

Dynasties timeline

Timeline of dynasties

- **Xia** (2000 BC – 1600 BC) – mythical, never proven
- **Shang** (1600 BC – 1000 BC) – small bronze-age state in northern China, pagan religion and divinations



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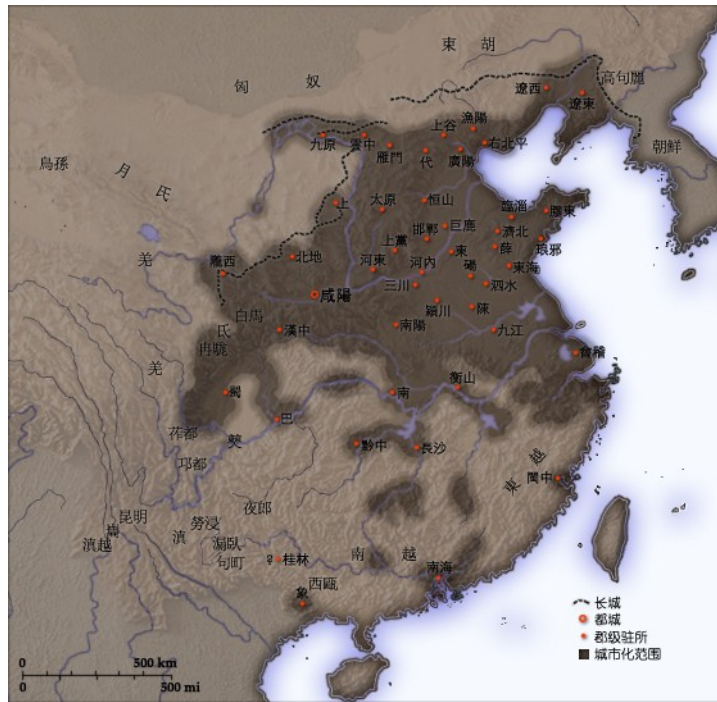
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- „**Hundred Schools of Thought**“ > Confucianism, Legalism, Taoism = search for legitimacy and unity in a turbulent age

Qin

- „First Emperor“ – Qin Shi Huang – around **220 BC**
- Destroyed the other states, **unified China**, expanded into the south
- **Great Wall**, terracota army, first great capital at Chang-an (Xian)
- **Megalomaniac and tyrannical – high taxes, cruel punishments, purges of dissident scholars**
- Unpopular > overthrown around 200 BC
- > „China“





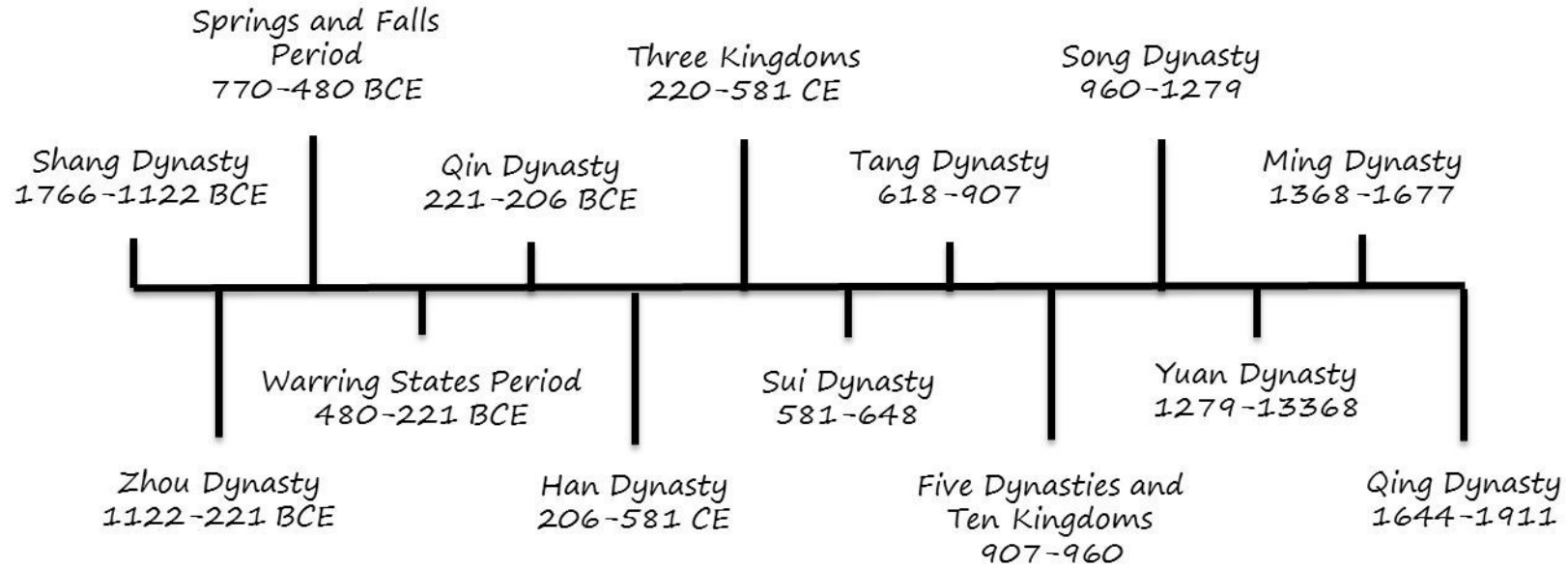


Han

- **200 BC – 200 AD**
- > „Han Chinese“, „Han characters“
- More lenient, ruled on the basis of consent
- Confucianism as the state ideology, first imperial examinations
- Defeated the Xiongnu steppe tribes > **Silk route**



Chinese Dynasties

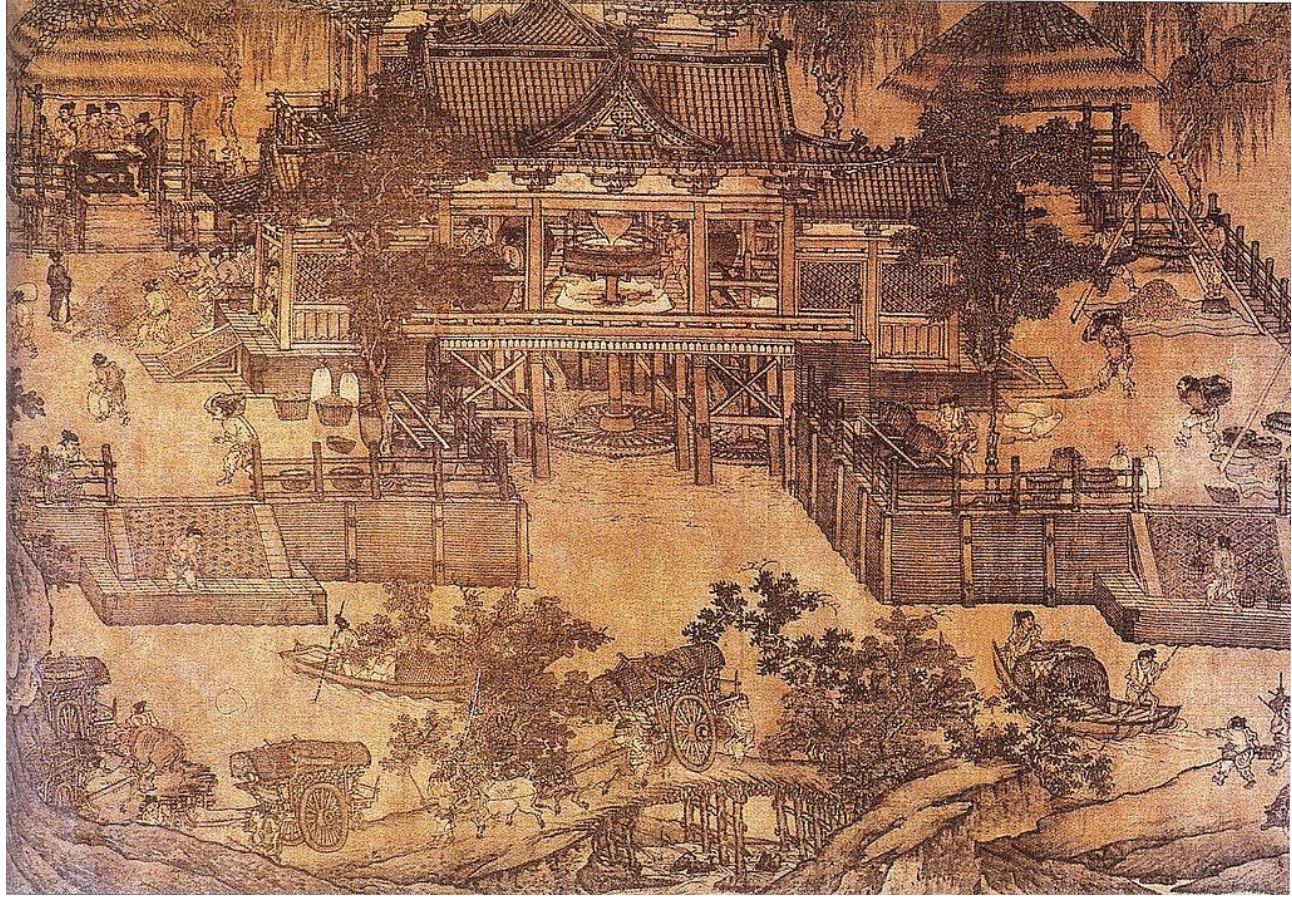


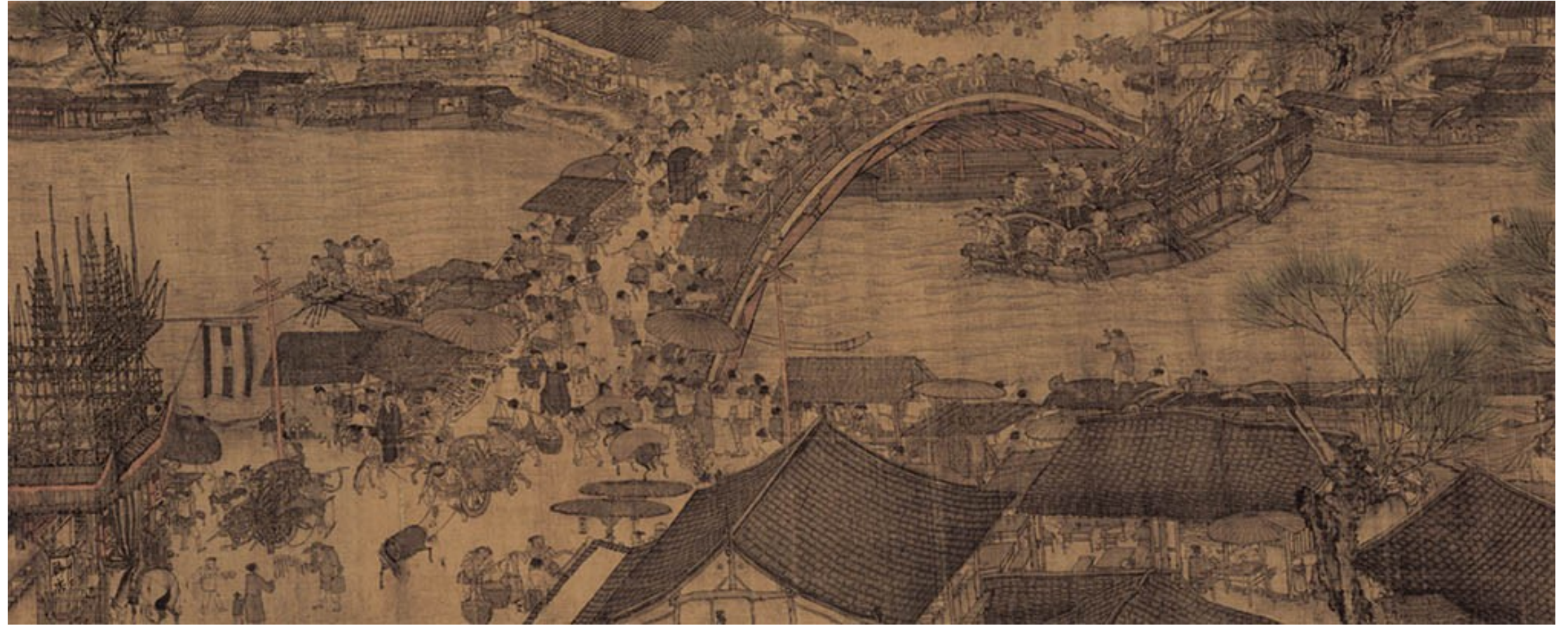
Sui and Tang

- 200 AD – 600 AD – „Three Kingdoms period“ – many short-lived regimes
- Around 600 – **Sui** – unification, **Grand Canal**
- Again too high taxes and too much cruelty > **Tang dynasty (600-900)**
- Exposure to foreign cultures (Buddhism, Islam, Zoroastrianism, Christianity)
- **Imperial examinations!**
- „An Lushan rebellion“ – **relatively** worst civil war in human history?

Song

- **Song dynasty (900-1250)**
- Unknown and underrated
- Better rice from Southeast Asia > **doubling of population**
- Technological Innovation: **paper money, printing of books, gunpowder, compass, pound lock**





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- Kublai Khan – visited by Marco Polo
- Attempts to conquer Korea, Japan, Vietnam and Indonesia (!)

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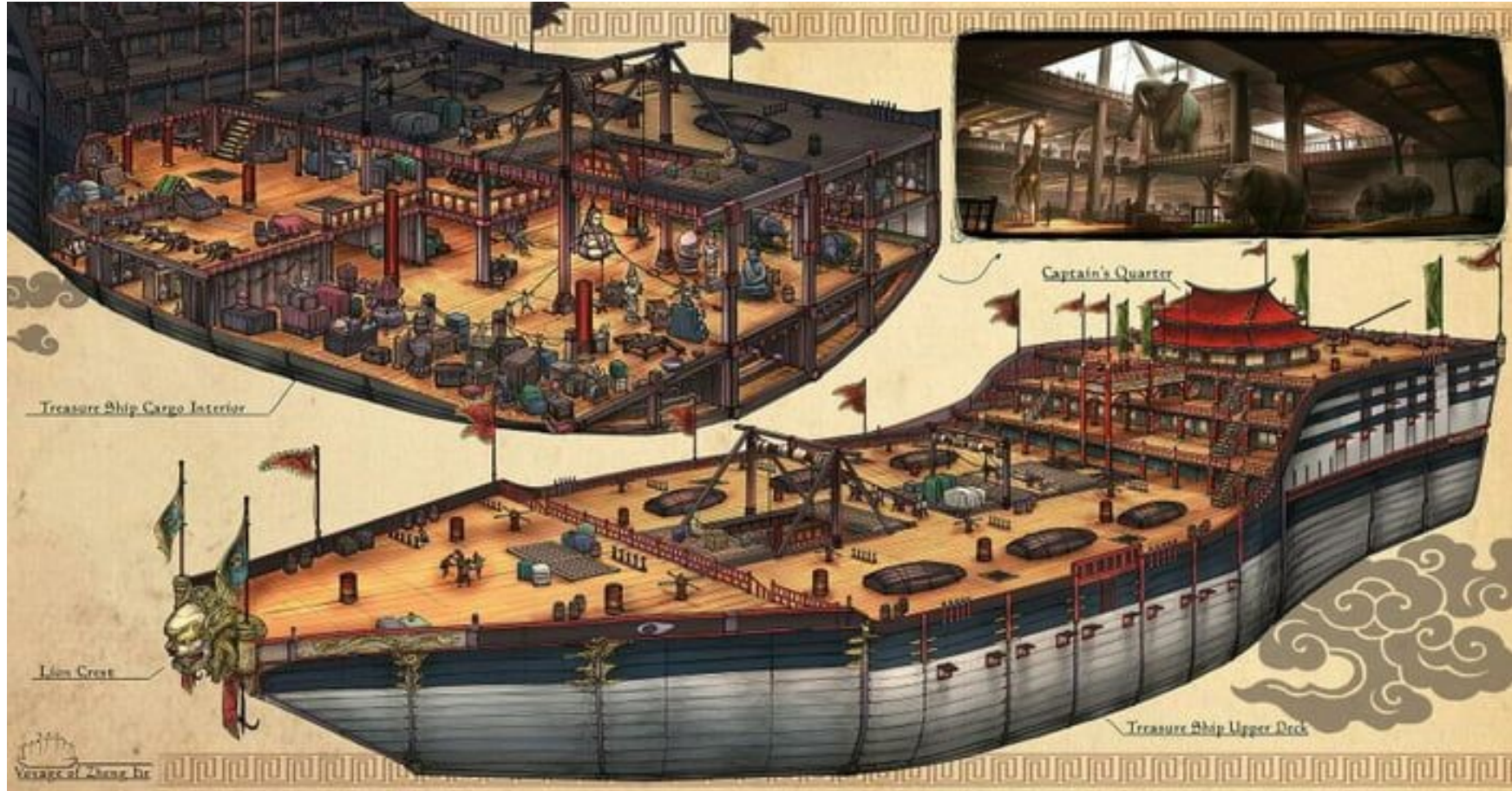
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- Nanking („Southern Capital“) and Beijing („Northern Capital“)

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- Why was the Silk Road not cancelled?
- No expenditures for the Chinese treasury
- + **luxury trade – not subversive!**

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- „The transition from Ming to Qing, Ming–Qing transition, or **Manchu conquest of China** from 1618 to 1683 saw the transition between two major [dynasties](#) in [Chinese history](#).“

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tributary relations with Korea, Japan, Vietnam, Thailand
- Reached the limits of pre-industrial growth – highest yields and population possible without modern machinery