

# The Zhou Dynasty and New Ideas

## CHAPTER EVENTS

**c. 1500s BC**

The Shang dynasty is established in China.



**1100s BC**

The Zhou dynasty begins.



**551 BC**

Confucius is born in China.

**221 BC**

Shi Huangdi unites China under the Qin dynasty.

**205 BC**

The Han dynasty begins its rule of China.



**1600 BC**

**1200 BC**

**800 BC**

**400 BC**

**BC 1 AD**

## WORLD EVENTS



**c. 1480 BC**

Queen Hatshepsut rules Egypt.

**c. 965 BC**

Solomon becomes king of the Israelites.

**c. 500 BC**

Buddhism begins to emerge in India.



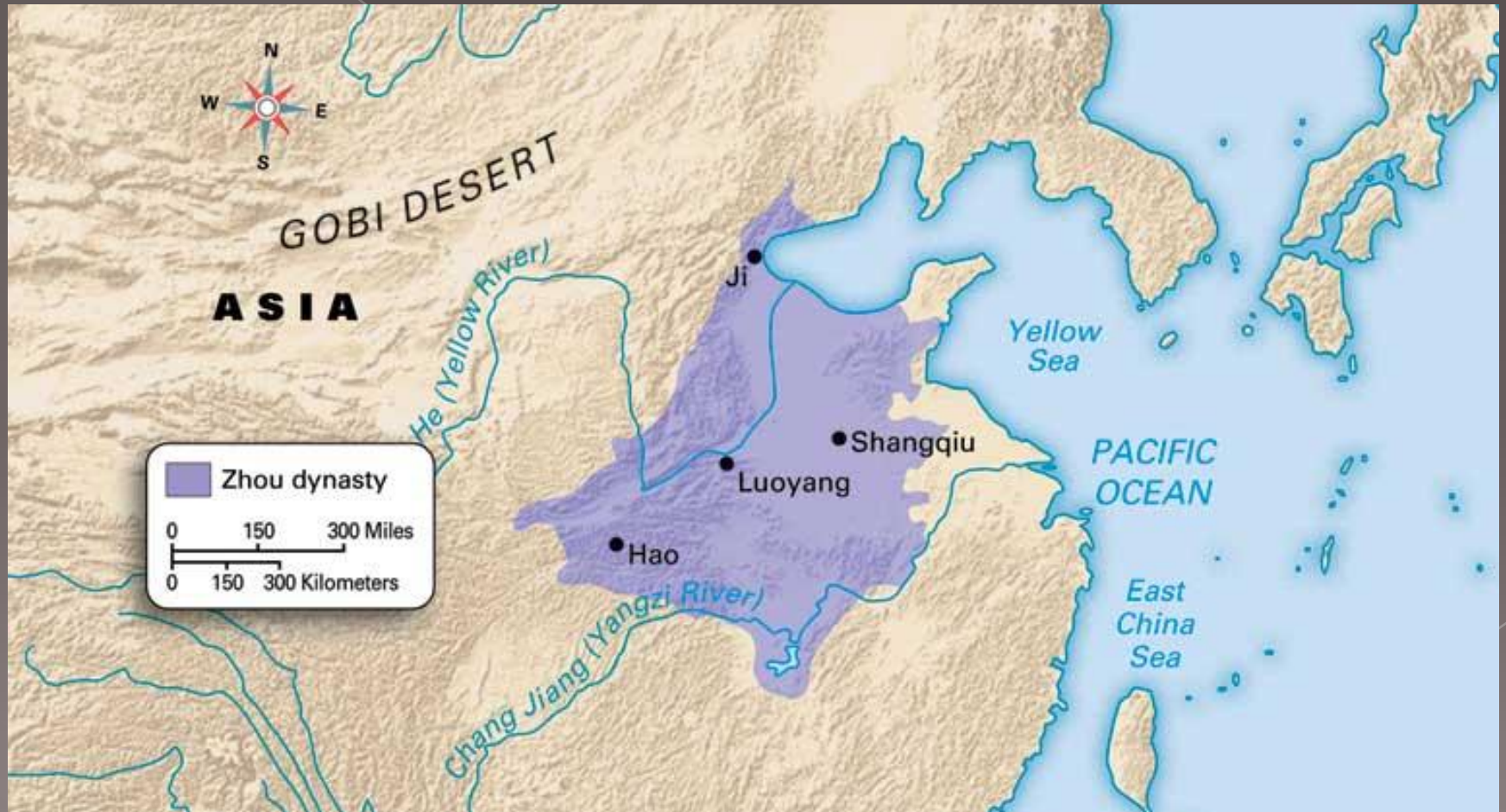
**c. 100 BC**

The overland Silk Road connects China and Southwest Asia.

# Zhou Dynasty

c. 1050-400 BC

Map: Zhou Dynasty, c. 1050-400 BC: This map shows the Zhou Dynasty in the shaded part which is located in the northeastern part of China. The Huang He, or Yellow River, flows through the Zhou Dynasty. The Zhou Dynasty ran just south of the Chang Jiang River. The cities that are marked on the map are Hao in the South, Luoyang north of Hao, Shangqiu which is northeast of Luoyang and Ji which is almost to the northern tip of the dynasty.



# The Zhou Dynasty

- The Zhou (JOH) came from the west and overthrew the Shang dynasty during the 1100s BC.
- Their armies defeated people in every direction. They expanded their rule south to the Chang Jiang river.
- The Zhou established a new political order. The king granted land to **lords** in return for loyalty and military assistance. Lords divided their land among lesser nobles. **Peasants** received a small plot of land and had to farm additional land for a noble.

# Zhou Social Order

- The social order brought by the Zhou lasted a long time, but the loyalty of the lords gradually lessened.
- They began to fight each other.
- Family **structure**, which had been the foundation of Chinese life for centuries, was severely weakened.
- By the 400s BC, China had entered an era called the Warring States period.

## King

The king led the government and gave land to lords.



## Lords and Warriors

Lords paid taxes to the king and provided warriors to protect his lands.



## Peasants

Peasants farmed the nobles' land.



Zhou Society: This picture represents the order of society in the Zhou Dynasty. The first picture is a king dressed in a robe with a hat on. It says that he led the government and gave land to the lords. The next picture shows three men dressed in robes that are not quite as exquisite as the king. It says that they paid taxes to the king and provided warriors to protect his lands. The next picture shows five people that are wearing plain shirts and pants. They are holding rakes and shovels. They farmed the

# The Warring States Period

The Warring States Period—During China's Warring States period, thousands of armies fought each other to gain territory. The armies used new weapons and battle techniques in the civil wars that lasted more than 200 years. In this picture there are some men on horses and some on foot. They all have spears and shields. The men on the horses are striking the men on foot. Iron weapons made warfare dangerous and bloody. Horses were now ridden instead of just being used to pull chariots.



Iron weapons made warfare dangerous and bloody.

Horses were now ridden instead of just being used to pull chariots.

# Confucius and Society

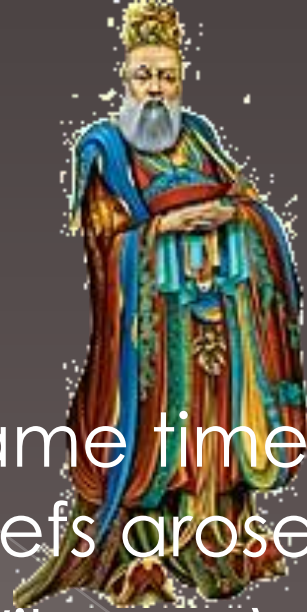
Confucius

Confucianism

- Toward the end of the Zhou period, a teacher named **Confucius** traveled through China. He taught that order in society stems from **ethics**, or moral values, and not laws. He wanted China to return to the ideas and practices from a time when people knew their proper roles in society.
- **Confucianism** has been a guiding force in human behavior and religious understanding in China and elsewhere through the centuries.



# Daoism



Laozi

- Around the same time as Confucius, other influential beliefs arose in China.
- **Daoism** (DOWih-zum) stressed living in harmony with the Dao, the guiding force of all reality.
- Daoists believed that people should be like water and simply let things flow in a natural way. They regarded humans as just a part of nature, not superior to any other thing. **Laozi** was the most famous Daoist teacher.

# Legalism

- **Legalism** is different than both Daoism and Confucianism.
- Legalists believed that society needed strict laws to keep people in line. They believed in unity, efficiency, and punishment for bad conduct. They wanted the empire to continue to expand, so they urged the state to be always prepared for war.
- Legalists were the first to put their ideas into practice throughout China.