

## THE HUMANITIES: The Ancient World and the Classical Past

### Chapter 7 – OTHER EMPIRES: Urban Life and Imperial Majesty in China and India

In which river's valley did the Chinese people first settle around 7000 BCE? What was the symbolic significance of the Central plain?

What was the purpose of the Great Wall?

Why are there few remaining edifices of ancient Chinese civilization? By comparison, what is unique about the Chinese written language? What was the role of Fu Xi in this development?

What was the first Chinese dynasty? What was their attitude regarding chance?

What classic of Chinese literature provides a guide to the workings of the universe? What simple principle is the basis of the wisdom within the text? How does the symbol of yin-yang convey this concept?

What is considered to be the greatest artistic achievement of the Shang dynasty? In what way does this artistic activity tie in with the concept of yin-yang?

What widespread belief was shared by the cultures of the Sumerians, Egyptians, Mycenaeans, and Shang?

According to the Zhou, why were they able to overthrow the Shang dynasty?

What is the *Shi Jing*? What is "the Dao"? What does the text mean when it says that the way to attain it is through "not-doing"? What is qi? How can it be understood?

What traditional values form the core of Confucianism? Which ancient text did Confucius particularly value? What are the *Analects*? Identify *li*, *ren*, *de*, and *wen* and their interrelationship. Why did Confucianism become extremely popular among Chinese leaders?

What were among the contributions of the Qin dynasty? How did they maintain control?

What was the view of Mencius regarding human morality? Who was Han Fei Zi? What was his philosophy of government? Who were the Legalists? What did they teach?

During what dynasty did China see "the Flowering of Culture"? Why was Cai Lun's invention of cellulose-based paper so significant?

What was the Silk Road? Why was it so important in China's development?

Along which river did Indian civilization develop? What was this civilization notable for?

Who invaded India around 1500 BCE? What did they introduce? What are the *Vedas*? The *Upanishads*?

Who are the three principal gods of Hindu mythology and what does each represent? Why is goddess worship fundamental to Hindu religion?

**Vocabulary:** bodhisattva  
dharma

legalism  
mandala

nirvana  
stupa