

Qin to Tang Dynasties in China

A Brief Review
Junior Docent Training
2016

Mia



Neolithic Era
300-1500 BCE



Shang Dynasty
1523-1028 BCE



Zhou Dynasty
1027-256 BCE



Qin Dynasty – 221-206 BCE

Unified China

Legalist form of rule
– absolute power

Standardized writing,
currency and systems
of measurement



Qin Shihuang Di “First August God”





Great Wall





Tumulus of Qin Shihuang Di, 246 to 208 BCE





Terracotta Warriors, Mausoleum of Qin Shihuang Di, Xian



Han Dynasty 206 BCE – CE 220

Considered one of the greatest periods in Chinese history

Chinese ethnic majority still call themselves “people of Han”

Confucian state

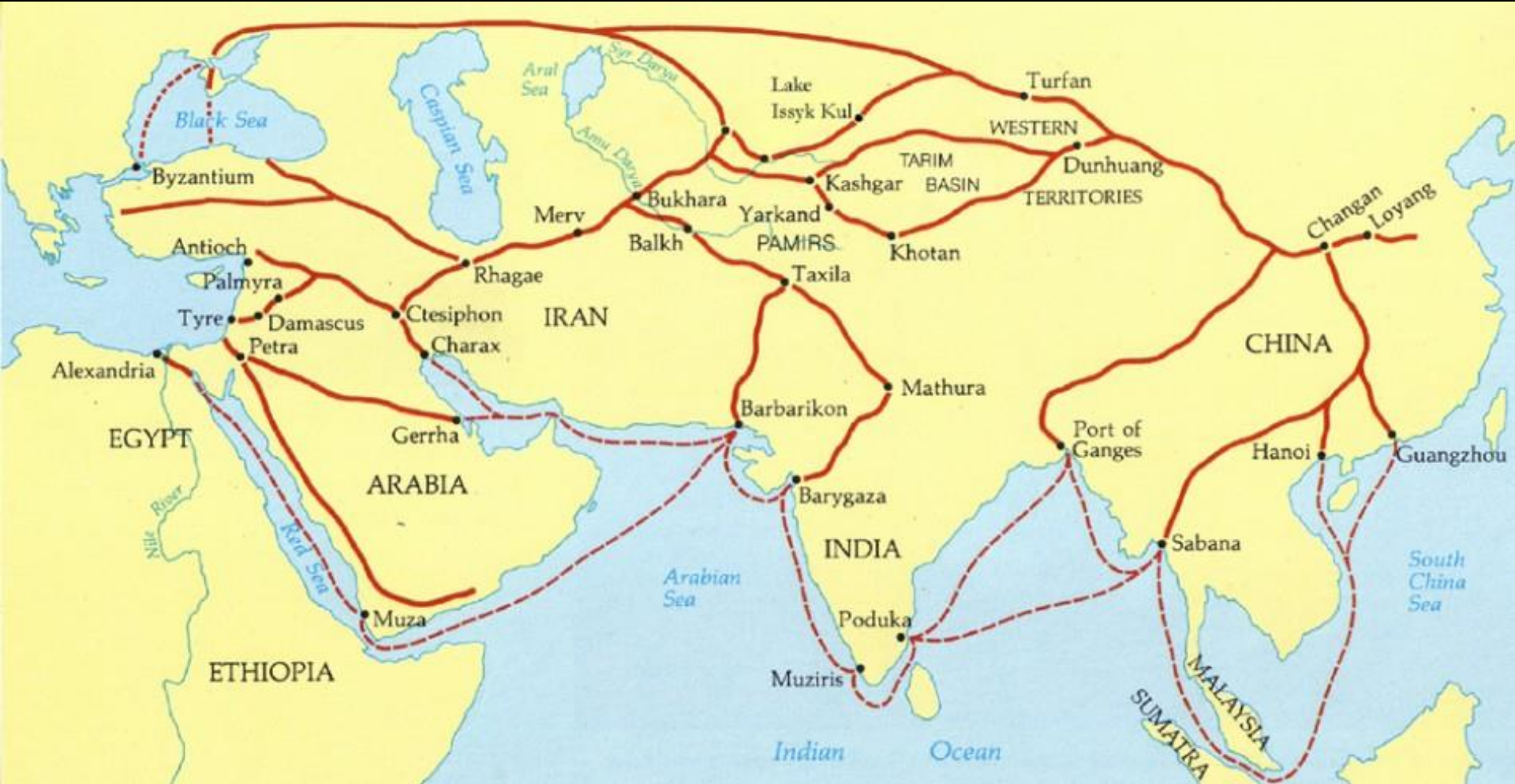
Opening up of the Silk Road



Figure of a squatting drummer, Eastern Han dynasty, 1st-2nd century



The Silk Road





Cocoon Jar, Qin or Western Han dynasty Mia



silk worm cocoon



Silk Worm (weight), Han dynasty, gilt bronze Mia





Akhal-Teke, Ferghana Horse





Celestial Horse, Eastern Han dynasty,
bronze with traces of poly chrome

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ming-chi (spirit articles)



Military Tower, Eastern Han Dynasty, glazed earthenware Mia





Figures with cross bows





Foot Soldiers, 242 BCE, Western Han, earthenware with pigment Mia





Equestrian Soldier, 2nd century BCE, Western Han, earthenware with traces of pigment Mia





Cart with ox and farmer, Han dynasty, bronze Mia





Funerary Model of a Pig Sty, Han Dynasty, earthenware Mia





Female “long Sleeve” Dancer, Western Han dynasty, earthenware Mia



Three Kingdoms and Six Dynasties Period 221-587

Wars

Plagues

Political
instability

Standing Buddha, Northern Qi, late 6th century
Mia



Bodhisattvas, Northern Qi



Standing Buddha, Northern Qi
late 6th century





The Mogao Caves or Thousand Buddha Grottoes, Dunhuang, Gansu Province

Sui Dynasty 586-618

China reunited

Silk Road
flourishes

Center of Buddhist
learning



妙音百萬億那由他淨妙寶像周遍圓透其
坐高廣清淨無量阿僧祇衆生樂觀元
嚴切善天下自在大之訂生處：於彼坐
以正治國無敢違逆種：妙寶莊嚴具牙青
寶珠玉大青寶珠玉勝嚴寶珠以為莊嚴明
淨猶日清涼如月衆星在衆如海勝寶海堅
固幢雖垢明淨閻浮檀金妙色寶錯以施其
首一切閻浮提內大：維爾王法以准其頂
具功德力大慈悲主降伏怨敵無敢違命菩
薩如是元童無欺為轉輪王得法自在正治
國時以如是等種：衆寶教飭之坐或施正
覺諸善知識及賢聖僧聞法歡喜奉施法師
供養父母諸尊重者閻浮提一切菩薩乃
至初發大乘心者及以一切諸佛塔廟或施
元童貧窮下易有訂須欲皆給施之布施坐
時如是迴以此善相令一切衆生得菩提坐
自然覺悟諸佛正法令一切衆生得自在坐
具足虔誠於法自在諸處對山可不能壞
志能降伏一切諸魔令一切衆生得佛自在
師子之坐一切衆生樂觀無厭令一切衆生
得不：可：說：清淨在衆殊妙之坐成法
自在善化衆生令一切衆生得殊勝坐三寶
世間可不能壞廣大善相及善相具皆悉清

Buddhist Text: Fragment from Dunhuang Cave sanctuary, about 600, ink on paper Mia





Vase, Sui dynasty, white porcelainous stoneware
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Tang Dynasty 586-618

Golden Age of China

relative prosperity, political
stability and intellectual
freedom

age of faith

interest in the exotic

artistic excellence



Tomb Figure of a Kneeling Camel with Driver, 618-906, earthenware
Mia





Benediction Scene, late 8th century, sandstone Mia







Camels with Driver, 618-906, terracotta with traces of pigment





Plate, Tang dynasty, silver with chased and gilt décor
Mia



Horse from Tang Dynasty tomb retinue,
Mia

sancai
(three-color)



Thank you

