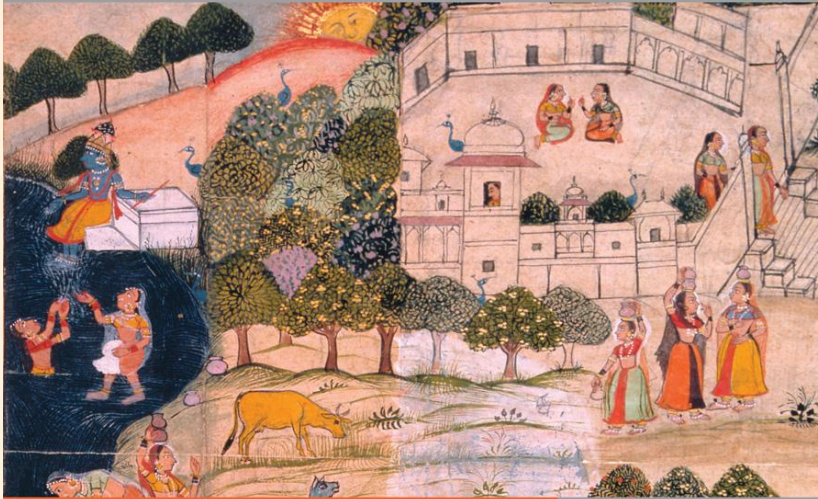


PHILIP J. ADLER / RANDALL L. POWELS

WORLD CIVILIZATIONS



Seventh Edition

Chapter 6 Ancient China to 221

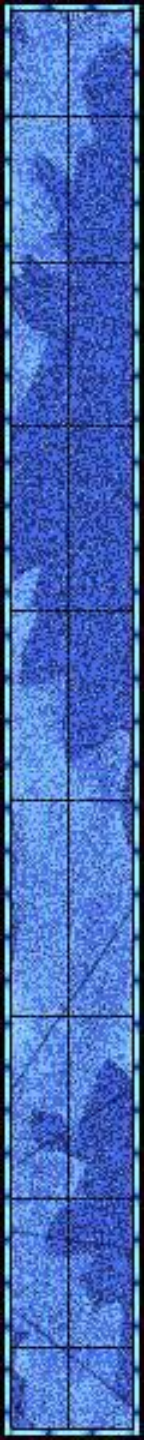
c. 2200–1700 B.C.E.	Xia Dynasty
c. 1700–1100 B.C.E.	Shang Dynasty
c. 1100–750 B.C.E.	Western Zhou Dynasty: unified empire, capital at Xian
c. 750–221 B.C.E.	Eastern Zhou Dynasty: new capital at Loyang
551–479 B.C.E.	Life of Confucius
c. 400–221 B.C.E.	Era of the Warring States



Early China

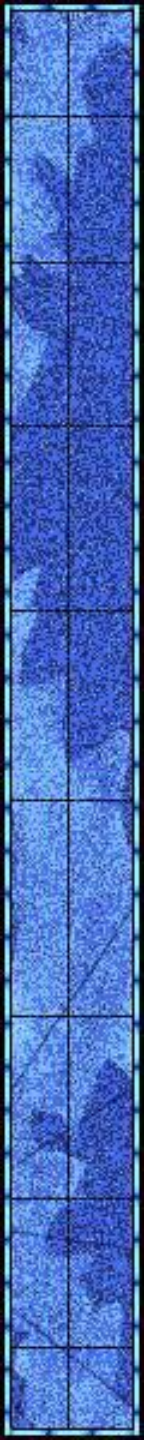
Most isolated of all ancient civilizations

- Developed agriculture & metalworking independently
- Yet shared characteristics of others
 - Agrarian Foundation
 - Long series of dynastic monarchies
 - Bordered by desert & steppe lands, it endured frequent invasions
 - By nomads, Turco-Mongolian
- Chinese religion: worship of ancestors and nature spirits



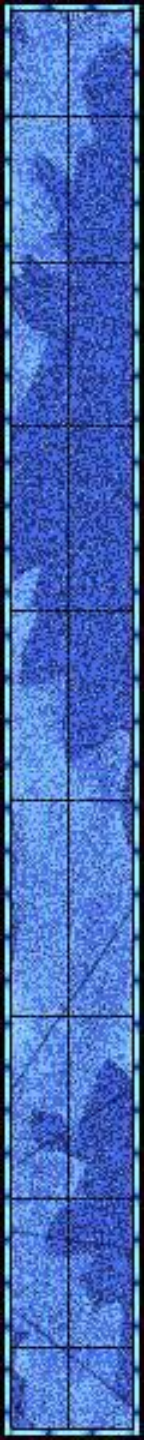
Early China

- Heartland divided between:
 - Dry Yellow River Valley Plain
 - Western Steppe Land
 - Better watered southern plains
- 7000-6000 BCE, villages appeared (Yellow River)
 - Irrigation and terracing
 - Millet, barley, soy, hemp in loose soil called loess
 - Cradle of Chinese Civilization
- Second center – Yangtze River
 - Tamer river, more water
 - Villages appear 10,000-7000 BCE
 - Wet rice cultivation
 - People not originally Chinese
- Eventually, Northerners (Han) conquered South
 - Rice became more important than millet
- Ritual appeasement of ancestors of senior lineages
- Unification and dynastic rule come hand in hand
- 2200 BCE –Xia, first dynasty



Shang Dynasty 1700-1100 BCE

- Associated with two important innovations: bronze casting and writing
- Strictly hierarchical society
 - Powerful king with warrior court
 - Skilled artisans, small traders in towns
 - Peasants (majority)
- Public cult of the royal ancestors
- Oracle bones used to discern divine wishes



Aspects of Chinese Life Visible during the Shang Dynasty

- Supreme importance of family
 - Ruler & his household responsible for prosperity
 - Emphasis on this world
 - Importance of education, literacy



Zhou Dynasty

- Nomadic origins
- Over 700 years of rule, Zhou extended China's borders
- Phases of the Zhou Dynasty
 - 1100-750 BCE Unified empire, strong rulers
 - 750-400 BCE Provincial revolts weaken royal government
- Extensive literature survived: history, records of all kinds
- Mandate of Heaven



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*Monster face,
a popular
motif on Shang
bronze wares*

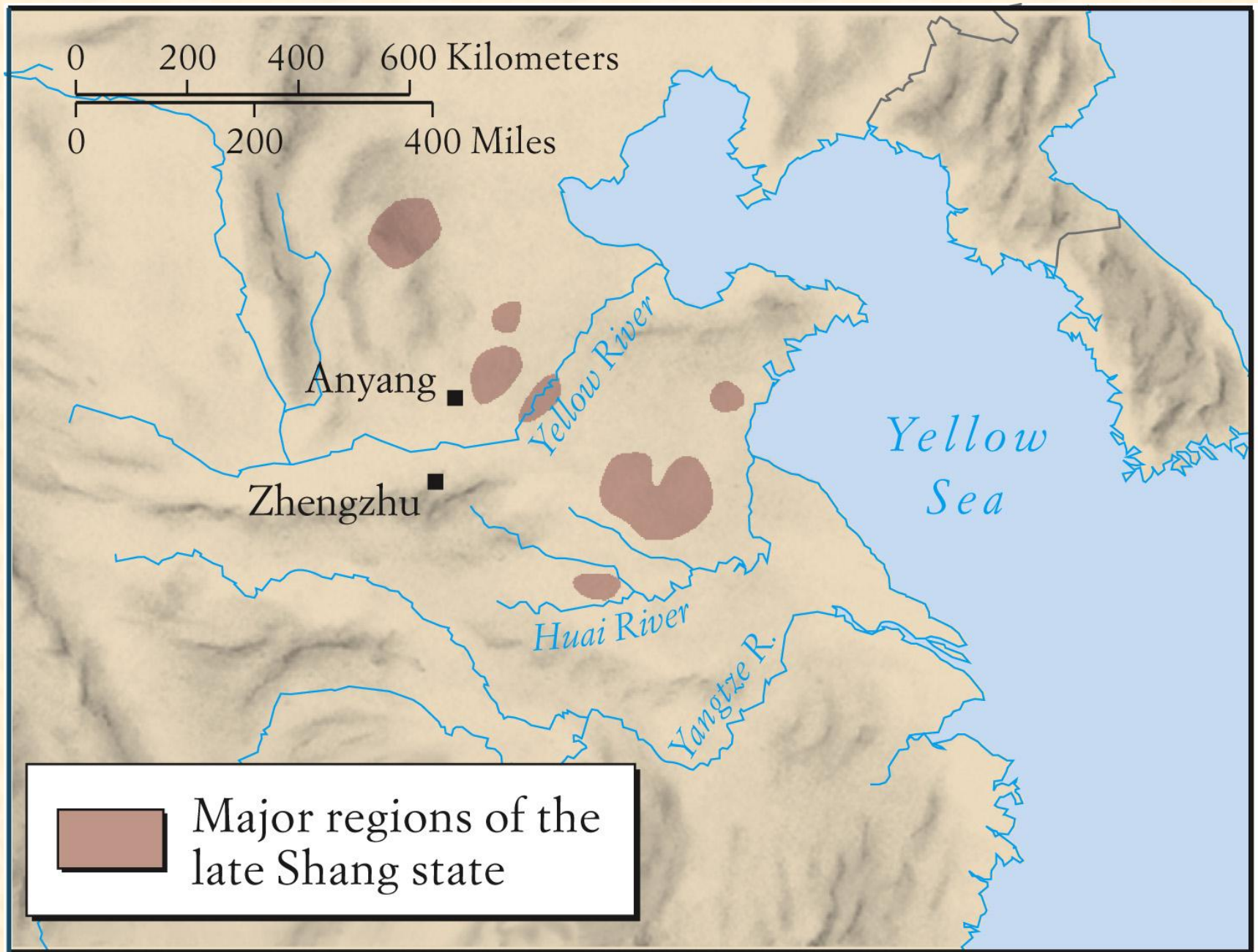
Horns

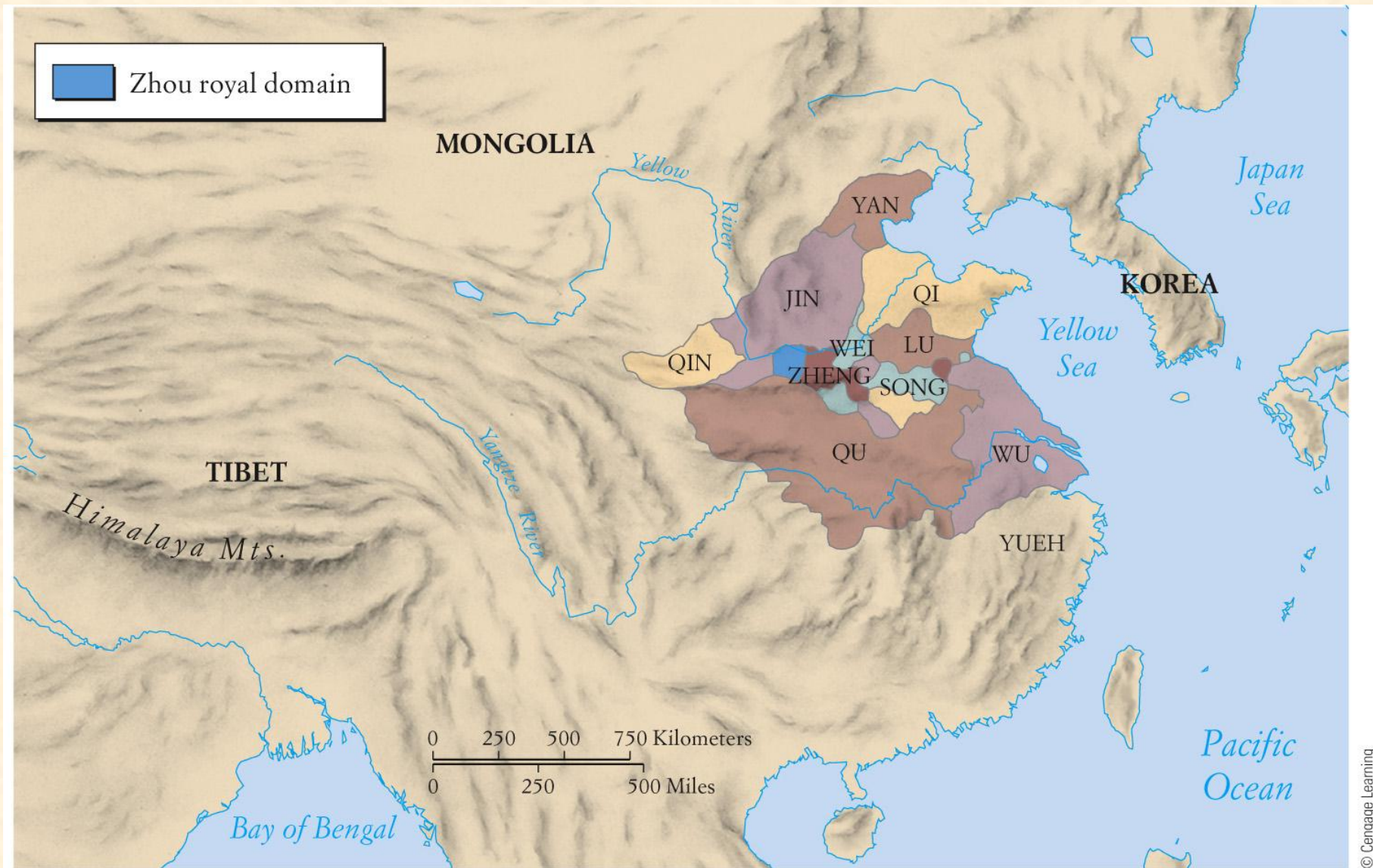
Ear

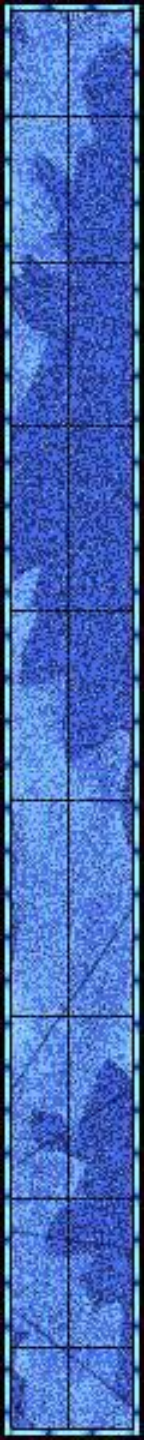
Eyes

Mouth

*Other
unidentified
fauna*







Mandate of Heaven

- Justified overthrow of the Shang
- Heaven gave a mandate to the ruler as long as he ruled well and justly
- If he betrayed the mandate, the mandate could be lost
- Highly influential concept in Chinese history

Writing

- Beginnings date to about 1500 BCE
- Originally pictographic, then developed logographs to signify non-pictorial concepts
- Students had to memorize about 5000 logographs to be literate
- Richest vocabulary of any ancient written language
- Earliest writing found on oracle bones
- Immensely important in unifying groups which came to call themselves “Chinese”



Cultural and Daily Life

- Bronze work
 - Technical excellence, artistic grace
 - Metal technology generally advanced
 - Cast iron and copper widely used
- Distinctive Chinese architectural style developed during Shang Dynasty
 - Tile pagoda-style roof-lines
 - Diminishing upper stories
- Trade with central Asian Steppes
 - Silk, jade, metals and salt traded for horses
 - Nomad's war chariot inspired invention of horse harness
- Peasants were moderately prosperous, rarely enslaved, majority were sharecropping tenants
- Literary arts
 - Earliest surviving books date to 800 BCE
 - Professional historians wrote chronicles of rulers
 - Poetry, calligraphy

The British Library/Heritage-Images/Glow Images, Inc.





Metals and Salt

- Shang, Zhou, Qin monopolized access to bronze weapons and ritual objects
 - Lost wax method
- 6th C BCE - iron was used for tools, utensils, sacred objects, and weapons
- Iron plowshare raised agricultural yield resulting in 400% population growth
- Government had salt monopoly to create tax revenue for armies – 50-80% tax from salt



Silk

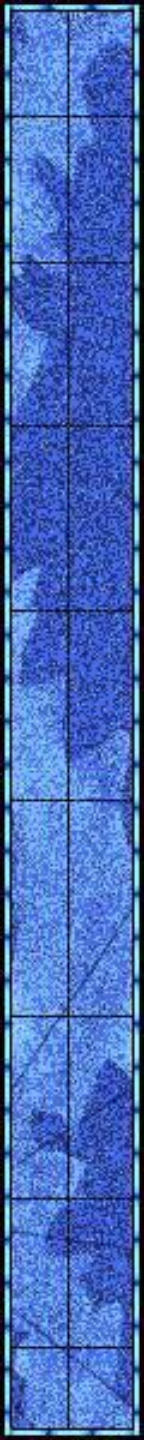
- Silk production women's work
 - ancestral offerings in public ritual
 - prized for its beauty and easy to dye
 - medium for writing and painting
 - used as currency to buy war horses
 - source of tax revenue



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Freer Gallery of Art, Smithsonian Institution, USA/Gift of Charles Lang Freer/The Bridgeman Art Library



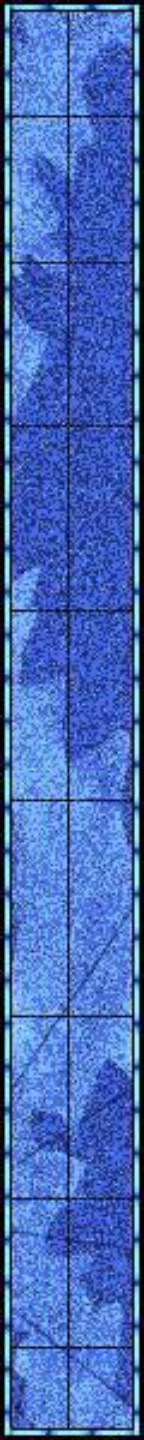
Confucius and Confucian Philosophy

Confucius:

- Most influential figure
 - Molder of patterns of education
 - Ultimate authority on Chinese ethical conduct

Confucian Philosophy

- Practical interests centered on individual and political relations
- Chinese family is the model
 - State should be like harmonious family
 - Headed by males
 - Each person has rights and duties
 - Women subservient to fathers, husbands and sons



Confucius and Confucian Philosophy

Gentility (courtesy, justice, moderation) was chief virtue

- Rich and strong had obligation to poor and weak
- Proper role for gentleman was in government

Influence:

- Rulers judged according to his guidelines
- Educated officials (mandarins, *shi*) would eventually become the governing class and remain so for 2000 years
- Confucius had a low opinion of traders
 - merchants at the bottom of the social ladder
- Rulers came to prefer status quo, harmony over change
- Distrust of foreigners





Daoism

- Concentrated on nature, following the “Way”
- Legendary founder Lao Zi
- “*The Way of the Dao*” (Dao de Jing) attributed to him
- Best government is least government
- *Way of Nature* is perceived through meditation, observation
- Man must seek harmony of parts of the whole - avoid all extremes
- Eventually degenerated into peasant superstition



Other Rivals

- Hundred Schools period
 - Many new philosophical schools emerged
- Legalism
 - Political philosophy justifying the use of force
 - Popularized during Era of the Warring States
 - Sees people as inclined to evil selfishness, so government must restrain them
 - Strict censorship – crush independent thought



Rivals to Confucius

- Moism
 - Mozi, philosopher
 - Doctrine of universal love during Warring States period
 - Intellectual repudiation of Confucianism regarding primacy of family
 - Mozi thought this undermined social equality
 - His own idea: treat others as you wish to be treated
 - Followers emphasized defensive tactics to end chronic war
 - Lost appeal with rise of Qin, Shi Huangdi