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## Ancient china civilisation timeline

This song of the dinastias, sung on Frère Jacques, can help students remember the main Chinese famines in chronological order. Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han Sui, Tang, Song Sui, Tang, Tang, Song Yuan, Ming, Qing, Republic Yuan, Ming, Qing, Republic Mao Zedong Mao Zedong — Courtesy of college board teachers AP-World History Listserv
Account of past events in Chinese civilization
This article covers the general history of China from prehistory to the present. For the history of the Republic of China since 1912, see History of the Republic of China. For the history of the People's Republic of China since 1949, see History of the People's Republic of China. Approximate territories occupied by the various dinastias and states throughout the history of China
Chronology of Chinese history
History of Ancient Neolithic China
c. 8500 – c. 2070 a.C. Xia
c. 2070 – c. 1600 a.C. Shang
c. 1600 – c. 1046 a.C. Zhou
c. 1046 – 256 bc.C. Eastern Zhou
Eastern Spring and Autumn
Imperial War
States
Qin
221-207 a.C. Han
202 a.C. – 220 .C. Western Han
Eastern Xin
Han
Three Kingdoms
220-280 Wei , Shu and Wu
Jin
266–420 Western Jin
Eastern Jin
Sixteen Kingdoms
Northern and Southern dynasties
420–589 Sui
581–618 Tang
618–907 (Wu Zhou
690–705) Five Dynasties andTen Kingdoms
907–979 Liao
916–1125 Song
960–1279 Northern Song
Western Xia
Southern Song
Jin
Western Liao
Yuan
1271–1368 Ming
1368–1644 Qing
1636–1912
MODERN Republic of China
on mainland
1912–1949
People's Republic of China
1949– present
Republic of China
on Taiwan
1949–present
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The earliest known written records of China's history date back to 1250 bc.C., from the Shang Dynasty (c. 1600–1046 BC), C.during the reign of King Wu Ding.[1][2] who was mentioned as the twenty-first Shang king by him. [3] Ancient historical texts such as the Book of Documents (first chapters, 1.C 1th century BC), the Records of the Great Historian (c. 100 BC.C.) and the Annals of Bamboo (296 bc.C.) mention and describe a Xia dynasty (c. 2070-1600 bc.C.) before the Shang, but no writing has been known since the period, and Shang's writings do not indicate the existence of Xia. [5] The Shang ruled the Yellow River Valley, which is commonly considered the cradle of Chinese civilization. However, Neolithic civilizations originated in various cultural centers along the Yellow River and yangtze river. These yellow river and yangtze civilizations arose millennia before the Shang. With thousands of years of continuous history, it is one of the oldest civilizations in the world,[6] and is considered one of the cradles of civilization. [7] The Zhou Dynasty (1046–256 BC) supplanted the Shang and introduced the concept of C the Mandate of Heaven to justify their rule. Zhou's central government began to weaken due to external and internal pressures in the 8th C century BC, and the country eventually splintered into smaller states during the spring and fall period. These states became independent and worked with each other in the later period of the Warring States. Much of traditional Chinese culture, literature and philosophy first developed during those difficult times. In 221.C., Qin Shi Huang conquered the various states at war and created for himself the title of Huangdi or Emperor of the Qin, marking the beginning of Imperial China. However, the oppressive government fell shortly after his death, and was supplanted by the Han Dynasty (206 BC- 220 .C.). Later dynastia developed bureaucratic systems that allowed the emperor to directly control vast territories. In the 21 centuries from 206 a.C. to 1912, routine C administrative tasks were handled by a special elite of scholars-officials. Young people, experts in calligraphy, history, literature and philosophy, were carefully selected through difficult government exams. The last Chinese dynasty was Qing (1644–1912), which was replaced by the Republic of China in 1912, and then on the mainland by the People's Republic of China in 1949. The Republic of China withdrew to Taiwan in 1949. Chinese history alternated between periods of political unity and peace, and periods of war and failed states - the most recent being the Chinese Civil War (1927-1949). China was occasionally dominated by steppe peoples, most of whom were eventually assimilated to han Chinese culture and population. Between eras of multiple kingdoms and warlords, Chinese famines have ruled parts or all of China; in some eras control extended to Xinjiang and Tibet, as it is today. Traditional culture and influences from other parts of Asia and the Western world (carried by waves of immigration, cultural assimilation, expansion and foreign contact), form the basis of China's modern culture. Paleolithic Prehistory (3.3 Ma –12 ka) See also: List of Paleolithic sites in China Linheraptor, a genus of dromaeosaurid dinosaurs that lived in what is now China in the Late Cretaceous. Tarbosaurus, a genus of tyrannosaurid theropod dinosaurs that lived in the late Cretaceous period. Fossils have been recovered in the Gobi Desert. What is now China was inhabited by Homo erectus more than a million years ago. [8] Recent studies show that stone tools found at the site of are magnetostratigraphically dated to 1.36 million years ago. [9] The archaeological site of Xihoudi in Shanxi Province has the use of fire by Homo erectus.[10] dated 1.27 million years ago.[8] and homo erectus fossils in China include yuannou man, Lantian man, and Beijing man. [11] Evidence of central Paleolithic levallois technology was found in the lithic assemblage of the Guanyindong Cave site in southwest China, dated to about 170,000-80,000 years ago. [12] Neolithic See also: List of Neolithic cultures of China Learn more: Yellow River civilization, Yangtze civilization and Neolithic Liao civilization10,000 years ago pottery. Xianren cave culture (18000-7000 BC)Bone arrowheads, Peiligang culture (7000-5000 BC.C.) Butterfly-shaped ivory vase with the pattern of two birds in front of the sun, Hemudu culture (5500-3300 bc.C.) Ceramic artifacts from the Hemudu culture (5500-3300 BC) The Neolithic age in China can be traced back to about 10,000 BC. [13] The first evidence of cultivated rice, found from the Yangtze River, is dated to carbon up to 8,000 years ago. [14] The first evidence of proto-Chinese millet agriculture is dated to radiocarbon around 7000 BC. [15] Agriculture gave rise to the Jiahu culture (from 7000 to 5800 .C.). In Damaidi in Ningxia, 3,172 rotating engravings dating from 6000-5000 BC.C were discovered, with 8,453 individual characters such as the sun, moon, stars, gods and hunting or grazing scenes. [attribution required] These pictographs are said to be similar to the first confirmed characters as Chinese writings. [16] Chinese Proto-script existed in Jiahu around 7000 BC.C..[17] Dadiwan from 5800 bc.C to 5400 BC.C., Damais around 6000 BC.C.[18] and Banpo dating back to the 5th millennium BC. Some scholars have suggested that jiahu symbols (7th millennium BC) were the first Chinese writing system. [17] Excavation of a Peiligang cultural site in Xinzheng County, Henan, found a community that flourished between 5,500 and 4,900 bc.C., with evidence of agriculture, built buildings, pottery, and burial of the dead. With agriculture came the increase in population, the ability to store and redistribute crops, and the potential to support skilled craftsmen and administrators. In the late Neolithic period, the Yellow River valley began to establish itself as the center of yangshao.C culture (from 5000 bc to 3000 bc.C.), and the first villages were founded; the most archaeologically significant of these was found in Banpo, X'an. Later, the Yangshao culture was replaced by the Longshan culture, which was also centered on the Yellow River from about 3000 bc to . C000.C bc. Bronze Age See also: List of Bronze Age sites in China Bronze Age Archaeological Site of FujianBronzewares found at the site of Liulihe. Jade bi of the Liangzhu culture (3400-2250.C BC). Bronze mustia (wine vase) Erlitou culture (1900-1500 bc.C.). Bronze artifacts It was found at the majiayao culture site (between 3100 and 2700 bc.C.). [21] The Bronze Age is also represented at the site of the Lower Xiaojadian culture (2200–1600 BC.C.[23] in northeast China. Sanxingdui is located in what is now Sichuan Province believed to be the site of a large ancient city, of a previously unknown Bronze Age culture (between 2000 and 1200.C BC). The site was first discovered in 1929 and discovered in 1986. Chinese archaeologists have identified the Sanxingdui culture as part of the ancient kingdom of Shu, linking artifacts found at the site to its first legendary kings. [24] Ferrous metallurgy began to appear at the end of the 6th century in the Yangt Valley. A bronze tomahawk with a meteoric iron blade excavated near the town of Gaocheng in Shijiazhuang (now Hebei Province) has been dated to the 14th century BC. For this reason, authors such as Liana Chua and Mark Elliott used the term Iron Age by convention for the transitional period from 500 a.C. to 100 bc.C., roughly corresponding to the wartime period of Chinese historiography. [27] An Iron Age culture of the Tibetan plateau has been tentatively associated with the Zhang Zhung culture described in early Tibetan writings. Ancient China Xia Dynasty (2070-1600 BC.C.) Main article: Xia Dynasty The Xia Dynasty of China (2070.C to 1600 BC) is the first dynasty to be described in ancient historical documents such as the Records of the Great Historian of Sima Qian and the Annals of Bamboo. [5] The dynasty was considered mythical by historians until scientific excavations found Bronze Age sites in Erlitou, Henan in 1959. [28] With few clear documents matching the bones of the Shang Oracle, it is unclear whether these sites are the remains of the Xia Dynasty or another culture of the same period. Excavations that overlap with xia's supposed time period indicate a type of culturally similar grouping of chieftoms. The earliest signs of this period found on ceramics and shells are thought to be ancestral to modern Chinese characters. According to ancient records, the dynasty ended around 1600 bc.C. as a result of the Battle of Mingtiao. Shang Dynasty (1600–1046 bc.C.) Main article: Shang Dynasty Learn more: Chinese Bronze Age Shang dynasty (1600-1046 BC.C.) Map of the bone pit of Shang dynastyOracle at YinThe Golden Sun Bird, a piece of ring-shaped foil, made of almost pure gold. Late Sanxingdui culture (Shang period). Guang, a ritual wineship from the Shang period. Archaeological finds providing evidence of the existence of the Shang dynasty, c. 1600-1046 bc.C., are divided into two sets. The first set, from the previous period comes from sources in Erligang, Zhengzhou and Shangcheng. The second set, from the later Shang or Yin period (殷), is in Anyang, in present-day Henan, which has been confirmed as the last of nine (c. 1300–1046 .C.). [31] Anyang's findings include the first written documentation of the Chinese so far discovered: inscriptions of divination documents in the ancient Chinese script on the bones or shells of animals - oracle bones, dating from about 1250 bc.C. [1] A number of thirty-one kings ruled the Shang dynasty. During their reign, according to the Records of the Great Historian, the capital was moved six times. [32] The last (and most important) move was to Yin around 1300 BC.C. which led to the golden age of the dynasty. The term Yin dynasty has been synonymous with the Shang dynasty in history, although lately it has been used to refer specifically to the second half of the Shang Dynasty. Chinese historians in later times were accustomed to the notion that one dynasty succeeded another, but the political situation at the beginning of China was much more complicated. Thus, as some Chinese scholars suggest, the Xia and Shang may refer to political entities that existed at the same time, just as the first Zhou existed at the same time as the Shang. Although written documents found in Anyang confirm the existence of the Shang Dynasty.[34] Western scholars are often hesitant to associate contemporary settlements with the Anyang settlement with the Shang Dynasty. For example, sanxingdui archaeological finds suggest a technologically advanced civilization culturally different from Anyang. The evidence is inconclusive in proving how far the kingdom of Shang extended from Anyang. The main hypothesis is that Anyang, ruled by Shang himself in official history, coexisted and traded with numerous other culturally diverse settlements in the area that is now referred to as China proper. [35] Square bronze ding (cauldron) with human faces. Ding, bronze of the Shang Dynasty. Bronze battle axe, Shang dynasty (1600-1046 bc.C.). Excavated in Yidu, Shandong Province. A bronze vase of the Zhou Dynasty to preserve the Zhou Dynasty (1046-256 BC.C.) Main articles: Zhou Dynasty and Iron Age China Zhou Dynasty (1046 -256 BC.C.) The approximate territory of the Zhou Dynasty in China.Spear of FuchaBronze ritual vase (Tu), Western ZhouLi Dynasty, a Chinese polearm that combines a spear and dagger axe, the Zhou Dynasty (1046-256 bc.C.) Nav Ding had its origins in standard ceremonial vases. A Ding lidded with intertwined dragons of the Middle Eastern Zhou Dynasty, late spring and autumn or the beginning of the war fence period, around 500-450 bc.C. The Zhou Dynasty (c. 1046.C. to 256 BC) is the longest C-running dynasty in Chinese history. At the end of the second millennium .C., the Zhou Dynasty began to emerge in the Yellow River Valley, surpassing the territory of the Shang. The Zhou seemed to have their rule under a semi-feudal system. The Zhou lived west of the Shang, and leader Zhou was appointed Western Protector by the Shang. The Ruler of the Zhou, King Wu with the help of his brother, the Duke of Zhou, as regent, he defeated the Shang at the Battle of Muye. The king of Zhou at that time invoked the concept of the Mandate of Heaven to legitimize his rule, a concept that was influential for almost all the dynasties that succeeded. [quote request] Like Shangdi, Heaven (tian) ruled over all the other gods, and decided who would rule China. [36] A ruler was believed to lose the Mandate of Heaven when natural disasters occurred in large numbers, and when, more realistically, the king had apparently lost his concern for the people. In response, the royal house would be overthrown, and a new house would rule, having obtained the Mandate of Heaven. The Zhou initially moved their capital west to an area near modern X'an, on the Wei River, a tributary of the Yellow River, but would preside over a series of expansions in the Yangtze River valley. This would be the first of many population migrations from north to south in Chinese history. Spring and autumn period (722 - 476 bc.C.) This section does not mention any sources. Please help improve this section by adding quotes to reliable sources. Non-insourced material can be disputed and removed. (May 2018) (Learn how and when to remove this template message) Main article: Spring and autumn period Learn more: Chinese Iron Age Spring and fall period (722 - 476 bc.C.) Map of the Five Hegemons during the spring and autumn period of the ZhouRemains dynasty of the city's sewers passing under the former city walls in the ancient Linzi period, spring and autumn. Goujian Sword, Hubei Provincial MuseumThe Mo Gao Bianzhong Sun, spring and autumn period (770-476 BC.C.), excavated in 1978 from a tomb in Yingchun, Henan. In the 8th century bc.C., power became decentralized during the spring and autumn period, named after the influential spring and autumn annals. Around this time, local military leaders used by the Zhou began to assert their power and contend with hegemony. The situation was aggravated by the invasion of other peoples from the northwest, such as the Qin, forcing the Zhou to move their capital east to Luoyang. This marks the second main phase of the Zhou Dynasty: the Eastern Zhou. The spring and autumn period is marked by a fall in pieces of zhou's central power. In each of the hundreds of states that eventually arose, local strongmen held most of the political power and continued their submission to the Zhou kings only in name. Some local leaders even began to use royal titles for themselves. China now consisted of hundreds of states, some of which were only large a village with a fort. As the era wore on, larger, more powerful states annexed or claimed sovereignty over smaller ones. By the 6th .C. most small states had disappeared to be annexed, and only a few large and powerful principalities dominated China. Some southerners like Chu and Wu, they claimed independence from the Zhou, who waged wars against some of them (Wu and Yue). Many new cities were founded during this period and Chinese culture was slowly shaped. Once all these powerful rulers had firmly established themselves within their respective domains, the bloodshed focused more fully on interstate conflict during the wartime period, which began when the three remaining elite families in Jin state - Zhao, Wei, and Han - divided the state. Many famous people such as Laozi, Confucius and Sun Tzu lived during this chaotic period. The hundred schools of thought of Chinese philosophy blossomed during this period, and influential intellectual movements such as Confucianism, Taoism, Legalism, and Mohism were founded, partly in response to the changing political world. The first two philosophical thoughts would have had a huge influence on Chinese culture. Period of war states (476-221 bc.C.) Main article: Period of states at war wartime (476 - 221 bc.C.) Map of war states. Qin is shown in pinkGê with engraved decoration of a tiger, warning states period (475-221 bc.C.) Bi disco with a double dragon motif, Warring States periodA crystal-carved cup, found in Banshan, Hangzhou. After further political consolidation, seven prominent states remained by the end of the 15th.C century BC, and the years in which these few states fought each other are known as the wartime period. Although he remained a nominal Zhou king until 256 bc.C., he was largely a prominent figure and held little real power. Tsinghua bamboo sheets, containing the world's first decimal multiplication table, dated 305 .C. Many developments were made during this period in culture and mathematics. Examples include an important literary achievement, the Zuo zhuan on the Spring and Autumn Annals, which summarizes the previous spring and autumn period, and the bundle of 21 bamboo slides from the Tsinghua collection, which was invented during this period dated to 305 bc.C., are the first example in the world of a two-digit decimal multiplication table, indicating that a sophisticated commercial arithmetic was already established during this period. As neighboring territories of these war-waring states, including the areas of modern Sichuan and Liaoning, they were annexed, governed under the new local administrative system of com commandery and prefecture. This system was in use from the spring and autumn period, and parts can still be seen in the modern Sheng and Xian system (province and county). The final expansion during this period began during the reign of Ying Zheng, king of Qin. Its unification of the other six powers, and further annexations in the Zhejiang, Fujian, Guangdong and Guangxi regions in 214 BC.C., allowed him to proclaim himself the first emperor (Qin Shi Huang), Imperial China of China and the Chinese Empire redirect here. For the empire founded by Yuan Shikai, see Empire of China (1915-1916). See also: Imperial China Political Systems The Imperial Period of China can be divided into three sub-periods: First, Middle, and Late. Major events of the first sub-period include the Qin unification of China and their replacement with the Han, the First Division followed by Jin unification, and the loss of northern China. The middle sub-period was marked by the unification of the media and their integration by the Tang, the Second Division and song unification. The late sub-period include the Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties. Qin Dynasty (221-206 bc.C.) Main article: Qin dynasty Qin dynasty (221 - 206 bc.C.) The territory of the Qin Dynasty, 210 bc.C The terracotta army of Qin Shi Huang, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Duijanyang, an irrigation project completed in 256 bc.C. during the period of the wartime states of China from the QinRuins state of the ancient Great Wall of Qi on Mount Dafeng in jnan Changqing district, Shandong Province, dating back to the period of the WarTime States. historians often refer to the period from the Qin Dynasty to the end of the Qing Dynasty as Imperial China. Although the unified reign of the first Qin Emperor lasted only 12 years, he succeeded in subduing much of what forms the core of the Han Chinese homeland and uniting them under a strictly centralized legalist government sitting in Xianyang (near modern X'an). The doctrine of legalism that guided the Qin emphasized the strict adherence to a legal code and the absolute power of the emperor. This philosophy, while effective in expanding the empire in a military way, proved impractical to rule it in peacetime. Emperor Qin presided over the brutal silence of the political opposition, including the event known as book burning and burying scholars. This would be the impetus behind the subsequent Han synthesis that incorporated the more moderate schools of political government. General of the Terracotta Army (left), middle-ranking officer of the terracotta army in the stone slab of X'an (right) with twelve characters of Qin seal (221-206 bc.C.) Qin's main contributions include the concept of centralized government, and the unification and development of the legal code, the written language, measurement, and currency of China after tribulations of the spring and autumn periods and states of war. Even something as simple as the length of the axles for trolleys - which must correspond to the grooves in the streets - had to be made uniform to ensure a viable trading system throughout the empire. Also as part of its centralization, Qin connected the northern border of the states he had defeated, making the first Great Wall of China. Northern tribes, collectively called Wu Hu by the Qin, were free from Chinese rule during most of the dynasty. [38] Prohibited Prohibited with qin dynasty peasants, the Xiongnu tribe living in the Ordos region in northwest China often raided them, prompting the Qin to take revenge. After a military campaign led by General Meng Tian, the region was conquered in 215 bc.C. and agriculture was established; the peasants, however, were disgruntled and later rebelled. The han dynasty that succeeded also expanded into the Ordos due to overpopulation, but exhausted their resources in the process. In fact, this was true for the boundaries of the dynasty in several directions; modern inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Tibet, Manchuria and the regions to the southeast were foreign to Qin, and the areas over which they had military control were also culturally distinct. Already in Confucius and until 1912, we relied on a formed intellectual elite, the scholar-officer (scholar-gentlemen). [40] They were public officials appointed by the emperor to run the daily government. Talented young men were selected through an elaborate imperial examination process. They had to demonstrate skills in calligraphy and had to learn about Confucian philosophy. Historian Wing-Tsit Chan concludes that: In general, the recording of these gentlemen-scholars was worthy. It was good enough to be praised and imitated in 18th-century Europe. Nevertheless, it has given China a huge handicap in their transition from men to government by law, and personal considerations in the Chinese government have been a curse. After the unnatural death of Emperor Qin Shi Huang due to the consumption of mercury pills,[41] the Qin government deteriorated drastically and eventually capitulated in 207 bc.C. after the capital Qin was captured and sacked by the rebels, which would eventually lead to the creation of a new dynasty of a unified China. Despite the short 15-year duration of the Qin Dynasty, it was immensely influential on China and the structure of future Chinese dynasties. Han Dynasty (206 bc.C. – 220 .C.) Main article: Han Dynasty Learn more: History of the Han Dynasty (206.C BC - 220 .C.) The territory of the Han Dynasty in 2 .C. The ruins of a Han Dynasty watchtower made of spured land in Dunhuang, the eastern end of the Silk RoadAn ancient western han silk map, depicting the Kingdom of Changsha and the Kingdom of Nanyue in southern ChinaA mural showing women dressed in traditional Hanfu silk clothing, from the daituting tomb of the late Eastern Han Dynasty (25-220 d.C.), located in Zhengzhou, Henan Province. China Western Han Map showing the expansion of the Han Dynasty in the 2nd century .C. The Han Dynasty was founded by Liu Bang, who emerged victorious in the Chu-Han dispute that followed the fall of the Qin dynasty. A golden age in Chinese history, long period of stability and prosperity of the Han Dynasty consolidated the foundations of China as a unified state under a central empire which was to last half-time for most of the next two millennia. During the Han Dynasty, Chinese territory was extended to most of China proper and to areas to the west. Confucianism was officially elevated to Orthodox status and would shape the later Chinese civilization. Art, culture and science are all advanced to unprecedented heights. With the profound and lasting impacts of this period of Chinese history, the name of the Han Dynasty had been taken as the name of the Chinese people, now the dominant ethnic group in modern China, and had been commonly used to refer to the Chinese language and written characters. The Han Dynasty also saw many invented mathematical innovations such as the Gaussian method of elimination that appeared in the Chinese mathematical text Chapter Eight Rectangular Arrays of The Nine Chapters on the Mathematical Art. Its use is illustrated in eighteen problems, with two or five equations. The first reference to the book with this title is dated to 179 A.D., but parts.C of it were written as early as 150 BC.C., more than 1500 years before Europeans came up with the method in the 18th century. [43] After the first policies of laissez-faire of emperors Wen and Jing, the ambitious Emperor Wu brought the empire to its peak. To consolidate his power, Confucianism, which emphasizes stability and order in a well-structured society, was given exclusive patronage to be the guiding philosophical thoughts and moral principles of the empire. Imperial universities were established to support his study and further development, while other schools of thought were discouraged. Image on the left: Ceramic vase painted by Western Han decorated with raised reliefs of dragons, phoenix and taotie Right image: back of a Western Han bronze mirror with painted designs of a floral motif Important military campaigns were launched to weaken the nomadic Xiongnu empire, limiting their influence north of the Great Wall. Along with diplomatic efforts led by Zhang Qian, the Han Empire's sphere of influence extended to the Tarim Basin states, opened the Silk Road connecting China to the west, stimulating bilateral trade and cultural exchanges. To the south, several small kingdoms well beyond the Yangtze River valley were formally incorporated into the empire. A Chinese crossbow mechanism with a late-period buttplate of wartime states or the first Han Dynasty; Made of bronze and inadmissed with the silver emperor Wu also sent a series of military campaigns against the Baiyue tribes. The Han annexed Minyue in 135 bc.C. and 111 BC.C., Nanyue in 111 BC.C. and Dian in 109 .C. Migrations and military expeditions led to the cultural assimilation of the South. [46] He also brought the Han into contact with the kingdoms of Southeast Asia, diplomacy and trade. After Emperor Wu, the empire gradually slipped gradually and decline. Economically, the state treasury was stretched by excessive campaigns and projects, while land acquisitions by elite families gradually drained the tax base. Various consort clans exercised increasing control over the strings of incompetent emperors and in the end the dynasty was briefly interrupted by the usurpation of Wang Mang. Xin Dynasty Main article: Xin.C Dynasty In 9 A.D., usurper Wang Mang stated that the Mandate of Heaven called for the end of the Han Dynasty and its rise, and founded the short Xin Dynasty. Wang Mang began an extensive program of lands and other economic reforms, including a ban on slavery and the nationalization and redistribution of land. These programs, however, were never supported by land families, because they favored peasants. The instability of power led to chaos, riots and the loss of territory. This was aggravated by the mass flooding of the Yellow River; the accumulation of limo caused it to be divided into two channels and moved a large number of farmers. Wang Mang was eventually killed in Weyang Palace by a crowd of angry peasants in 23 .C. Eastern Han A bronze claps from the eastern Han period Emperor Guangwu reintegrated the Han Dynasty with the support of land and merchant families in Luoyang, east of the former capital X'an. Thus, this new era is called the Eastern Han Dynasty. With the capable administrations of emperors Ming and Zhang, the former glories of the dynasty were restored, with brilliant military and cultural conquests. The Xiongnu Empire was decisively defeated. The diplomat and general Ban Chao further expanded the conquests through the Pamirs to the shores of the Caspian Sea,[48] thus reopening the Silk Road and bringing trade, foreign cultures, along with the arrival of Buddhism. With extensive connections to the West, the first of several Roman embassies with China were recorded in Chinese sources, coming from the sea route in 166 D.C., and a second in 284 .C. The Eastern Han Dynasty was one of the most prolific eras of science and technology in ancient China, particularly the historical invention of paper production by Cai Lun and the numerous scientific and mathematical contributions of the famous polymath Zhang Heng. Three Kingdoms (220 - 280 .C.) Main article: Three Kingdoms Three Kingdoms (220 - 280 .C.) Three kingdoms in 652, on the eve of the conquest of Shu, Wei and Wu.Fresco of a tomb in Luoyang dated to the Cao Wei period (220-266 D.D.), which showed seat C-ed men wearing Hanfu silk robes. In the second century, the empire declined amid land acquisitions, invasions, and feuds between the clan consorts and eunuchs. The Yellow Turban rebellion broke out in 184 .C, ushering in an era of warlords. In the uproar that ensued, three states tried to predominate in the Three Kingdoms period. This period of time was very romanticized in works such as of the Three Kingdoms. After Cao Cao reunited the north in 208, his son proclaimed the Wei dynasty in 220. Soon, Wei's rivals, Shu and Wu, proclaimed their independence, bringing China into the Three Kingdoms period. This period was characterized by a gradual decentralization of the state that existed during the Qin and Han dynasties, and by an increase in the power of large families. In 266, the Jin dynasty over the Wei and later unified the country in 280, but this union was short-lived. Jin Dynasty (266-420 .C.) Main articles: Jin Dynasty (266-420) and Jin Dynasty of the Sixteen Kingdoms (266-420 D.C.) Western Jin Dynasty, c. 280 ADEven of majishan hill caves, caves and stairs, Majishan Hill CavesThe painting of the goddess Luo Rhapsody (in one part), Gu Kaizhi, Jin Dynasty Jin Dynasty was severely weakened by internal fighting between imperial princes and lost control of northern China after Chinese non-Han settlers rebelled and captured Luoyang and Chang'an. In 317, a Prince Jin in present-day Nanjing became emperor and continued the dynasty, now known as Eastern Jin, which held southern China for another century. Before this move, historians refer to the Jin Dynasty as the Western Jin. Northern China fragmented into a series of independent kingdoms, most of which were founded by the Xiongnu, Xianbei, Jie, Di, and Qiang rulers. These non-Han peoples were ancestors of Turks, Mongols, and Tibetans. Many had been, to some extent, sinicized long before their rise to power. In fact, some of them, notably the Qiang and Xiongnu, had already been allowed to live in border regions within the Great Wall since Han times. During the Sixteen Kingdoms period, the war devastated the north and pushed large-scale Han Chinese migration south to the Yangtze River basin and delta. Northern and southern dynasties (420-589 .C.) Main article: Northern and southern dynasties This section does not mention any sources. Please help improve this section by adding quotes to reliable sources. Non-insourced material can be disputed and removed. (May 2018) (Learn how and when to remove this template message) Northern and southern dynasties (420-589 .C.) Southern and Northern Dynasties, 440 Ahaning D.C. Monastery, a temple with the combination of Taoism, Buddhism and Confucianism.Yungang Caves, an ancient cave of the Chinese Buddhist temple near the city of Datong in Shanxi Province.Mogao Caves, also known as thousand buddha caves, located at a religious and cultural crossroads on the Silk Road, gansu province. At the beginning of the 15th century, China entered a period of as northern and southern dynasties, in which parallel regimes ruled the northern and southern half of the country. To the south, the eastern Jin gave way to Liu Song, southern Qi, Liang, and finally Chen. Each of these southern dynadies was led by Chinese ruling families used Jankang (modern Nanjing) as their capital. They kept out the attacks from the north and preserved many aspects of Chinese civilization, while the northern barbarian regimes began to sin. To the north, the last of the Sixteen Kingdoms was extinct in 439 by the Northern Wei, a kingdom founded by the Xianbei, a nomadic people who unified northern China. The northern Wei eventually split into eastern and western Wei, which later became northern Qi and northern Zhou. These regimes were dominated by Xianbei or Han Chinese who had married Xianbei families. During this period most Xianbees adopted Han surnames, eventually leading to complete assimilation into the Han. Despite the division of the country, Buddhism spread throughout the land. In southern China, fierce debates about whether to allow Buddhism were frequently held by the royal court and nobles. By the end of the era, Buddhists and Taoists had become much more tolerant of each other. Sui Dynasty (581-618 .C.) Main article: Sui Dynasty Sui dynasty (581 - 618 .C.) Sui Dynasty c. 609The Ani Bridge, the world's oldest open spandrel segmental archbridge of stone construction. TianlongshanYang Guang Caves Manshan Pavilion depicted as Emperor Yang of Sui The short Sui Dynasty was a crucial period in Chinese history. Founded by Emperor Wen in 581 in succession to northern Zhou, the Sui conquered south Chen in 589 to reunify China, ending three centuries of political division. Sui pioneered many new institutions, including the government system of the three departments and six ministries, imperial examinations for the selection of officials from municipalities, while improving the army's conscription fubing system and the equal-field soil distribution system. These policies, which were adopted by successive famines, brought enormous population growth and accumulated excessive wealth in the state. Standardized coinage was applied throughout the unified empire. Buddhism has taken root as a prominent religion and has been officially supported. Sui China was known for its many mega-construction projects, intended for the transport of grain and the transport of troops, the Grand Canal was built, connecting the capitals Daxing (Chang'an) and Luoyang to the rich southeastern region, and on another route, to the northeastern border. The Great Wall was also expanded, while a series of military conquests and diplomatic maneuvers further pacified its borders. However, the massive investments of the Korean Peninsula during the Goguryeo-Sui War failed disastrously, triggering widespread uprisings that led to the of the dynasty. Tang Dynasty (618-907 .C.) Main article: Tang Dynasty See also: Zhou Dynasty (690-705) Tang Dynasty (618 - 907 .C.) Tang Dynasty in 669.C. The Fengxian Cave (c. 675 ad .C.) of the Longmen Caves, Longmen, by Wu Zetian.Inside a cave of Longmen Caves, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The Map of Dunhuang is today the oldest complete star atlas preserved in the world. The Tang Dynasty was founded by Emperor Gaozu on June 18, 618. It was a golden age of Chinese civilization and considered China's most prosperous period with significant developments in culture, art, literature, particularly poetry and technology. Buddhism became the predominant religion for ordinary people. Chang'an (modern X'an), the national capital, was the largest city in the world during its time. Map of the six major protectorates during the Tang Dynasty. The second emperor, Taizong, is widely regarded as one of the greatest emperors in Chinese history, who had laid the foundations for the dynasty to flourish for centuries beyond his reign. Combined military conquests and diplomatic maneuvers were implemented to eliminate threats from nomadic tribes, extend the border, and subdue neighboring states in a tax system. Military victories in the Tarim Basin kept the Silk Road open, connecting Chang'an to Central Asia and areas to the west. To the south, lucrative maritime trade routes began from port cities such as Guangzhou. There was extensive trade with distant foreign countries, and many foreign merchants settled in China, encouraging a cosmopolitan culture. Tang culture and social systems have been observed and imitated by neighboring countries, particularly Japan. Internally, the Grand Canal connects the political heart of Chang'an to the agricultural and economic centers in the eastern and southern part of the empire. Xuanzang, a Chinese Buddhist monk, scholar, traveler and translator who traveled to India alone, and returned with over six hundred Mahayana and Hinayana texts, seven Buddha statues and more than a hundred reliefs of sarira. At the base of the prosperity of the first Tang Dynasty was a strong centralized bureaucracy with efficient policies. The government was organised as three departments and six ministries to draw up, review and implement policies separately. These departments were run by members of the royal family and scholarly officials who had been selected by imperial examinations. These practices, which matured in the Tang Dynasty, were continued by subsequent dynasties, with some modifications. Under the tang system of field equality all lands were owned by the emperor and granted to people based on family size. The men who were granted land were enlisted for military service for a fixed period each year, a military policy known as the Fubing system. These policies stimulated rapid productivity growth and a significant army without much weight for the State. At the central point of the dynasty, however, standing armies had replaced conscription, and the earth continually fell into the hands of private owners. A golden Buddhist reliquary decorations of armoured guards, from Silla, a 7th-century silver-silver vase from the Tang period, modelled in the style of the northern nomad's leather bag[50] decorated with a horse dancing with a cup of wine in his mouth, as Emperor Xuanzong's horses were trained to do. [50] The dynasty continued to prosper under emperor Wu Zetian, the only reigning empress in Chinese history, and reached its peak during the long reign of Emperor Xuanzong, who oversaw an empire stretching from the Pacific to the Aral Sea with at least 50 million people. There were vibrant artistic and cultural creations, including works by China's greatest poets, Li Bai and Du Fu. One of the three pagodas of Chong Shen Monastery in Dalí.La giant wild goose pagoda, Chang'an (modern X'an), built in 652, sheltered by Empress Wu Zetian in the small wild goose pagoda 704.La, built in 709, was adjacent to dajianfu temple in Chang'an, where Buddhist monks gathered to translate Sanskrit texts into Chinese[51] To the zenith of empire prosperity , the Rebellion of An Lushan from 755 to 763 was a watershed event that devastated the population and drastically weakened the central imperial government. After the repression of the rebellion, regional military governors, known as Jiedushi, gained increasingly autonomous status. With the loss of revenue from the land tax, the central imperial government relied heavily on the salt monopoly. Externally, the former submissive states raided the empire and the vast border territories were irreversibly lost for the following centuries. However, civil society recovered and prospered amid the weakening of imperial bureaucracy. In the late Tang period, the empire was worn down by recurrent revolts by regional warlords, while internally, while scholars-officers engaged in fierce factional conflicts, corrupt eunuchs amassed immense power. Catastrophically, Huang Chao's rebellion, from 874 to 884, devastated the entire empire for a decade. The sack of the southern port of Guangzhou in 879 was followed by the massacre of most of its inhabitants, along with large foreign merchant enclaves. [52] In 881, both the capitals, Luoyang and Chang'an, fell later. Dependence on ethnic Han and Turkish warlords in quelling the rebellion increased their power and influence. As a result, the fall of the dynasty following the usurpation of Zhu Wen led to an era of division. According to historian Mark Edward Lewis: Most Chinese consider the Tang Dynasty (618-907) to be the highest point in imperial China, both politically and culturally. The empire reached its largest size before the Qing manciú, becoming the center of an East Asian world linked by religion, writing and many economic and political institutions. In addition, Tang writers produce the best poetry of the great Chinese opera tradition. Five waterships and ten kingdoms (907-960 .C.) Main article: Five watering cans Ten kingdoms Zhenguo Pagoda period of Kaiyuan Temple (Quanzhou)Gongchen Bagoda, Lin'an, Hangzhou, China Five dynasties and ten kingdoms (907 -960 .C.) Five Dinastie Ten Kingdoms Period 947 ADYuan Pagoda in Jiangsu Province in eastern China. Coins of the Five Dynasties and Ten KingdomsSection and detail of Han Xizai's Night Balnone, gu HongzhongThe period of political disunity between the Tang and the Song , known as the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms period, lasted from 907 to 960. During this half century, China was in all respects a multi-state system. Five regimes, namely Liang, Tang, Jin, Han and Zhao, quickly succeeded in controlling the traditional imperial heart in northern China. Among the regimes, the rulers of (later) Tang, Jin, and Han were sinicized Shatuo Turks, who ruled the ethnic majority of Han Chinese. More stable and smaller regimes of mostly ethnic Han rulers coexisted in southern and western China during the period, cumulatively consodng the Ten Kingdoms. Amid political chaos in the north, the strategic Sixteen Prefectures (region along today's Great Wall) were ceded to the emerging Khitai Liao dynasty, which drastically weakened China's defense of the northern nomadic empires. To the south, Vietnam gained lasting independence after being a Chinese prefecture for many centuries. With the wars dominated in northern China, there were mass migrations southwards of the population, which further increased the displacement of cultural and economic centers in China to the south. The era ended with the coup d'état of General Zhou Zhao Kuangyin, and the establishment of the Song Dynasty in 960, which eventually annihilated the remains of the Ten Kingdoms and reunited China. Dinastie Song, Liao, Jin and Western Xia (960-1279 .C.) Main articles: Song Dynasty, Liao Dynasty, Western Xia and Jin Dynasty (1115-1234) More information: Song Dynasty.C History See also: Dalí Kingdom and Qara Khitai Song, Liao, Jin and Western Xia Dynasties (960-1279 AD). Jin, Southern Song and Western Xia in China.A Wooden Bodhisattva of the Song Dynasty. The first written formula known for gunpowder, from the Wujing Zongyao of 1044 .C. In 960, the Song Dynasty was founded by Emperor Taizu, with its capital established in Kaifeng (also known as Bianjing). In 979, the Song Dynasty reunited most of China itself, while large swathes of the outer territories were occupied by sinicized nomadic empires. The Khitai Liao dynasty, which lasted from 907 to 1125, ruled Manchuria, Mongolia and parts of northern China. Meanwhile, in what is now the northwestern Chinese provinces of Gansu, Shaanxi and Ningxia, the Tangut tribes founded the Xia Dynasty. from 1032 to 1227. Pagoda Liaodi, Song DynastyThe Tianing Temple Pagoda, Liao DynastyThe ten thousand copies of the Huayan Sutra Pagoda, commonly known as a white pagoda, LiaoPoyang Pagoda dynasty of Yongtu Temple, Song Dynasty With the aim of recovering the sixteen strategic prefectures lost in the previous dynasty, campaigns were launched against the Liao dynasty in the early Song period, all of which ended in failure. Then, in 1004, the Liao cavalry overwhelmed the exposed plain of northern China and reached the outskirts of Kaifeng, forcing the submission of the Song and then the agreement on the Treaty of Chanyuan, which imposed heavy annual tributes from the Song treasure. The treaty was a significant reversal of Chinese rule over the traditional tax system. However, song al Liao's annual silver runoff was returned through the purchase of Chinese goods and products, which expanded the Song economy and replenished its treasure. This belied the incentive for the Song to campaign further against the Liao. Meanwhile, this cross-border trade and contact induced further sinicization within the Liao Empire, to the detriment of its military might that derived from its primitive nomadic lifestyle. Similar treaties and social-economic consequences occur in Song's relations with the Jin Dynasty. Within the Liao Empire, the Jurchen tribes rebelled against their lords to establish the Jin Dynasty in 1115. In 1125, the devastating cataphrase Jin annihilated the Liao dynasty, while remnants of the Liao court fled to Central Asia to found the Qara Khitai Empire (Western Liao Dynasty). Jin's invasion of the Song Dynasty quickly followed. In 1127, Kaifeng was sacked, a mass catastrophe known as the Jingkang Incident, ending the northern Song Dynasty. Later, the entire north of China was conquered. The surviving members of the Song court regrouped in the new capital Hangzhou, and began the Southern Song Dynasty, which ruled territories south of the Huai River. In the following years, the territory and population of China were divided between the Song Dynasty, the Jin Dynasty, and the Western Xia Dynasty. The era ended with the Mongol conquest, when western Xia fell in 1227, the Jin Dynasty in 1234, and finally the Southern Song Dynasty in 1279. Despite its military weakness, the Song Dynasty is widely considered the highest point of classical Chinese civilization. The Song economy, facilitated by technological progress, had reached a level of sophistication probably invisible in the history of the world before its time. The population rose to over 100 million and the standard of living of ordinary people improved enormously due to improvements in rice cultivation and the wide availability of coal for production. The capitals of Kaifeng and later Hangzhou were both the most populous cities in the world for their and encouraged vibrant civil societies unmatched in previous Chinese famines. Although land trade routes to the far west were blocked by nomadic empires, there were trade with neighboring states, which facilitated the use of Song coinage as a de facto exchange currency. Giant wooden ships equipped with compasses traveled through the Seas of China and the northern Indian Ocean. The concept of insurance was practiced by traders to cover the risks of such long-haul shipping. With prosperous economic activities, the first historical use of paper currency emerged in the western city of Chengdu, as a supplement to existing copper coins. The Song Dynasty was considered the golden age of great advances in China's science and technology, thanks to innovative scholars-officials such as Su Song (1020-1101) and Shen Kuo (1031-1095). Inventions such as the hydromechanical astronomical clock, the first continuous and infinite chain of energy transmission, woodblock printing and paper money were all invented during the Song Dynasty. There were court intrigues between political reformers and conservatives, led by chancellors Wang Anshi and Sima Guang, respectively. By the middle and end of the 13th century, the Chinese had adopted the dogma of Neo-Confucian philosophy formulated by Zhu Xi. Huge literary works were compiled during the Song Dynasty, such as the historical work, the Zizhi Tongjian



(Complete Mirror to Help in Government). The invention of mobile printing further facilitated the dissemination of knowledge. Culture and the arts flourished, with grandiose works of art such as Along the River During the Qingming Festival and Eighteen Songs of a Nomad Flute, along with great Buddhist painters such as the prolific Lin Tinggui. View of the song dynasty city from the paintings. Clockwise from top left: A northern Song Dynasty (960-1127) was Chinese painting of a water mill for wheat, with surrounding river transport. The bridge scene of Zhang Zeduan's painting (1085-1145) Along the river during the Qingming Festival. Chinese boats from Along the River during the Qingming Festival. Leifeng Pagoda in the Southern Song Dynasty of Li Song. The Song Dynasty was also a period of great innovation in the history of the war. Gunpowder, while invented during the Tang Dynasty, was first used on the battlefields by the Song army, inspiring a series of new firearms and siege engine designs. During the Southern Song Dynasty, as its survival depended decisively on guarding the Yangtze and Huai River against cavalry forces from the north, the first permanent navy in China was assembled in 1132, with its admiral's headquarters established in Dinghai. Paddle-wheeled warships equipped with snoots could drop incendiary bombs made of gunpowder and lime, as recorded in Song's victory over Jin invaded the Battle of Tangdao in the East China Sea and the Battle of Caishi on the Yangtze River in 1161. The progress of civilization during the Song Dynasty came to an abrupt end after devastating Mongol conquest, during which the population declined sharply, with a marked contraction of the economy. Despite abruptly halting the Mongol advance for more than three decades, the southern song capital Hangzhou fell in 1276, followed by the final annihilation of the permanent navy Song at the Battle of Yamen in 1279. Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368. C.) Main article: Yuan Dynasty See also: Mongolian Empire and Northern Yuan Dynasty Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368. C.) The White Stupa of My Temple of Beijing.Deva King of the East on the east wall of the Cloud Platform at Juyong Pass.Yuan period firearm with inscription dated 3rd year of the Zhiyuan era (1332). Yuan Dynasty (1206-1368). Discovery at Yunju Temple, Fangshan, Beijing, 1935.Yuan Dynasty banknote with its print wood slab, 1287. C. Mongol Successor Khans The Yuan Dynasty was formally proclaimed in 1271, when the Mongol Grand Khan, Kublai Khan, one of Genghis Khan's nephews, assumed the additional title of Emperor of China, and considered his inherited part of the Mongol Empire to be a Chinese dynasty. In previous decades, the Mongols had conquered the Jin Dynasty in northern China, and the southern Song Dynasty fell in 1279 after a long and bloody war. The Mongolian Yuan Dynasty became the first conquest dynasty in Chinese history to rule the entire of China itself and its population as an ethnic minority. The dynasty also directly controlled the Mongol heartland and other regions, inheriting the largest share of territory of the divided Mongol Empire, which roughly coincided with the modern area of China and neighboring regions of East Asia. A further expansion of the empire was halted after defeats in the invasions of Japan and Vietnam. After the previous Jin Dynasty, the capital of the Yuan Dynasty was founded in Khanbalik (also known as Dadu, present-day Beijing). The Grand Canal was rebuilt to connect the remote capital to economic centers in southern China, establishing the precedence and foundation where Beijing would largely remain the capital of the later regimes that unified mainland China. After the peace treaty of 1304 ending a series of Mongol civil wars, the emperors of the Yuan Dynasty were supported as the nominal Grand Khan (Khagan) of the great Mongol Empire compared to other Mongol Khanates, who nevertheless remained de facto autonomous. The era was known as the Pax Mongolica, when much of the Asian continent was ruled by the Mongols. For the first and only time in history, the Silk Road was controlled entirely by a single state, facilitating the flow of people, trade and cultural exchanges. A network of roads and a network of roads were established postal service to connect the vast empire. Profitable maritime trade, developed by the previous Song Dynasty, continued to flourish, with Quanzhou and Hangzhou emerging as the largest ports in the world. World travelers from the far west, particularly the Venetian Marco Polo, would have settled in China for decades. On his return, his record-breaking travel detail inspired generations of medieval Europeans with the splendors of the Far East. The Yuan Dynasty was the first ancient empire, where paper currency, known at the time as Jiaochao, was used as the predominant medium of exchange. Its unlimited issuance at the end of the Yuan Dynasty inflicted hyperinflation, which eventually led to the fall of the dynasty. Dengfeng Observatory, the first in a series of 27 astronomical observatories built in the first Yuan Dynasty. The Balin Temple Pagoda, an octagonal-based brick pagoda built in 1330 during the reign of Emperor Wenzong, ruler of the Mongolian-led Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). While the Mongol rulers of the Yuan Dynasty essentially adopted Chinese culture, their sinicization was to a lesser extent than previous conquest dynasties in Chinese history. To preserve racial superiority as a conqueror and ruling class, traditional nomadic customs and mongolian steppe heritage were held in high regard. On the other hand, Mongol rulers also flexibly adopted a variety of cultures of many advanced civilizations within the vast empire. Traditional social structure and culture in China uneaded immensely during Mongol rule. A large group of foreign migrants settled in China, which enjoyed a high social status compared to the Han Chinese majority, while enriching Chinese culture with foreign elements. The class of scholarly officials and intellectuals, traditional bearers of elite Chinese culture, lost substantial social status. This stimulated the development of the culture of ordinary people. There were prolific works in performances of Zaju varieties and literary songs (sanqu), which were written in a distinctive poetic style known as qu. Vernacular-style novels have gained unprecedented status and popularity. The Ayyuwang Stupa in northern Shanxi, China.A stupa atop an arch (intersection of the road tower), is a common form of architecture during the Yuan period. Before the Mongol invasion, Chinese dynasties had about 120 million inhabitants; after the conquest was completed in 1279, the census of 1300 brought back about 60 million people. This great decline is not necessarily due only to Mongol killings. Scholars such as Frederick W. Mote argue that the large drop in numbers reflects an administrative failure to record rather than an actual decrease; others like Timothy Brook argue that the Mongols created a system of enslavement among a huge portion of the Chinese population, causing total disappearance of many from the census; other historians including William McNeill and David Morgan believe that plague was the main factor behind demographic decline during this period. In the 14th century, China underwent further plague epidemics, which are estimated to have killed 25 million people, 30% of china's population. During the Yuan Dynasty, there was a general feeling among the population against Mongol rule. However, rather than the nationalist cause, it was mainly strings of natural disasters and incompetent government that triggered widespread peasant revolts since the 1340s. After the massive naval clash on Lake Poyang, Zhu Yuanzhang prevailed over other rebel forces in the south. He proclaimed himself emperor and founded the Ming Dynasty in 1368. The same year his northern expeditionary army captured the capital Khanbalik. Yuan's remains fled back to Mongolia and supported the regime. Other Mongol khanates in Central Asia continued to exist after the fall of the Yuan Dynasty in China. Ming Dynasty (1368-1644. C.) Main article: Ming Dynasty Learn more: History of the Ming Dynasty See also: Southern Ming Ming Dynasty (1368-1644)Haihui Temple Pagodas, built in the Ming period. From Ming Baochao, a series of banknotes issued by the Ming government. Porcelain Tower, from an Embassy of the East India Company (1665) by Johan Nieuhof. It was first discovered by the Western world when travelers like Johan Nieuhof visited it, sometimes listing it as one of the seven wonders of the world. Chongjue Temple Pagoda, dated to song dynasty. The onion-shaped Sónin was an addition to the Ming Dynasty. Lu family residence in Dongyang, built in the Ming period. City of Xi'an, a UNESCO World Heritage Site built during the first MingTaglia Dynasty ofFenghuang, an ancient city that is home to many architectural remains of Ming and Qing styles. Hongcun, a village in Yi County in the historic Huizhou region of the southern province of Anhui.Xinye, a village known for its well-preserved Ming and Qing-era architecture and ancient residential buildings. The Ming Dynasty was founded by Zhu Yuanzhang in 1368, who proclaimed himself Emperor Hongwu. The capital was initially set in Nanjing, and was later moved to Beijing from the reign of Emperor Yongle onwards. Urbanization increased as the population grew and as the division of labour became more complex. Large urban centers, such as Nanjing and Beijing, also contributed to the growth of private industry. In particular, small industries have grown, often specializing in paper, silk, cotton and porcelain. For the most part, however, relatively small urban centers with proliferated markets across the country. The city's markets mainly traded food, with some necessary artifacts such as brooches or oil. Despite the xenophobia and intellectual introspection characteristic of the new school of Neo-Confucianism increasingly China under the first Ming Dynasty was not isolated. Foreign trade and other contacts with the outside world, in particular Japan, have increased considerably. Chinese chinese merchants all over the Indian Ocean, reaching East Africa with the voyages of Zheng He. Emperor Hongwu, being the sole founder of a Chinese dynasty that was also of peasant origin, had laid the foundations of a state that was basically based on agriculture. Trade and trade, which flourished in previous Song and Yuan dynasties, were less emphasized. The neo-feudal properties of the Song and Mongolian period were expropriated by the Ming rulers. Land holdings were confiscated by the government, fragmented and leased. Private slavery was forbidden. As a result, after the death of Emperor Yongle, independent peasant landowners predomined in Chinese agriculture. These laws could have paved the way for the eradication of the worst of poverty during previous regimes. Towards the later era of the Ming Dynasty, with the decline of government control, trade, trade, and private industries resumed. The dynasty had a strong and complex central government that unified and controlled the empire. The emperor's role became more autocratic, although Emperor Hongwu necessarily continued to use what he called the Great Secretariat to help with the immense paperwork of bureaucracy, including memorials (petitions and recommendations to the throne), imperial edicts in response, reports of various kinds, and tax records. It was this same bureaucracy that later prevented the Ming government from adapting to changes in society, and eventually led to its decline. Emperor Yongle strenuously sought to extend China's influence beyond its borders by asking other rulers to send ambassadors to China to present tributes. A large navy was built, including four-mast ships moving 1,500 tons. A permanent army of 1 million troops was created. Chinese armies conquered and occupied Vietnam for about 20 years, while the Chinese fleet sailed into the Chinese seas and the Indian Ocean, sailing to the east coast of Africa. The Chinese gained influence in eastern Moghulistan. Several Asian maritime nations sent envoys with tribute to the Chinese emperor. Nationally, the Grand Canal was expanded and became a stimulus to domestic trade. More than 100,000 tons of iron were produced per year. Many books have been printed in movable characters. The imperial palace in the Forbidden City of Beijing reached its present glory. It was also during these centuries that the potential of southern China was fully exploited. New crops were widely cultivated and industries such as those producing porcelain and textiles flourished. In 1449 Esen Tayisi led a Mongol invasion of Oirat in northern China that culminated in the capture of Emperor Zhengtong at Tumu. From the Ming became defensive on the northern frontier, which led to the construction of the Great Ming Wall. Most of what remains of the Great Wall of China today was built or repaired by the Ming. The brick and the work was expanded, the watchtowers were redesigned, and the cannons were positioned along its length. Eagles by Lin Liang (c. 1424-1500). Located at the Museum of the National Palace.Snow plums and twin cranes of Bian Jingzhao (c. 1355-1428). Located at the Guangdong Museum.At sea, the Ming became increasingly isolationist after the death of Emperor Yongle. Treasure voyages sailing in the Indian Ocean were disrupted, and maritime ban laws were instituted that prohibited Chinese from sailing abroad. European traders who reached China in the middle of the Age of Discovery were repeatedly repatriated in their trade requests, with the Portuguese rejected by the Ming Navy at Tuen Mun in 1521 and again in 1522. Domestic and foreign demands for foreign trade, deemed illegal by the state, led to widespread wokou piracy that attacked the southeast coast during the rule of Emperor Jiajing (1507-1567), which subsided only after the opening of ports in Guangdong and Fujian and much military repression. [57] The Portuguese were allowed to settle in Macau in 1557 for trade, which remained in Portuguese hands until 1999. Dutch entry into Chinese seas also met fierce resistance, with the Dutch pursued off the Penghu Islands in the Sino-Dutch conflicts of 1622-1624 and forced to settle in Taiwan. The Dutch in Taiwan fought with the Ming at the Battle of Liaoou Bay in 1633 and lost, and eventually surrendered to the loyalist Ming Koxinga in 1662, after the fall of the Ming Dynasty. In 1556, during the reign of Emperor Jiajing, the Shaanxi earthquake killed about 830,000 people, the most deadly earthquake of all time. The Ming Dynasty intervened deeply in the Japanese invasions of Korea (1592-98), which ended with the withdrawal of all invading Japanese forces in Korea, and the restoration of the Joseon Dynasty, its traditional ally and tributary state. The regional hegemony of the Ming Dynasty was preserved as a tribute to its resources. Coincidentally, with Ming's control in Manchuria in decline, the Mangrove (Jurchen) tribes, under their leader Nurhaci, disbanded from Ming's rule, and emerged as a powerful unified state, which was later proclaimed the Qing Dynasty. He continued to subdue the much weakened Korea as his tributary, conquered Mongolia and expanded its territory to the outskirts of the Great Wall. The most elitist army of the Ming Dynasty had to station at Shanhai Pass to protect the last stronghold from the Mangroves, which weakened its repression of the peasants' internal revolts. Qing Dynasty (1644-1912. C.) Main article: Qing Dynasty See also: Later Jin (1616-1636), was Qing high and century of dynasty humiliation (1644-1912)1836 map of China published by C. Picque Lambina pellegrina, porcelain with enamelled blue and iron red decoration. A military attire of the of the EmperorQing theatre geomantic compass (c. 1760) Summer Palace, an imperial garden in the Qing Dynasty. Putuo Zongcheng Temple, a Buddhist temple complex built between 1767 and 1771. The temple was modeled after the Potala Palace of the Tibet.La Chancellor Huangcheng's House, a 10-hectare walled estate on Phoenix Hill in southeast Shanxi, China.Flowing Theatre, a Qing-era guildhall. A residential building of Qiao Family Compound, built in the Qing period. The Qing Dynasty (1644-1912) was the last imperial dynasty in China. Founded by the Mandoules, it was the second conquest dynasty to rule the whole of China itself, and almost doubled the territory controlled by the Ming. The Mangroves were formerly known as Jurchen, residing in the northeastern part of the Ming territory outside the Great Wall. They emerged as the main threat to the late Ming Dynasty after Nurhaci joined all jurchen tribes and declared the foundation of the Qing Dynasty in 1636. The Qing Dynasty established the Eight Banner system which provided the basic framework for qing military conquest. Li Zicheng's peasant rebellion captured Beijing in 1644 and Emperor Chongzhen, the last Ming Emperor, suicided. The Mangroves allied with General Ming Wu Sangui to seize Beijing, which became the capital of the Qing Dynasty, and then proceeded to subdue the Ming remains in the south. Decades of Manman conquest caused huge loss of life and China's economic scale was drastically reduced. In total, the Qing conquest of the Ming (1618-1683) cost up to 25 million lives. Early Manchi emperors combined the traditions of Central Asian rule with the Confucian norms of traditional Chinese rule and were considered a Chinese dynasty. The Mangroves imposed a tall order, forcing the Han Chinese to adopt the Manchu tail hairstyle. Officials were required to wear Changshan Man-made clothing (bannermen and Tangzhuang dress), but ordinary Han civilians were allowed to wear traditional Han clothing. Bannermen could not undertake trade or manual labor; they had to submit a petition to be removed from banner status. They were considered a form of nobility and had annual pensions, land and cloth assignments. The Kangxi Emperor ordered the creation of the Kangxi Dictionary, the most complete dictionary of Chinese characters that had been compiled. Over the next half century, all areas formerly under the Ming Dynasty were consolidated under the Qing. Conquests in Central Asia in the 18th century extended control of the territory. Between 1673 and 1681, Emperor Kangxi suppressed the revolt of the three feudal lords, a revolt of three generals in southern China to which the hereditary domain of great fiefs granted by the previous emperor has been denied. In 1683, the Qing organized an amphibious assault in southern Taiwan, dropping the rebel kingdom of Tungning. Tungning, It was founded by loyalist Ming Koxinga (Zheng Chenggong) in 1662 after the fall of the Southern Ming, and served as a base for continued Ming resistance in southern China. The Qing defeated the Russians at Albazin, giving rise to the Treaty of Nerchinsk. Qianlong Emperor At the end of emperor Qianlong's long reign in 1796, the Qing Empire was at its peak. The Qing ruled more than a third of the world's population and had the largest economy in the world. By area it was one of the greatest empires ever. Li Hongzhang, Chinese politician, general and diplomat of the late Qing Dynasty. In the 19th century the empire was internally restless and externally threatened by western powers. The defeat of the British Empire in the First Opium War (1840) led to the Treaty of Nanking (1842), under which Hong Kong was ceded to Great Britain and the import of opium (produced from the territories of the British Empire) was allowed. Opium use has continued to grow in China, negatively affecting social stability. Subsequent military defeats and unequal treaties with other Western powers continued even after the fall of the Qing Dynasty. Internally, the Taiping Rebellion (1851-1864), a Christian religious movement led by Celestial King Hong Xiuquan, flew from the south to establish the Taiping Celestial Kingdom and controlled about a third of China proper for over a decade. The country in desperation allowed Han Chinese officials such as Zeng Guofan to raise local armies. After initial defeats, Zeng defeated the rebels at the Third Battle of Nanjing in 1864. This was one of the greatest wars of the 19th century in terms of troop involvement; there was a massive loss of life, with a death toll of about 20 million. A series of civil unrest followed, including the Ping-Hakkia clan wars, nian's rebellion, the Dungan revolt, and panthay's rebellion. All rebellions were eventually repelled, but at enormous cost and with millions of deaths, severely weakening central imperial authority. China never rebuilt a strong central army, and many local officials used their military power to govern effectively independently in their provinces. However, the dynasty seemed to recover in the Tongzhi Restoration (1860-1872), led by reformers of the Manchu royal family and Han Chinese officials such as Zeng Guofan and his proteges Li Hongzhang and Zuo Zongtang. Their self-strengthening movement made effective institutional reforms, imported Western factories and communication technologies, with the first emphasis on strengthening the army. However, the reform was undermined by official rivalries, cynicism, and quarrels within the imperial family. The Defeat of the Fleet modernized by Yuan Shikai in the First Sino-Japanese War (1894-1895) led to the formation of the New Army. Emperor Guangxu, advised by Kang Youwei, then launched a global reform effort, hundred days' days. (1898). Empress Dowager Cixi, however, feared that a hasty change would lead to bureaucratic opposition and foreign intervention and quickly suppress it. National flag of Grande Qing from 1862 to 1889. (triangular version) National flag of Grande Qing from 1889 to 1912. In the summer of 1900, the Boxer revolt opposed foreign influence and killed Chinese Christians and foreign missionaries. When the Boxers entered Beijing, the Qing government ordered all foreigners to leave, but they and many Chinese Christians were besieged in the neighborhood of foreign tents. An Alliance of Eight Nations sent the Seymour Expedition of Japanese, Russian, British, Italian, German, French, American and Austrian troops to relieve the siege, but were forced to withdraw from Boxer and Qing troops at the Battle of Langfang. After the Alliance's attack on the Dagou Forts, the court declared war on the Alliance and authorized the Boxers to join the imperial armies. After fierce fighting at Tientsin, the Alliance formed the second, much larger Gaselee Expedition and eventually reached Beijing; the dowager Empress evacuated to Xi'an. The Boxer Protocol ended the war, having a huge allowance. The Qing tribunal then instituted new policies of administrative and legal reform, including the abolition of the examination system. But young officers, military officers and students discussed reform, perhaps a constitutional monarchy, or the overthrow of the dynasty and the creation of a republic. They were inspired by an emerging public opinion formed by intellectuals such as Liang Qichao and the revolutionary ideas of Sun Yat-sen. A localized military uprising, the Wuchang Uprising, began on October 10, 1911, in Wuchang (now part of Wuhan), and soon spread. The Republic of China was proclaimed on January 1, 1912, ending 2,000 years of woolly rule. Modern China Republic of China (since 1912) Main articles: Revolution of 1911, History of the Republic of China, Republic of China (1912-1949), and Taiwan See also: History of Taiwan, History of Taiwan (1945-present), and Withdrawal of the Republic of China to Taiwan Flag of the First Guangzhou Nanjing Road Uprising during the Xinhai Revolution, 1911 The provisional government of the Republic of China was formed in Nanjing on March 12, 1912. Sun Yat-sen became President of the Republic of China, but gave power to Yuan Shikai, who commanded the New Army. In the following years, Yuan proceeded to abolish national and provincial assemblies and declared himself emperor of the Chinese Empire in late 1915. Yuan's imperial ambitions were fiercely opposed by his subordinates; faced with the prospect of rebellion, he abdicated in March 1916 and died of natural causes in June. Sun the intellectual leader of the Revolution Yuan Shikai, the first official president of the Republic of China. Yuan's death in 1916 1916 a power vacuum; the Republican government was almost shattered. This paved the way for the warlord era, during which much of China was ruled by changing coalitions of competing provincial military leaders and the Beiyang government. The intellectuals, disappointed by the failure of the Republic, launched the Movement for the New Culture. University students from Beijing met during the Fourth May Movement, dissatisfied with Article 156 of the Treaty of Versailles for China (Shandong problem). In 1919, the Fourth Movement began as a response to the pro-Japanese terms imposed on China by the Treaty of Versailles after World War I. It quickly became a nationwide protest movement. The protests were a moral success when the government felt and China refused to sign the Treaty of Versailles, which had assigned the German possessions of Shandong to Japan. The political and intellectual ferment was strong in the 1920s and 1930s. According to Patricia Ebrey: Nationalism, progress, science, democracy and freedom were the objectives; imperialism, feudalism, warlord, autocracy, patriarchy and blind adherence to tradition were the enemies. Intellectuals have struggled with how to be strong and modern and yet Chinese, such as preserving China as a political entity in the world of competing nations. The flag of the Republic of China from 1912 to 1928. The flag of the Republic of China from 1928 to the present day. In the 1920s, Sun Yat-sen founded a revolutionary base in Guangzhou and headed to unite the fragmented nation. He welcomed the assistance of the Soviet Union (itself fresh from Lenin's takeover) and an alliance with the fledgling Communist Party of China. After Sun's death from cancer in 1925, one of his protectors, Chiang Kai-shek, took control of the Nationalist Party (KMT) and managed to bring most of southern and central China under his rule in the Northern Expedition (1926-1927). After defeating the warlords in southern and central China by military force, Chiang was able to secure the nominal alliance of warlords in the north and establish nationalist rule in Nanjing. In 1927, Chiang turned to the CPC and relentlessly pursued CPC armies in the NRA and its leaders outside the KMT. In 1934, driven from their mountain bases such as the Chinese Soviet Republic, CPC forces embarked on the Long March through China's most desolate terrain to the northwest, where they established a guerrilla base at Yan'an in Shaanxi province. During the Long March, the Communists reorganized under a new leader, Mao Zedong (Mao Tse-tung). World War II (Second World War) by Chongqing in 1940The Chinese soldiers in house-to-house fighting in the Battle of TaierzhuangThe troops of the Imperial Japanese Navy's Special Naval Landing Forces (JN) in gas masks prepare for an advance through the rubble of Shanghai, in China.[1 Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek announced Kuomintang's resistance policy against Japan at Lushan on July 10, 1937, three days after the Seventy-Seven incident. China's bitter civil war between nationalists and communists continued, openly or clandestinely, through the Japanese occupation of various parts of the country that lasted 14 years (1931-1945). The two Chinese nations nominally formed a United Front to oppose the Japanese in 1937, during the Second Sino-Japanese War (1937-1945), which became part of World War II. Japanese forces have committed numerous war atrocities against the civilian population, including biological warfare (see Unit 731) and the Politics of the Three Alls (Sankō Sakusen), the three alls being: Kill All, Burn All and Loot All. Following Japan's defeat in 1945, the war between nationalist government forces and the CPC resumed, after failed attempts at reconciliation and a negotiated solution. By 1949, the CPC had established control over most of the country. Odd Arne Westad says the Communists won the Civil War because they made fewer military mistakes than Chiang, and because in his quest for a powerful centralized government, Chiang antagonized too many interest groups in China. In addition, his party was weakened in the war against the Japanese. Meanwhile, the Communists told different groups, such as peasants, exactly what they wanted to hear, and cloaked themselves in the cover of Chinese nationalism. During the civil war, both nationalists and communists committed mass atrocities, with millions of non-combatants killed on both sides. [66] These included deaths from forced conscription and massacres. When nationalist government forces were defeated by CPC forces in mainland China in 1949, the nationalist government withdrew to Taiwan with its forces, along with Chiang and a large number of their supporters; the nationalist government had taken effective control of Taiwan at the end of World War II as part of japan's general surrender, when Japanese troops in Taiwan surrendered to troops from the Republic of China. Until the early 1970s, the Republic of China was recognized as china's only legitimate government by the United Nations, the United States, and most Western nations, refusing to recognize the PRC due to the Cold War. This changed in 1971 when the PRC was sitting at the United Nations, replacing the Republic of China. The KMT ruled Taiwan under martial law until 1987, with the stated aim of being vigilant against Communist infiltration and preparing to retake mainland China. Therefore, political dissent was not tolerated during that period. In the 1990s, the Republic of China underwent a major democratic reform, starting with the in 1991 of the members of the Legislative Yuan and the National Assembly elected in 1947. These groups were originally created to represent the constituencies of mainland China. Restrictions on the use of languages in the media and schools. This culminated in the first direct presidential election in 1996 against democratic progressive party (DPP) candidate and former dissident Peng Ming-min. In 2000, KMT's status as a ruling party ended when the DPP took power, only to regain its status in na Ying-jueu's 2008 election. Due to the controversial nature of Taiwan's political status, the Republic of China is currently recognized by 14 UN member states and the Holy See since 2020 as the legitimate government of China. People's Republic of China (since 1949) Main articles: History of the People's Republic of China and China See also: Proclamation of the People's Republic of China The People's Liberation Army enters Beijing in the Pingin campaign Major fighting in the Chinese Civil War ended in 1949 with Kuomintang (KMT) withdrawing from the mainland, with the government moving to Taipei and retaining control over only a few islands. The Communist Party of China was left under the control of mainland China. On October 1, 1949, Mao Zedong proclaimed the People's Republic of China. [69] Communist China and Red China were two common names for the PRC. [70] President Mao Zedong proclaimed the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949. 10th Anniversary Parade of the People's Republic of China in Beijing The PRC has been shaped by a series of five-year campaigns and plans. The economic and social plan known as the Great Leap Forward caused about 45 million deaths. [71] The Mao government carried out mass executions of landowners, instituted collectivization, and avolved the Laogai field system. Execution, death by forced labor and other atrocities caused millions of deaths under Mao. In 1966 Mao and his allies launched the Cultural Revolution, which continued until Mao's death a decade later. The cultural revolution, motivated by power struggles within the party and fear of the Soviet Union, led to a great upheaval in Chinese society. In 1972, at the height of the Sino-Soviet split, Mao and Zhou Enlai met with U.S. President Richard Nixon in Beijing to establish relations with the United States. In the same year, the PRC was admitted to the United Nations in place of the Republic of China, with permanent members of the Security Council. The flag of the People's Republic of China since 1949. A power struggle followed Mao's death in 1976. The Gang of Four was arrested and blamed for the excesses of the Cultural Revolution, marking the end of a turbulent political era in China. Deng Xiaoping overcame Mao's anointed successor president, Hua Guofeng, and gradually emerged as a de facto leader in later years. Deng Xiaoping was the leader of China from 1978 to 1992, although he never became the head of the party or state, and his influence within the party led the country to significant economic reforms. Le Le The party later eased government control over the personal lives of the citizens and the municipalities were dissolved with many peasants receiving multiple land rentals, which greatly increased incentives and agricultural production. In addition, many free market areas have been opened up. The most successful free market areas were Shenzhen. It is located in Guangdong and the tax-free area still exists today. This turning point in events marked China's transition from a planned economy to a mixed economy with an increasingly open market environment, a system defined by some as market socialism, and officially by the Chinese Communist Party as socialism with Chinese characteristics. The PRC adopted its current constitution on 4 December 1982. In 1989, the death of former Secretary-General Hu Yaobang helped spark protests in Tiananmen Square that year, during which students and others fought for several months, speaking out against corruption and in favor of greater political reform, including democratic rights and freedom of speech. However, they were finally shot down on June 4 when PLA troops and vehicles entered and forcibly liberated the square, with many casualties. This event has been widely reported and has brought condemnation and sanctions around the world against the government. [73] A filmed incident involving the gunman has been seen around the world. CPC Secretary-General and PRC President Jiang Zemin and PRC Premier Zhu Rongji, both former mayors of Shanghai, led the post-Tiananmen PRC in the 1990s. Under the ten years of Jiang and Zhu's administration, the PRC's economic performance brought about 150 million farmers out of poverty and supported an average annual gross domestic product growth rate of 11.2%. [75] The country formally joined the World Trade Organization in 2001. Between 1997 and 1999, the former European colonies of Hong Kong and Macau became special administrative regions of China. Although the PRC needs economic growth to stimulate its development, the government has begun to worry that rapid economic growth was degrading the country's resources and environment. Another concern is that some sectors of society do not benefit sufficiently from the economic development of the PRC: an example of this is the wide gap between urban and rural areas. As a result, under the direction of former CPC Secretary-General and President Hu Jintao and Premier Wen Jiabao, the PRC initiated policies to address the issues of fair resource distribution, but the result was not known as of the 2014 update]. [77] More than 40 million farmers have been displaced from their lands.[78] usually for development contributing to 87,000 demonstrations and riots across China in 2005. [79] For a large part of the PRC population, living standards improved significantly and freedom increased, but political controls remained tight and rural areas poor. [80] See also Chinese Portal History Portal Of Tibet by the People's Republic of China Chinese Armor Chinese Armor Emperor's Ancient Family Tree - First - Medium - Chinese Exploration Late Chinese Historiography Chinese Sovereign China Economic History of China Ethnic Groups in Chinese History Foreign Relations of Imperial China Four Occupations Golden Age of China History of Canals in China History of Hong Kong History of Islam in China History of Macau History of Science and Technology in China History Of Taiwan History of the List of Chinese Monarchs List of Neolithic Cultures of China List of Rebellions in China List of Recipients of Tributes from China List of China Tax States Military History of China Been 1911 Monarchy of China Naval History of China Scheme of ancient Chinese religion in China Chronology of Chinese History Women in Ancient and Imperial China References ^ to b William E. 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