

What the Chinese knew

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Part II: Han and Post-Han (250 BC - 600 AD)

What the Chinese knew

- Bibliography:
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 - Sherman Lee: A History of Far Eastern Art (1973)
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Chinese dynasties

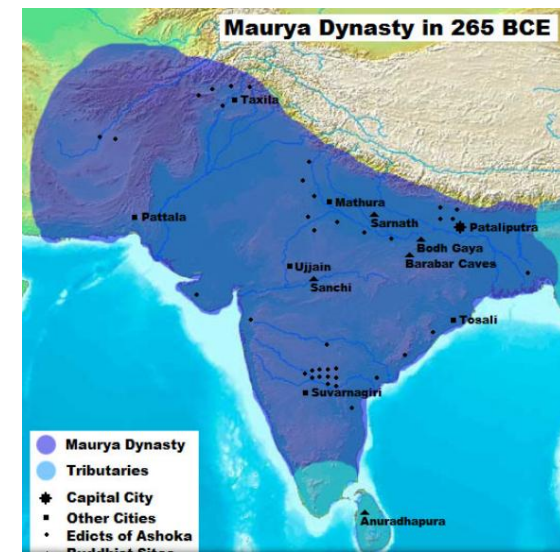
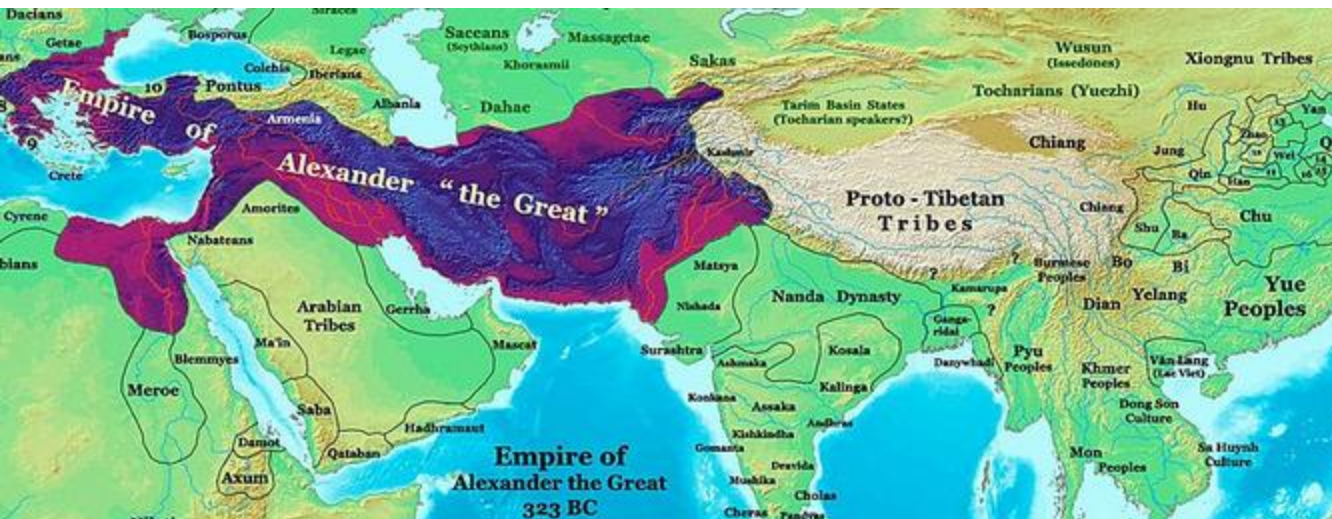
- Xia Dynasty 2070-1766 BC
- Shang Dynasty 1766-1122 BC
- Zhou 1122 - 403 BC
- Warring States
- Qin 256-210 BC
- Han Dynasty 206 BC - 220 AD
- Tang Dynasty 618-907
- Sung (960-1279)
- Mongol Yuan 1279-1368
- Ming Dynasty 1368-1644
- Manchu Qing 1644-1911
- Republic 1912-1949
- Communists 1949-present

Qin and Han empires



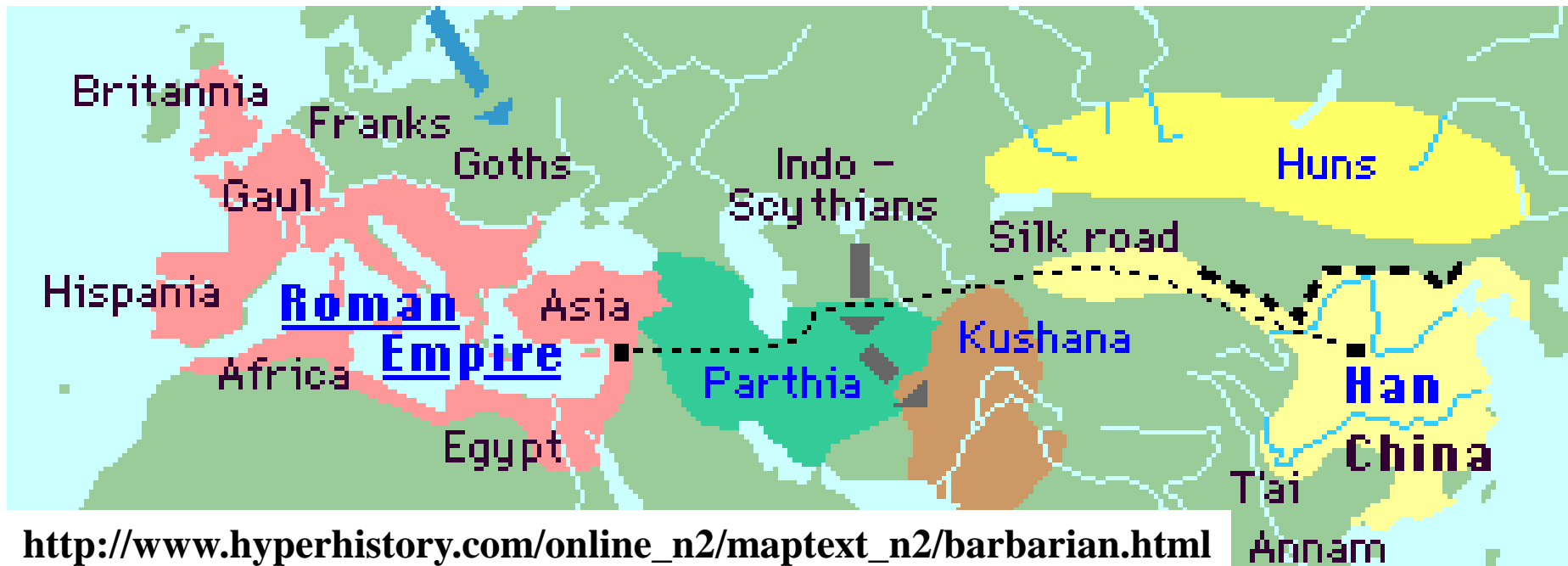
Chinese dynasties

- 300-200 BC empires of Eurasia:
 - Macedonia
 - Qin
 - Maurya
 - Note: Alexander, Chandragupta Maurya and Qin Shi were very young when they founded their empires.



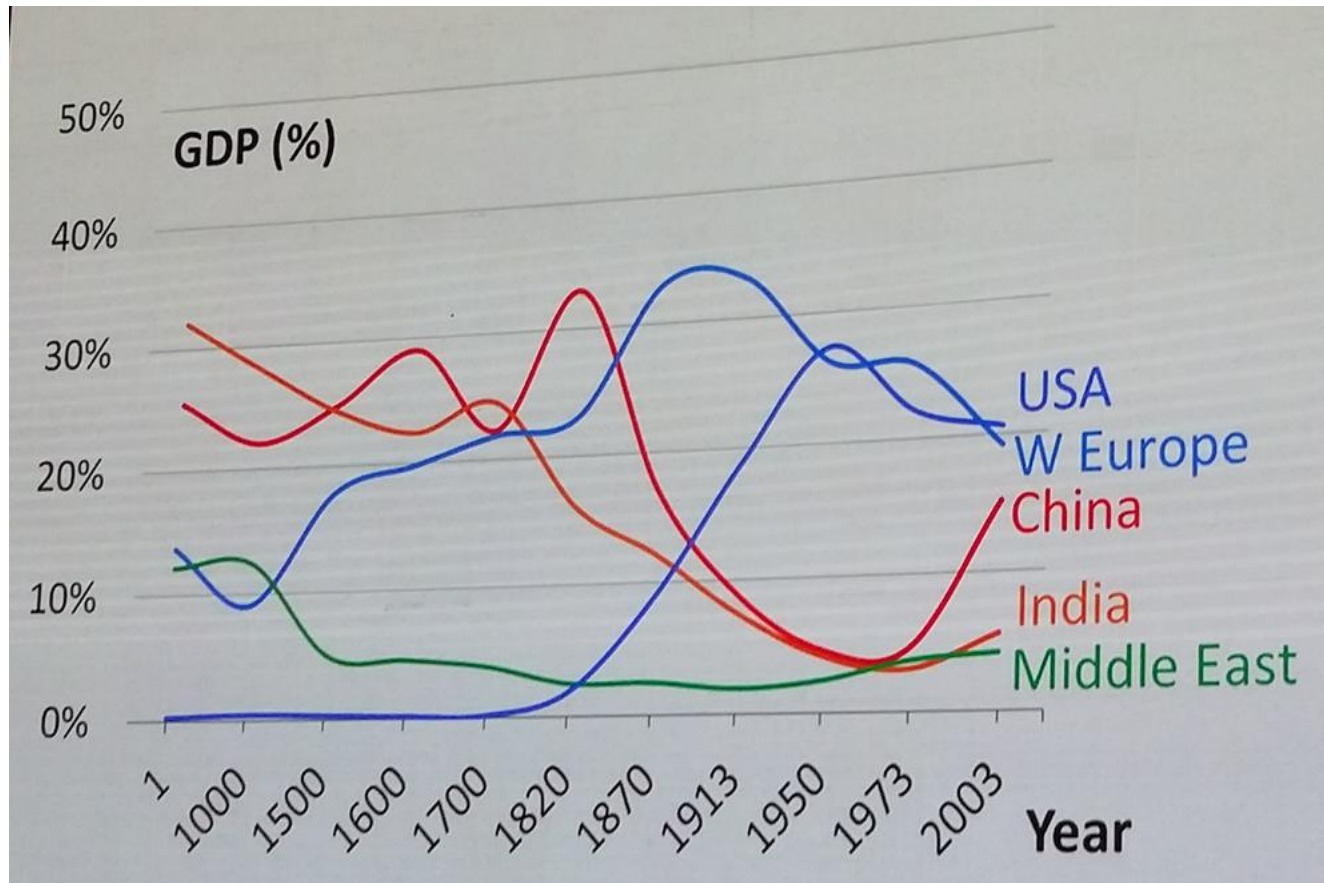
Chinese dynasties

- 0-300 AD four empires in Eurasia:
 - Han (Buddhist and Daoist)
 - Roman (Christian)
 - Parthian (Zoroastrian)
 - Kushan (Buddhist)



Chinese dynasties

- World's GDP



What the Chinese Knew

- Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD)
 - Founded by a man of humble origins (Liu Pang/ Bang or Gaozu)
 - Succeeded by one of his wives (Lu)
 - Large bureaucracy
 - Hereditary aristocracy is replaced by meritocracy
 - Most of the population is either peasant or landowner
 - Relatively few slaves and few privileged families (the top and the bottom shrink, the middle swells)
 - Merchant class still despised (and excluded from bureaucracy)

What the Chinese Knew

- Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD)
 - Meritocracy under Wudi (141 BC)
 - All bureaucrats required to study the “five classics and four books”
 - Book of Odes, Book of Documents, Book of Changes, Book of Rites, and the Spring and Autumn Annals
 - Doctrine of the Mean, the Great Learning, Mencius, and the Analects
 - Confucian gentleman (junzi) is not necessarily an aristocrat (although certainly not a woman!)

What the Chinese Knew

- Han Fei (b 250BC)
 - Folk psychology centered on selfishness
 - "Han Fei Tzu" (200 BC) legalist synthesis, set of guidelines for rulers
 - Law is not divine or natural, it is human-made and pragmatic, based on a system of punishment and reward

What the Chinese Knew

- **Han (206 BC - 220 AD)**
 - **Emperor Wu Di (141-87 BC) dispatches explorer Zhang Qian / Chang-Ch'ien to Central Asia (139 BC and 115 BC)**
 - **Emperor Ming Di (57-75 AD) dispatches general Ban Chao to conquer Central Asia (73 AD)**
 - **Control of Central Asia increases volume of trade with the West (e.g., “Silk Road”)**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Han (206 BC - 220 AD)**
 - **Emperor Shun Ti (126-44) confines himself to the palace creating the imperial etiquette**
 - **Eunuchs gain power as the only men allowed near the emperor**
 - **Conflict between aristocrats and eunuchs**
 - **Conflict between generals and eunuchs**
 - **Empresses and their families gain power and appoint emperors**
 - **Conflicts between eunuchs and clans of the empresses**

What the Chinese Knew

- Han (206 BC - 220 AD)
 - Tripartite division of power (ministers, army, censors)
 - Meritocracy
 - Noble families: landowner (up to several villages, mines, mills) + household, concubines, servants, slaves (up to thousands) + peasants working the land + astrologers, scholars, spies, bodyguards (up to hundreds) + army manning the fortifications (up to tens of thousands)
 - Rule by law (legalism)
 - Discrimination against merchants
 - Population explosion (57 million people in 2AD, most populous country in the world)
 - Capitals at Xian (250,000 people in 2AD) and later Luoyang

What the Chinese Knew

- Han (206 BC - 220 AD)
 - Classical scholarship (recovery and restoration of classic texts)
 - Historiography
 - Ssu-ma Chien: "Shih-chi" (90 BC), a history of the world and compendium of knowledge
 - Pan Ku: "Han-shu" (92 AD), history of the Han dynasty

What the Chinese Knew

- Han (206 BC - 220 AD)
 - Education spreads and the dominant classes engage in literature (eg, poetry)
 - Emergence of the class of officials-scholars (recruited nationwide on the basis of their knowledge of the classics)
 - minimizes regional differences

What the Chinese Knew

- Han (206 BC - 220 AD)
 - Buddhism
 - Neo-daoism

What the Chinese Knew

- **Buddhist religion**
 - **Salvation in an eternal heaven through faith and invocation**

What the Chinese Knew

- Daoist religion (Tao Chiao)
 - Lao Tzu deified (142 AD)
 - Inclusive religion (local Gods, deified heroes)
 - Incorporating traditional spirits (polytheistic church preaching salvation through immortality)
 - Gods are divine emanation of the Tao
 - Very elaborate ritual to invoke/petition the gods
 - Pantheon organized as a celestial court
 - Goddesses represent the “yin” of the world
 - Ultimate goal is immortality (achieved via elixirs or discipline)

What the Chinese Knew

- **Daoist religion**
 - **Absolute reality is nothingness (wu)**
 - **Escapism and hedonism (indulging in pleasure, avoiding social duties)**
 - **Government is only an expedient for the clever to dominate the masses**
 - **Daoism regresses to a system of magic (the Daoist priest being a sorcerer)**
 - **Alchemy**
 - **Kung-fu**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Daoist canon**
 - Lao Tze's "Dao De Jing"
 - Chuang Tze's "Zhuang Zi"
 - "Daozang" (5000 texts collected circa 400 AD) divided in three "grottoes" (meditation, ritual, exorcism)

What the Chinese Knew

- **Daoist cults**
 - **Cult of the Immortals (e.g., the Xiwanmu/ Queen Mother of the West, first mass religious movement in China)**
 - **Zhang Daoling's Tianshi Dao/ The Way of the Heavenly Teacher aka Wudoumi Dao/ Five Pecks of Rice Taoism (142 AD): polytheistic, magical, messianic**
 - **Zhang Jiao's Taiping Dao (2nd c AD)**
 - **Yang Xi's Shangqing/ Highest Clarity (370 AD)**
 - **Ge Chaofu's Lingbao/ Numinous Treasure: Highest Clarity plus Buddhist cosmology plus magic**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Daoist religion**
 - **Political daoism**
 - **Application of Daoist principles to society**
 - **Utopian anarchy (absence of rulers as the political form of inaction)**
 - **Juan Chi (210)**
 - **Pao Ching-yen (flourished in the early 4th c)**

What the Chinese Knew

- State religion
 - Worship of ancestors by commoners
 - Worship of Heaven by emperors (sons of Heaven)
 - Circular platform
 - Han: 8 staircases - Tang: 12 staircases - Ming and Qing: 4 staircases (eg, Tiantan in Beijing)
 - Oldest-known altar used in Chinese state religious practice: Xian, 7th c AD



Tiantan, Beijing

What the Chinese Knew

- Han (206 BC - 220 AD)
 - Metaphysical speculation
 - Balance of yin/yang forces
 - Cycles of five elements (wood, metal, fire, water, earth)
 - Wood is shaped by metal, metal is melted by fire, fire is extinguished by water, water is controlled by earth, earth is broken by wood

What the Chinese Knew

- Han (206 BC - 220 AD)
 - Paper (105 AD)
 - Waterwheel (waterpower for grinding grain and casting iron)
 - Compass
 - Li Bing's irrigation project at Dujiangyan, Sichuan (3rd c BC)
 - Architecture of Xian and Luoyang is made of wood (nothing is left except tombs)

What the Chinese Knew

- Han (206 BC - 220 AD)
 - Paper
 - A Buddhist duty is to copy the scriptures (eg Diamond Sutra) vs Christian duty is to go to church and Muslim duty is to memorize the Quran
 - Where a copy of the Diamond Sutra is, Buddha is

What the Chinese Knew

- **Han (206 BC - 220 AD)**
 - A land-oriented empire relying on irrigation
 - Little sea trade because no easily reached neighbor with goods to trade
 - The navy is a luxury, not a necessity
 - Cast iron (119BC: the emperor nationalize all cast-iron factories; Tu Shih's water-powered bellows)
 - Agricultural tools made of cast iron
 - Water-powered industry
 - Trade with West: exports of iron, ceramics, jade, laquer, silk; imports of gold, ivory, glass
 - Trade with India: imports of spices and perfumes

What the Chinese Knew

- **Han (206 BC - 220 AD)**



Miniature village
(Beijing History Museum)

What the Chinese Knew

- **Han (206 BC - 220 AD)**



Miniature cart (Nelson Museum, Kansas City)



Miniature house of 2nd c AD
(Art Institute of Chicago)

What the Chinese Knew

- **Han (206 BC - 220 AD)**



Money tree 1st c AD
San Francisco Asian Art Museum



Money tree (2nd c)
Tokyo Museum



3-story silo, Han 2nd c AD
(Boston Museum of Fine Arts)

What the Chinese Knew

- **Han (206 BC - 220 AD)**



Three-storied pavilion, 2nd c AD
(Cantor Museum)

What the Chinese Knew

- **Han (206 BC - 220 AD)**

See monument/china/chongmusic.html

What the Chinese Knew

- **Xun Zi/ Hsün Tzu (b298 BC)**
 - **Confucianist**
 - **Human nature is evil**
 - **Social happiness can be obtained only by creating artificial barriers between social classes (“they are equal only to the extent that they are all unequal”)**
 - **A state of fixed social differences is free on unrest and therefore happy**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Shang Yang (d338 BC)**
 - **Legalist**
 - **Loyalty to the state comes before that of the family**
 - **Preeminence of military order**
 - **Almost all crimes should be punished by death**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Han Fei (b280 BC)**
 - **Legalist**
 - **Human nature is evil**
 - **The law must severely punish those who violate it and reward those who obey it**
 - **Once a law is established, it works by itself**
 - **Non-action is the characteristic of the successful ruler**
 - **Lao Zi's “ Tao Te Ching” interpreted as a political text: the Tao as a natural law that everything is forced to follow**
 - **The ruler is an equivalent force of nature**

What the Chinese Knew

- Zhang/Chang Heng (b78):
 - astronomer,
 - mathematician,
 - inventor,
 - geographer,
 - artist,
 - poet,
 - statesman,
 - literary scholar

What the Chinese Knew

- Dong Zhongshu/ Tung Chung-shu (b 179BC)
 - Systematic theology based on Confucianism, yin-yang, five elements, ancient numerology, etc that links Heaven, Earth and human society
 - Heaven (“Tian”) creates moral values of people
 - Heaven creates patterns
 - People refine innate moral values by following patterns (rites; music, etc) and thus creating order in the world
 - Five fundamental forces: water, fire, earth, wood and metal
 - Everything arises from the forces
 - All phenomena are interconnected

What the Chinese Knew

- **Dong Zhongshu/ Tung Chung-shu (b 179BC)**
 - **Heaven's patterns are based on cycles**
 - **Two-phase cycle, modeled after yin and yang and reflected in the political cycle of simplicity and refinement (prehistory, Xia dynasty, Shang dynasty, Zhou dynasty...)**
 - **Three-phase cycle, modeled after the trinity of heaven, earth and man and reflected in the political cycle of loyalty, respect and refinement (Xia, Shang, Zhou...)**
 - **Four-phase cycle, modeled after the four seasons**
 - **Five-phase cycle, modeled after the five elements**
 - **Nine-phase cycle, modeled after the nine sages of ancestral times**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Dong Zhongshu/ Tung Chung-shu (b 195BC)**
 - **The ruler is the personification of Heaven's will**
 - **Rulers must follow the patterns set by Heaven**
 - **The ruler must teach virtues to his subjects so that his subjects can bring out their innate goodness (i.e., harmony with Heaven)**
 - **Heaven's patterns change, rulers change**

What the Chinese Knew

- **School of Yin-yang cosmology**
 - Natural events are rewards/punishments for human behavior
 - Human behavior affects the future of nature
 - Destiny (ming) depends on deeds
 - All things are made of Qi which moves in patterns of “quiescence” (yin, form) and “activity” (yang, vitality)
 - Excessive yang creates supernatural beings

What the Chinese Knew

- **Wang Chong (b 27AD)**
 - **“Lunheng” (83 AD)**
 - **Nature is self-organizing**
 - **Tian is wuwei (Heaven is not a willing god, but rather the spontaneous way of Nature)**
 - **Natural phenomena have natural causes: no need for divine intervention or supernatural beings**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Wang Chong (b 27AD)**
 - **Chance and predestination**
 - **Human behavior does not influence natural events**
 - **Destiny (ming) is fixed at birth (store of Qi) and can change (accidents of history)**
 - **Human behavior does not affect destiny**
 - **The human nature (xing) of an individual is a mixture of good and evil (and xing can even change within each individual)**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Ho Hsiu (b129AD)**
 - **Linear and teleological model of human history**
 - **Progression from barbaric state to ideal state**
 - **Social happiness primarily depends on economics**
 - **The ideal state is founded on equality (a` la Mozi)**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Xi Kang/Hsi Kang/Ji Kang (223)**
 - **Critique of Confucianism**
 - **Preservation of life prevails over enjoying life**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Han (206 BC - 220 AD)**
 - **Poetry**
 - **The fu (baroque mixture of verse and prose, an evolution of the chu-tzu style)**
 - **Ssu-ma Hsiang-ju (179 BC): "Shang-lin Fu"**
 - **The shih style (the style of the folk songs)**
 - **Descriptions of the beauty of nature abound**
 - **Nature viewed as complementary to civilization**

What the Chinese Knew

- Han (206 BC - 220 AD)
 - Art
 - Sculpture, painting, ceramics
 - Representational and naturalistic
 - Painting as a true art by auteurs, sculpture/metalwork/ceramics as anonymous artisans' craft
 - Calligraphy as a branch of painting
 - But painting derived from calligraphy and writing

What the Chinese Knew

- **Han (206 BC - 220 AD)**
 - Jade



Jade shroud of prince Liu Sheng (Mancheng, 113 BC)

Beijing History Museum



What the Chinese Knew

- **Han (206 BC - 220 AD)**

Ceramic funeral urn (3rd c)
Tokyo Museum



Bronze of bard and drum
(1st-3rd AD)
Beijing History Museum



Stone urn of 3rd c AD
(Art Institute of Chicago)



What the Chinese Knew

- **Han**
 - **Relief of 2nd c AD, Tokyo Museum**

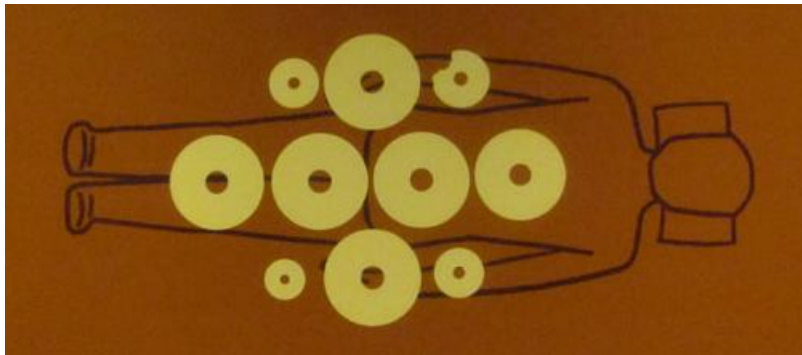


Relief of 2nd c AD, Tokyo Museum 49

What the Chinese Knew

- **Han**

Guangzhou mausoleum (122 BC)



What the Chinese Knew

- Han



Pictorial bricks of Han dynasty from Xiñdu

What the Chinese Knew

- Han



Han tomb from Xuzhou Museum

What the Chinese Knew

- **Han**
 - **Blast furnace to make steel (1st c BC)**

What the Chinese Knew

- Han (206 BC - 220 AD)
 - The “Silk Road” is inaugurated by Parthian king Mithridates II and Chinese emperor Wu-Ti (106 BC)
 - The Silk Road before Islam: Xian- Dunhuang - Gaochang (Turfan) - Kucha - Kashgar - Uzgen - Herat - Samarkand - Bukhara - Merv - Ecbatana (Hamadan) Mashad - Tabriz - Ctesiphon (Baghdad) - Palmyra - Constantinople (Istanbul)

What the Chinese Knew

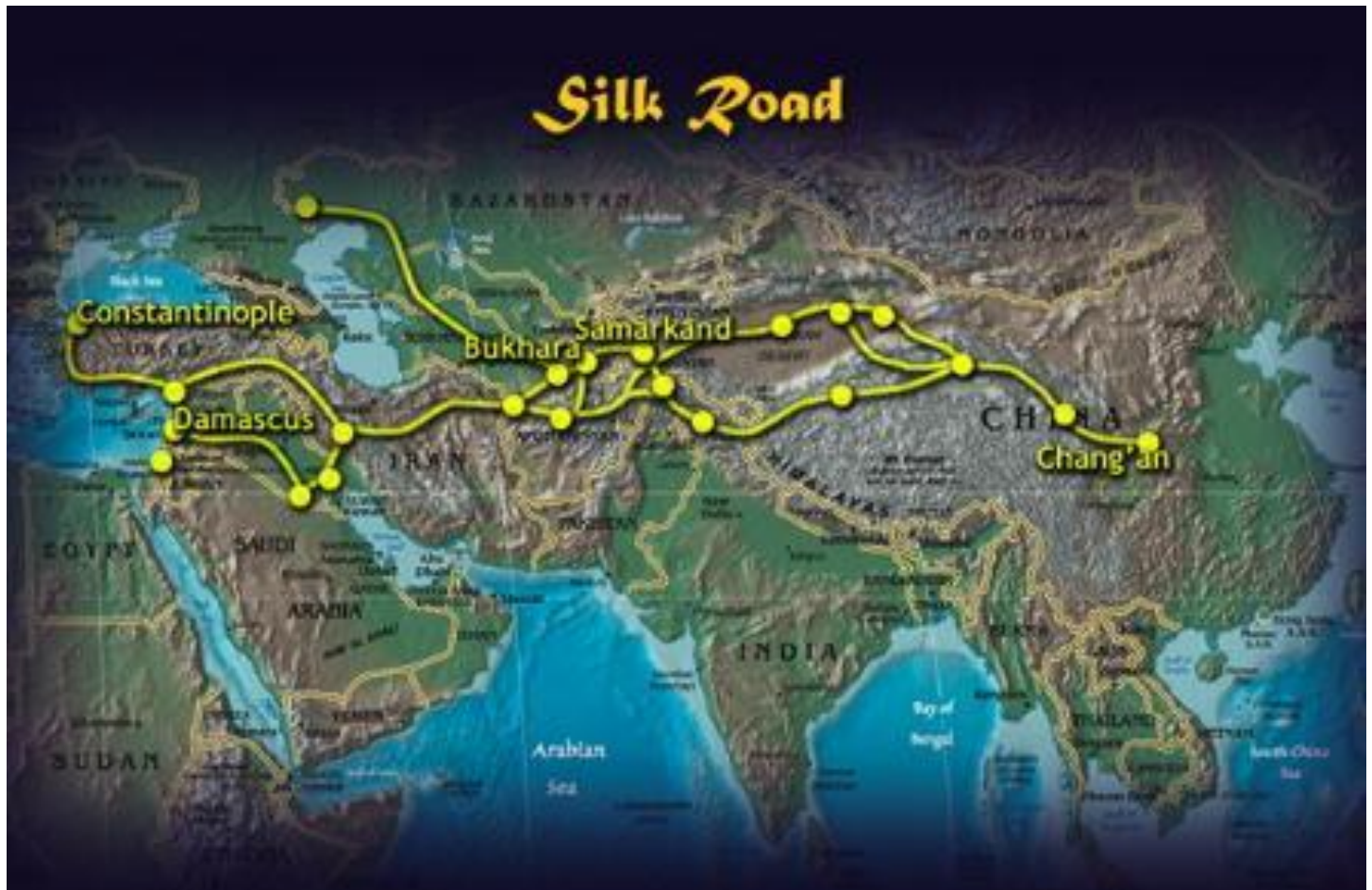
- **Silk Road**



<http://www.travelchinaguide.com/silkroad/>

What the Chinese Knew

- Silk Road



(Courtesy Rafael Olivas)

Silk Road



What the Chinese Knew

- Han vs Rome
 - Land-oriented vs sea-oriented
 - Irrigation vs import of grains
 - Self-sufficient vs dependent on colonies/provinces
 - Water-powered industrial revolution vs slave labor
 - Monocultural society vs multi-cultural/ethnic/religious/linguistic society
 - Han fell but China reunified many times (thanks to waterways the provide unity); Rome never reunified

What the Chinese Knew

- Buddhist pilgrimage routes
 - From Japan to India
 - From northern China to India
 - From Central Asia to India
 - From Southeast Asia to India
 - Overlapping the routes of the Silk Road

What the Chinese Knew

- Three Kingdoms (220-65 AD)



What the Chinese Knew

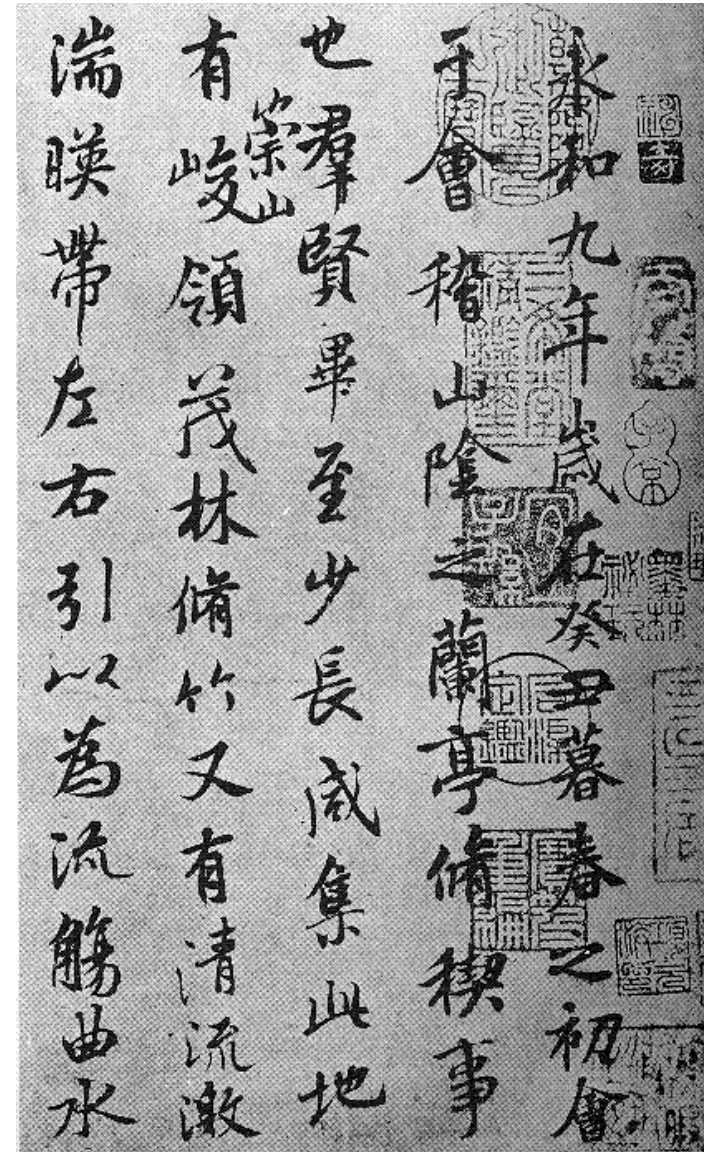
- Six Dynasties (220 AD - 589 AD)
 - Poetry
 - The yueh-fu (free-form shih)
 - The lu-shih (shih with tonal rules besides formal rules)
 - Tao Chien/Qian (365): landscape poet
 - "T'ao-hua-yuan t'u/ Peach Blossom Spring"
 - Sculpture: mostly a Buddhist enterprise (cliff grottoes of Yun-kang and Longmen/Luoyang)
 - Painting: Ku Kai-chih/ Gu Kaizhi (344)
 - Calligraphy: Wang Hsi-chih (321)

What the Chinese Knew

- Tao Chien/Qian (365): landscape poet
 - "T'ao-hua-yuan t'u/ Peach Blossom Spring"
 - A fisherman of a mountainous region discovers a hidden valley in which people live in peace and know nothing of the outside world. After a pleasant stay the fisherman goes home. But when he tries to find it again he cannot.

What the Chinese Knew

- Calligraphy: Wang Hsi-chih (321)



What the Chinese Knew

- Painting
 - Gu Kaizhi/ Ku Kai-chih (345-406): "The Admonitions of the Instructress to the Court Ladies" (6th-8th c AD)
 - Handscroll
 - It illustrates a political parody written by Zhang Hua (232-300)
 - A court instructress guides the ladies of the imperial harem on correct behaviour
 - A series of courtyard scenes depicting young ladies
 - Tale set in abstract space (no room, no furniture)
 - One of the earliest landscapes in Chinese painting
 - Figures are shown in motion
 - Figures are seen from various perspectives



Gu Kaizhi (345-406): "The Admonitions Scroll", 8th c copy
<http://www.thebritishmuseum.ac.uk/compass/ixbin/goto?id=OBJ2100>

What the Chinese Knew

- “Liezi/ Lieh-tzu” (300AD)
 - Third classic of Daoism
 - Natural cycle of life and death
 - Action without self-awareness (action of no action, wuwei)
 - Live in harmony with nature
 - Hedonistic self-indulgence

What the Chinese Knew

- Guo Xiang/ Kuo Hsiang (300AD)
 - Commentary on the Daoist classic “Chuang-tzu”
 - Self-organization of nature: nature is a field of interacting processes
 - Everything in the universe is interconnected (every event has an influence on every event)
 - Acting without action (wuwei): natural wisdom as opposed to attained knowledge
 - Change is the universal force, everything is in constant flux

What the Chinese Knew

- Creation myth (3rd c AD)
 - In the beginning, the heavens and earth were still one and all was chaos.
 - There was only one living being, Pan Gu, and he was sleeping.
 - When he woke up, he crack open the egg that was enveloping him, and that created our universe: sky and earth. The universe expanded, so the distance between the sky and the earth increased.
 - One day Pan Gu died, and his last breath created the wind and his last words created the thunder and his last gaze became the sun and his limbs created the mountains and his blood created the rivers and his muscles created the land and his hair created the stars.

What the Chinese Knew

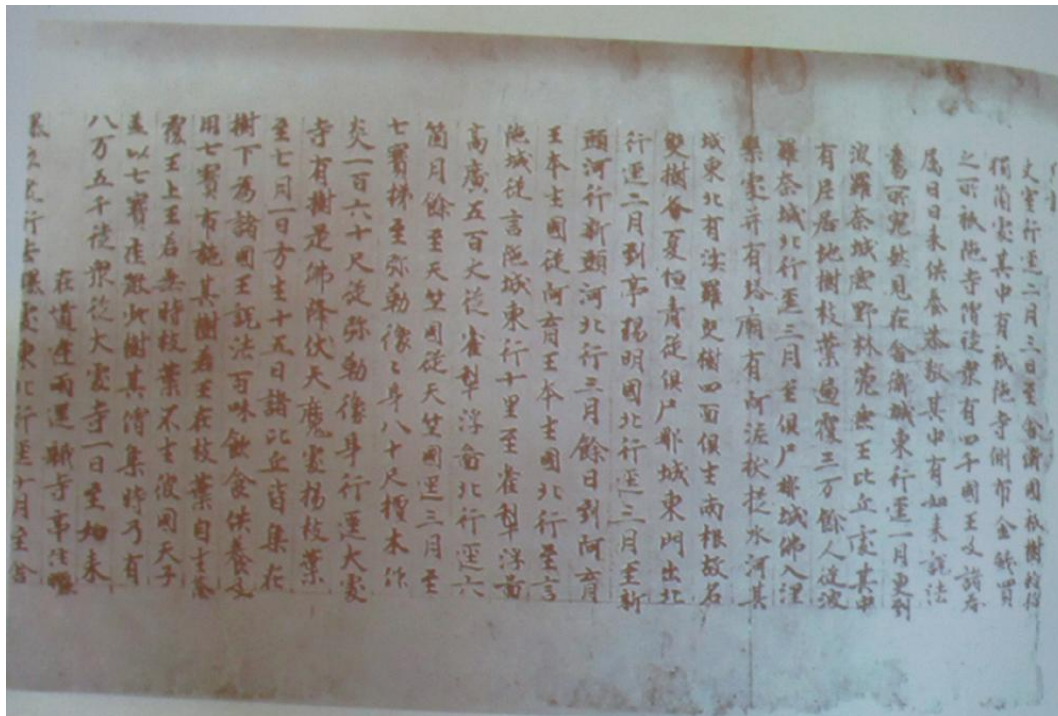
- The spreading of Buddhism
 - India: 259 BC
 - Kushan: 1st c AD
 - China: 68 AD (via India)
 - Korea: 372 (via China)
 - Japan: 538 (via Korea)

What the Chinese Knew

- Chinese Buddhism
 - Introduced in 68 AD
 - India is the only part of the outside world to which Chinese scholars traveled for education and training

What the Chinese Knew

- Chinese Buddhism
 - Monks write accounts of their travels (but don't provide maps!)



Sacred places in India, a guidebook for Chinese pilgrims heading to India (5th c AD manuscript from Dunhuang)

What the Chinese Knew

- Chinese Buddhism
 - A different political mood: not interested in perfecting the social order and in improving the state (unlike Confucianism)
 - First sponsored by the semi-barbarian Northern Wei dynasty of Dunhuang and Luoyang (386-534)

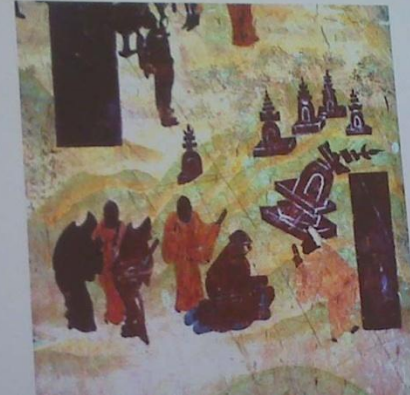
What the Chinese Knew

- Chinese Buddhism
 - Not easy for missionaries to convert the Chinese: Buddhist values clash with traditional family values and work ethics of the Chinese people
 - Therefore emphasis on magic powers
 - Buddhism is the “religion of the images”
 - Indian medicine travels to China with Buddhism, and Buddhist monasteries are valued as centers of medicine (“Siddhasara of Ravigupta” written in Sanskrit, translated into Tibetan, Uighur, Turkish, Arabic, Chinese, etc)

What the Chinese Knew

- Chinese Buddhism
 - Monks with magical powers

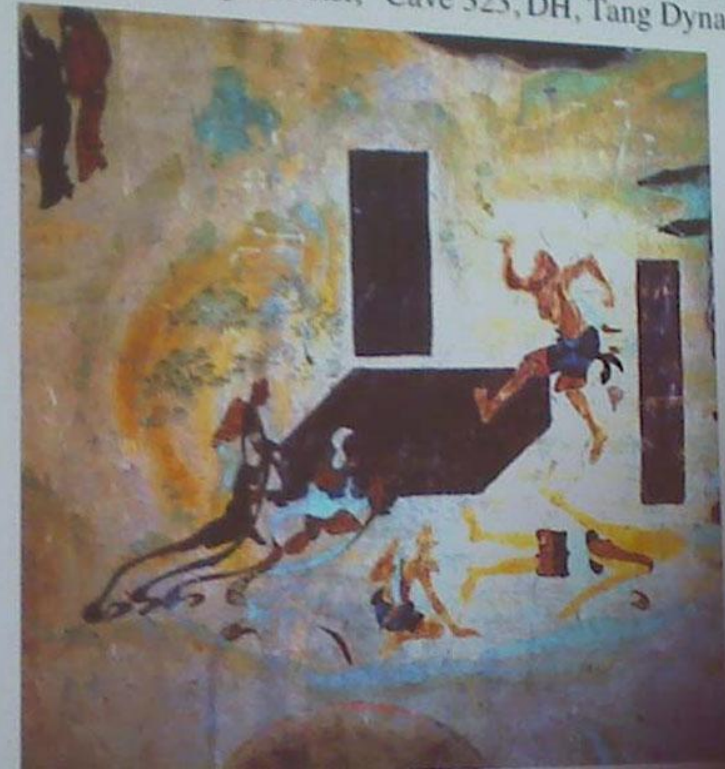
King Asoka worshipping a Daoist stupa, Cave 323, DH, Tang



Story of Monk Fo Tucheng, Cave 323, Dunhuang, Tang



Story of the a "foreign Daoist," Cave 323, DH, Tang Dynasty



What the Chinese Knew

- **Chinese Buddhism**
 - **Images with magical powers**



Note woman missionary leading the procession

Miracle of two Buddhist sculptures in the Yangzi River, Cave 323, DH



What the Chinese Knew

"Double-bodied image of the Buddha," Cave 237, DH, Tang Dynasty
(Tibetan period, 781-847 CE)



Note: the Buddha is "moving" into a different position (movie!)



"Double-bodied image of the Buddha (in Gandhara), Cave 231, Tang Dynasty (Tibetan period, 781-847 CE)

What the Chinese Knew

- **Chinese Buddhism**
 - **Peak of Buddhist monument art: Northern Wei dynasty (386-534)**
 - **Buddhist caves**
 - **Dunhuang/Mogao caves (366 AD)**
 - **Yungang/Datong caves (465 AD)**
 - **Luoyang/Longmen caves (494 AD)**

Dunhuang/Mogao caves (366 AD)

- Cave 257 (North Wei)
- Cave 259 (North Wei, 450 AD)



Dunhuang Caves

- Cave 249 (545 AD)



- Cave 254: Jataka stories (470 AD)



Dunhuang Caves

- Cave 285 (West Wei, 539)

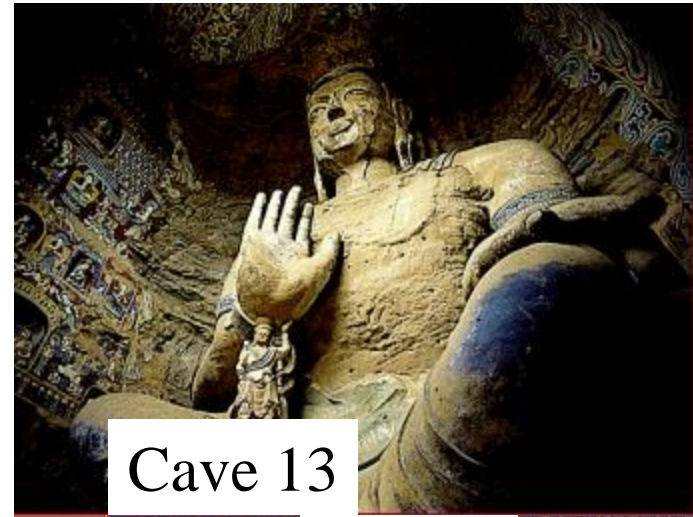


Dunhuang Caves

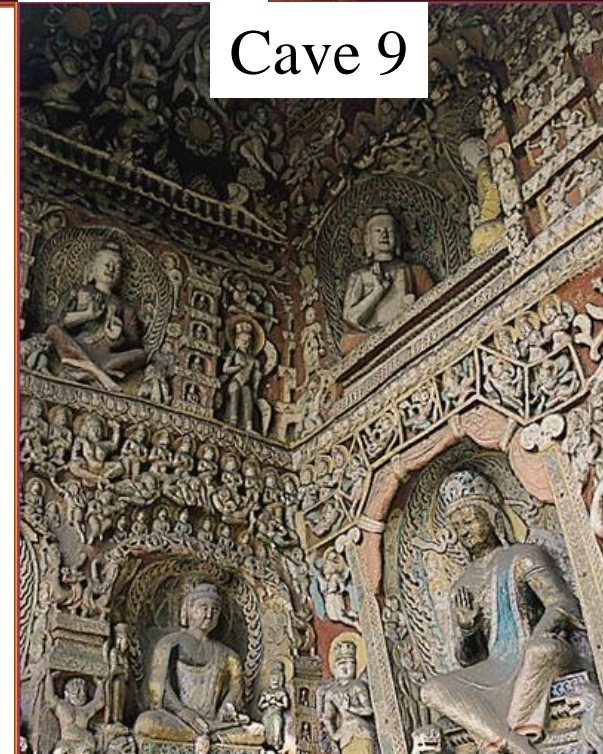
- Cave 428: Jataka stories (North Zhou, 6th c AD)



Yungang/Datong caves (465 AD)



Cave 13

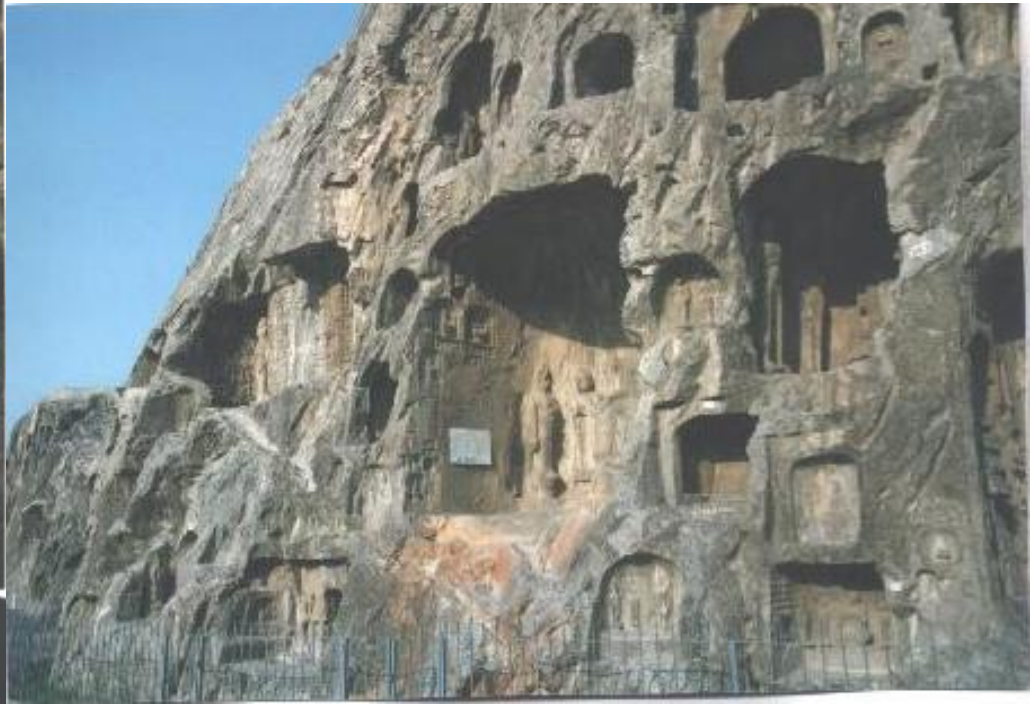
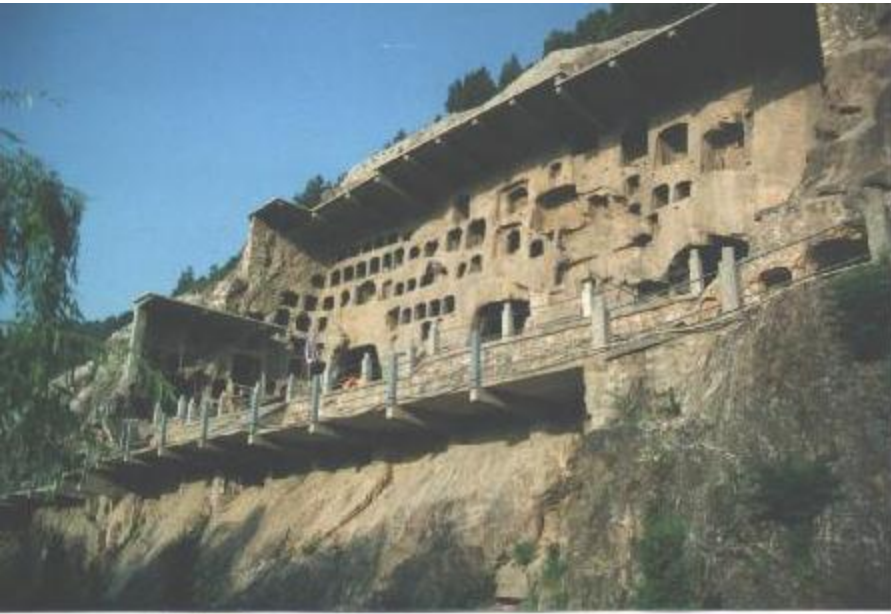


Cave 9

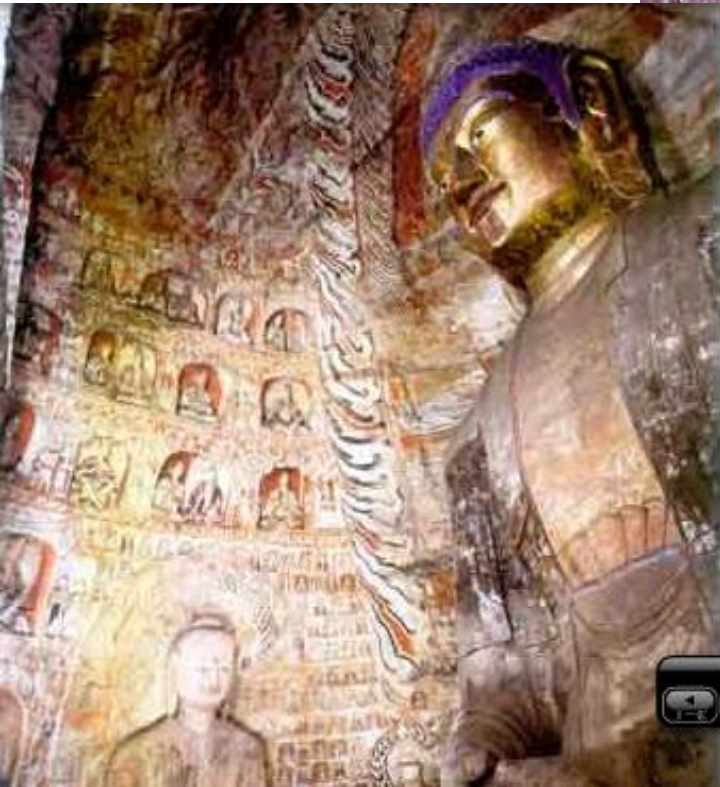
Indian influence (carving into the living rock)

Central-Asian influence (Gandhara-style iconography)

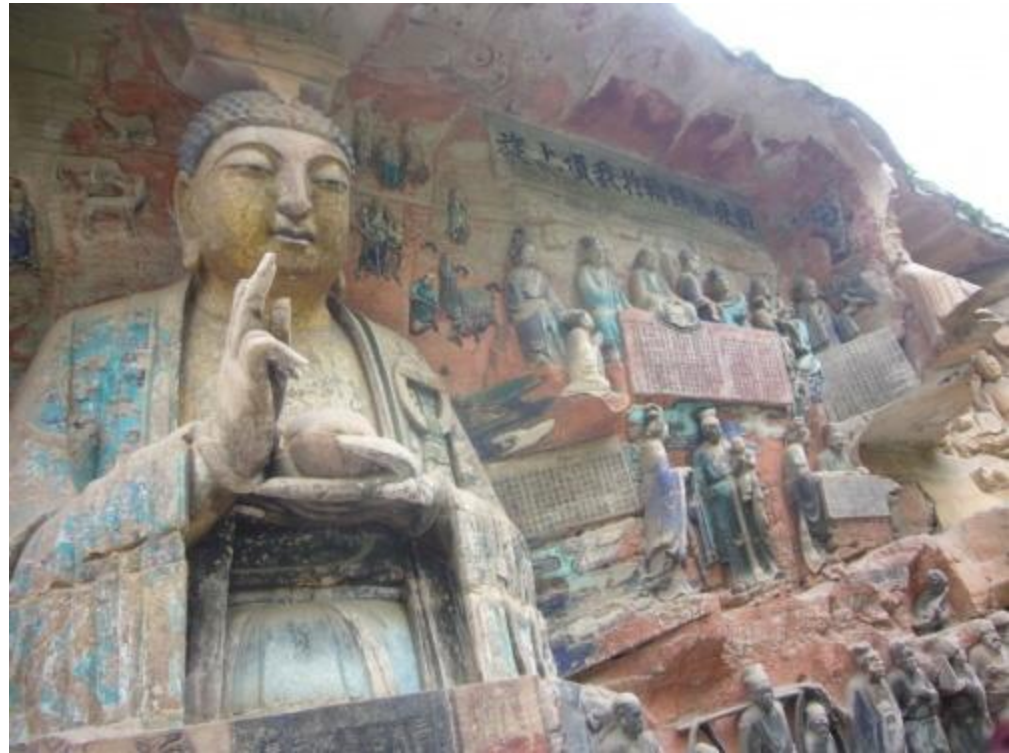
Luoyang/Longmen caves (494 AD)



Luoyang/Longmen caves (494 AD)



Dazu caves



What the Chinese Knew

- **Chinese Buddhism**
 - **Jingtu (Pure Land) Buddhism**
 - **Chan/zen**
 - **Tendai**
 - **Hua-yen**
 - **Chen-yen**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Huiyuan (350 AD)**
 - **Sukhavativyuha Sutra (Western Paradise Sutra)**
 - **Jingtu/Jodo/ Pure Land Buddhism: devotional Buddhism for obtaining from Buddha Amitabha (Buddha of infinite light) entry in the transitional paradise of the Pure Land**
 - **Nirvana remains the ultimate goal, but meditation is not necessary to achieve rebirth in the Pure Land/Western Paradise**
 - **Devotion instead of meditation**
 - **Paradise is not a reward for one's good deeds, but a gift from the god for one's faith in her/him**
 - **Devotion consists in repeating "Homage to the Buddha Amitabha"**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Sengzhao/ Seng-Chao (384)**
 - **Nagarjuna's Madhyamaka**
 - **Motion and change are illusions**
 - **Time is an illusion due to those illusions**
 - **The duality between subject and object is an illusion**
 - **Concepts are misleading**
 - **Things are devoid of an intrinsic self and therefore empty**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Sengzhao/ Seng-Chao (384)**
 - **The ultimate nature of all things is emptiness and cannot be grasped as a concept**
 - **Wisdom achieves emptiness, a knowledge that goes beyond conceptualization and the subject/object duality**
 - **Knowing through non-knowing leads to the illumination of the non-conceptual nirvana**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Chan (zen) buddhism**
 - **Bodhidharma (520AD)**
 - **Dhyana/meditation school of India, a fusion of Buddhism and Daoism**
 - **“The Platform Scripture of the Sixth Patriarch” (677)**
 - **Focus on attainment of sudden enlightenment (“satori”)**
 - **Main contribution of China to the development of Buddhism: the doctrine that sudden intuition can lead to salvation**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Chan (zen) buddhism**
 - **Every individual possesses perfect wisdom but it requires meditation (oneness) for a mind to view its own potential of wisdom**
 - **Northern school (Shen-hsiu): gradual enlightenment through guided meditation**
 - **Southern school (Huineng): sudden enlightenment through self-revelation of the underlying wisdom**
 - **Later development (13th c, Japan):**
 - **Soto Zen: meditation (zazen)**
 - **Rinzai zen: Koan, problem with no logical solution assigned to students as a subject for meditation**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Chan (zen) buddhism**
 - **Spontaneous thinking as opposed to philosophical investigation (zen is the “everyday mind”, daily experience)**
 - **Spontaneous behavior as opposed to calculated behavior (“when hungry eat, when tired sleep”)**
 - **“Before a man has studied Zen, mountains are mountains, and rivers are rivers. While a man is studying Zen, mountains are no longer mountains, and rivers are no longer rivers. When one has mastered Zen, mountains are mountains, and rivers are rivers.”**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Zhiyi (b 538AD)**
 - **Founder of Tiantai/Tendai Buddhism**
 - **Buddhist canon reorganized around the Saddharmapundarika sutra ("Lotus sutra")**
 - **The "Lotus sutra" reveals the "greater vehicle" ("mahayana") to save a larger number of people**
 - **Nirvana can be achieved in this life**
 - **Buddhahood is open to all people rather than to a few**
 - **The teaching of Buddhist philosophy is of paramount importance, and is delegated to bodhisattvas ("beings in truth")**
 - **Nirvana and samsara are identical (nirvana transforms the world rather than eliminating it)**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Zhiyi (b 538AD)**
 - **Tiantai/Tendai Buddhism**
 - **Conflicting Buddhist doctrines are organized into different levels of truth, each consistent in its own**

What the Chinese Knew

- Chen-yen/Zhēnyán/Shingon Buddhism
 - Tantric influence
 - Esoteric
 - The absolute cannot be express by words but only by magic symbols, formulas and rituals
 - Cosmological drawings (mandalas)



Womb World Mandala

What the Chinese Knew

- **Buddhism**
 - **Monasteries become very rich**
 - **Periodic persecution of Buddhists by the state**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Chinese Buddhism**
 - **Buddhist stele 549 AD (Western Wei)**
 - **Discussion (on equal terms) between a bodhisattva and a wealthy man**
 - **Harmony between Buddhism and Confucianism**



What the Chinese Knew

- Chinese Buddhism
 - Prodromes of Tang style



Sakyamuni and Bodhisattvas
537AD, Cleveland Museum



Altarpiece of the Western Paradise
593 AD, Boston Museum

What the Chinese Knew

- Chinese Buddhism
 - Prodromes of Tang style
 - Influence of Gupta sculpture
 - Xiang-tang Shan caves (late 6th c AD), eg Bas-relief of Western Paradise
 - Chinese synthesis of Hinayana Buddhism (represented by Ananda and Mahakasyapa flanking Buddha) and Mahayana Buddhism (Bodhisattvas), with Sakyamuni and Maitreya sharing equal honors
 - Amithaba more and more frequently represented towards the end of 6th c AD

What the Chinese Knew

- Chinese Buddhism
 - Prodromes of Tang style



Bronze shrine of Guanyin
Bodhisattva (599)
Nelson Museum, Kansas
City



Maitreya bronze of 486
(Metropolitan)



Seated Bodhisattva
from Yungang of 6th c
(Metropolitan)

What the Chinese Knew



Standing Bodhisattva of 6th c
(Miho Museum)

What the Chinese Knew

- **Chinese Buddhism**
 - **The Indian stupa (a hemisphere set on a drum) is replaced by the pagoda (an adaptation of the watchtower) as the main reliquary of the temple**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Effect of Buddhism on Daoism**
 - **Buddhism introduces incomprehensibly colossal dimensions of time and space in the traditionally simple dimensions of Chinese thought**
 - **Exuberant luxuriant Indian imagination collides with modest Chinese thought**
 - **Buddhist metaphysics does not help with ordinary life and therefore leaves room for traditional Chinese philosophy to still apply**
 - **Indian cosmic dimension vs Chinese practical dimension**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Paradise**
 - **Heaven is a God, not a place**
 - **Paradise is a place**
 - **Shamanic (Zhou-era) heaven is on Earth**
 - **There are wonders on Earth**
 - **There are dangers in the Otherworld**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Paradise**
 - **Buddhism introduces the “Paradise of the West”**
 - **Buddhist paradise is discouraging: infinitely distant, infinitely large, infinitely empty**
 - **The Chinese humanize the Buddhist paradise**
 - **Paradise becomes smaller but more realistic**
 - **Buddhism considers animals as inferior beings, therefore there are no animals in Paradise**
 - **Buddhism considers sex as an inferior activity therefore there is no sex in Paradise**
 - **Daoist Paradise is full of animals and offers plenty of sex**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Paradise**
 - **Evolution of Daoist paradise**
 - **Region of non-civilization, encircling the core of China (that is basically viewed as an island surrounded by oceans of non-civilization)**
 - **As China expands its borders to the mountains and the seas, paradise moves to islands (legend of the “Island of the Blessed”)**
 - **It is not civilization that is an island, but paradise that is an island**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Paradise**
 - **Evolution of Daoist paradise**
 - **Detailed descriptions of these islands to make them more appealing than Buddhist paradise**
 - **Geographic accounts of paradise (2nd c BC)**
 - **“Record of the Ten Continents”**
 - **“Queen Mother of the West”**
 - **Genre of the “wandering immortals”**
 - **Kuo Pu’s “Classic of Mountains and Oceans” (4th c AD)**

What the Chinese Knew

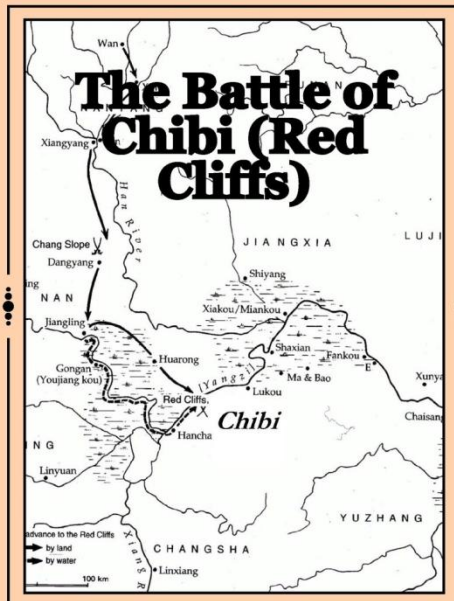
- **Paradise**
 - **Evolution of Daoist paradise (4th c AD)**
 - **Increase in travel lessens credibility in fabulous islands**
 - **Emergence of the paradise behind a cave (especially underground lakes)**
 - **Buddhists believe that the Earth is a prison, the deeper the worse (folk Buddhism creates a multi-tier description of Hell)**
 - **Daoists believe that paradise is deep into the Earth**

What the Chinese Knew

- **Paradise**
 - **Evolution of Daoist paradise (4th c AD)**
 - **Long-held belief in cave paradise**
 - **Tu Kuang-ting (850): “Report Concerning the Cave Heavens and Lands of Happiness in Famous Mountains”**
 - **Decline of religion in 11th century**

What the Chinese Knew

- 208: Battle of Red Cliff/ Chibi, the largest naval battle in history yet

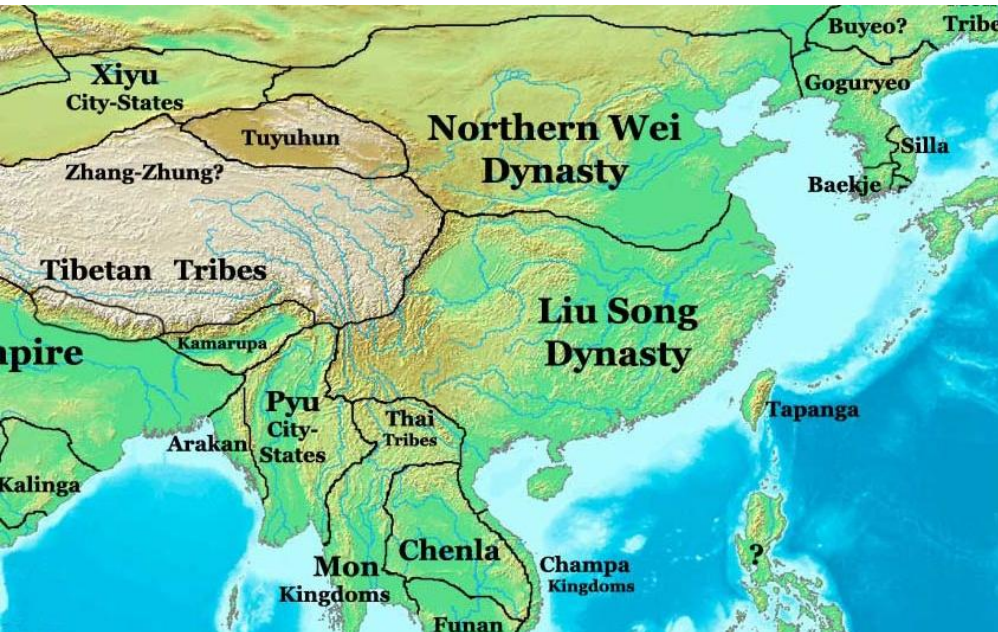


Hock G. Tjoa



What the Chinese Knew

- Six Dynasties (220 AD - 589 AD)



What the Chinese Knew

- **Six Dynasties (220 AD - 589 AD)**
 - **Feudal system of great landowners organized in self-sufficient manors**
 - **Decline of trade**
 - **Barbarian invasions in the north**
 - **Population movement towards the south**
 - **Militarization of society**
 - **Vogue of Daoism (that develops into an organized religion with a huge pantheon)**
 - **Northern Wei adopts Daoism as state religion (444)**
 - **Buddhism in Northern Wei**
 - **Vogue of alchemy**

What the Chinese Knew

- Six Dynasties (220 AD - 589 AD)
 - Feudal system of great landowners organized in self-sufficient manors
 - Decline of trade
 - Barbarian invasions in the north
 - Population movement towards the south
 - Militarization of society
 - Vogue of Daoism (that develops into an organized religion with a huge pantheon)
 - Northern Wei adopts Daoism as state religion (444)
 - Vogue of alchemy

What the Chinese Knew

- Six Dynasties (220 AD - 589 AD)
 - Northern Wei institutes the “equal field” policy (all peasants receive land of equal size, and at their death it is redistributed)
 - Decreases the power of landowners and increases the power of the state

What the Chinese Knew

- Six Dynasties (220 AD - 589 AD)
 - Sui improves the “equal field” policy
 - Sui moves the economic center from the wheat lands of the northern plains to the rice fields of the lower Yangtze Kiang/ Chang Jiang region
 - Sui reinstates the Confucian system of examinations for bureaucrats
 - Sui builds the Grand Canal
 - Sui promotes Buddhism

What the Chinese Knew

- Six Dynasties (220 AD - 589 AD)
 - Li Chun's Zhaoshou bridge of 6th c near Shijiazhuang in Hebei
 - The Grand (Jinghang) Canal (610, emperor Yang Guang of the Sui Dynasty in Xian)
 - Runs north to south connecting the Yangtze, Huaihe, Haihe and Qiantang (Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shandong, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Hangzhou)
 - The oldest and longest man-made waterway in the world (1,795 Km)

What the Chinese Knew

- Six Dynasties (220 AD - 589 AD)
 - Liu Hui and Zu Chongzhi: mathematicians

What the Chinese Knew

- Six Dynasties (220 AD - 589 AD)
 - Tea is imported from Southeast Asia
 - The chair is imported from the West
 - The wheelbarrow is invented in China
 - Coal is mined and used first in China
 - Vogue of encyclopedias

What the Chinese Knew

- Sui dynasty
 - Civil service examination system formally inaugurated around 605
 - Initially limited to the aristocracy of Xian and Luoyang
 - Female emperor Wu Zetian (690-705) curbs the power of the aristocracy by democratizing the CSE (open to all male citizens)

What the Chinese Knew

- Sui dynasty
 - The examination system consolidates the stability of the empire
 - it extends political access to commoners
 - it limits political inheritance within the elites
 - it limits the power of wealth
 - all things that are missing in European countries

What the Chinese Knew

- Sui dynasty
 - Consequence of examination system:
 - Decline of the power of the aristocracy
 - Decline of intra-elite conflicts
 - Early rise of a centralized and bureaucratic state (ruled by an absolutist ruler), compared with Europe

What the Chinese Knew

- Sui dynasty
 - The rise of bureaucracy in China coincides with the rise of executive constraints in feudal Europe (peaking with the Magna Charta) and provides the kind of imperial longevity that post-Roman powers failed to achieve
 - European rulers have been more frequently deposed by the nobility than by popular insurrections)
 - Chinese rulers could not be deposed by an aristocracy that was marginalized by the examination system

Summary

- Fundamental unity of the physical, the emotional and the social
- Holistic approach to meaning
- I Ching
- Confucius: Power of example, Public = private, Duty of obedience
- Lao-tzu: Tao, Qi, Yin/Yang, Wuwei
- Dong Zhongshu: Tian creates Xing and patterns
- School of Yin-yang cosmology: Natural events are rewards/punishments for human behavior
- Wang Chong: Nature is self-organizing, Tian is Wuwei

Summary

- Guo Xiang (300 AD): Change is the universal force, everything is in constant flux
- Chan Buddhism: Spontaneous thinking, Spontaneous behavior
- Tendai Buddhism: Nirvana can be achieved in this life, Buddhahood is open to all people

Summary

- dao = the way of the world
- qi = vital energy in continuous flux
- wuwei = action through inaction
- tien/tian = heaven
- xing = human nature

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