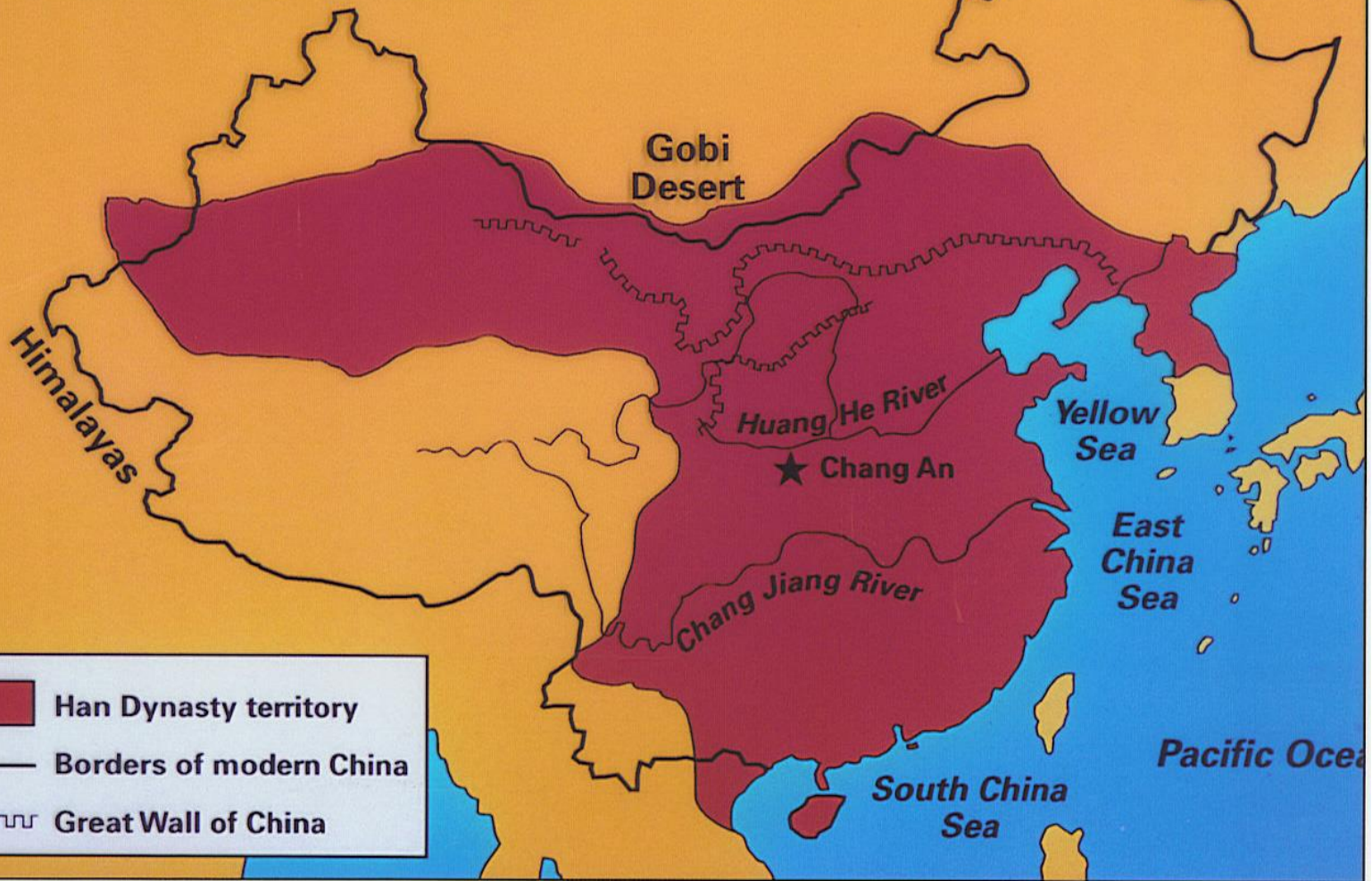


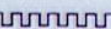


Han Dynasty

202 B.C. – 221 A.D.

Map of the Han Dynasty



-  Han Dynasty territory
-  Borders of modern China
-  Great Wall of China



Han Dynasty

One of the greatest and most long-lasting dynasties in Chinese history;

A. Discarded harsh policies of Qin Dynasty:

- Abandoned use of cruel punishment that had been part of Legalistic approach;
- Confucian principles became basis for a new state philosophy;

B. Retained some practices of Qin:

- Three ministries
- Division of local government into provinces and counties;
- Continued choosing government officials on basis of merit rather than birth;

***Introduced civil service exams** and established **school to train** candidates;

**** This system will influence Chinese civilization for two thousand years;**

Civil Service Exams

- This system will influence Chinese civilization for two thousand years;
- Students expected to learn teachings of Confucius; ensured influence of Confucianism for a long time;
- Chinese history and law

A Vast Empire

- Strong central government;
- Population increased rapidly; from about 20 to over 60 million at height of Han Dynasty;

Impact: growing need for large and efficient bureaucracy;

Expansion

- added southern regions below Yangtze River;
- added what is today northern Vietnam along South China Sea;
- Westward into central Asia
- Armies drove back nomads beyond wall to the north
- Noteworthy expansionist ruler: **Han Wudi**, Martial Emperor of Han;



Society

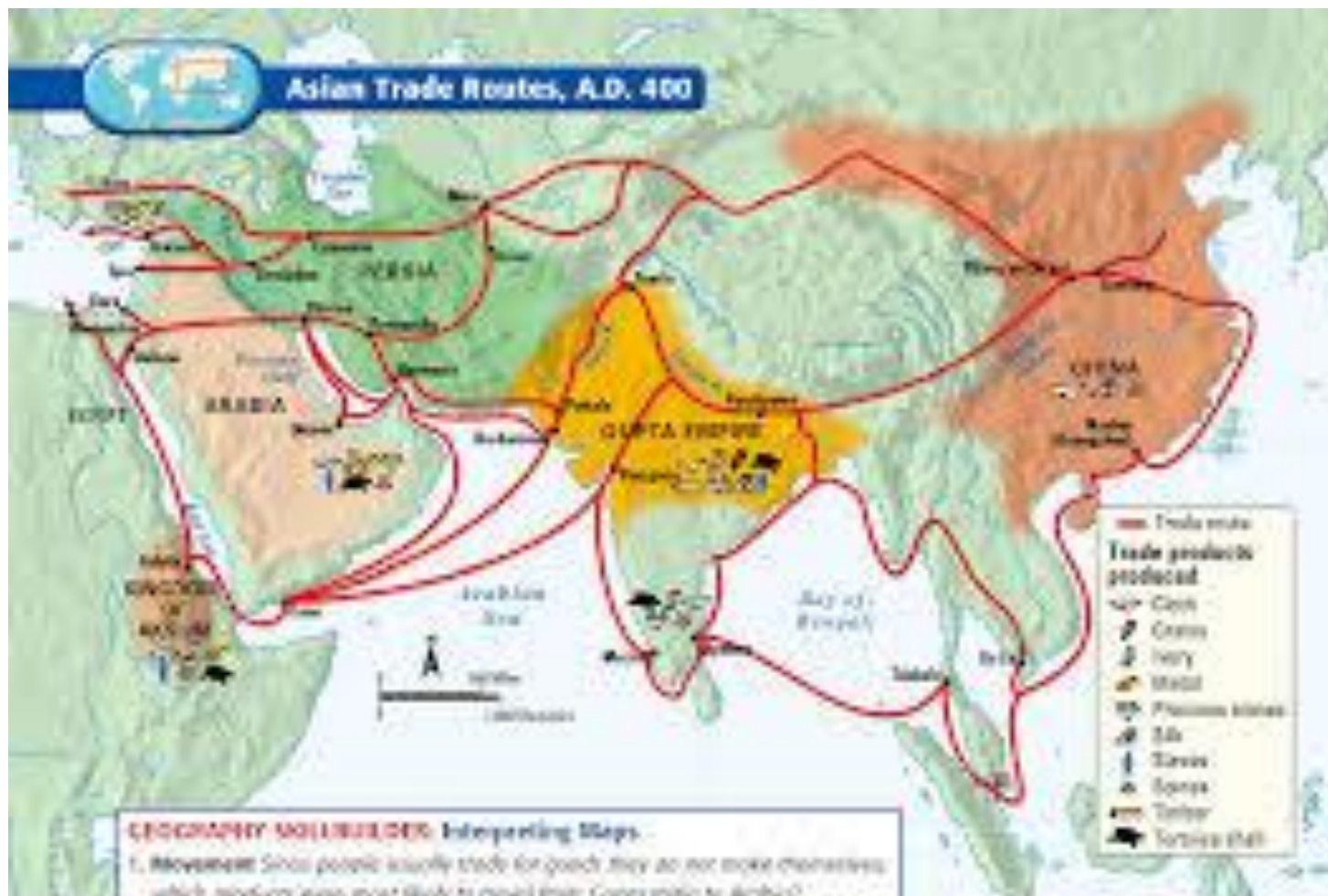
- A. Central Government limits power of the great noble families:
 - Continue policy of free peasants paying taxes directly to the state;
 - Civil service exam ensures capable bureaucracy;
- B. Struggle of Farmer:
 - Taxes
 - Military service
 - Forced labor up to one month annually;
 - Growing population reduced size of individual farm plot to about one acre per person;
 - Many forced to sell land and become tenant farmers;
 - Rent up to half annual harvest;
- C. Nobles
 - Limited by strong central government;
 - Gain land from poor peasants; often owned thousands of acres;

Prosperity



- Major expansion of trade and manufacturing;
- Directed by state: government owned shipyards, manufactured weapons, controlled mining, operated granaries;
- Expanded into foreign trade: central and southeast Asia; even India and Mediterranean;
- Sea trade and overland caravans on the Silk Road through the vast deserts and plateaus westward into central Asia;

Trade and the Han Empire





New Technology

- Textile manufacturing
- Water mills
- Iron casting – steel
- Paper
- Shipping technology: rudder and fore and aft rigging; ships could sail into wind for first time; allowed for heavy cargoes;



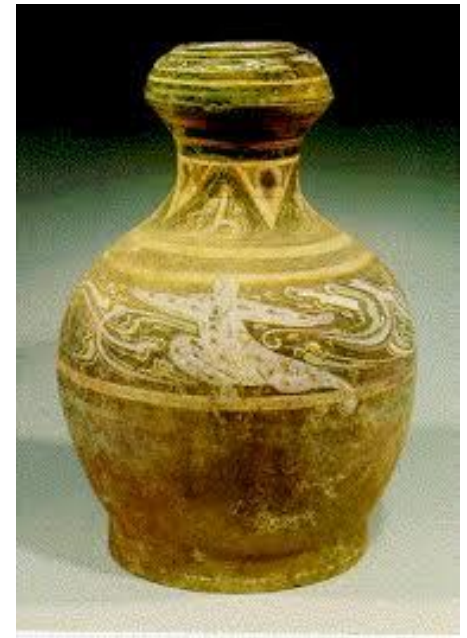
Family Life

- Renewed emphasis on family; Confucianist influence;
- Education and morals central;

Culture

- Confucian classics become required reading for generations;
- Writing of history important; dynastic histories; combined political and social history with biographies of key figures; Primary purpose: moral and political; reasons for rise and fall of individuals and dynasties;
- Music: flute, stringed instruments, bells and chimes and drum; music as a means of est, order and refining human character;
- Art: terra cotta warriors;

Art of the Han Empire







漢朝
漢朝
汉朝

Horse



Han Painting



Han Art

