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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 unified 2700 BC Great Pyramid built 2370 BC Sumerians flourished 2225 BC Troy built 1900 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 India 1480 BC Tuthmosis III conquered Palestine and Syria 1250 BC Moses led Exodus out of Egypt 1200 BC Trojan War Celtic settlements in Britain 1050 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 founded 753 BC Rome founded 700 BC Homer   560-483 BC Buddha in India ?500 BC Zoroaster 530 BC Roman Republic founded   399 BC Death of Socrates 428-347 BC Plato 336-323BC 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 Alps 212 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 Britain   Birth of Christ   50 AD Nero   70 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 Christianity  410 Visigoths sacked Rome  451 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 Mohammed  673 Arab siege of Constantinople  793 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 introduced 919 First military use of [gunpowder](http://www.sacu.org/greatinventions.html#XL561) 950 Foot-binding of girls introduced | 910 Abbey of Cluny founded  Paper 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 Crusade  1155 Genghis Khan born   1215 Magna Carta   1220 Gunpowder introduced to Europe 1266-1337 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 Lama Blue 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 Europe 1492 Columbus reached America 1452-1519 Leonardo de Vinci 1519 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 navy 1900 [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 Newton 1776 American Revolution 1789 French Revolution  1791-1867 Faraday 1809-1882 Darwin 1818-1883 Marx  1832 Reform Act  1848 Communist Manifesto 1867-34 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 Movement 1921 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 Communists 1930 Nationalist Encirclement campaigns (against Communists) began 1931 Japan occupied Manchuria 1934-35 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 Versailles 1933 Hitler became Chancellor 1938 Munich Pact 1939 Nazi-Soviet Pact 1939-45 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 agriculture 1986: 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 Organization 2003: Jiang Zemin hands over power to Hu Jintao 2008: Olympic Games held in Beijing |  |