

# Ancient China

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# HISTORY OF CHINA

- ▶ The emergence of the civilization of ancient China falls on the second half of the 1 millennium BC. In those distant times, China was an ancient feudal state, which was called Zhou (after the ruling dynasty). Then, as a result of the troubles, the Zhou state broke up into several small kingdoms and principalities, which continuously fought with each other for power, territories and influence. The Chinese themselves call this ancient period of their history Zhanguo – the era of the Struggling Kingdoms. Gradually, seven main kingdoms emerged, which absorbed all the others: Qin, Chu, Wei, Zhao, Han, Qi and Yan.
- ▶ Despite the political fragmentation, Chinese culture and civilization actively developed, new cities appeared, crafts and agriculture flourished, and iron replaced bronze. It is this period that can also be safely called the golden age of Chinese philosophy, since it was at that time that the famous Chinese sages Lao Tzu and Confucius lived, on whom we will dwell in more detail a little later, as well as their numerous disciples and followers (for example, Chuang Tzu) who also enriched the world treasury of wisdom with their thoughts and works.

# HISTORY OF CHINA

- ▶ Again, despite the fact that Chinese civilization at that time consisted of seven fragmented kingdoms, they had a common essence, one language, one tradition, history, religion. And soon one of the strongest kingdoms, Qin, under the rule of the harsh and warlike emperor Qin Shi Huang, managed to conquer all the other kingdoms, re-unite ancient China under the banner of a single state.

# CULTURE OF CHINA

- ▶ Chinese culture is extremely rich and multifaceted, it has greatly enriched the global culture. And the greatest contribution here, in our opinion, is the invention of paper by the Chinese, which in turn actively influenced the development of writing. At a time when the ancestors of many European peoples still lived in semi-dugouts and could not even think of writing, the Chinese were already creating extensive libraries with the works of their learned men.
- ▶ The technology of writing in ancient China also underwent considerable evolution and appeared even before the invention of paper, at first the Chinese wrote on bamboo, for this bamboo trunks were split into thin plates and hieroglyphs were applied to them with black ink from top to bottom. Then they were fastened with leather straps along the upper and lower edges, and a bamboo cloth was obtained, which could be easily rolled into a roll. This was an ancient Chinese book. The appearance of paper made it possible to significantly reduce the cost of book production, and to make the books themselves accessible to many. Although, of course, ordinary Chinese peasants in those days remained illiterate, but for government officials and especially aristocrats, literacy, as well as mastery of the art of writing, calligraphy, was a mandatory requirement.

# CULTURE OF CHINA

- ▶ Money in ancient China, as well as in other civilizations, was first in the form of metal coins, although in different kingdoms these coins could have different shapes. Nevertheless, over time, it was the Chinese who were the first, however, in a later era began to use paper money.
- ▶ We know about the high level of development of crafts in ancient China from the works of Chinese writers of those times, so they tell us about ancient Chinese artisans of various specialties: casters, carpenters, jewelers, gunsmiths, weavers, ceramics specialists, builders of dams and dams. Moreover, each Chinese region was famous for its skilled craftsmen.
- ▶ Shipbuilding was actively developing in ancient China, as evidenced by the well-preserved model 16 of a rowboat, a junk, which was discovered by archaeologists.

# ДРЕВНЕКИТАЙСКАЯ ДЖОНКА

ancient chinese junk



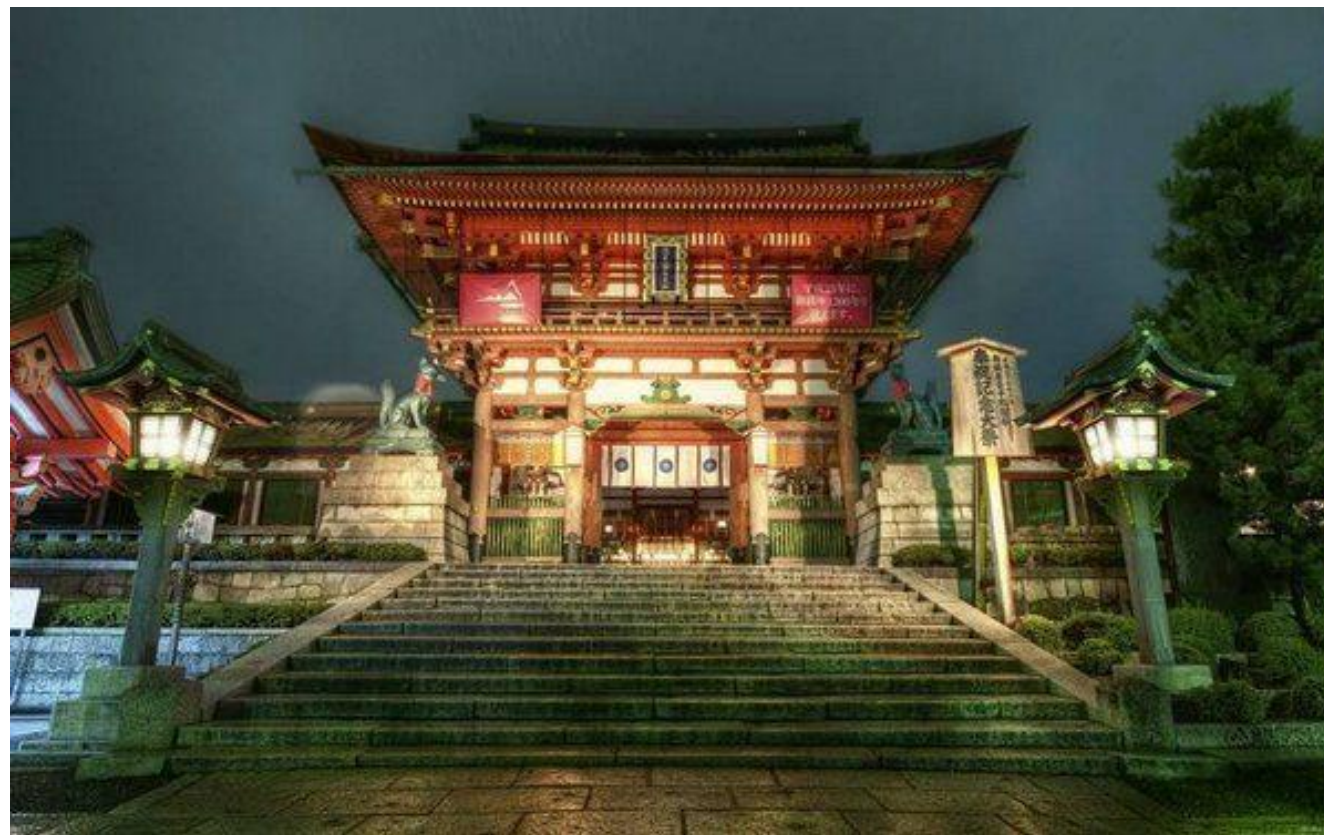


# RELIGION

- ▶ Ancient Chinese religion is largely connected with Chinese philosophy, its moral component comes from Confucianism, mystical from Taoism, and also much is borrowed from Buddhism, a world religion that appeared in neighboring India in the 5th century BC.
- ▶ Buddhist missionary and monk Bodhidharma (he is also the founder of the legendary Shao Lin Monastery), according to legend, was the first to bring Buddhist teaching to the territory of China, where it fell on favorable soil and flourished, largely acquiring Chinese flavor from the synthesis with Taoism and Confucianism. Since then, Buddhism has become the third integral component of the religion of China.
- ▶ Buddhism also had a very good influence on the development of education in ancient China (a commoner could become a Buddhist monk, and as a monk it was already necessary to learn literacy and writing). Many Buddhist monasteries simultaneously became real scientific and cultural centers of that time, where learned monks were engaged in copying Buddhist sutras (while creating extensive libraries), taught people to read and write, shared their knowledge with them and even opened Buddhist universities.

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thank you for your attention

