

Yellow River Valley – Zhou Dynasty

Aim | What was the Zhou Dynasty?

Political	--There was no central government, instead coordinators of separate areas --The military and its strength determined the ruler and his power --The right to rule was chosen by god
Economic	--IRON (cheaper than bronze) --Most important product of the Zhou was silk --Coins were introduced
Religious	--Believed in Daoism/Taoism and Legalism --Heaven controls life --Every human is entitled to their own opinion
Social	--Beliefs stated that the emperors were ranked above all, next came the scholars, then farmers before merchants, and merchants before slaves and women. --New roads and canals were built which allowed for there to be an ease of communication
Intellectual	--A book of poetry: compilation of poets' opinions of emotions and criticisms --The concept of "mandate of heaven" -emperors had divine approval to rule -natural disasters = disapproval from Heaven -dethronement = loss of mandate --Birth of many famous philosophers ex: Confucius and Laozi
Artistic	--Used bronze for household items -where done with bronze casting --The rich had decorated tombs --Jade was popular as people thought it preserved the dead
Technology	--Used iron tools-stronger than other materials- work done faster and better-used for farming and military purposes --Iron-tipped ox drawn plows-helped agriculture- easier to produce crops --Irrigation systems and waterways
Downfall	--Time period of chaos (the time of warring states) --Nomads from the east and west invaded capital (Hao), killed monarch --Feudalism developed -A large gap between the rich and poor <hr/> -Less dependency of the Emperor for the nobles