

Early Chinese History

1. Read from the middle of pg. 48 to pg. 51 in your textbook and answer the following questions in your notebook:
 - A. Identify some of the important cultural developments during the **Shang Dynasty**.
 - B. How did writing help unite China?
 - C. What is the **Mandate of Heaven**? What role did it play in the dynastic cycle?
 - D. How did the **Zhou Dynasty** use the Mandate of Heaven to overthrow the Shang?
 - E. "The group was often more important than the individual in Chinese culture." What were the benefits and drawbacks of this belief? [**THINK ABOUT**: family roles; the characteristics of a ruler; the role of spirit gods, when answering this question].
 - F. What is **feudalism**?
 - G. Do you think that the Zhou Dynasty's downfall resulted because of their method of control? [**THINK ABOUT**: feudalism; the large division of rich and poor; the vast controlled lands; the noble-king relationship, when answering this question].
 - H. Why are the later years of the Zhou Dynasty called "the time of the warring states?"

2. Read from the middle of pg. 97 to pg. 99 in your textbook and answer the following questions in your notebook:
 - A. Fill in the **chart** on Confucianism [**20 points**] neatly and completely!
 - B. How do Confucius' ideas lay the groundwork for a civil service staffed by gentleman scholars?
 - C. Fill in the **chart** on Daoism, or Taoism, [**20 points**] neatly and completely!
 - D. Which philosopher would you rather have as a teacher—Confucius or Laozi [Lao-tse]? Why?
 - E. What are the main ideas of Legalism? How did the Legalists think that a society could be made to run well?
 - F. **CHART** on the top of pg. 99:
 - * Which of these three systems stress the importance of government and a well-ordered society?
 - * Which system emphasizes the natural order over the social order?
 - * Which of these systems seems to be the most moderate and balanced? Why?

3. Read from the bottom of pg. 99 to pg. 101 in your textbook and answer the following questions in your notebook:
 - A. How did **Shi Huangdi** use military power to unite China and crush dissent?
 - B. What Legalist idea may have influenced his actions most?
 - C. How did the Great Wall help to unify China?
 - D. What were the positive and negative effects of Shi Huangdi's rule?