CHINA
Some Chinese Proverbs

- Dig a well before you are thirsty.

- One lash to a good horse, one word to a wise man.

- Kindness is more binding than a loan.

- If the upper beam is awry, then the lower beams will also be crooked. (pertains to the example of superiors)
The Takla Makan Desert is one of the four largest deserts in China. A greenbelt along the Huang He borders its southern edge. More than one-fifth of China’s territory is desert.
IT IS BETTER TO HAVE ONE CHILD ONLY
Chinese History
Capitals of China

Anyang - Shang Dynasty
Zhengzhou - Shang Dynasty
Luoyang - Han Dynasty
Chang An (Xi’an) - Zhou, Chin, Han, Tang
Hangzhou - Song
Nanjing - Ming
Beijing - Jin, Yuan, Ming, Qing, Republic
Shang Dynasty

• Began 1700 BCE – lasted 700 years
• Noblemen acknowledged Shang king
• Large armies with 2-horse chariots
• Capital city Anyang
• Oracle bones with first written language
• Social classes evident
• Shang bronzes exemplified high artistic achievement
Shang Dynasty Bronzes
Bronze vessel with rams, Shang, 23 in
Written Language in China began as a desire to predict the future.

A shaman touched a tortoise shell or oracle bone with the heated point of a stick, and the shell or bone would crack. The cracks would contain a message from the spirit world which the shaman would interpret.
Oracle-bone script
of the Shang dynasty
(16th century–11th century B.C.E.)

Zhou dynasty script
(11th century–3rd century B.C.E.)

Qin dynasty script
(221–207 B.C.E.)

Han dynasty script
(207 B.C.E.–220 C.E.)

Modern script
(3rd century C.E.–present)

Contemporary script,
People's Republic of China
(1950–the present)
Earliest Chinese Spiritual Beliefs

Nature Worship
Ancestor Worship
Strong ethic of Family
Folk Spirits

Around 500 BC Confucianism, Taoism, and Legalism got grafted onto these earlier beliefs.
Chinese worldview came from Chinese Cosmology

Heaven and Earth are fundamentally life-giving

Everything in life is relational – heaven and earth, night and day, male and female

Harmony basically prevails among the parts of the cosmos. Each part works for the good of the whole and yields to the next at the right time.

The capacity of humans to give life is an awesome thing and for the Chinese the gift of life at birth was the most fabulous gift parents give to their children. For that children must honor, perhaps even worship, parents for their entire lives
Confucianism

5 Sacred Relationships will promote order, justice, and stability
Wife obeys husband, Children obey parents, Younger children obey older children, Friend is loyal to Friend, all People obey Emperor
Ancestor Worship, Work Ethic, Human Heartedness, Reciprocity
Written down in Analects
Taoism
Founder Lao Tzu
Tao means “The Way of Nature”

First Words from **Tao-Te -Ching**

“There is a thing confusedly formed
Born before Heaven and Earth
Silent and Void
It stands alone and does not change
It goes around and does not weary
It is capable of being the mother of the world
I know not its name
So I’ll call it ‘The Way’ ”

Taoists were supposed to observe Nature’s ways and thereby learn how to live.

The Taoist symbol is the Yin/Yang
Legalism

Founded by Han Fei Tzu
Believed in strict, clear laws and a powerful, authoritarian government. Favored severe punishments, and believed everyone should take responsibility for obeying the law. Political dissent was a high crime punishable by death. To stay in power, rulers should crush opposition.
Emperor Huang Di
Chin Dynasty (221-202 BC)

China’s first emperor
Ruled using philosophy of Legalism.
Assistant, Li Si, may have been more heartless and ruthless than Huang Di. They imprisoned dissidents, killed scholars, and forced people to work for the state, and started to build the Great Wall of China.
Standardized currency, weights and measures, and language of the empire.
Imposing Great Wall of China
The Great Wall of China winds through the countryside northwest of Beijing. The wall was originally a series of fortifications that were joined together in the 3rd century BC. Hundreds of thousands of workers labored for more than a decade to construct the stone and masonry ramparts, whose wide expanses were used as a transportation route as well as for defense. Over the centuries the wall has been rebuilt and restored. Today, it is regarded as one of the great wonders of the world and is reportedly the only human-built structure visible from space.
Clay Army of Xi’an

In eastern China, near the city of Xi’an, lies a magnificent archaeological treasure from the 3rd century BC. Archaeologists and local residents have excavated a terra-cotta army of tens of thousands of soldiers, horses, and chariots. These realistic life-sized figures were originally created to guard the tomb of Emperor Shi Huangdi, the first ruler of the Qin (Ch’ in) dynasty.
“The Emperor and the Assassin,” a 1999 movie about Huang Di. Li Xuejian plays Huang Di.
Complex trade

The Silk Road

- Silk Fabric and clothing
- Porcelain
- Tea
- Religious goods
- Jewelry
Buddhism Spreads to China
Buddhist Caves of Longmen

The influence of Buddhism is evident in the carved and painted caves of Longmen (also called Lungmen Caves) in Henan Province near the city of Luoyang. More than 1,300 caves here contain nearly 100,000 stone statues of Buddha and 3,600 inscribed stone tablets dating from the 5th to the 7th century. Among the great remaining masterpieces of Buddhist culture, the contents of these caves provide a wealth of information about Chinese history.
Buddhist Kung Fu in China

- Shaolin Buddhist Monastery built in a forest on a sacred mountain near the city of Zhengzhou in 464 AD
- Kung Fu master Bantuo from India introduced kung Fu and Buddhist monks became skilled
- Buddhism was supposed to be nonviolent, but kung Fu was a self-defense system
- China became an early center of martial arts
Chinese, even today, value martial arts as a way to achieve a balance between body and emotions. Performance and style is an outward expression which must be in balance with the inner spirituality of Kung Fu achieved through meditation.

In 1981 the movie Shaolin Temple with Jet Lee was a blockbuster which renewed interest in martial arts and caused young men to flock to the temple prompting a rebirth of the temple in modern times.
SITUATION FOR CHINESE WOMEN
When China Ruled the Seas

Treasure Ship Voyages of Cheng Ho
MING CHINA 1368 - 1644

1368  Ming dynasty est. at Nanking
1421  Capital moved to Peking
1522  Mongol incursions and to Japanese sea pirate attacks
1566  

Colors:
- Yellow: China 1400
- Orange: China 1644

Key locations:
- Nanking
- Peking
- Jidda
- Calicut
- Ayuthia
- Saigon
- Palembang
- Mogadishu
- Jedo
- Kyoto
- Nagasaki
- Kyoto
- Hanoi
- Chittagong
- Canton
- Siam
- Sian
- Kaifeng
- Tanguts
- Karakorum
- Tibet
- Philippines
- Sp. 1564

Cheng-ho's naval expeditions 1405-33
Beijing’s Imperial Palace
A collection of 800 buildings makes up the Imperial Palace in Beijing’s Forbidden City. Once home to two dynasties of Chinese emperors, the Ming and the Qing, the palace is now a museum. The original structure was built in the 15th century, but it burned down numerous times and had to be repeatedly restored and rebuilt. Most of the palace buildings standing today date from the late 18th or early 19th centuries.