**Chapter 9.1 Notes:**

* Three Great Dynasties:
* 1100 B.C. - 200 A.D. - Chinese had lived under the **Zhou, Qin, and Han** dynasties.
  + Zhou was the longest reigning.

**Zhou:**

* Claimed the Mandate of Heaven (God chose them to rule) because the Shang dynasty had a series of weak leaders that led to their demise.
* Agriculture was the basis of their society.
  + Land was owned by nobles and worked by peasants.
* Relatives of the “Son of Heaven” (king) ruled each area.
  + They were supposed to pledge allegiance to him but had complete control of their area so it was easy to challenge his authority.
* Faced severe defeat by their enemies in 771 B.C. and until the 200’s BC local nobles fought for control of the empire.

**Advancements:**

* + Built roads
  + increased foreign trade
  + had horses - formed a cavalry
    - - invented the plow - leads to population growth
  + crossbow
  + elaborated the picture writing started by the Shang Dynasty - it is the root of the same writing used today.

**Qin:**

* 221 BC - wiped out the Zhou and conquered Northern China.
  + ended up uniting more of China under a single authority than ever before.
  + Westerners called it China after the Qin.
* Ruled by Qin Shihuangdi (First Emperor)
  + Reorganized territory into military districts
    - Appointed officials rather than lords.
    - This breaks up the aristocracy.
  + Devised a system of weights and measurements to regulate trade.
  + Standardized coins and writing.
  + Set up a strict law code.
  + Used forced labor - gangs of Chinese peasants
    - Built canals, roads and the Great Wall.
  + Great Wall of China:
    - Connected already standing sections that were meant protect from invasions in the North.
    - 40,000 miles long.
    - Built and rebuilt by later emperors with peasant labor.
* **Strict Rule:**
  + Ended power of lords by taking their lands, and then imposing a land tax.
  + Censorship of scholars
    - ordered all books destroyed that were not considered “practical” subjects like medicine, agriculture, and magic.
    - Didn’t want people to remember how good the past was and rebel - so books were burned and 460 scholars were executed.
  + Very un-liked by his subjects
  + Died in 220 BC
  + Even though unliked, his reforms lasted for 2,000 years

**Han Empire:**

* 207 B.C. Liu Bang overthrew the Qin
  + Started the Han dynasty which ruled until 220 AD.
* Used Qin forms of power without the harshness.
* Reached peak of rule under Wudi
  + personally involved in all aspects of government.
  + extended empire to greatest yet size
  + Sent expedition led by Zhang Qian
    - Expedition failed but Zhang Qian returned 13 years later with much to tell.
    - Described Rome and the Romans and gave Wudi an interest in trade with the west.

**Silk Road:**

* + Linked the east and the west
  + Traded gold, glass, silver, wool, fabric
* **Pax Sinica**-
  + 400 years of prosperity under the Han.
  + Coincided with the Pax Romana in the west.
  + Government collected food and stored it in years of surplus to feed population on bad years.
  + Wudi chose educated people for government positions.
    - Administered exams started the **civil service**: anyone with an education could obtain office.
    - The civil service class of people were called the **mandarins** and would control the government until the early 1900’s.

After Wudi - Han power slowly declined but the achievements were long lasting.

**Chapter 9.2**

Three Ways of Life - Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism

I. **Confucianism:** The primary philosophy of China

A. Confucius - Kongfuzi

1. 551-479 BC

2. most notable originally as a teacher; later adherents expanded his reputation

3. unclear exactly which sayings were his, which attributed to him

4. All Confucius teachings were collected in a book called the Analects.

-Would be the basis of the civil service system.

5. lived in a period of great political, social unrest, when might made right, not etiquette

6. sought to teach aristocrats "ju," meaning, roughly, "unwarlikeness"

B. Sought to create social order based on ethics, personal cultivation

C. therefore morality would create political harmony

D. Emphasized 5 relationships:

ruler - subject

parent - child

husband - wife

old - young

friend - friend

Also put much emphasis on **filial piety** - children’s respect for their parents.

E. Morality and political order was founded on the etiquette of society

- with proper etiquette and ritual, all misunderstandings and problems would vanish

- assumed that some people would always be your superiors, some always inferiors

- Important to honor family, parents, ancestors

F. Confucianism always historical-looking

1. believed that Truth could be found in looking at the ancient Zhou feudal system

2. believed that Truth could be found in the tried-and-true ways

3. believed that history was therefore the way to understand the future

4. therefore not a revolutionary philosophy at all--one of conservative social order

G. “Do not unto others as you would have not done unto you.”

H. Importance to Chinese development

showed the importance of

a. history

b. knowing one's place in society

c. knowing the correct way to act in a given situation

II. **Daoism - Taoism**

Origins from a scholar names **Laozi** (however, he and he book have the same name, he was said to have lived for 220 years because of the peace of the Tao, and its doubtful if he even existed at all.)

Divergence from Confucianism

1. More mystical, magical -- some of its ideas may go back to Shang shamanism

2. Importance of wu-wei, or non-action, yielding to the universal forces

3. emphasizes simplicity, passivity, retreat from the miseries of the world

4. realized that, no matter how perfect the etiquette, sometimes there would be

a. differences of opinion

b. bad people with power or in positions of authority

5. therefore, etiquette could not always help a person survive in the world

6. the complement of etiquette was the Way: *"The Tao cannot be defined, it can only be intuitively sensed or felt and heeded. When men are attuned to the Tao, they cooperate with... nature, respond directly to experience rather than reflect on it, invent no mental abstractions, and live and die quietly...."*

D. Submission and Power

1. always submit to power

a. even if you win one battle, someday you will lose

b. therefore you learn not to care about battles

c. this would set you free from worldly cares, worldly strife and fights

2. therefore submission would become a power in itself

3. submitting to bad people would break their power over you

a. doing good to everyone, even those who hurt you

4. submission would set you on the Way, the Path, the Truth

a. this would not be temporal freedom

b. instead it would be spiritual freedom

E. So, one could never find the Tao unless you stopped looking!

G. Would be a lasting complement to Confucianism for China

1. everything cannot be understood

2. the path of history, or people, could not always be known

3. even with elaborate schemes of etiquette and ritual, sometimes the Way was obscure

III. **Yin and Yang:**

A. A chinese theory related Daoism that is to two opposing forces believed to be present in all of nature.

Harmony occurred when the two forces were in balance.

Helped Chinese accept seemingly opposites, and practice both Daoism and Confucianism. As well as accept Buddhist ideas brought in from Indian traders.

IV. **Legalism:**

The opposite of Confucianism.

Legalism - like Zhou thought, highly rationalistic

* + Sought to create an powerful, centralized state
  + Rejects ethics and history as guides to rulership
  + Rather, a system of strict and detailed laws
  + **Hanfeizi** (d. 233 BC): "Rewards should be rich and certain so that people will be attracted by them; punishments should be severe and definite so that people will fear them; and laws should be familiar and steadfast so that people will be familiar with them.
  + All must serve the state, in peace and in war
  + War is good:

for strengthening the state and king and making the people disciplined, submissive

**Chapter 9.3**

**Society and Culture**

**Family Life:**

* Never related to each other as equals, but into a **hierarchy**: different levels of importance.
  + Father at head (determined everything from education to marriage) with sons following, then women in order of age.
    - A childless daughter in law was the lowest ranking.
  + Each expected obedience from those further down on the hierarchy, and must obey and respect those above them.
* Each family member had specific duties.
* Also had to respect ancestors.
* Early on - **Nuclear families** dominated society, later on this would change to **extended families** living together in one household.

**Status of women:**

* Always subordinate to men - especially under Confucianism.
* Women lived under the authority of her own sons.
* Baby girls were valued far less than sons (sons would stay at home and help, girls leave to live with husbands family)
* Han women fared better than those in following dynasties:
  + could inherit property
  + could remarry after husband's death.

**Society and Economy:**

* Three main classes:

1. Landowners: wealthy, lived in big homes with elaborate furniture and silk. Ate rich variety foods.

* + - Didn’t always hold land for more than a few generations, because land would be divided among all boys, not always just the oldest.

2. Peasants: 90% of population

* + - Cultivated the wealthy’s land.
    - Typically lived in villiages away from the land they worked.
    - Plain diet of rice, beans, and fish.
    - Raised livestock and were at constant threat of flood and famine.
    - Were required to serve the government once per year and gave ½ of grown produce to the landowners.

3. Merchants: traders, shopkeepers, bankers.

* + - Even though they were generally wealthy - society under confucius said that the pursuit of money is a unworthy past time.
    - They were forbidden from taking the civil service examinations.

**Literature:**

* + Some books survived the Qin destruction and of them was the Five Classics:
    - All civil service candidates were required to master them.
      * Book of Songs
      * Book of Documents
      * Book of Changes
      * Spring and Autumn Annals.
  + Under the Han king Wudi, the Historical Record was written by Sima Qian - the first true history of Ancient China.

**Science and Technology:**

* + 300’s BC - calculated the year as 356 ¼ days
  + Recorded Halley’s comet.

**Medicine:**

* Recognized the value of nutrition and vitamins for health.
  + Prescribed foods and herbs for medicine.
* Acupuncture: insertion of tiny needles into the skin at vital points.
  + Believed to balance the body between yin and yang.
* Veterinary medicine was practiced for farm animals.

**Inventions:**

Silk (prehistoric)

Paper (100 B.C.)

Iron Drill bits

Wheelbarrow

Suspension bridge

Compass

Gunpowder