1. **In Search of Political and Social Order**
   1. Confucius and His School
      1. Confucius (551-479 B.C.E.)
         1. A strong-willed man, from an aristocratic family
         2. Traveled ten years searching for an official post
         3. Ended up being an educator, with numerous disciples
         4. His sayings were compiled in the *Analects* by his disciples
      2. Confucian ideas
         1. Fundamentally moral and ethical in character
         2. Thoroughly practical: How to restore political and social order
         3. Concentrated on formation of *junzi* - "superior individuals"
         4. Edited and compiled the Zhou classics for his disciples to study
      3. The key Confucian concepts
         1. *Ren* - a sense of humanity
         2. *Li* - a sense of propriety
         3. *Xiao* - filial piety
         4. Cultivating of *junzi* for bringing order to China
      4. Mencius (372-289 B.C.E.)
         1. A principal spokesman for the Confucian school
         2. Firmly believed in the goodness of human nature
         3. Advocated government by benevolence and humanity
      5. Xunzi (298-238 B.C.E.)
         1. Served as a governmental administrator
         2. Cast doubt on the goodness of human nature
         3. Preferred harsh social discipline to bring order to society
         4. Also advocated moral education and good public behavior
   2. Daoism
      1. The most prominent critics of Confucian activism
         1. Preferred philosophical reflection and introspection
         2. To understand natural principles, to live in harmony with them
      2. Laozi and Zhuangzi
         1. Laozi, the founder of Daoism, allegedly wrote the *Daodejing*
         2. Zhuangzi, an influential Daoist philosopher, wrote *Zhuangzi*
      3. The *Dao*
         1. *Dao* - The way of nature, the way of the cosmos
         2. An elusive concept: an eternal principle governing all the workings of the world
         3. *Dao* is passive and yielding, does nothing yet accomplishes everything
         4. Humans should tailor their behavior to the passive and yielding nature of the *Dao*
         5. Ambition and activism had only brought the world to chaos
      4. The doctrine of *wuwei*
         1. Disengagement from worldly affairs
         2. Called for simple, unpretentious life, living in harmony with nature
         3. Advocated small state, self-sufficient community
      5. Political implications
         1. Served as a counterbalance to Confucian activism
         2. Individuals could live as Confucians by day, Daoists by night
   3. Legalism
      1. The doctrine of statecraft
         1. Promoted a practical and ruthlessly efficient approach
         2. No concern with ethics and morality
         3. No concern with the principles governing nature
      2. Shang Yang (ca. 390-338 B.C.E.)
         1. A chief minister of the Qin state
         2. His policies were summarized in *The Book of Lord Shang*
         3. Was executed by his political enemies
      3. Han Feizi (ca. 280-233 B.C.E.)
         1. Student of Xunzi, became the most articulate Legalist
         2. A synthesizer of Legalist ideas
         3. Forced to suicide by his political enemies
      4. Legalist doctrine
         1. The state's strength was in agriculture and military force
         2. Discouraged commerce, education, and the arts
         3. Harnessing self-interest of the people for the needs of the state
         4. Called for harsh penalties even for minor infractions
         5. Advocated collective responsibility before the law
         6. Legalism was not popular among the Chinese, but practically effective
2. **The Unification of China**
   1. The Qin Dynasty
      1. The Qin state
         1. Located in west China and adopted Legalist policies
         2. Encouraged agriculture, resulted in strong economy
         3. Organized a powerful army equipped with iron weapons
         4. Conquered other states and unified China in 221 B.C.E.
      2. The first emperor
         1. The king of the Qin proclaimed himself the First Emperor, 221 B.C.E.
         2. Established centralized imperial rule
         3. Project of connecting and extending the Great Wall
      3. Suppressing the resistance
         1. Buried 460 scholars alive because of their criticism against the Qin
         2. Burned all books except some with utilitarian value
      4. Policies of centralization
         1. Standardization of laws, currencies, weights, measures
         2. Standardization of scripts
      5. Tomb of the First Emperor
         1. Died in 210 B.C.E.
         2. The tomb was an underground palace
         3. Excavation of the tomb since 1974
      6. The collapse of the Qin dynasty
         1. Massive public works generated tremendous ill will among the people
         2. Waves of rebels overwhelmed the Qin court in 207 B.C.E.
         3. A short-lived dynasty, but left deep marks in Chinese history
   2. The Early Han Dynasty
      1. Liu Bang
         1. A general, a persistent man, a methodical planner
         2. Restored order and established the Han dynasty, 206 B.C.E.
      2. Han was a long-lived dynasty: Former Han and Later Han
      3. Early Han policies
         1. Seeking a middle way between Zhou decentralization and Qin over-centralization
         2. Royal relatives were not reliable, returned to centralized rule
      4. The Martial Emperor (reigned 141-87 B.C.E.)
         1. Han Wudi, the "Martial Emperor," ruled for 54 years with vision and vigor
         2. Pursued two policies: centralization and expansion
      5. Han centralization
         1. Adopted Legalist policies
            1. Built an enormous bureaucracy to rule the empire
            2. Continued to build roads and canals
            3. Levied taxes on agriculture, trade, and craft industries
            4. Imperial monopolies on production of iron and salt
         2. Established Confucian educational system for training bureaucrats
            1. Confucianism as the basis of the curriculum in imperial university
            2. Thirty thousand students enrolled in the university in Later Han
      6. Han imperial expansion
         1. Invaded and colonized northern Vietnam and Korea
         2. Extended China into central Asia
            1. Han organized vast armies to invade Xiongnu territory
            2. Han enjoyed uncontested hegemony in east and central Asia
3. **From Economic Prosperity to Social Disorder**
   1. Productivity and Prosperity during the Former Han
      1. Social structure
         1. Patriarchal households averaged five inhabitants
         2. Large compound families also developed
         3. Women's subordination as seen in Ban Zhao's *Admonitions for Women*
         4. Cultivators were the majority of the population
      2. Iron metallurgy: Farming tools, utensils, and weapons
      3. Silk textiles
         1. Sericulture spread all over China during the Han
         2. High quality Chinese silk became a prized commodity in India, Persia, Mesopotamia, and Rome
      4. Paper production
         1. Invented probably before 100 C.E.
         2. Began to replace silk and bamboo as writing materials
      5. Population growth
         1. Increased from twenty to sixty million from 220 B.C.E. to 9 C.E.
         2. Despite light taxation, state revenue was large
   2. Economic and Social Difficulties
      1. Expeditions consumed the empire's surplus
         1. Raised taxes and confiscated land of some wealthy individuals
         2. Taxes and land confiscations discouraged investment in manufacture and trade
      2. Social tensions, caused by stratification between the poor and rich
      3. Problems of land distribution
         1. Economic difficulties forced some small landowners to sell property
         2. Some sold themselves or their families into slavery
         3. Lands accumulated in the hands of a few
         4. No land reform, because Han needed cooperation of large landowners
      4. The reign of Wang Mang
         1. A powerful Han minister
         2. Dethroned the baby emperor, claimed imperial title himself, 9 C.E.
         3. Land reforms - the "socialist emperor"
         4. Overthrown by revolts, 23 C.E.
   3. The Later Han Dynasty (25-220 C.E.)
      1. The Yellow Turban Uprising
         1. Rulers restored order but did not address problem of landholding
         2. Yellow Turban uprising inflicted serious damage on the Han
      2. Collapse of the Han
         1. Factions at court paralyzed the central government
         2. Han empire dissolved, China was divided into regional kingdoms