



China (Part 1): Political and Intellectual Foundations: From the Sage Kings to Confucius and the Legalists

Unit 1: The Big Picture

Introduction: Time, Space and Identity

Section 1: Time

Section 2: Space

Section 3: Identity

Section 4: China's History Mapped

Unit 2: Origin Stories

Historical Overview

Section 1: Introduction: Origin Stories

Section 2: How We Tell Our Stories: Artifacts vs. Texts

Section 3: Culture Heroes and Sage Kings

Section 4: What Archaeology Tells Us

Section 5: The History of the Two Stories

Section 6: Interview with Professor Rowan Flad

Unit 3: Legitimation of Power in Antiquity

Historical Overview

Section 1: Introduction to Legitimation of Power in Antiquity

Section 2: The Shang System and Its Sources

Section 3: Bronzes: Shang

Section 4: Oracle Bones

Section 5: The Zhou System and Its Sources

Section 6: Zhou Bronzes (Optional)

Section 7: Conclusion – Zhou Moves East

Unit 4: Discussing One Interpretation of the Nature of Chinese Civilization

Section 1: Discussing One Interpretation of the Nature of Chinese Civilization

Section 2: Professors Bol and Kirby discuss “Early Civilization in China: Reflections on How It Became Chinese”

Unit 5: Confucius and Confucianism

Historical Overview

Section 1: The Many Faces of Confucianism

Section 2: Confucius of The Analects

Section 3: Reading the Analects

Section 4: Confucius’ Successors

Section 5: The Confucian Path

Section 6: Professor Puett on Zhuangzi (Optional)

Unit 6: Competing Schools and Warring States

Section 1: The Hundred Schools of Thought

Section 2: Strategies for Doing Good

Section 3: Strategies for Survival

Section 4: Strategies for Gaining Control

Section 5: Conclusion

Section 6: Professor Puett on Zhuangzi (Optional)

Section 7: Professor Puett on Zhuangzi in Relation to Confucius (Optional)

Section 8: Professor Puett on Laozi (Optional)

Part 1: Conclusion

China (Part 2): The Creation and End of Centralized Empire

Part 2: Introduction

Introduction to Part 2: The Creation and End of a Unified Empire

Unit 7: Forging a Unified Empire: Qin

Historical Overview

Section 1: Forging a Unified Empire

Section 2: Qin Finds the Path to Power

Section 3: New Ways of Mobilizing the Population

Section 4: Qin Unity and the First Emperor

Section 5: A New Imperial Ideology -- Cosmic Resonance

Section 6: Lesson from the Qin Terracotta Warriors

Section 7: Epilogue: The Fall of Qin

Unit 8: Making Empire Last: Western Han

Section 1: Introduction to Making Empire Last: Western Han

Section 2: Court Politics

Section 3: Institutional Tensions: Tension #1: Centralism vs. Regionalism

Section 4: Institutional Tensions: Tension #2 Feudalism vs. Bureaucracy

Section 5: Institutional Tensions: Tension #3 Heredity vs. Merit

Section 6: Institutional Tensions: Tension #4 Civil vs. Military

Section 7: Institutional Tensions: Tension #5 Inner Court vs. Outer Court

Section 8: Issue: How to Constrain Imperial Power?

Section 9: History as an Answer

Section 10: Confucian Classics as an Answer

Section 11: Portents as an Answer

Section 12: Conclusion

Unit 9: State and Society in Western and Eastern Han

Historical Overview

Section 1: State and Society in Western and Eastern Han

Section 2: What is State? What is Society?

Section 3: Four Options for State-Society Relations

Section 4: Discussion: Salt and Iron Debate

Section 5: The State's Retreat - Harbinger of the Aristocratic Age

Section 6: Epilogue: Reflections on China's First Great Empire

Unit 10: Self-Realization in the Medieval World

Historical Overview

Section 1: Introduction: Four Strands of Aristocratic Culture

Section 2: The Learning of Mystery

Section 3: Daoist Religion

Section 4: Alchemy

Section 5: Literature

Optional: Interview with Professor Kuriyama

Unit 11: Buddhism

Historical Overview

Section 1: Buddhism in China: Universal Religion and Foreign Teaching

Section 2: Introduction to Buddhism: The Three Treasures

Section 3: Mahayana Buddhism and the Lotus Sutra

Section 4: The Transformation of Buddhism in China during the 4th and 5th Centuries: Fotudeng

Section 5: The Transformation of Buddhism in China during the 4th and 5th Centuries: Dao'an

Section 6: The Transformation of Buddhism in China during the 4th and 5th Centuries: Huiyuan

Section 7: Some Reasons for Buddhism's Success

Section 8: Lingyin Temple

Section 9: Buddhist Art at Sackler Museum

Part 2: Conclusion

China (Part 3): Cosmopolitan Tang: Aristocratic Culture

Part 3: Introduction

Introduction to Part 3: Cosmopolitan Tang: Aristocratic Culture

Unit 12: The Unified Empire: Cosmopolitan Tang

Historical Overview

Section 1: A Great Tang, A Troubled Tang, A Cosmopolitan Tang

Section 2: The Social-Political Order

Section 3: The Cultural Order

Section 4: The Economic Order

Section 5: The Military Order

Section 6: Tang as a Luxury Market

Section 7: Tang as a World Power

Section 8: Tang as a Model

Section 9: 3D Tang Artifacts from the Arthur M. Sackler Museum

Unit 13: Poetry

Historical Overview

Section 1: Introduction

Section 2: Structure

Section 3: Structure (2)

Section 4: Structure (3)

Section 5: Interview with Professor Owen

Section 6: Poetry Discussion with Professor Owen and Students

Unit 14: Calligraphy

Historical Overview

Section 1: An Introduction to Calligraphy by Professor Bai Qianshen

Section 2: A Demonstration on the Tools for Writing

Section 3: A Demonstration of Different Scripts

Section 4: Toward a Historical Understanding of Calligraphy - The Construction and Deconstruction of Tradition

Section 5: Professor Alister Inglis Demonstrates Slender Gold Script

Unit 15: Yingying's Story

Historical Overview

Section 1: An Introduction to Yingying's Story

Section 2: Yingying's Story Guided Reading (1)

Section 3: Yingying's Story Guided Reading (2)

Section 4: Yingying's Story Guided Reading (3)

Section 5: Yingying's Story Guided Reading (4)

Section 6: Yingying's Story Guided Reading (5)

Part 3: Conclusion

China (Part 4): Literati China: Examinations and Neo-Confucianism

Part 4: Introduction

Introduction to Part 4: Literati China: Examinations and Neo-Confucianism

Unit 16: From Early to Later Imperial China

Historical Overview

Section 1: Periodization and the Tang-Song Transition

Section 2: Changed Foreign Relations, Changed China

Section 3: Changes at Home: The Reconfiguration of Domestic Power and Wealth in Song China

Section 4: Commerce and Urbanization

Section 5: A Shifting Social and Political Elite

Section 6: A Tang-Song Transition: The An Lushan Rebellion

Section 7: Late Tang: Changes at Home and Abroad

Unit 17: Transforming Society Through Government

Section 1: Re-evaluating Government's Role in a Changing World

Section 2: A Changing China: A Changing World: Song in 1050 CE

Section 3: Wang Anshi

Section 4: Sima Guang

Section 5: Su Shi

Section 6: Final Thoughts on the New Laws Era and the Legacy of Reform

Unit 18: The Neo-Confucianism Movement

Section 1: Introduction to Neo-Confucianism: Context and Claims

Section 2: Core Neo-Confucian Philosophical Ideas

Section 3: Zhou Dunyi's Explanation of the Diagram of the Great Ultimate

Section 4: Close Readings

Section 5: Zhu Xi

Section 6: Neo-Confucianism as a Social Movement

Section 7: The Transformation of Neo-Confucianism in the Ming

Unit 19: Exams and Elites: China's Unity

Section 1: Introduction: On the Unity of Later Imperial China

Section 2: Institutional-Intellectual Explanation: Shared Values and the Examination System

Section 3: An Alternative Explanation

Section 4: Resolving the Contradiction

Section 5: Literati and the Spread of Neo-Confucianism

Part 4: Conclusion

China (Part 5): From a Global Empire under the Mongols to a Global Economy under the Ming Dynasty

Part 5: Introduction

Introduction to Part 5: From a Global Empire under the Mongols to a Global Economy under the Ming Dynasty

Unit 20: The World Empire of the Mongols

Historical Overview

Section 1: Introduction to the Northern Border

Section 2: Stolen Beginnings and Early Setbacks

Section 3: After Chinggis Khan

Section 4: The Mongol's Multi-Ethnic Empire

Section 5: Conclusion: Encountering the Mongol Empire, Then and Now

Unit 21: Social Policy and the Founding of the Ming

Historical Overview

Section 1: Introduction

Section 2: Three views of the Ming Founding

Section 3: Social Policy

Unit 22: Admiral Zheng He Sails the Seas

Section 1: Admiral Zheng He Sails the Seas

Unit 23: Silver and Social Change in Late Ming

Section 1: Introduction

Section 2: The Silver Trade in Ming

Section 3: Globalization

Section 4: Social Changes and Political Changes

Section 5: Conclusion

Unit 24: Cultural Change in Late Ming

Section 1: Cultural Change in the Late Ming

Section 2: A New Literature

Section 3: Expansion of Education

Section 4: Philosophy and Ethics

Section 5: New Religion

Section 6: Women's Roles

Section 7: Conclusion

Part 5: Conclusion

Unit 25: The Scholars

Historical Overview

Section 1: Introduction to an 18th Century Novel: The Scholars

Section 2: The Rise of the Novel and The Scholars

Section 3: The Rise of the Meritocracy

Section 4: Ming and Qing Civil Exam

Section 5: The Scholars - Zhou Jin's Story

Section 6: The Scholars – Concubine Zhao’s Story

Section 5: The Scholars – Wang Mian’s Story

Section 6: Prosperous Suzhou Scroll Annotation Activity

Section 7: Conclusion