

Freshman History Seminar

Review Sheet: Ancient China

How did geography influence the development of China?

Yangtze and Hwang Ho Rivers

Topography: mountainous and hard to farm

Shang Dynasty

Oracle bones

Bronze-casting

Ancestor veneration

Zhou Dynasty

Mandate of heaven

Heaven as impersonal law of nature

900 years

Decline into Period of Warring States

Agricultural economy

Rice

Silk

Jade

Confucius

Pragmatic, oriented on this world

Philosophy essentially political and ethical

Human behavior

Duty and humanity(compassion)

Analects

Aphorism

5 fundamental relationships

Taoism

The Tao as ineffable

Man and ethical behavior not important

Nothing more important than anything else

No value judgements

Knowledge is not rational but intuitive

Rules and laws are artificial

Legalism

Ideology of Qin Dynasty

Science of punishment-harsh and severe, frequent and without mercy

About power and authority

Low view of human nature

Laws rigid and detailed

Chinese Society:

Written language

Unity and common identity

All regions use same writing system

Family

Sacred quality

Filial piety

Male supremacy

Boys born facing in and girls born facing out

Family over the individual

Superior and inferior

Marriages arranged

Qin Dynasty

Shi Huangdi - First Emperor

Legalism

Taxes peasants directly

Nobility no longer inherits administrative positions

Book burnings

Strong centralized state

Unifying China

Lords/nobility held in check

Han Dynasty – see powerpoint