

# China under the Shang Dynasty

- Chinese legend says that Pan Gu the first man created the universe.
- The first legendary dynasty was the Xia. Scholars are not sure if it actually existed.
- China's first historical dynasty was the Shang ( 1500 B.C. - 1122 B.C.)
- The Shang started out of a need to control flooding.
- True of most river valley civilizations .



Shang China



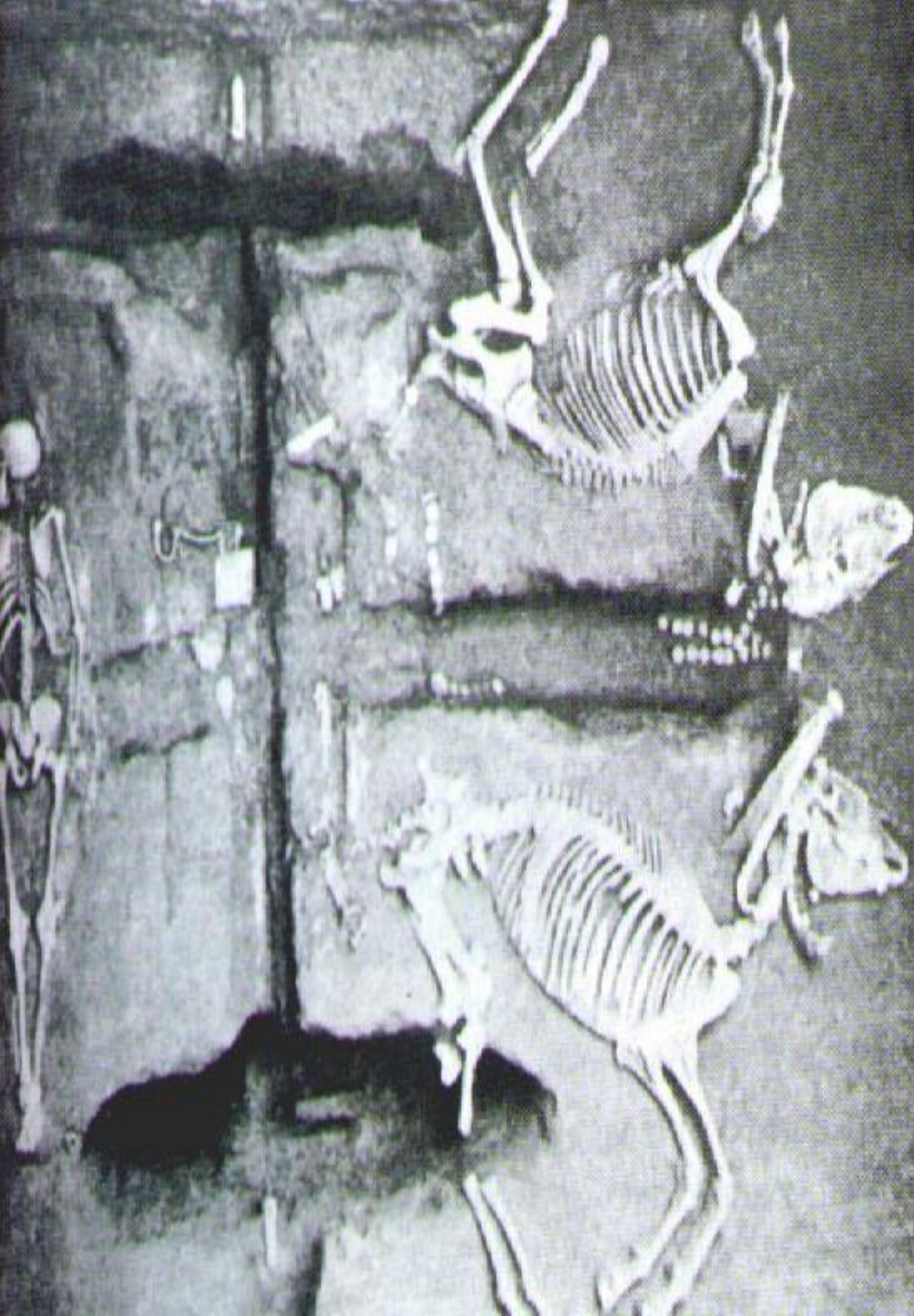


Xia	2205?-1570? bc	agriculture, bronze, first writing
Shang or Yin	1570?-1045? bc	first major dynasty; first Chinese calendar, metallurgy, uniform writing code
Zhou	1045?-256 bc	developed society using money, iron, written laws; age of Confucius
Qin	221-206 bc	unification after period of Warring States, building of Great Wall begun, roads built
Han	206 bc-ad 220	first centralized and effectively administered empire; introduction of Buddhism
Three Kingdoms Period	220-265	division into three states, prolonged fighting and eventual victory of the state of Wei over Chu and Wu; Confucianism superseded by Buddhism and Daoism (Taoism)
Jin	265-317	beginning of Hun invasions in the north
Sui	581-618	reunification; barbarian invasions stopped; Great Wall refortified
Tang	618-907	centralized government; empire greatly extended; period of excellence in sculpture, painting, and poetry
Wu Dai (Five Dynasties)	907-959	economic depression and loss of territory in northern China, central Asia, and Korea; first use of paper money
Song	960-1279	period of calm and creativity; printing developed (movable type); central government restored; northern and western frontiers neglected and Mongol incursions begun
Yuan	1279-1368	beginning of Mongol rule in China, under Kublai Khan; Marco Polo visited China; dynasty brought to an end by widespread revolts, centered in Mongolia
Ming	1368-1644	Mongols driven out by native Chinese, Mongolia captured by 2nd Ming emperor; period of architectural development; Beijing flourished as new capital
Qing (Manchu)	1644-1911	China once again under non-Chinese rule, the Qing conquered by nomads from Manchuria; trade with the West; culture flourished, but conservatism eventually led to the dynasty's overthrow by nationalistic revolutionaries led by Sun Yatsen

# **The Government of the Shang Dynasty**

- The first Shang rulers conquered city-states. Their capital was near Anyang.**
- The Shang rulers practiced a type of feudalism. Land for military service.**
- They used chariots and bronze weapons.**
- The ruler was the link between heaven and earth.**
- The Mandate of Heaven or divine right**





*Shang bronze ax  
used for behead*



# Culture During the Shang Dynasty

- **The Shang ruled from 1500 - 1122.**
- **The Shang economy was based on Agriculture.**
- **The Shang learned to make silk during the Shang dynasty from mulberry trees and silk worms.**
- **The Chinese learned to use kaolin pottery, and cast in bronze.**
- **Bronze works very ornate and detailed.**







# Culture During the Shang Dynasty

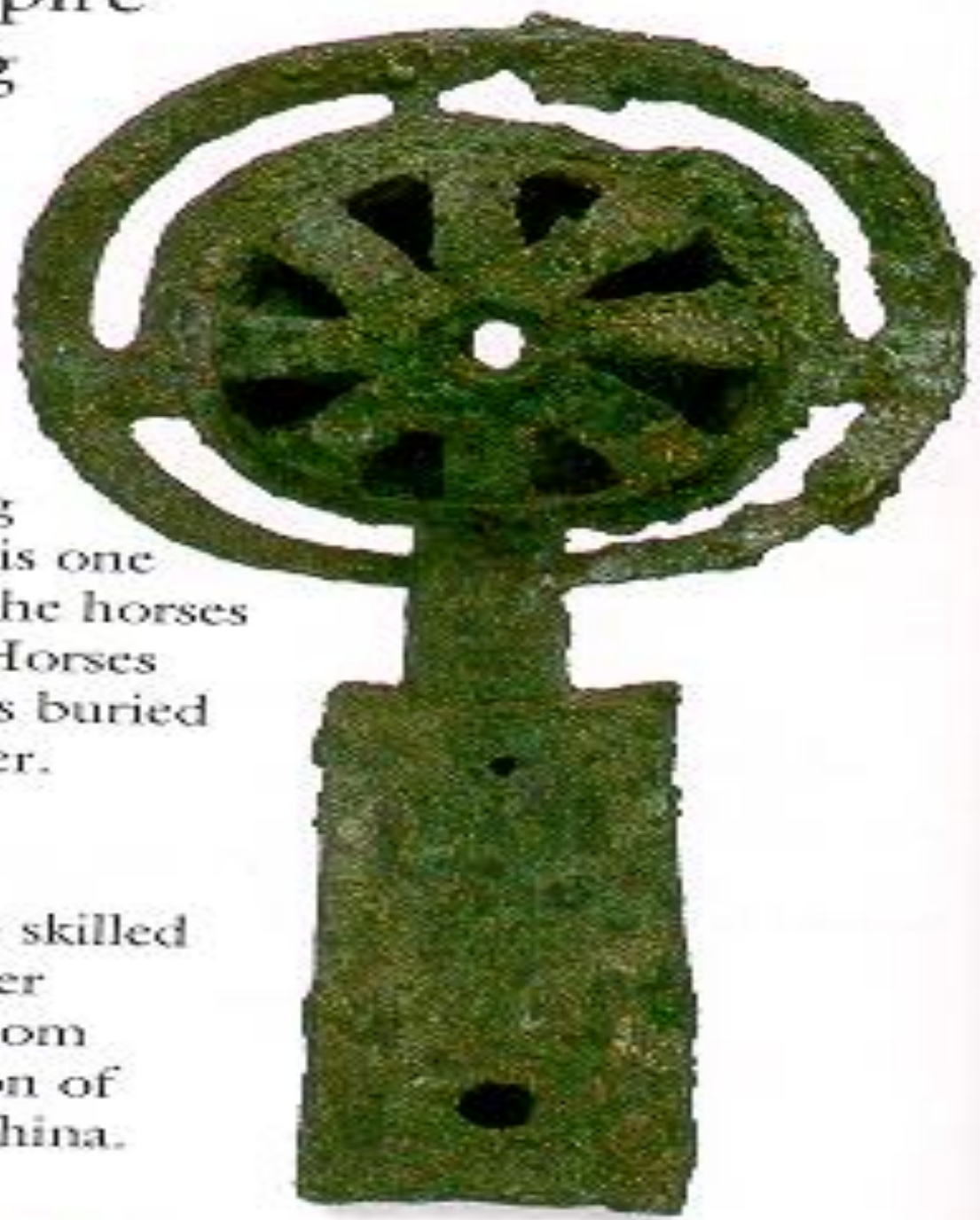
- The calendar was based on the moon, had to be adjusted by astronomers.
- The astronomers became very important and the first historians of China.
- The Chinese language consisted of one syllable words. More complex words were a combination of words.
- Chinese writing from top to bottom 10,000 characters.



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# Shang Religion

- The religion of the Shang was a combination of animism and ancestor worship.
- Respect for family and ancestor was an important part of the religion.
- Priests played an important role in daily Chinese life. Priest astronomers interpreted oracle bones.
- Oracle bones have helped historians understand Chinese history.



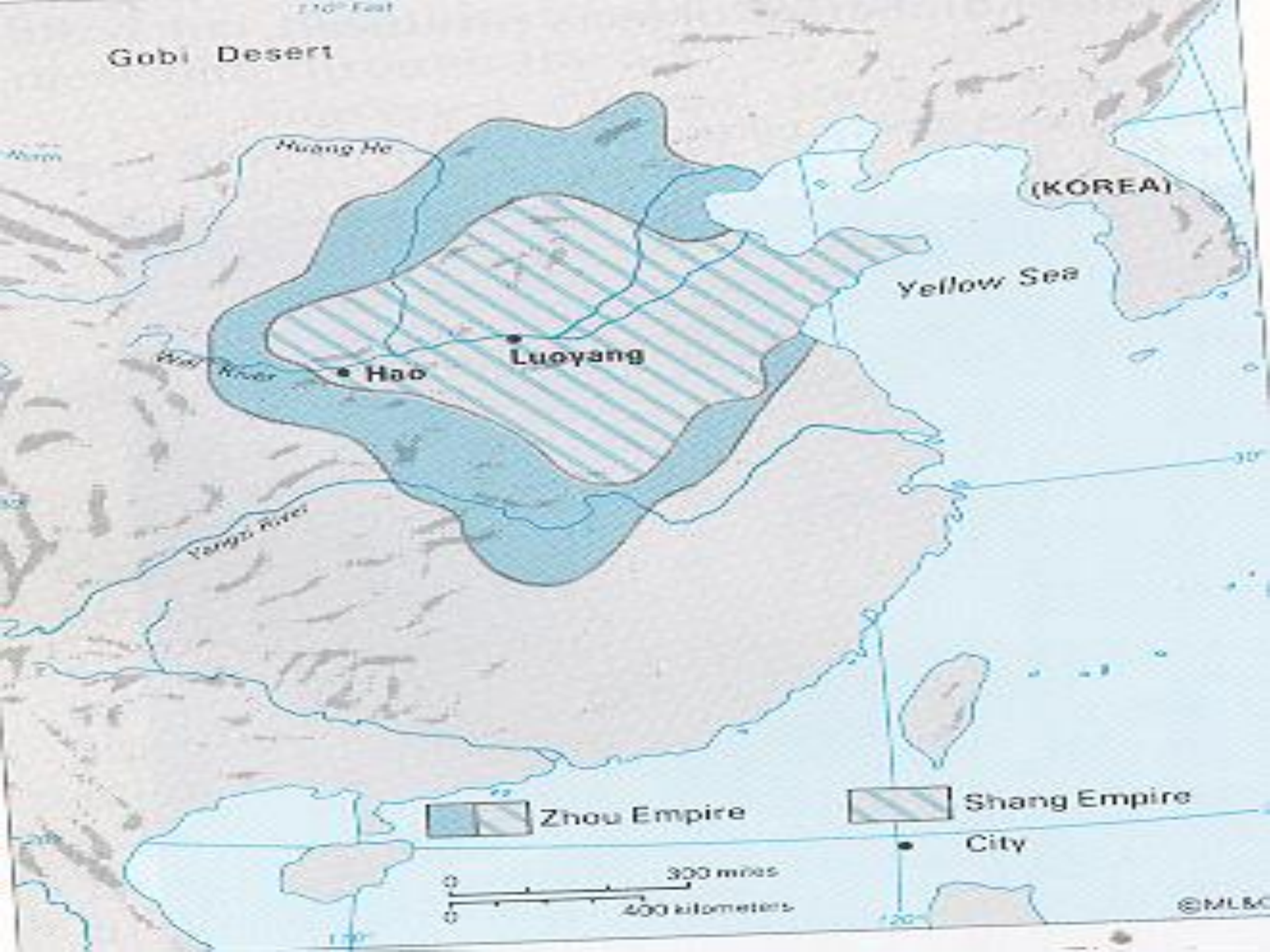
1200s BC



# Fall of the Shang Dynasty

- **The Shang Dynasty collapsed in 1122 B.C.**
- **The King failed to guard the northern frontiers and the Zhou invade from the north.**
- **Alcohol also added to the problem of a corrupt and poor government.**
- **The Zhou dynasty lasts for 800 years.**
- **They used iron tools and weapons.**

Gobi Desert



(KOREA)

Yellow Sea

Hao River

Hao

Luoyang

Yangtze River

Zhou Empire

Shang Empire

City

0 300 miles  
0 400 kilometers

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# The Zhou and Qin Dynasties

- The Zhou dynasty constructed the Grand Canal.
- Zhou prosperity caused a huge rise in the population. China in 700 B.C. is the most populated country in the world.
- The Zhou dynasty was not unified.
- King You angered the nobles and they failed to respond to an attack by barbarians. 400 B.C. warring city states, the strongest was the Qin.



## DYNASTIC CYCLE IN CHINA

*Showing Role of Mandate of Heaven*

Strong dynasty establishes peace and prosperity; it is considered to have Mandate of Heaven.

New dynasty gains power, restores peace and order, and claims to have Mandate of Heaven.

Dynasty is overthrown through rebellion and bloodshed; new dynasty emerges.

Old dynasty is seen as having lost Mandate of Heaven; rebellion is justified.

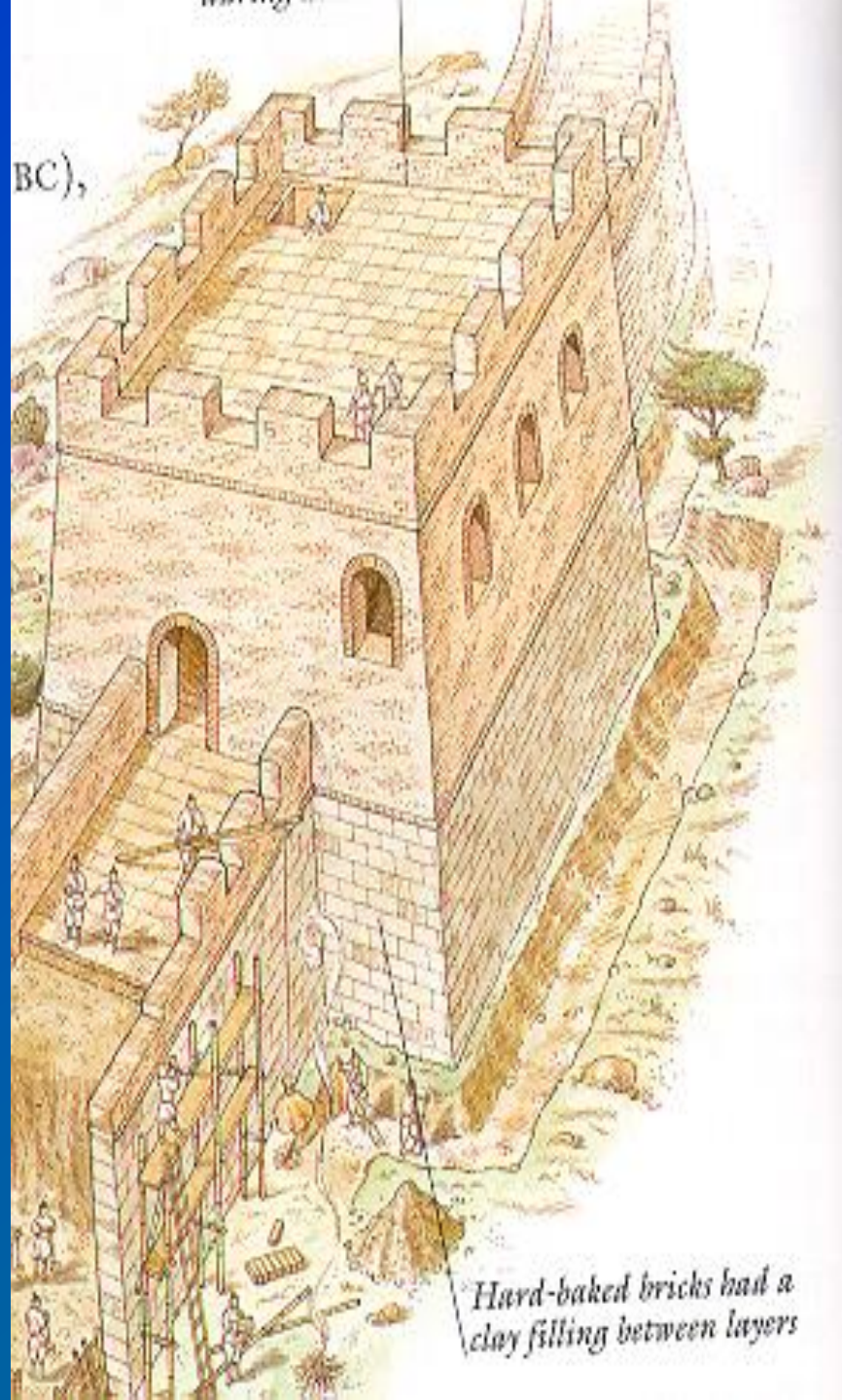
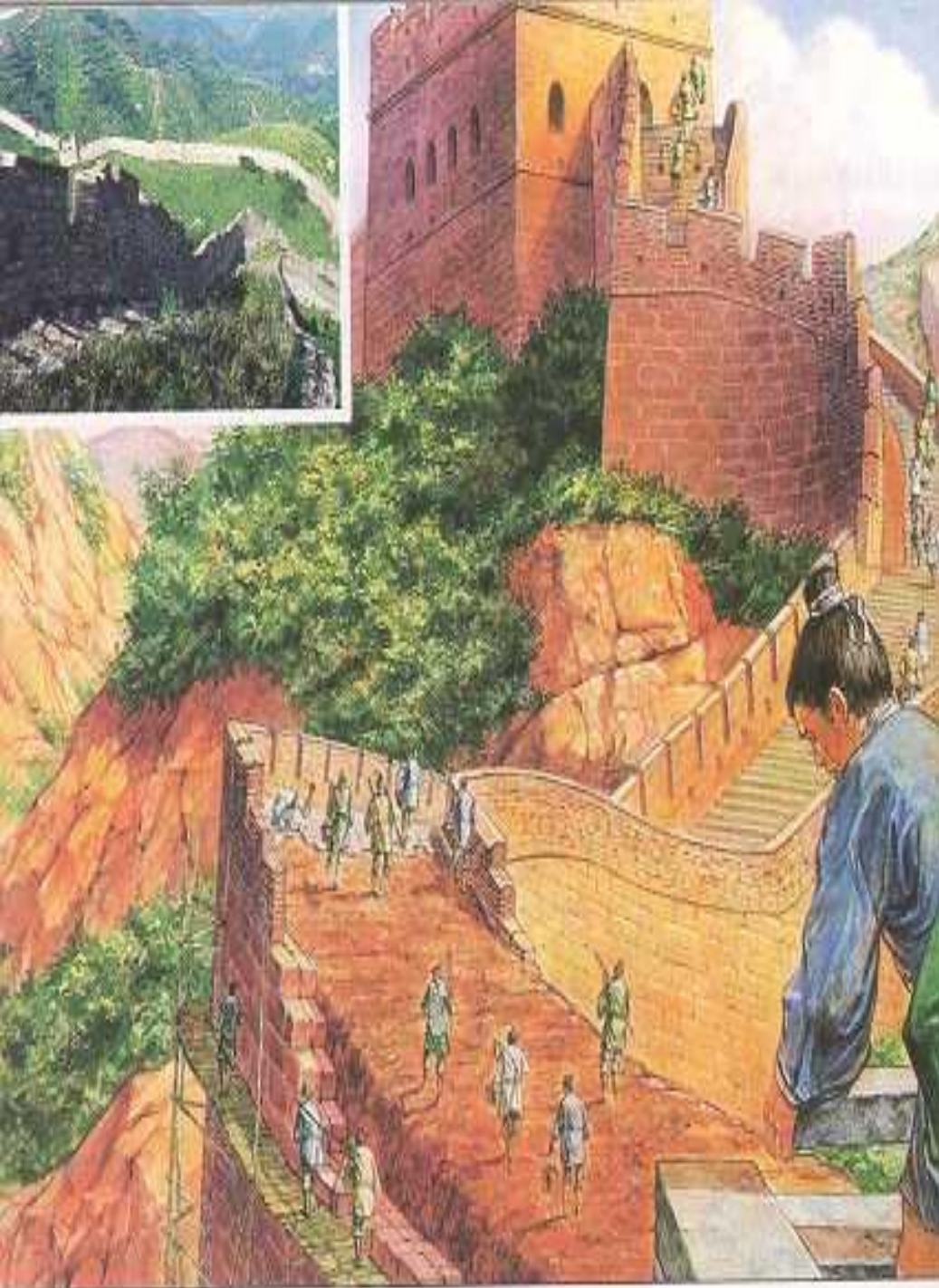
In time, dynasty declines and becomes corrupt; taxes are raised; power grows weaker.

Disasters such as floods, famines, peasant revolts, and invasions occur.



# The Qin Dynasty

- The Qin came to power using cavalry using bows and arrows.
- Shi Huangdi and the Qin dynasty unified China. The Qin ruled until 207 B.C.
- He standardized weights, coins, measurements and language.
- A central law and tax code and China was divided into military districts.
- The Qin built the great wall of China.



BC),

*Hard-baked bricks had a clay filling between layers*



# The Qin and Han Dynasties

- The Qin also built the terracotta warrior tomb for Shi Huangdi.
- The Qin ruled as an autocracy. They used harsh punishment and censorship.
- Discontent grew and in 202 B.C. Liu Bang overthrew the Qin dynasty and established the Han.
- The Han dynasty took its name from the Han River. Ruled for 400 years.
- Most famous emperor was Wu Di.





# The Han Dynasty

- The Han was less autocratic than the Qin dynasty.
- The Han dynasty established a civil service system. (officials who see to the day to day operations of government.)
- Emperor Wu Di believed in leveling or purchasing and saving crops for hard times.
- Established the Pax Sinica and the Silk Road connected China with Rome.

