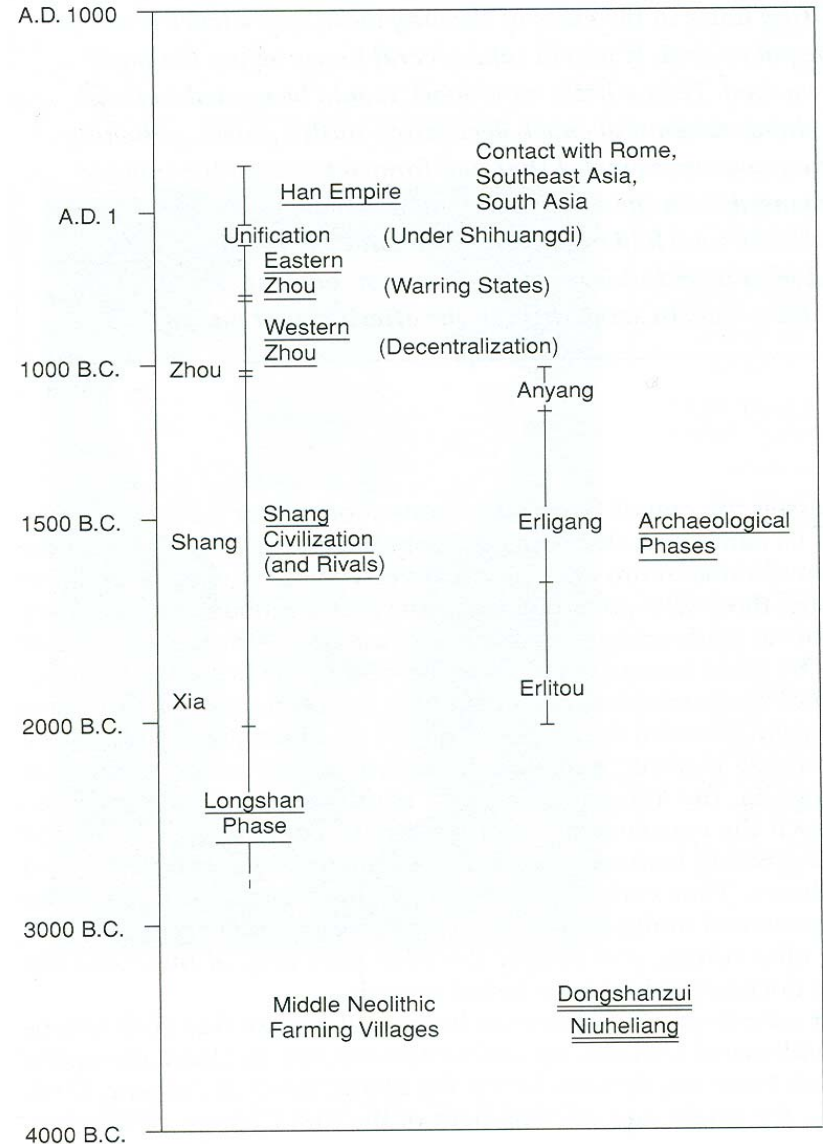


China

Bronze metallurgy, rice
agriculture, and oracle bones

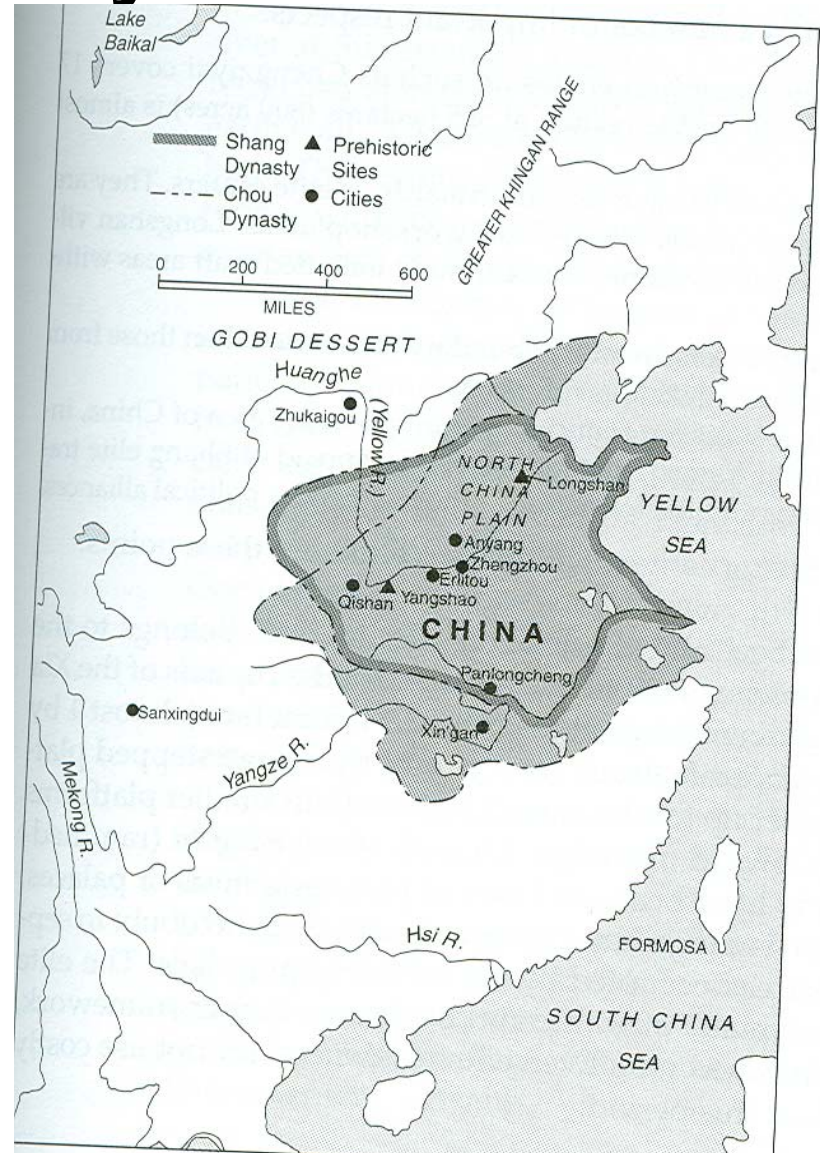
Basic Time Line

- Agriculture: rice and millet by at least 9000 BP
- Geographical division between north and south
- Development along two river systems: Huanghe and Yangtze



Regional Layout

- Organization along rivers
- Early regionalism
- Major climatological differences
- Areas outside the river basins less well understood



Middle Neolithic: Precursors to Urban Development

- Agricultural villages of significant size, ca. 6500 BP
- Beginnings of regional centers
- Displays of prestige in exotic objects: jade, (later ceramic, bronze) control of specialists
- Elaboration of collective ritual: scapulmancy, divination
- Origins of writing system: oracle bones

Neolithic Sites

Neolithic structures

Neolithic Settlement pattern

Longshan Phase (4700-4000BP)

- Early evidence of writing: on ceramics
- Defensive fortifications of emerging centers, “hang tu”/rammed earth construction technology
- First ritual vessels appear (early copper, then initial bronze)
- Interpretation: pattern of warring elites with increasingly formal territories, ritually reinforced status

Xia and Shang

- Ca. 4000 – 3027 BP
- Henan province, middle valley of the Huanghe
- State emerges NOT where most complex Longshan chiefdoms had been, but from margins
- Much larger settlements than Longshan
- Walled enclosures as elite compounds
- Rise in the production of elite goods
- Substantial territorial spread to the Yangtze River valley



Major Shang Sites: Erlitou, Zhengzhou, and Anyang

- Continued use of rammed earth construction
- Development of separate elite compounds
- “Urban cluster” pattern: spatial mapping of social hierarchy
- Ritual centers surrounded by more dispersed support elements
- Emergent role of elites as ritual specialists
- Massive displays of status in elite burials
- Distinction between territory and “cultural sphere”

Oracle bones, scapulmancy, and writing

Bronze technology and ritual

Shang Sites

Zhou Dynasty

- 1027-771 BCE
- Sharp political break, but strong cultural continuity
- Much greater cultural, technological break with the rise of Eastern Zhou, after 771 BCE.

Later Developments: Qin Dynasty



R
emains of bows, fins,
and lites have been
found. No original parts have
survived such as the wood of a
high-ranking officer, possibly
a general's helmet, discovered
in Pit 1. Two similar "gen-
erals" have been found in Pit 2.
Archaeologists made
two models, one with
a wooden body and one
with a tin body, to reflect
the original appearance.



the statues. Charcoal may
have been used for the hair.
Guided by factors of paint
and historical sources, there
was a consensus with an
electrician pen and tablet to
bring color to photographs
of the archer and the general
figure from Pit 2. Without
actually seeing the original
statue, an approximation
of the figure's original
appearance is achieved and
can only be modified as
reflect future research.

