

# SOUTHEAST ASIA

## Shang Dynasty

- Time of emergence: 1766 BC
- Time they were at their peak: 1350 BC
- Time they were around: 1766-1122 BC
- Time of fall: 1122 BC



## Zhou Dynasty

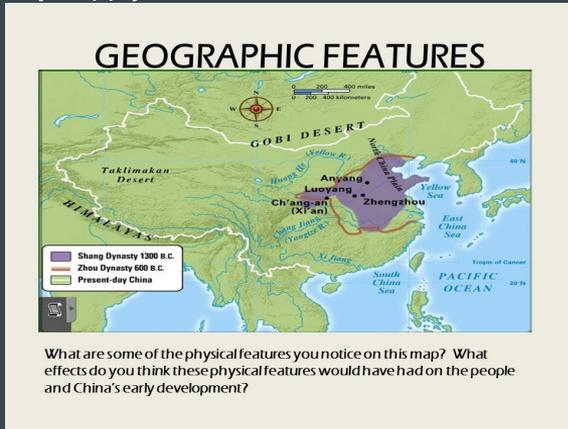
- Time of emergence: 1046-256 BCE
- Divided into 2 different periods (Western Zhou: 1046-771 BCE)(Eastern Zhou: 770-256 BCE)
- They were around for 8 centuries (800+ years)
- Time of fall: 256 BCE



# GEOGRAPHIC IMPACT ON SOCIETY

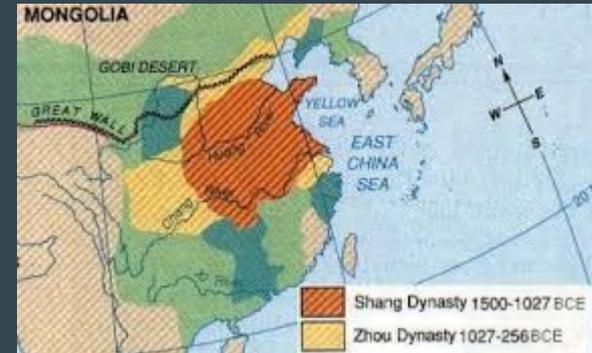
## Shang Dynasty

The Shang Dynasty controlled the North China Plain, which corresponds to the modern day Chinese provinces of Anhui, Hebei, Henan, Shandong, and Shanxi. The area that those of the Shang Dynasty lived in, under the Yellow River Valley, gave them water as well as fertile soil which helped their civilization thrive. Natural borders, such as mountains, also protected the area, making it easier to protect. The Yellow River also made it easy for the people that lived there to obtain a steady supply of water.



## Zhou Dynasty

- They were located west of Shang Dynasty however after conquering Shang Dynasty, their borders extended as far south as Chang Jiang river and east to the Yellow sea. These body of waters provided fertile soil for good farming and their trading increased.
- Present day location: Xi'an in Shaanxi near the Wei river and confluence of the Yellow river
- They were not geographically isolated from other civilizations
- They were exposed to large bodies of water



# POLITICAL SYSTEM AND IMPACT ON SOCIETY

government

## Shang Dynasty

The Shang Dynasty was ruled by a hereditary monarchy, in which the government was controlled by the king mainly, and the line of rule descended through the family. The government also possessed a form of theocracy, in which the king was a mediator between the physical world and the divine world. Through this, the king would receive divine omens which would play a role in the decision making. The king also had a hierarchy of officials who held ranked positions and were military officers. But as a result of the large territory the Shang controlled, the King's authority could only reach so far. The area outside of the king's influence was ruled by local aristocrats, who collected taxes, guarded the frontiers, recruited workers for public projects, and provided soldiers for the military.



## Zhou Dynasty

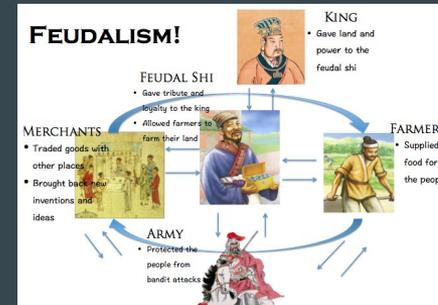
- The Zhou Dynasty ruled with a Confucian social hierarchy
- The citizens were expected to follow the rules and values of Confucianism

Organization:

- Had the "Mandate of Heaven"
- The "Mandate of Heaven" was when leaders would gain authorities from gods

Their political system was based on the feudal system

- The feudal system is the combination of legal and military customs. It was a way of structuring society around relationships derived from the holding of land in exchange for labour or service



# ECONOMIC SYSTEM AND IMPACT ON SOCIETY

## Economy

**Shang Dynasty:** During the Shang Dynasty, trade played a key role in developing warfare in China at the time. During the Bronze Age in particular Bronze was a large part of trade and was used to make chariots, vessels, weapons, and even instruments; the use of the bronze chariots was what allowed them to overthrow the Xia Dynasty. Trade routes were also mainly found around the major rivers, the Yellow and the Yangtze River. Items traded included carved jade and marble, porcelain tableware, woven silk, and silk that was painted with ink. The Shang society, also possessed a system of social classes which started with the king and his royal bloodline, then the nobles who would provide weapons and soldiers for the military, the artisans and traders who crafted clothing, jewelry, and decorations for the upper class, as well as making weapons for war. Then the farmers, which was the largest social class, who farmed on land owned by nobles, and lastly the slaves who were generally prisoners of war.

## Zhou Dynasty

- During the Zhou Dynasty their major product for trade was silk
- Their economy was based on a division of social classes
- The rivers near them allowed for easier trade
- Because of their trade, it created more roads, distributed more money and an increase in bartering



# BELIEFS AND RELIGIOUS IMPACT ON CULTURE

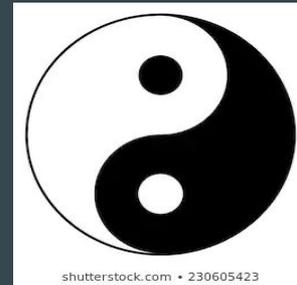
## Shang Dynasty

- Religion: Polytheistic, the different gods would represent different real and mythological symbols
- These gods, along with ancestors or passed relatives, were prayed to in order to promise a bountiful harvest and to seek guidance
- Divination: Used especially by Chinese kings, they would inscribe ancient writing on pieces of bone or turtle shell, then heat it till it cracked. They would then interpret the crack as a prediction for the future
- Afterlife: The Shang did believe in an afterlife, as they built tombs very similar to the Egyptians, with personal items and servants buried with ancient rulers
- Shangdi: One of the most important gods that the kings would pray to; he was also known as the "Supreme Being"



## Zhou dynasty

- The citizens of the Zhou Dynasty were polytheistic
- They practiced Confucianism which is a system of philosophical and ethical teaching
- They also practiced Taoism which is Chinese philosophy based on the writing of Lao-tzu. Taoism also advocated humanity and religious piety
- One of the symbols of Taoism is the Yin and Yang
- The final thing they practiced was Legalism which was the excessive adherence to law or formula



# RISE OF CIVILIZATION

## Shang Dynasty

- Based on archeological inscriptions and carvings, the origin of the Shang was that of a man named Cheng Tang, who was said to have overthrown the evil king of the Xia
- It is still debated among scholars if the Xia even existed, because the Xia are briefly mentioned in Shang legends, there is no written proof that they ever existed



## Zhou Dynasty

- The cause of this civilization to rise was when a small clan of formerly nomadic people came to China
- These same people waged war against the Shang family (their ruling family)
- They were led by King Wen and his son Wu
- However King Wen died and his son, Wu, managed to conquer the Shang family
- Wu established his own family as rulers of China



# ART AND ARCHITECTURE

## Shang Dynasty

- Jade carvings: usually depicted animals such as birds, tigers, dragons, and many more. Having a Jade disc could show a high standing in Shang society
- Objects that were artistically rendered are said to have held some sort of religious significance, however scholars are uncertain of what exactly and if they may have been just ornamental
- Artisans would invent instruments, weave silk, and created lacquerware
- Buildings were low and tall, as well as symmetrical, as a way of showing balance in life
- Roofing was held up by columns instead of walls to give of the appearance that the roof is floating



## Zhou Dynasty

Main forms of art during the Zhou Dynasty:

- Bronze work for vases, cups, and other household items
- Writings appeared on their bronze jars
- Near the end of the dynasty, they started to paint about landscape and hunting

Types of architecture:

- Big palaces and shrines for ancestors
- Rich people houses had walls around them and courtyards with private areas
- Houses had pillars in different colors (emperors had artists carve their pillars and paint them red)(richest family painted their pillars black)(the poor painted their pillar yellow)
- However, not many people could afford pillars for their house, so they rammed earth walls or whitewashed to keep their houses clean

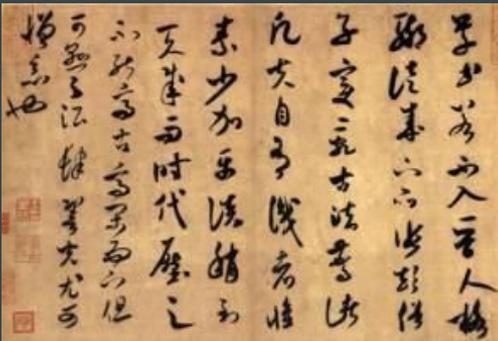
We can learn how they hunted and lived through their art



# WRITING SYSTEM AND WRITTEN HISTORY

## Shang Dynasty

- Jiaguwen: a form of pictographic writing that the Shang used on oracle bones as a way of divination. This meant that the inscriptions would represent an object linked to a concept, and it was also used as a form of communication
- Guwen writing: Developed during the later years of the Shang Dynasty and was found on metal objects. It allowed the Shang to communicate with a more complicated writing system, as when the number of strokes increased on the characters, the more complex the writing became.



## Zhou Dynasty

- During the Zhou Dynasty, the citizens wrote and spoke in Chinese
- The type of writing they had: logographic, script writing, and ideographic
- It was not pictographic, it was ideographic meaning it represented ideas rather than the structure of language
- Their writing was also logographic meaning each graph or character corresponds to one meaningful unit of the language and not directly to a unit of thought
- We can read their writing today and it was developed because of the “mandate of heaven system”
- The Zhou Dynasty writing system was widely used by other civilizations such as the Japanese and Korean people who based their writing systems off of the Zhou’s



# MAJOR TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES

## Shang Dynasty

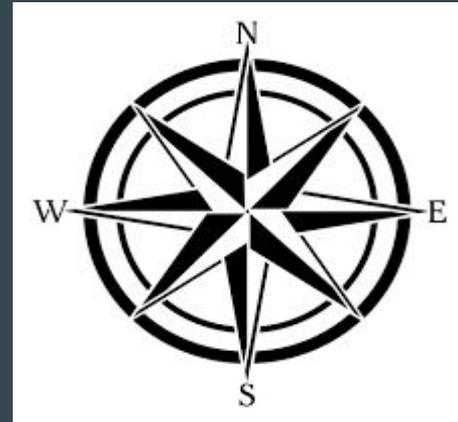
- **Bronze Casting:** Invented by the Shang during the Bronze Age, and was used to make ritual vessels, tools, weapons such as spears, and most importantly, the chariot
- The Chariot redefined warfare in East Asia, as the Chariot allowed commanders to supervise their troops more efficiently and across greater distances; it was also very mobile and fast
- **Calendar system:** consisted of 4 seasons, and 24 solar terms, as well as 10 day weeks
- **Building construction:** Construction sights were considerably large and made out of perishable materials such as dirt and stone



## Zhou Dynasty

In the Zhou Dynasty they invented many things such as;

- **Compasses**
- **Kites:** oldest type of aircraft
- They also developed China's 1st projects involving hydraulic engineering
- They had large scale irrigation systems
- They invented iron tools and weapons



# GOLDEN AGE

## Shang Dynasty

The Shang did not have a golden age exactly, but they did have a bronze age which lasted into the Zhou Dynasty as well. It was called the Bronze age because during this time bronze casting was being used more for a large majority of things such as tools, sculpture, weapons, chariots, ritual vessels, and for the construction of buildings. As mentioned before the development of bronze casting and the bronze chariot had a large effect on warfare in East Asia.



## Zhou Dynasty

- The Zhou Dynasty golden age would be the Iron age
- The Iron age allowed Zhou to have a sustainable economy
- The Iron age allowed Zhou to have new materialistic technologies which was easier for conquering war

Other than the Iron age Zhou Dynasty did not have much of a golden age



# FAMOUS CITIZENS AND THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS

## Shang Dynasty: Famous leaders

- Emperor Shang: Was the founder of the Shang Dynasty, and was said to have done this by overthrowing the tyrannical ruler of the Xia
- Emperor Pan Geng: Moved the capitol to Yin, which is why the dynasty is also referred to as the Yin Shang, and the country was very prosperous during his rule
- Emperor Wu Ding: Enlarged the countries domain through war and social productivity such as textile, medicine and astronomy developed during his rule



## Zhou Dynasty

One of the most famous citizen and leader was king Wen

- He was known to be the living standard of benevolence and wisdom
- He made alliances with neighboring chiefs which gave Zhou military power to make conquest possible in return

Another famous citizen and philosopher was Confucius

- He was a great Chinese philosopher who was active during the Zhou period
- He made the Zhou period the Golden Age of Chinese Philosopher



# SLAVERY

## Shang Dynasty

- Slaves were often prisoners of war
- They were forced to build tombs and palaces for the upper class
- Were sometimes even sacrificed for their masters so they would be buried with them in their tomb so they would continue to serve them in the afterlife, similarly to the Egyptians



## Zhou Dynasty

- Slaves were a social class and they were at the very bottom
- Slaves were usually people who were in debt
- If your parents were slaves then you would most likely be a slave for the rest of your life
- Some were sold to slavery
- Masters forced slaves to make them great and rich
- After the huge conquest over Shang dynasty, most of the Shang people became slaves to the Zhou



# FALL OF CIVILIZATION

## Shang Dynasty

- Conquered the Xia
- Were conquered by the Zhou dynasty in 1122 BC by King Wu Wang
- Wu Wang justified doing this as it was a “Mandate from Heaven” to rescue the people from tyranny
- This tyranny was caused by the last emperor of the Shang Dynasty, Chou Hsin who also let outside territories weaken



## Zhou Dynasty

Before the Zhou Dynasty was conquered they managed to last over 800 years

- They conquered Shang Dynasty
- They were eventually conquered during the Warring states when Qin army captured the city of Chengzhou and the last Zhou ruler was Killed
- The Zhou Dynasty was only conquered once



# WORLD WIDE CONTRIBUTIONS

## Shang Dynasty

As one of the first Dynasties in China, the Shang laid the groundwork for much of China's culture, which would influence the rest of the world as well:

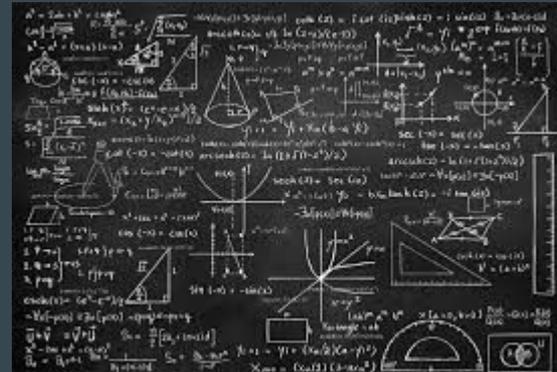
- The invention of writing in China, which would lead to the language being further developed
- Development of stratified government
- The advancement in bronze technology



## Zhou Dynasty

There are lasting contributions still seen today left by the citizens of the Zhou Dynasty. They left us mathematics that's still used today. These mathematics includes;

- Geometry
- Fractions
- Trigonometry
- Basic arithmetic



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