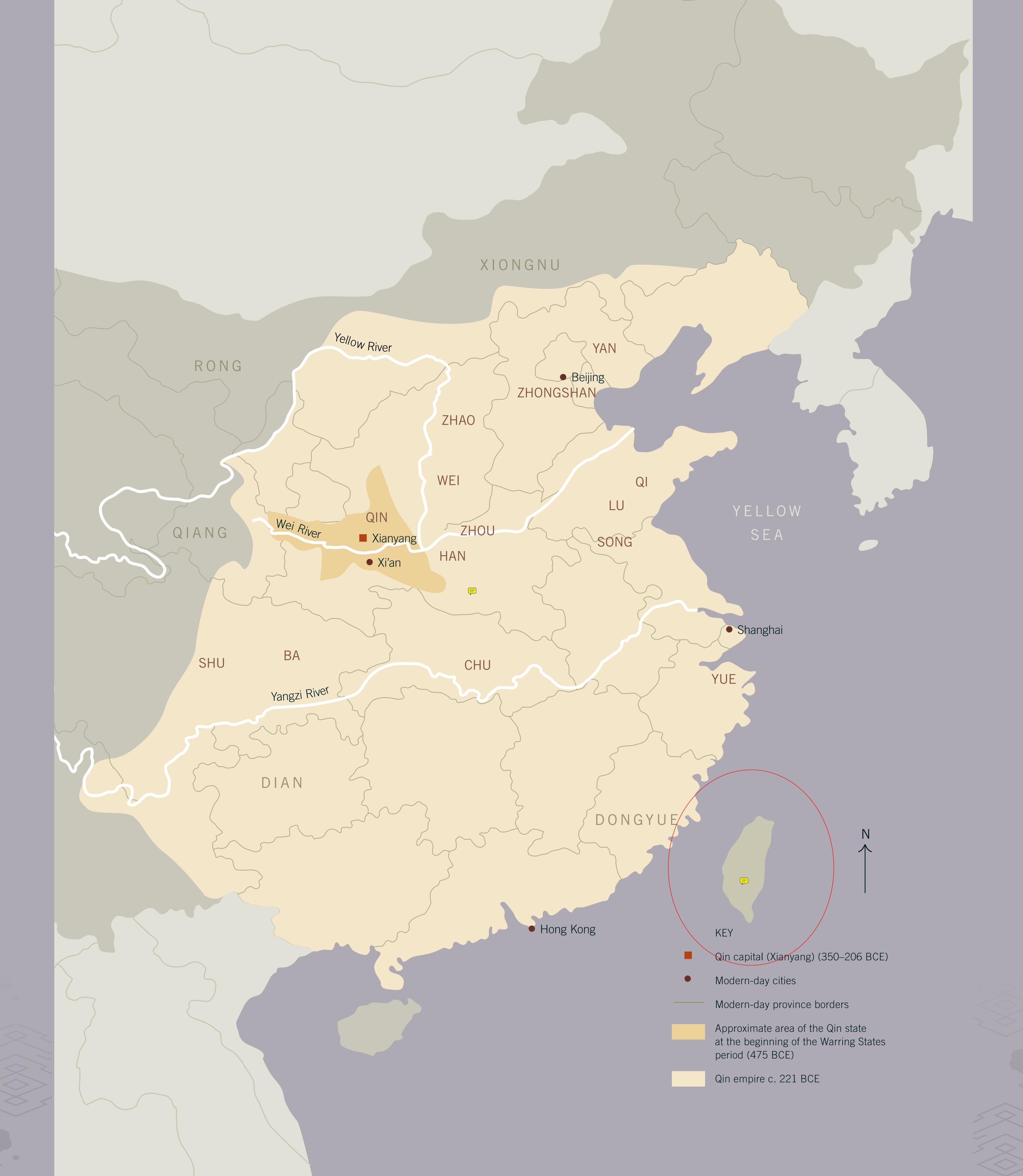
## Chronology

NEOLITHIC PERIOD	c. 10,000-c. 2000 BCE	
Shang dynasty	c. 1600-c. 1046 BCE	
ZHOU DYNASTY	c. 1046–256 BCE	
Western Zhou	c. 1046–771 BCE	
Eastern Zhou	770–256 BCE	
Spring and Autumn period	770-476 BCE	770 BCE History of Qin as a vassal state of Zhou begins
		c. 762 BCE Qin capital moved eastward from present-day eastern Gansu to the area of present-day Baoji, Shaanxi
		c. 677 BCE Qin capital relocated to Yong, at present-day Fengxiang, Shaanxi
		c. 570 BCE Birth of Laozi, founder of Daoism
		551 BCE Birth of Confucius
Warring States period	475–221 BCE	383 BCE Qin capital moved to Yueyang, at present-day Lintong, Shaanxi
		372 BCE Birth of the Confucian philosopher Mencius (Mengzi)
		356 BCE Shang Yang takes charge of Qin's military and political affairs and beg Legalist reforms
		350 BCE Qin capital relocated to Xianyang, Shaanxi
		325 BCE Duke Huiwen of Qin adopts the title "king"
		260 BCE General Bai Qi of Qin defeats army of Zhao state, killing 400,000 surrendered soldiers at the battle of Changping
		259 BCE Birth of Ying Zheng (later Qin Shihuang, the First Emperor)
		256 BCE Qin army attacks Eastern Zhou, ending Zhou rule
		249 BCE Lü Buwei appointed prime minister
		246 BCE Ying Zheng begins his reign as king of Qin at age 13
		238 BCE Ying Zheng takes personal control of state affairs of Qin at age 21, suppressing a coup
		237 BCE Li Si replaces Lü Buwei as prime minister
		227 BCE Jing Ke attempts to assassinate Ying Zheng
		223 BCE Qin army conquers Chu state
QIN DYNASTY	221–206 BCE	221 BCE Ying Zheng conquers Qi state, beginning the Qin dynasty; proclaims himself Qin Shihuang, the First Emperor
		220 BCE Qin Shihuang's first inspection tour; construction of Chidao roadway be
		215 BCE Building and consolidation of Great Wall by Meng Tian begins
		213 BCE First Emperor orders the burning of books across the empire
		212 BCE First Emperor orders the execution of 460 necromancers and scholars
		210 BCE First Emperor dies of illness and is buried in present-day Lintong; succeeded by his son Huhai
	206 BCE-220 CE	206 BCE Liu Bang seizes Xianyang, establishing Han dynasty
HAN DYNASTY	200 DCL-220 CL	200 DCL Liu barry seizes Alarryarry, Establishing Harr dyriasty



## Philosophy and Ferment

A time of turmoil and disunity, the Eastern Zhou (770–256 BCE) was also an era of philosophical and cultural ferment. Itinerant philosophers roamed the various independent states, advising rulers and advancing their own ideas.

The towering figures of Chinese thought lived during these turbulent times: Laozi, the founder of Daoism, seeking harmony with nature; Confucius and his followers Mencius and Xunzi, promoting harmony and order on earth through adherence to ritual and hierarchy; Mozi, advocating morality and order through universal love; and Shang Yang and Han Feizi with their ruthless doctrine of political and social order through the strict enforcement of law.

Most of these great figures served at some point as government officials in the warring states. Their writings and teachings have continued to influence Chinese thought down to the present day.