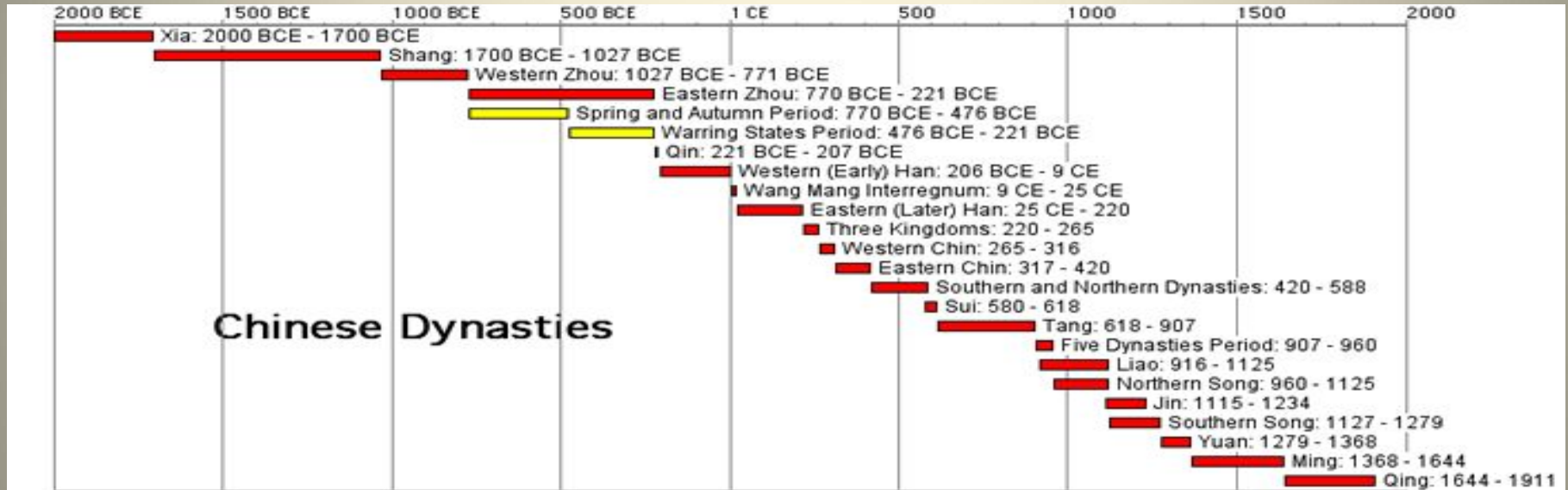


Han Emperors of China

200 BCE - 220 AD





Dynasties of China: Shang---Zhou---Qin---Han





Review

- Qin Shi Huangdi unified China
- Qin Dynasty
- strong **central government**
- Great Wall
- Standardized weights measures, roads, language
- son was weak & ineffective
- government fell apart

Mandate of Heaven Revoked



- After Shi Huangdi's death, the people rebelled
 - High taxes
 - Harsh labor quotas
 - Severe penal system



Han Dynasty

Restores Unity

- Military leader, Liu Bang begins **Han Dynasty**
- Ruled for 400 years, over two periods
- Modern Chinese use “people of the Han” to refer to themselves



What were Liu Bang's Goals & Objectives?



- Destroy rivals
- Expand the state
- **Centralized government** - central authority controls the running of the state
- Local officials reported to **central government** - called commanderies

How did Liu Bang rule?



- Lowered taxes & softened harsh punishments
- Brought peace & stability to China

Who was Empress Lu?



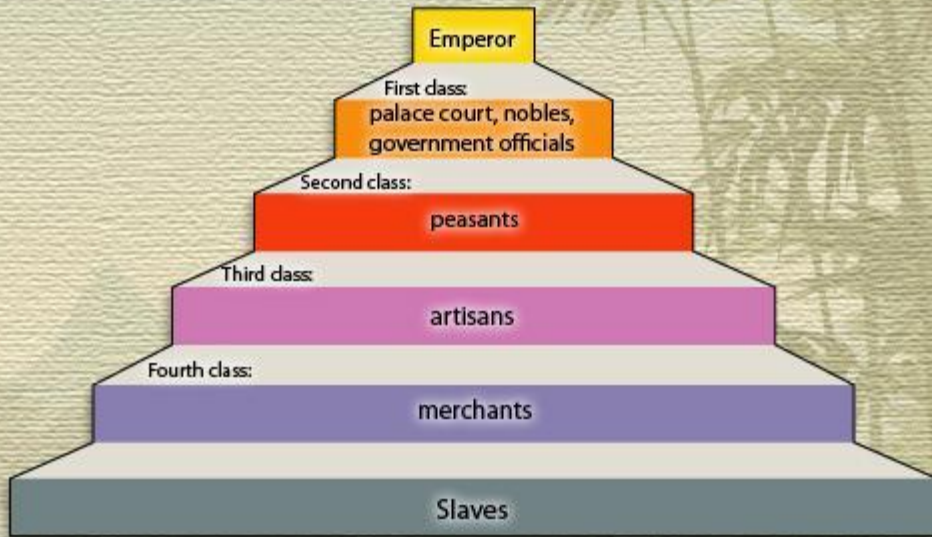
- One of Liu Bang's wives
- ruled for her son
- She had enormous power, named infant emperors-then ruled for them
- Tradition of conflict in royal family over who would rule
- Legacy of opposition to women rulers

Who was Wudi?



- Liu Bang's great grandson
- Continued **centralizing policies**
- Ruled longer than any other **Han emperor**
- Called the Martial Emperor
 - Expanded empire through war

What was society like under Han?



- Highly structured
- Emperor
 - semi divine
- Kings/governors
 - Appointed by Emperor
 - state officials, nobles and scholars
- Peasant farmers
- Artisans
- Merchants
- Enslaved persons
 - Conquered through war

Confucius

-under the ideas of Confucius there is a social order based on duty, rank, and proper behavior

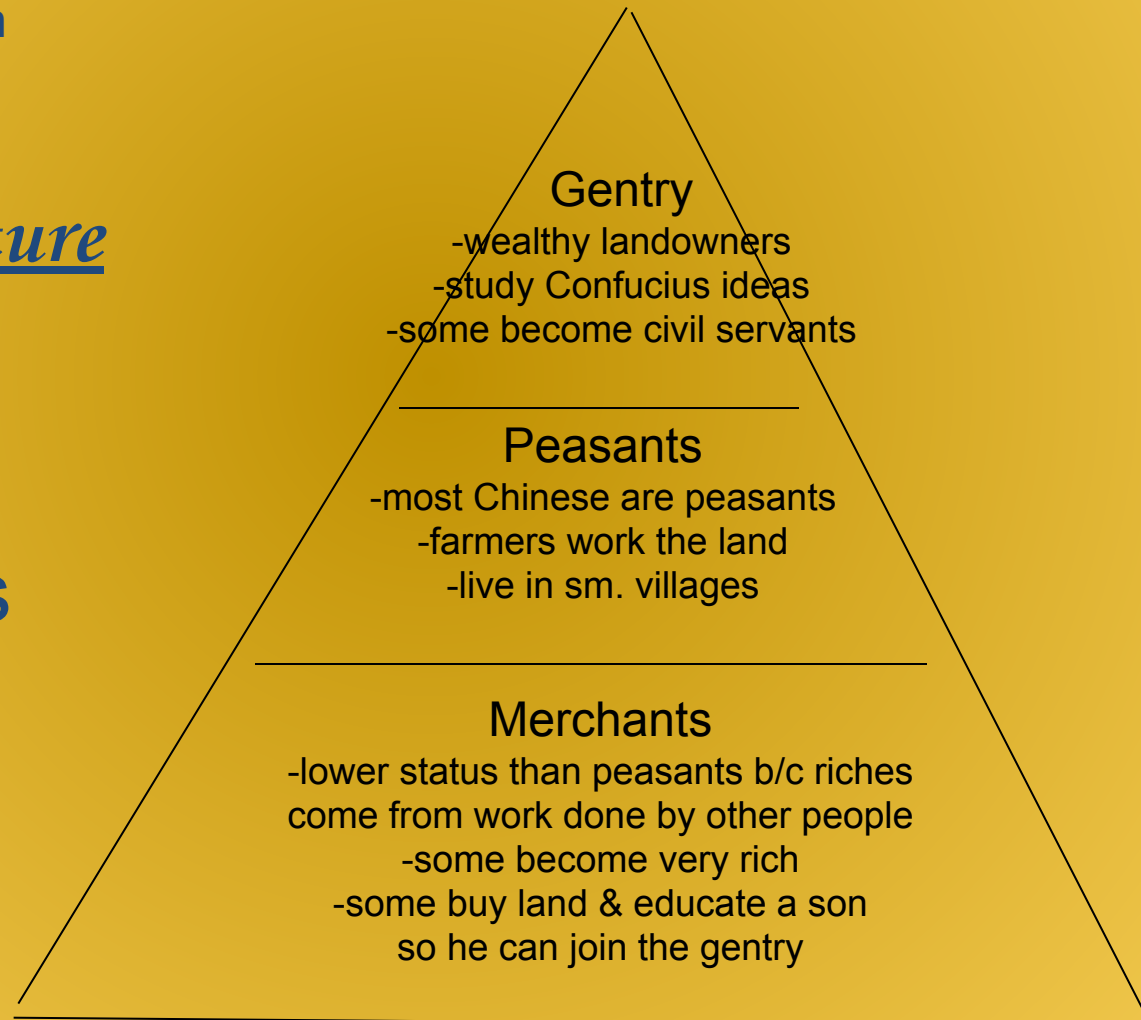
- Proper Behavior included things such as respect of elders & women served men

Social Structure

-gentry

-peasantry

-merchants



The Imperial Family

- Ruled and served the people
- Lived in a palace
- Led religious and official ceremonies
- Huge feasts
- entertained by poets, musicians, singers, jugglers

Nobles

- Landholders, ruled large estates
- Wealthy
- Wore fine silks, expensive jewelry
- Fine furniture, tableware, paintings
- Entertained guests at parties, feasts
- Hunting parties, bows and arrows

Officials

- Ensured the government ran smoothly
- Collected taxes and distributed funds for projects
- Highly educated, had to pass difficult tests, joined civil service
- Women never appointed but could serve government by writing and editing texts/essays and by teaching in imperial court
- Led comfortable lives-servants slaves
- Dressed in special robes to show rank

Soldiers

- All healthy men served in army
- Provided defense and worked on infrastructure projects; Great Wall, roads, canals
- Very dangerous, gone for long periods
- Not paid, received basic rations of essentials
- Infantry, archers, cavalry,
- Most weapons made of bronze or iron
- Some officers and cavalrymen used swords

Peasants

- Most of the population
- Supplied food
- Supplied labor for projects, irrigation, canals, etc.
- Conscripted into military
- Dressed in plain clothing
- Ate simple meats, not much protein
- Men did physical labor
- Women did physical labor and managed household

Artisans

- Commoners
- Well respected but not high status
- Painters, jewelers, weavers, potters, carpenters, metalworkers.
- Provided both essential goods and luxury items for sale

Merchants

- Various occupations; traders, moneylenders, animal breeders, mining and manufacturing
- Commoners but could be wealthy
- The wealthy enjoyed luxurious life similar to nobles
- Peddlers and shopkeepers lived simple, modest lives.

Slaves

- Government slaves-worked in the palace or offices as messengers, doorkeepers, banquet attendants.
- Private slaves-property of master; had to obey all commands
- Helped run household, bodyguards or guarded the graves of masters ancestors
- Acrobats, jugglers, musicians, singers, dancers

Structures of the Government



- Complex bureaucracy
- Imperial military
- Taxes
- Farmers owed part of crop to government
- Merchants also paid taxes
- Peasants owed labor or military service
- Roads, canals, irrigation ditches
- Expanded Great Wall for protection

What was the role of Confucianism in the government?



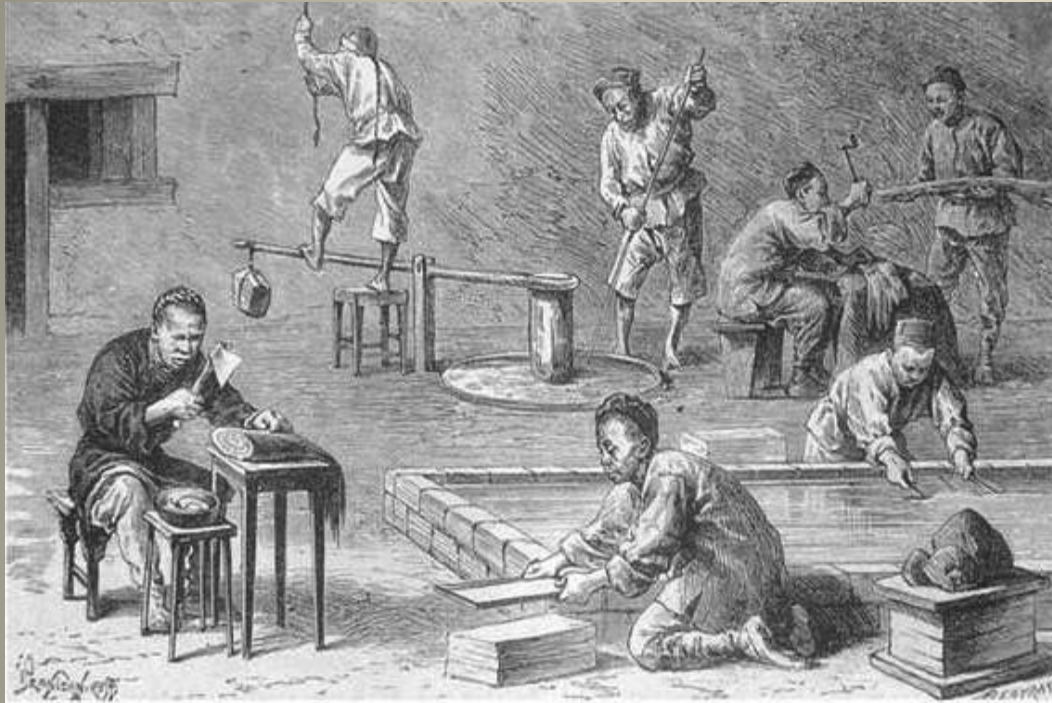
- Provided foundation of **meritocracy**-not wealth or social status
- Wudi employed more than 130,000 people
- 18 ranks of **civil service** jobs
- Obtained job by passing difficult examination
- Studied for years
- Had to know Confucian teachings
- Confucian scholars could become court advisors

What was the Civil Service Exam System?



- Applicants from all over China came to take exams
 - history
 - law
 - literature
 - Confucianism
- Anyone could take them
- Only wealthy could afford necessary education
- Determined your family's future

Han Technology, Commerce, Culture

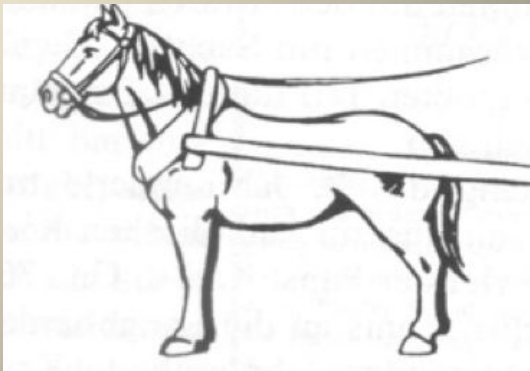
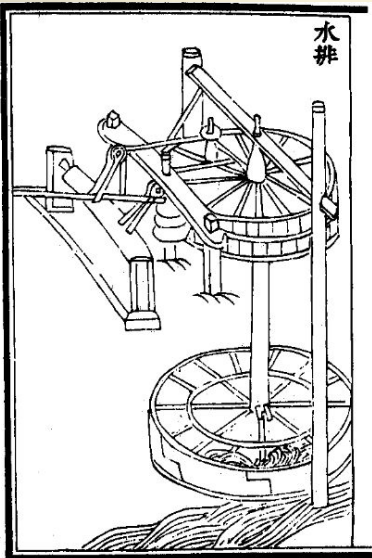
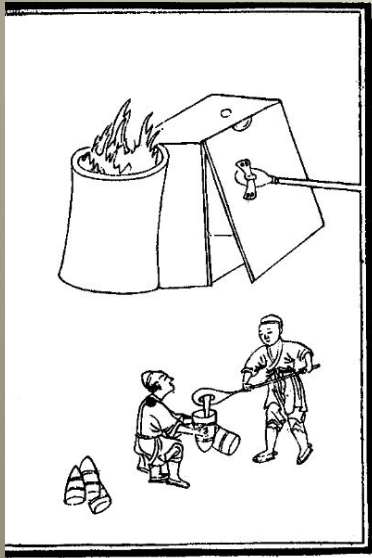


Used plants like hemp to make thin paper
Then used mulberry bark and old rags with
hemp fiber

- Great advances
- Influenced all aspects of life
- Government took more control over commerce and manufacturing
- Paper=books=literacy
- More efficient record keeping=expanded bureaucracy

More Advances

- Horse collar allowed horses to pull heavier loads
- Better plow-2 blades
- Iron tools
- Wheelbarrow, water mills to grind grain



Agriculture vs. Commerce

- What does this primary source reveal about the importance of agriculture to Chinese society?

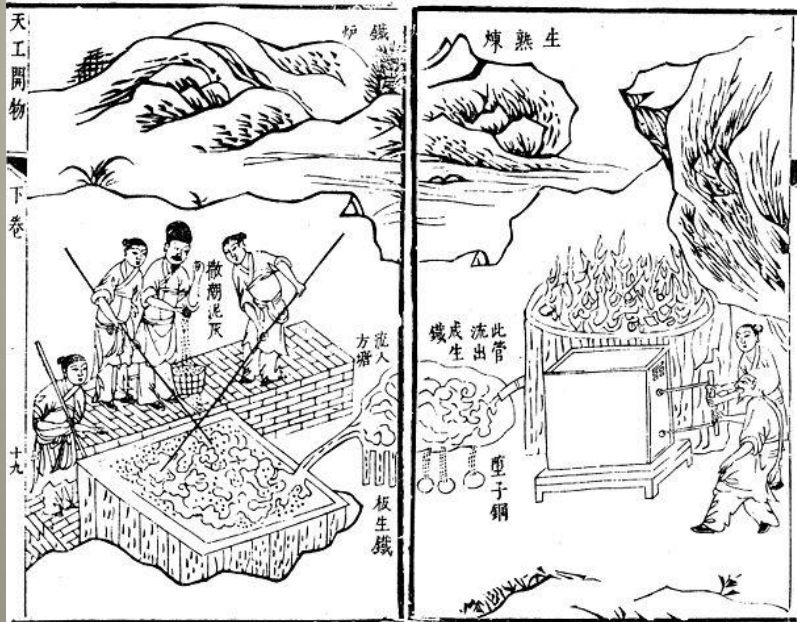
Agriculture is the foundation of the world. No duty is greater. Now if anyone personally follows this pursuit diligently, he has yet to pay the impositions of the land tax and tax on produce...Let there be abolished the land tax and the tax on produce levied upon the cultivated fields.

Ban Gu and Ban Zhao in History of the Former Han Dynasty

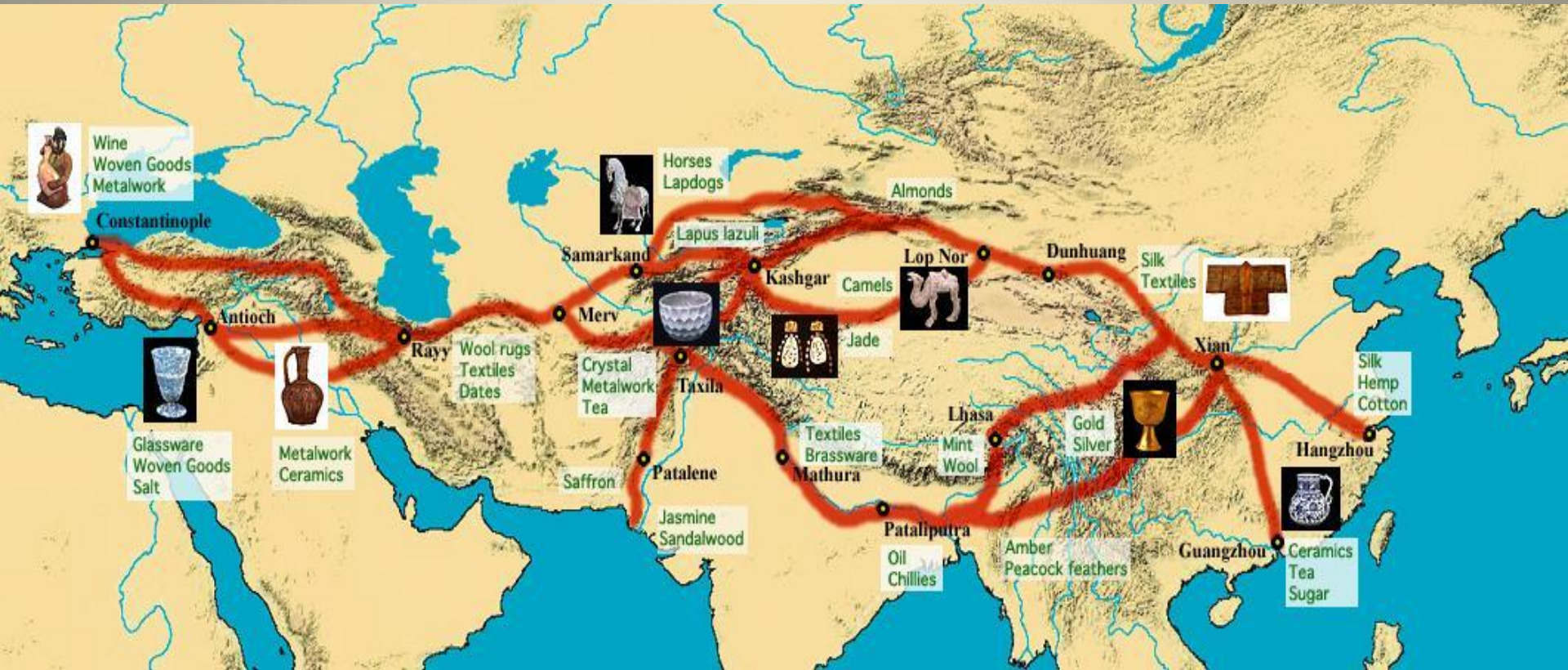
How did the Government Control Commerce?



- **Monopoly** on mining salt, forging iron, minting of coins, brewing alcohol
- Government also produced silk
- Silk production was a closely guarded secret
- Commerce expanded on Silk Roads-all the way to Rome
- Silk robes used as special gifts-tribute or show honor



Trade on the Silk Roads



Han Unify Chinese Culture

- Diversity in Han Empire increases through trade & conquest
- Encouraged **assimilation**
- Encouraged farmers to settle new areas
- Intermarry w/ local peoples
- Set up schools to train local people in Confucian philosophy
- Appointed local scholars to government posts

Unification through Historical Writing

- Sima Qian-grand historian compiled a history from ancient time to Wudi
- Visited historical sites interviewed eye-witnesses, researched official records examined artifacts
- Family of historians-The Ban Family
- Ban Zhou wrote a guide for women called ***Lessons for Women***
- Outlined behavior for women-humble, obedient, industrious

What was role of Women during Han Dynasty?

- Confucianism dictated women's lives
- Most lived quietly at home devoted to family
- Elite women had opportunities for education & culture
- A few became very influential
- Daoist & Buddhist nuns were educated & lived separately
- Some women ran small shops-some practiced medicine

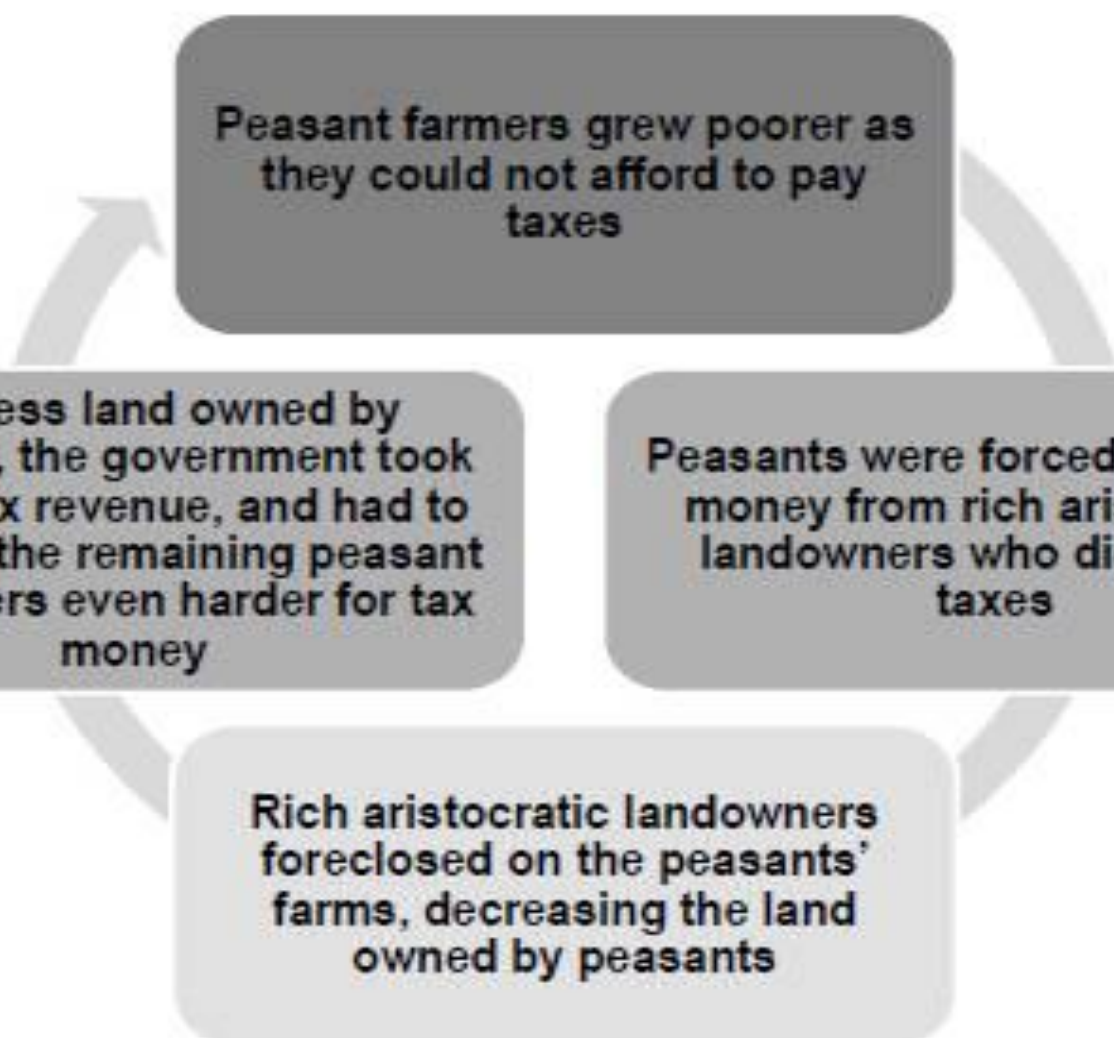
Problems in Later Years

Peasant farmers grew poorer as they could not afford to pay taxes

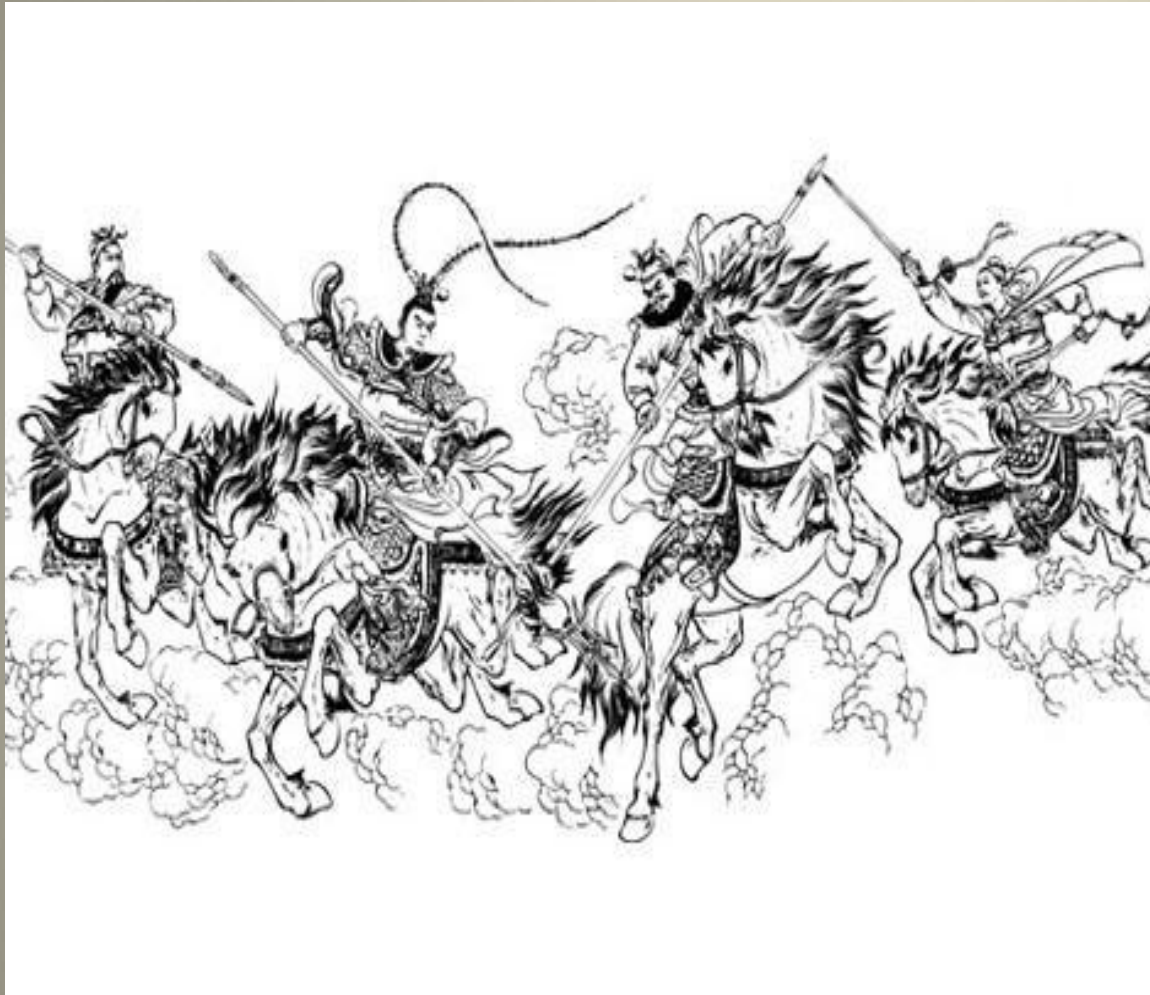
With less land owned by peasants, the government took in less tax revenue, and had to pressure the remaining peasant landowners even harder for tax money

Peasants were forced to borrow money from rich aristocratic landowners who didn't pay taxes

Rich aristocratic landowners foreclosed on the peasants' farms, decreasing the land owned by peasants



What led to Fall of First Han Period?



- Political instability increased
- Succession problems
- Chaos in palace
- Peasant revolts
- Unrest across the land

Who was Wang Mang?



- Confucian Scholar & court official
- Regent for infant emperor
- Tried to restore order
- Overthrew Han
- Not viewed as legitimate

How did he try to restore order?

- Minted new currency to put more money in circulation but disrupted economy
- People increased spending
- Merchants raised prices
- Opened up granaries to feed the poor
- Tried to redistribute land but large landowners resisted

What brought down Wang Mang?

- Great flood
- Not enough food
- Rebellions erupted, wealthy joined them
- Wang Mang assassinated
- Han Empire returned

The Later Han Years



- Peace, prosperity restored
- Silk Road trade resumed
- Soldiers & merchants provided stability
- lasted about 100 years
- Same problems re-emerged

Han Dynasty Collapse



- Size of empire was a problem
- Economic problems
- Political intrigues
- Social unrest
- Three rival kingdoms emerged