

## Cultural development in China

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## Ancient Chinese Philosophy



<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laozi>

Lao Tsu believed that the way to happiness was for people to learn to “go with the flow.” Instead of trying to get things done the hard way, people should take the time to figure out the natural, or easy way to do things, and then everything would get done more simply. This idea is called “wu-wei”, which means “doing by not doing”.

Lao Tsu also thought that everything alive in the universe (plants, animals, people) shared in a universal life-force. There were two sides to the life-force, which are called the yin and the yang.

The Tao Te Ching is translated as - The Classic Book of Integrity and the Way. The Tao Te Ching is considered by most scholars to be the fundamental text of philosophical and mystical/religious Taoism.



<http://primaltrek.com/trigramrev1.jpg>

The charm displays on its reverse the bagua which are the eight combinations of trigrams.

**Yellow Emperor (Huang Di)  
2696–2598 BC**

Huangdi is the fabled first Emperor of China

The most ancient of five legendary Chinese emperors as well as a patron of Taoism, one of China's main religions and philosophies. He was also a culture hero.

(Wife of Huangdi) Lei-tzu, with discovering silk-making itself, and also the weaving of silk thread into fabric. "The Earliest Ancestor of Silk".



The Silk Route refers to a network of interlinking trade routes across the Afro-Eurasian landmass that connected East, South, and Western Asia with the Mediterranean and European world, as well as parts of North and East Africa.

China traded silk, spices, teas, and porcelain; while India traded ivory, textiles, precious stones, and pepper; and the Roman Empire exported gold, silver, fine glassware, wine, carpets, and jewels.

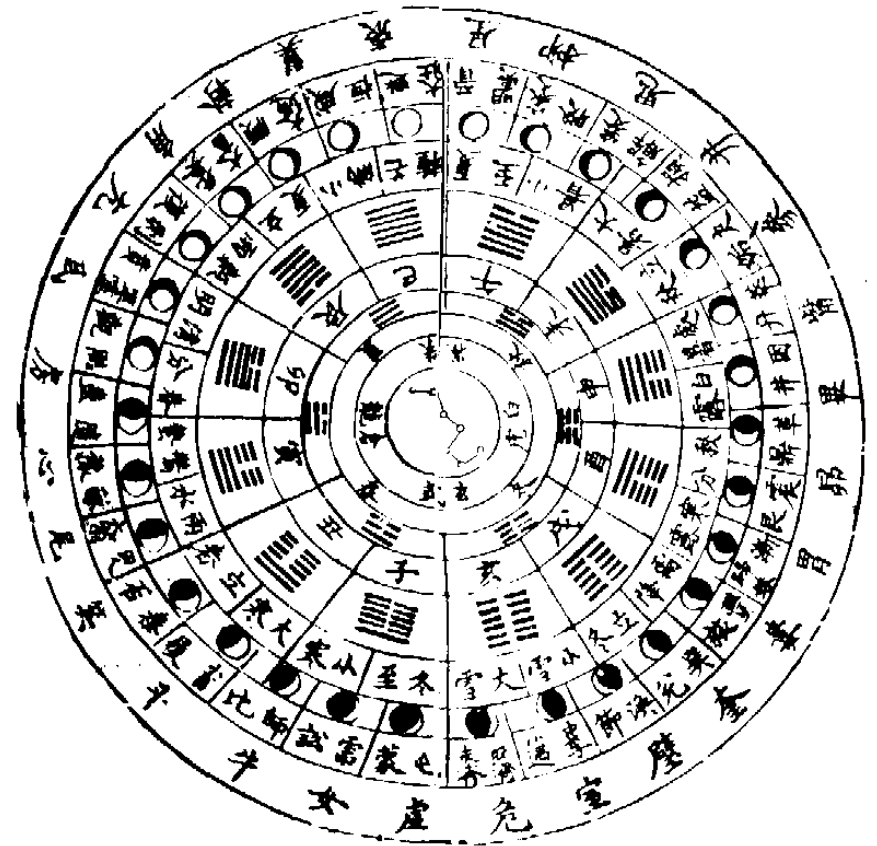


**Women making  
Silk, 12th century**

<http://records.photodharma.net/culture/the-history-and-production-of-silk>



Confucius, who lived about 550 BC, taught that people should recognize their responsibilities to the larger society, and work to uphold the laws and customs of their society. If everyone was a good citizen, the whole community would benefit and everyone would be happier.



The Book of Changes (the oldest of the Chinese classic texts)  
Sun and Moon cycles in interpretations of I-ching.

The text of the I Ching is a set of oracular statements represented by 64 sets of six lines each called hexagrams ( guà). Each hexagram is a figure composed of six stacked horizontal lines, each line is either Yang (a solid line), or Yin (an open line with a gap in the center). With six such lines stacked from bottom to top there are 26 or 64 possible combinations, and thus 64 hexagrams represented. The hexagram diagram is composed of two three-line arrangements called trigrams There are 8, possible trigrams.

<http://www.strannik.de/super/sunmoon.htm>

**Buddhism first came to China from India around 500 AD, spreading through Central Asia along the Silk Road. A Buddhist artist carved this wooden Buddha in Western China, on the Silk Road, before Buddhism really reached central China. At this time China was broken up into a lot of smaller kingdoms, so there wasn't much organized opposition to the new religion.**



<http://www.icumi.info/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/Leshan-Buddha-Statue-1.jpg>

**The Leshan Buddha statue located at Leshan, Sichuan, China.**



<http://ww1.prweb.com/prfiles/2008/10/20/908884/yellowmt200201.jpg>

**Shaolin Temple monks practice Shaolin Kungfu in Quanzhou City, South China's Fujian Province**

Very soon after Buddhism came to China, in the 500s AD, Chinese people developed their own kind of Buddhism, which we call Zen Buddhism. Zen comes from the Sanskrit (Indian) word dhyana, which means "meditation," but the Chinese philosophy of Taoism might also be an influence on Zen. Zen philosophy emphasizes meditation and experience instead of words and explanations.

**Tai Chi**

**Kungfu**



[http://www.chinatourguide.com/china\\_photos/beijing/arts\\_entertainment/chinese\\_kungfu\\_xinhuanet1.jpg](http://www.chinatourguide.com/china_photos/beijing/arts_entertainment/chinese_kungfu_xinhuanet1.jpg)

**Shang Dynasty (16th - 11th century BC)**  
Bronze making was the symbol of the Shang civilization.  
The calendar on the cycle of the moon.

**Zhou Dynasty (11 century BC - 221 BC)**  
the longest dynasty in Chinese history 800 years' history,  
having 37 emperors.

**Qin Dynasty (221 BC - 206 BC)**  
Strong political, economical and military power  
The eighth wonder of the world Terracotta Warriors  
and Horses Museum.

**Han Dynasty (206 BC --- 220 AD)**  
Lots of irrigation projects and channels were built.  
It was created papermaking.  
Gunpowder.

**Three Kingdoms Period (220 - 280)**

**Jin Dynasty (265 --- 420)**

**Northern and Southern Dynasties (386 - 589)**  
Buddhism come from India into China.

**Sui Dynasty (581 - 618) 'Wuzhu' coins**

**Tang Dynasty (618 --- 907)** As one of the most important dynasties in Chinese history, Tang Dynasty was established by Emperor Gaozu - Li Yuan, with Chang'an (Xian today) as the capital. China had ever been the strongest country in the world, enjoying a history of 289 years

**Five Dynasties and Ten States (907 --- 960)**

**Song Dynasty (960 --- 1279)**

**Liao Dynasty ( 916 - 1125 )**  
**Jin (Kin) Dynasty ( 1115 - 1234 )**  
**Yuan Dynasty (1271 - 1368)**

**Ming Dynasty (1368 - 1644)** Popular policies by cutting taxes and fair government. Culture was developed very quickly.

**Qing Dynasty (1644 - 1911)**







范曾 丙子 (1996年) 作 □羽煮茶□

Chinese tea enjoyed a more than 4000 years history.

Tea was used as offerings and medicine. Later it became a main commodity. Buddhism was popular and Buddhists applied tea to relieve sleep in za-zen, so tea trees spread along valleys around temples. That is why people say tea and Buddhism accompanied each other in their development. Till the Tang Dynasty tea became popular in ordinary people. In the Ming Dynasty tea trade began to play an important role in the government economy.

In the 6th century, a Buddhist monk introduced tea to Japan and in the 16th century to Europe by a Portuguese missionary. And tea became an international drink.

Now in China, tea family not only consists of traditional tea, but also tea beverage, tea food, tea medicine and other tea products.

there are hundreds of varieties of Chinese tea, they can be mainly classified into five categories, that is, green tea, black tea, brick tea, scented tea, and Oolong tea.

The Chinese tea ceremony enjoys a worldwide reputation, a tradition that spread into Japan

## Landscape painting

Two separate styles of “blue-and-green landscapes” and “ink-and-wash landscape”.



**Up in the Clouds**  
© Maria Yik  
Chinese Ink and Wash on paper



**Hanging Scroll, China, Republican period, ink, colors and gilt on paper, blue and green landscape, Pavilions in Landscape, signed “Xu Hong,” with two seals, dated mid-spring of jiaxu year, 34 x 15 3/4 in.**

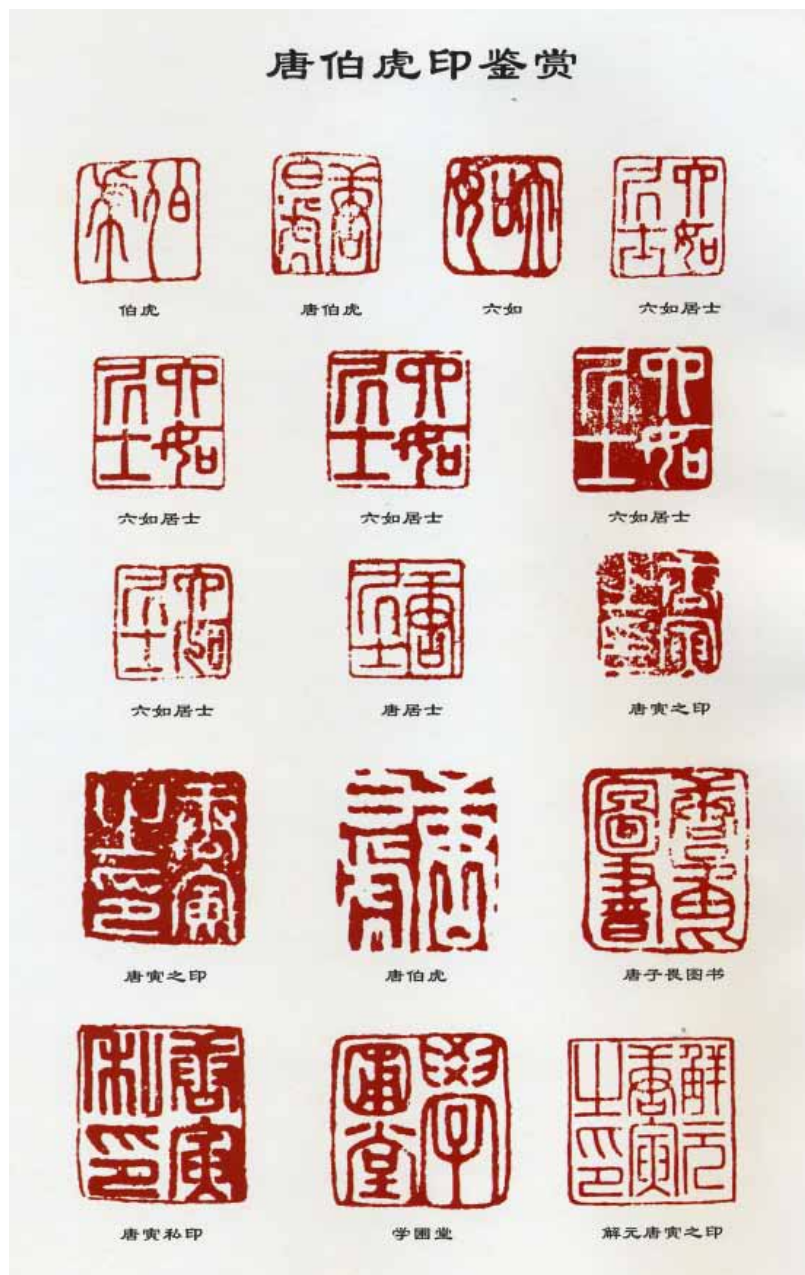


Flower-and-bird painting

Zhao Shaoang, "Flower and Bird"

<http://www.chinaonline-museum.com/resources/Painting/Birds/ZhaoShaoang-1.jpg>

Seal and Calligraphy.  
Calligraphy is one of the highest forms of Chinese art.



The Calligrapher's Tools: Chinese brush, paper, ink and ink-stone

## Chinese ceramics

### Three-colored ceramics



<http://img2.wantitall.co.za/images/ShowImage.aspx?ImageId=Chinese-Tang-Horse-sansai-three-color-glaze-ceramic%7C51EJ5C8Q2WL.jpg>

**Chinese Tang Horse - sansai three color glaze - ceramic**

### Blue and white porcelain



[http://www.christies.com/lotfinderimages/D53472/a\\_large\\_blue\\_and\\_white\\_porcelain\\_dragon\\_jar\\_joseon\\_dynasty\\_d5347217h.jpg](http://www.christies.com/lotfinderimages/D53472/a_large_blue_and_white_porcelain_dragon_jar_joseon_dynasty_d5347217h.jpg)

**A Large Blue and White Porcelain Dragon Jar**

## Five-colored porcelain



[http://arts.cultural-china.com/chinaWH/upload/upfiles/2010-03/25/rivalingcolor\\_vase\\_with\\_patterns\\_of\\_tangled\\_twigs\\_gourds\\_and\\_butterflies-39f3adf733bed2eeeb1d.jpg](http://arts.cultural-china.com/chinaWH/upload/upfiles/2010-03/25/rivalingcolor_vase_with_patterns_of_tangled_twigs_gourds_and_butterflies-39f3adf733bed2eeeb1d.jpg)

**Rivaling-Color Vase with Patterns of Tangled Twigs, Gourds and Butterflies  
Dynasty "JiaJing" Reign with fish**

# Thank you!

## *Links:*

<http://records.photodharma.net/culture/the-history-and-production-of-silk>

<http://www.warriortours.com/intro/history/>

<http://inside.bard.edu/~louis/gardens/resources.html>

[http://www.english.cciv.cityu.edu.hk/China\\_5000/?chapter=dicts/Private\\_Gardens](http://www.english.cciv.cityu.edu.hk/China_5000/?chapter=dicts/Private_Gardens)

<http://www.idh.ru/jornal/archive/article100000216.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laozi>

<http://www.handmade.cc/earliest-ancestor-of-the-chinese-nation-huangdi-yellow-emperor-and-yandi-red-emperor.html>

<http://www.historyforkids.org>

<http://www.strannik.de/super/sunmoon.htm>

## *Books:*

Mohinder Singh Randhawa "Gardens Through The Ages"

Geoffrey Jellicoe "The Landscape of Man"