

Aim: How did geography affect the development of classical civilizations in China?



Labeling Key

CONTINENTS

Oceans

REGIONS

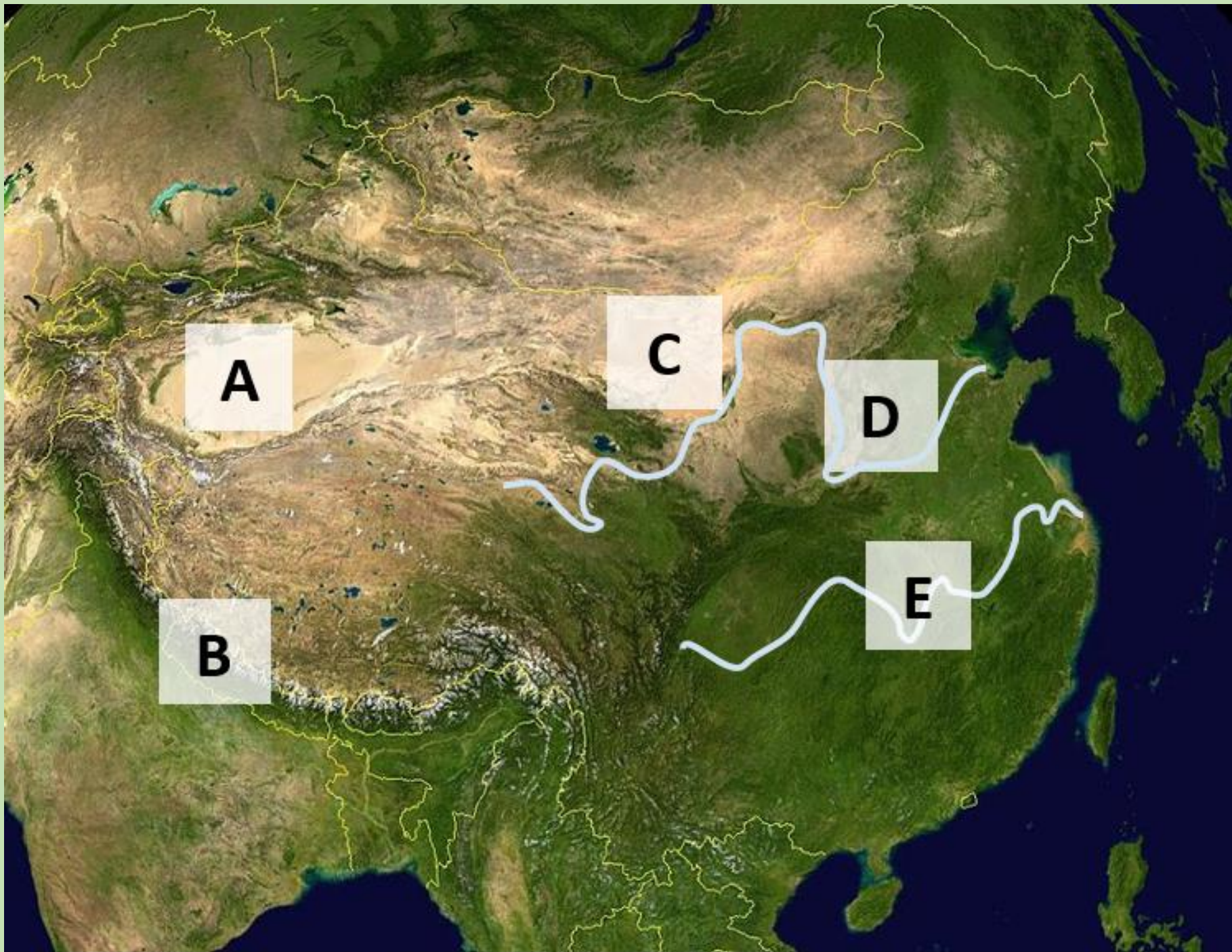
Bodies of Water

Land-based Geographic Features



Relative location

- a description of where a place is in relation to how a place is related to other places. For example, Canada is *north of* the state of New York.



China: Geographic Features

- **A. Taklamakan Desert**
- **B. Himalaya Mountains**
- **C. Gobi Desert**
- **D. Yellow River**
- **E. Yangtze River**

Classical China

- 3 Dynasties during the Classical Period
 - Zhou (approx. 1029- 258 BCE)
 - Qin (approx. 221- 202 BCE)
 - Han (approx. 202 BCE- 220 CE)
 - Note: depending on the source, dates might be slightly altered.

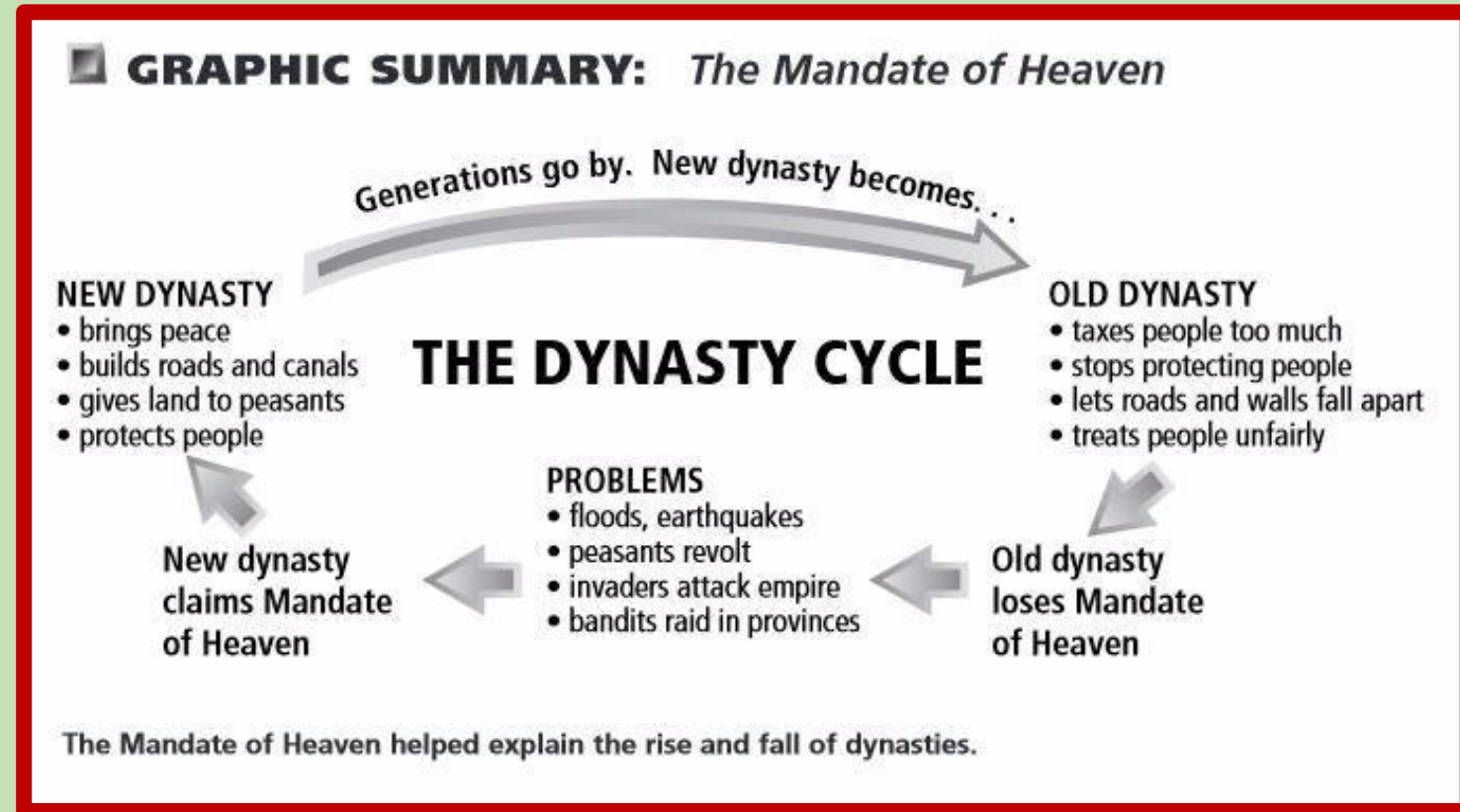
Zhou Dynasty

- Displaced the Shang Dynasty
 - China's longest lasting dynasty
 - Located in NE China
 - Increased the territory of China
 - Flourished until 700's, then began a slow decline



Zhou Dynasty: Government

- No strong centralized government
 - Feudal system
 - Govt. dependent upon loyalty from nobles
- Rulers claimed to have a Mandate of Heaven
 - Ruler chosen by gods to rule
 - Gods can take away the mandate if the ruler is unjust or unfit



Zhou Dynasty: Society and Culture

- The family was the main social unit within Classical China
 - Headed by patriarch
 - Filial Piety
- Zhou rulers attempted to create a greater sense of unity within China
 - Language: Promoted Mandarin Chinese
 - Religion: outlawed human sacrifice
 - However, feudalism made this unity difficult

Decline of the Zhou Dynasty

- Regional disunity caused Zhou Dynasty to decline
 - Feudal lords began to assume more power, weakening the dynasty
 - Invasion from nomads to north
- China entered the Warring States Period
 - 480-221 BCE
 - Strongmen competed for power



What was the context for the founding of Confucianism?

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RaYWBMAWPGQ>
- **When and where was Confucius born?**
- **Describe what China was like during the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods.**
- **How might the context in which he lived affect philosophy of Confucius?**

Confucius

- How do we restore strength to this society?

What are the major beliefs and practices of Confucianism?

Confucianism

- A belief system founded by Confucius in China in the 400s BCE.
- The Analects - Confucianism's sacred text.
- Confucians believe that we should strive for peace and harmony with *OTHERS IN SOCIETY*. Confucius was not as interested in the big mysteries of existence such as the origin of the universe, gods, or the afterlife.

According to Confucianism, this peace, harmony, and social order can be achieved through the proper behavior of each member of a family or society by following these three concepts:

- **Five Constants:** humaneness, justice, proper rite, knowledge, and integrity
- **Filial Piety:** virtue of respect for one's father, elders, and ancestors
- **Five Relationships:** Particular duties arise from one's particular situation in relation to others.

The Five Relationships

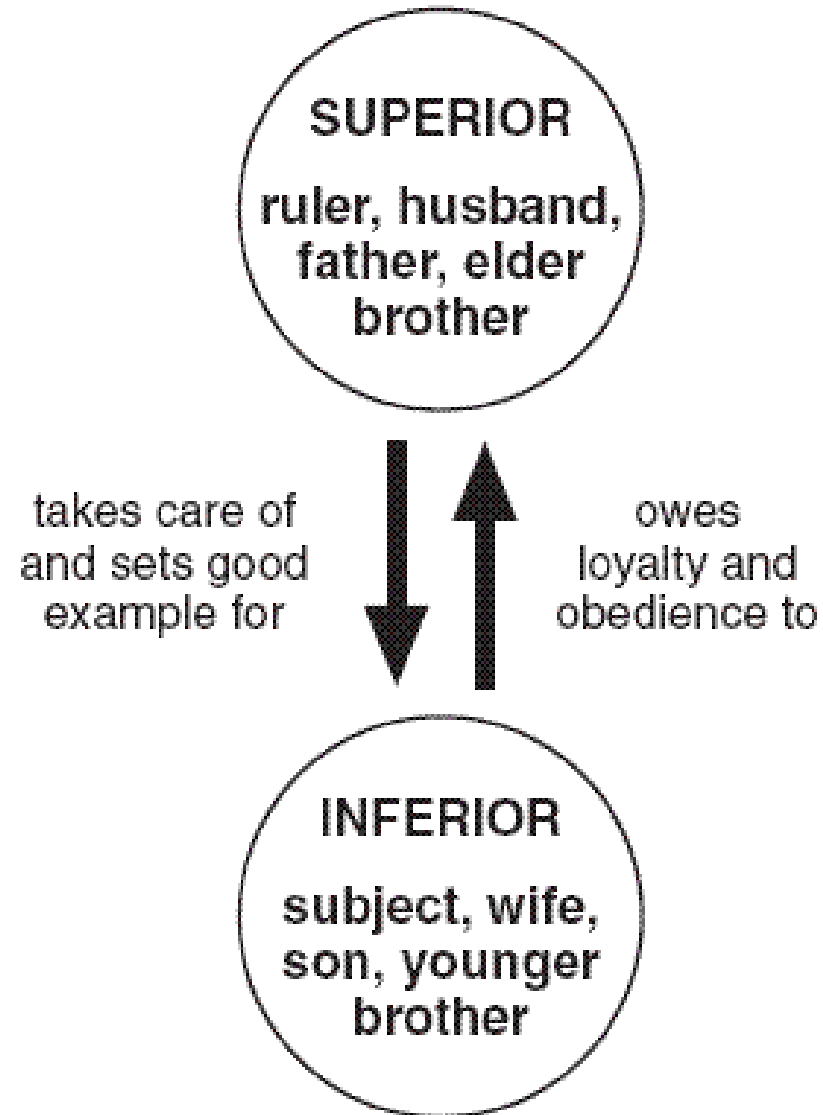
Confucius believed that there were five fundamental relationships in society:

- Ruler to Subject
- Father to Son
- Husband to Wife
- Older Brother to Younger Brother
- Friend to Friend

How are these relationships similar? How are they different?

Each of these relationships showed who had more power over others. The only relationship that is equal is between friends.

Everyone had duties and responsibilities,
depending on his or her position in a relationship.



Source: *Guide to the Essentials of World History*,
Prentice Hall, 1999 (adapted)

Qin Shi Huangdi: China's first Emperor

<http://www-chaos.umd.edu/history/picts/firstemperor.gif>



The Qin Dynasty



<http://www.chinahighlights.com/image/map/ancient/qin-dynasty-map1.gif>

- Qin Dynasty (221-202 BCE)
 - Very short lived
- Qin Shi Huangdi assumed control of China
 - Declared himself as China's first Emperor