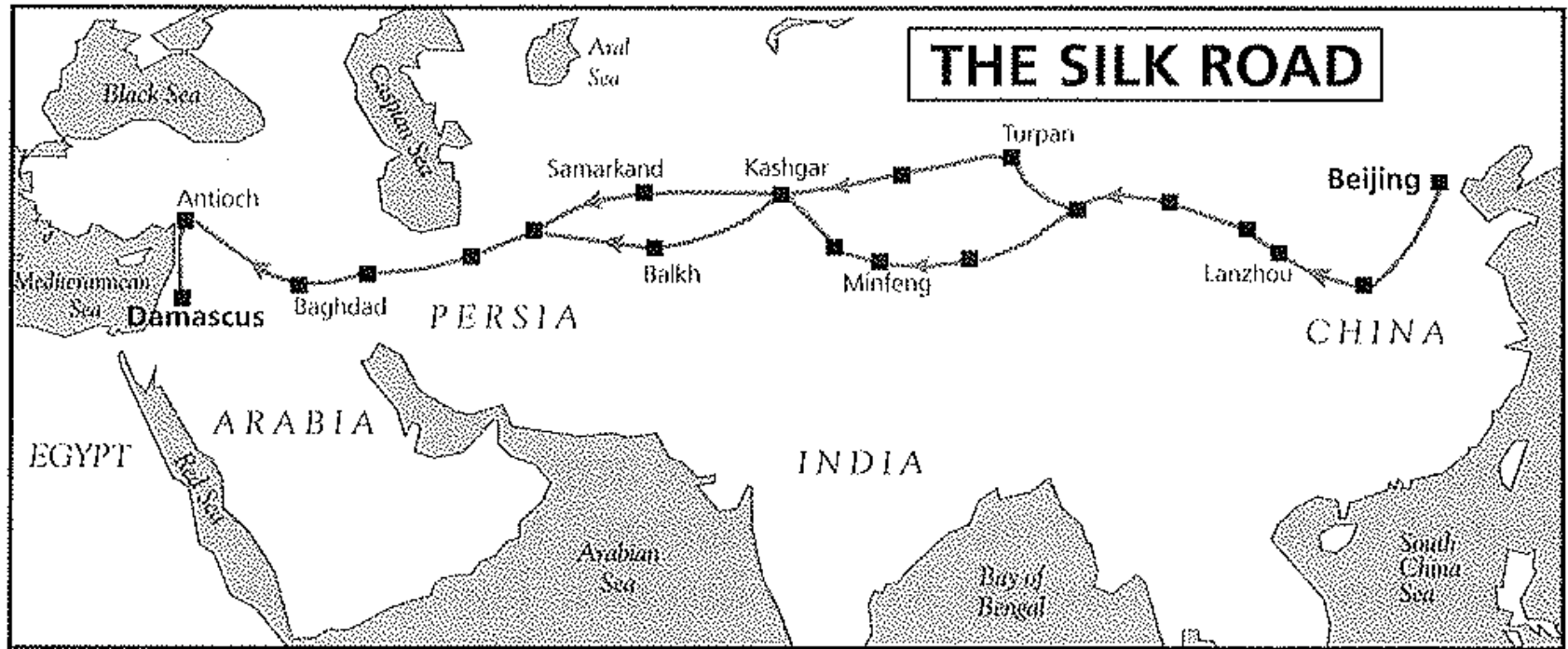
- Applicants tested on knowledge of history and Confucian ideas
- Confucianism spreads again
- Strengthened the power of the Emperor by weakening nobles
 - Imperial service was no longer a right passed down
 - Only those who passed the difficult tests
 - Commoners could now move up social ladder
 - Confucianism began to unite all government and the upper class of China

Silk Road

- ▶ Overland Trade Route from China to Roman Empire
 - Merchants carried goods by camel caravan
 - Silk
 - Iron
 - Bronze
 - IN EXCHANGE...
 - Gold, linen, glass ivory, animal hides, horses, cattle

BUDDHISM also found its way to China

The Silk Road



Children and Women (Han)

- ▶ Wealthy families had many children
 - Sons could serve in Government
 - Daughters could marry into more wealth
- Wealthy women were treated well and influential
 - In childhood obeyed their fathers
 - In adulthood obeyed their husbands
 - In old age obeyed their sons

Han Schools

- ▶ Public schools for boys only:
 - Taught...
 - Respect for parents (filial piety)
 - Looking after one's parents in old age

Fall of the Han Dynasty

- ▶ Ruled over large area for 400 years
 - Problems:
 - Rebellion against authority
 - More power was given to provincial governors to quell them
 - Power to raise an army
 - Power to raise taxes

Can you guess what happens next?



Han Fall contd.

- ▶ **Governors became local warlords**
 - Banditry in the countryside rose
 - Economic hardship began
 - 221 A.D.
 - Last Han emperor turned power over to an independent warlord

Han China collapses into Civil War and split apart into separate states...

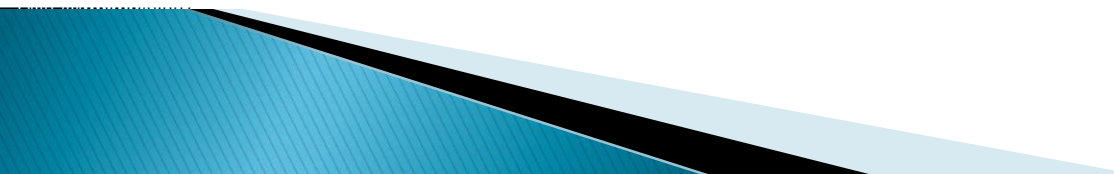
The End of the Empires

- ▶ Why do societies decline and fall?
 - Han Empire and Roman Empire
 - Too large of an area to rule centrally
 - Transportation and communication begin to fail
 - Too much power given to local rulers
 - Incapable rulers
 - Corruption and unequal distribution of wealth
 - Gap between rich and poor was too big
 - High taxes and no support for army
 - Constant invasion
 - Rome – Germanic Tribes...China – Huns

Compare and Contrast

★ In what other ways were the collapses of the Han and Roman Empires similar?

★ Are there any lessons that can be learned by present-day world leaders from the factors that led to the fall of either of these two empires?



Unit 2 – Essential Questions

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS REEXAMINED



- What was the Neolithic Revolution?
- What factors led to the rise of the first civilizations?
- What were the accomplishments of the early river valley civilizations?
- What factors caused the rise of Persia, Greece, and Rome?
- What were the major accomplishments of the “classical civilizations” of the West?
- How were the classical civilizations shaped by their religious and philosophical beliefs and by the rule of law?
- What were the major accomplishments of the civilizations of India and China during the “Classical Era”?
- How did these civilizations compare with the civilizations of the West?
- What factors contributed to the rise and fall of empires and dynasties in the East?