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| **China** | **Rest of the World** |
| [**Xia Dynasty**](http://www.sacu.org/xiadynasty.htm) **(?2100 - ?1600 BC)**Da Yu. Chinese characters developed.Bronzeware and pottery. | 2900 BC Egypt unified2700 BC Great Pyramid built2370 BC Sumerians flourished2225 BC Troy built1900 BC Minoan culture flourished |
| [**Shang Dynasty**](http://www.sacu.org/xiadynasty.htm) **(?1600 - ?1027 BC)**Advanced bronze-casting methods.Oracle-bones with characters scratched on them. Walled cities at Anyang and Zhengzhou. Human and animal sacrifices at ritual burials. | 1500 BC Aryans invaded India1480 BC Tuthmosis III conquered Palestine and Syria1250 BC Moses led Exodus out of Egypt1200 BC Trojan WarCeltic settlements in Britain1050 BC David King of Israel |
| [**Zhou Dynasty**](http://www.sacu.org/xiadynasty.htm) **(? 1027-211 BC)****Western Zhou (? 1027-771 BC)**Emperors known as Tian Zi 'Son of Heaven'. Feudal-type division of land amongst nobles. Frequent wars with nomadic tribes in the north. Bronzeware reaches a technical and artistic peak.**Eastern Zhou (771-221 BC)****Spring and Autumn Period (771-476 BC)**Iron replaced bronze as the main metal for implements and weapons. Slaves replaced by peasant farmers. [Confucius](http://www.sacu.org/religion.html#XL541) (Kong Zi) (551-479)Lao Zi (active 550) founder of [Daoism](http://www.sacu.org/religion.html#XL543).Mo Zi (480-400) preached Universal Love.**Warring States Period (476-221)**Metal coinage widespread. 'Hundred Schools of Thought'. Legalists active. Crossbows, writing-brushes, chopsticks in use. Mencius (Meng Zi) (371-289) and Zhuang Zi (365-290) active. The state of Qin conquered all other states by 221 BC. | 961 BC Solomon built Temple in Jerusalem 814 BC Carthage founded753 BC Rome founded700 BC Homer560-483 BC Buddha in India?500 BC Zoroaster530 BC Roman Republic founded399 BC Death of Socrates428-347 BC Plato336-323BC Alexander the Great |
| [**Qin Dynasty**](http://www.sacu.org/qindynasty.htm) **(221-206 BC)**[Qin Shi Huangdi](http://www.sacu.org/qinemperor.html), the First Emperor, the first to rule China as a centralised unified state. He linked existing walls to make the [Great Wall](http://www.sacu.org/qinemperor.html). He standardised the coinage, weights and measures, script and width of cart-tracks. Confucian ideas were suppressed and Legalist ideology was official doctrine. | 218 BC Hannibal crossed Alps212 BC Death of Archimedes |
| [**Han Dynasty**](http://www.sacu.org/handynasty.htm) **(206 BC-220 AD)Western Han (206 BC-24 AD)**Revival of [Confucianism](http://www.sacu.org/religion.html#XL541). Magnetic spoon used for divination. Civil Service exams began. [Silk Road](http://www.sacu.org/dunhuang.html) to West opened.**Eastern Han (24-220 AD)**Paper invented. First records of [Buddhism](http://www.sacu.org/religion.html#XL545) in China. Zhang Heng (78-139) invented a seismograph, and calculated pi to five decimal places. Hua Tuo (150-200) developed [acupuncture](http://www.sacu.org/acupuncture.html) and moxibustion (invented long before). | 54 BC Caesar invaded BritainBirth of Christ50 AD Nero70 AD Destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem |
| **Period of Disunity (220-581)**221-265: The Three Kingdoms of Wei, Wu and Shu struggled for supremacy. Non-Chinese nomadic people became increasingly influential. Buddhism spread rapidly.Fa Xian walked to India (399-414) to collect Buddhist scriptures.Population shift to [Yangzi](http://www.sacu.org/yangzi.html) Valley. | 340 Rome adopted Christianity410 Visigoths sacked Rome451 Attila the Hun defeated |
| [**Sui Dynasty**](http://www.sacu.org/suidynasty.htm) **(581-618)**[Grand Canal](http://www.sacu.org/jiangsu.htm) built linking [Hangzhou](http://www.sacu.org/zhejiang.htm) and [Beijing](http://www.sacu.org/beijingorigins.html) (1800 km). |  |
| [**Tang Dynasty**](http://www.sacu.org/tangdynasty.htm) **(618-907)**The economy flourished, with trade via Central Asia expanding. Xuan Zang (602-664) walked to India to collect Buddhist texts. Wu Zetian was the only female 'Emperor' (690-705). Li Bai (701-762), Du Fu (712-770) and the poetess Xue Tao (768-?) were amongst the great poets. The Arabs defeated the Chinese armies at the Battle of Talas (751)An [Lushan](http://www.sacu.org/jiangxi.htm) rebellion (754)Buddhist monasteries dissolved (850)First dated [printed](http://www.sacu.org/greatinventions.html#XL559) book (868) | 571-632 Prophet Mohammed673 Arab siege of Constantinople793 Viking raids on Britain began'Dark Ages' in Europe |
| **Period of Disunity (907-960)**910 First [paper](http://www.sacu.org/greatinventions.html#XL557) money introduced919 First military use of [gunpowder](http://www.sacu.org/greatinventions.html#XL561)950 Foot-binding of girls introduced | 910 Abbey of Cluny foundedPaper first made in Europe |
| [**Song Dynasty**](http://www.sacu.org/northsongdynasty.htm) **(960-1279)****Northern Song (960-1127)**1034 First movable type Landscape painting flourished. Magnetic [compass](http://www.sacu.org/greatinventions.html#XL563) used for navigation.**Southern Song (1127-1279)**Neo-Confucianism. Celadon porcelain.1215 [Mongols](http://www.sacu.org/yuandynasty.htm) occupy Beijing 1271-1292 [Marco Polo](http://www.sacu.org/yuandynasty.htm)'s journey to China | 1096 First Crusade1155 Genghis Khan born1215 Magna Carta1220 Gunpowder introduced to Europe1266-1337 Giotto |
| [**Yuan Dynasty**](http://www.sacu.org/yuandynasty.htm) **(1279-1368)**Mongol rulers of China.Drama flourished.‘Romance of three Kingdoms’, classic novel by Luo Guanzhong. | 1347-51 Black Death |
| [**Ming Dynasty**](http://www.sacu.org/mingdynasty.htm) **(1368-1644)**1413 Voyages of [Zheng He](http://www.sacu.org/sailing.html#XL539)1447 First Dalai LamaBlue and White [porcelain](http://www.sacu.org/burrell.html).‘Monkey’ by Wu Cheng'en.1637 First British trade with [Canton](http://www.sacu.org/yangzi.html) | 1450 Printing in Europe1492 Columbus reached America1452-1519 Leonardo de Vinci1519 Cortes reached Mexico |
| [**Qing Dynasty**](http://www.sacu.org/qingdynasty.htm) **(1644-1912)** (Manchu rulers)Under Kang Xi and Qian Long Emperors, Chinese Empire reached its greatest extent.1840-42 The First [Opium War](http://www.sacu.org/opium.html) forced China to accept Opium from British merchants. Later treaties opened many ports to Western powers.1850-1864 [Taiping Rebellion](http://www.sacu.org/chinesegordon.html)1894 Japan defeated Chinese navy1900 [Boxer Rebellion](http://www.sacu.org/boxers.html)1908 [Ci Xi](http://www.sacu.org/cixi.html) and Guang Xu Emperor died 1911 Manchu rulers overthrown | 1642-1727 Newton1776 American Revolution1789 French Revolution1791-1867 Faraday1809-1882 Darwin1818-1883 Marx1832 Reform Act 1848 Communist Manifesto1867-34 Marie Curie 1879-55 Albert Einstein 1904-05 Russo-Japanese War |
| [**The Republic of China**](http://www.sacu.org/republicofchina.htm) **(1911-49)**[Sun Yat-sen](http://www.sacu.org/yatsen.html) first President.1919 May 4th Movement1921 Chinese Communist Party founded. 1925 Sun Yet-sen died.[Chiang Kai-shek](http://www.sacu.org/republicofchina.htm) became leader of Nationalists.1927 Massacre of Communists1930 Nationalist Encirclement campaigns (against Communists) began1931 Japan occupied Manchuria1934-35 Communist [Long March](http://www.sacu.org/linbiao.html)[Mao](http://www.sacu.org/maoobituary.html) became leader of Communists.1937-45 [Sino-Japanese War](http://www.sacu.org/friendship.html)1946-49 [Civil War](http://www.sacu.org/peoplesrepublic.htm)Chiang Kai-shek fled to Taiwan. | 1914-18 First World War 1919 Treaty of Versailles1933 Hitler became Chancellor1938 Munich Pact1939 Nazi-Soviet Pact1939-45 Second World War |
| [**The People's Republic of China**](http://www.sacu.org/peoplesrepublic.htm) **(1949- )**Land reform (1949-52) Sino-Soviet Alliance (1950)First Five-year plan (1953-57) 1957: [Hundred Flowers Movement](http://www.sacu.org/prctimeline.html), Anti-Rightist Campaign.1958: [Great Leap Forward](http://www.sacu.org/greatleapfamine.html). People's Communes founded.1959: [Tibetan](http://www.sacu.org/tibet.htm) uprising.1962: War with India.1964: First Chinese atomic bomb tested.1966: [Cultural Revolution](http://www.sacu.org/crview.html) launched.1967: Deng Xiaoping disgraced.1968: [Liu Shaoqi](http://www.sacu.org/linbiao.html) expelled from Communist Party.1971: Death of [Lin Biao](http://www.sacu.org/linbiao.html).1972: Diplomatic relations with USA opened.1973: 'Criticise [Lin Biao](http://www.sacu.org/linbiao.html) and [Confucius](http://www.sacu.org/religion.html#XL541)' campaign launched.1976: [Zhou Enlai](http://www.sacu.org/pujie.html), Zhu De and Mao Zedong died. Gang of Four arrested.1978-79: Democracy Movement.1979: War with [Vietnam.](http://www.sacu.org/vietnam.html)1980: Hua Guofeng resigned, Zhao Ziyang became Premier, Hu Yaobang General Secretary. Trial of Gang of Four.1982: Census shows over 1,000 million people in China. 1983: Responsibility system introduced into agriculture1986: HM the Queen visited China.1987: [Student demonstrations](http://www.sacu.org/beijingorigins.html) led to the fall of [Hu Yaobang](http://www.sacu.org/proverb10.html).1997: Handover of [Hong Kong](http://www.sacu.org/hongkong.htm). Death of Deng Xiaopeng, Jiang Zemin new chairman 2001: China joins World Trade Organization2003: Jiang Zemin hands over power to Hu Jintao2008: Olympic Games held in Beijing |  |