

WORLD HISTORY
ANCIENT RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS
ANCIENT CHINA

LOCATION:

along the Huang He River

GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGES:

1. Water from the rivers
2. Fertile soil
3. Protection from invasion by mountains, deserts and oceans

GOVERNMENT:

China was ruled by emperors who came from dynasties. Emperors were thought to have the Mandate of Heaven, or the approval of the gods so people followed them devoutly.

BELIEFS:

family was the center of all Chinese society

SOCIAL CLASSES:

Emperors and warrior-nobles owned land, artisans who worked in special crafts like bronzework and silk-making were next, and peasants were last (didn't own land, worked the fields, little food).

WRITING SYSTEM:

calligraphy (a series of characters)

CHINESE TEACHINGS:

- Confucianism: advocated social harmony through relationships and good government
- Taoism: founded by Lao Tzu: people should follow nature's "harmony"

POWERFUL DYNASTIES:

- Ch'in: built the Great Wall of China
- Han: opened trade along the Great Silk Road

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