

Ch. 5A RECAP – Society and the State in China

1. Share out your understanding of the guiding question: “Characterize the social hierarchy of China during the second-wave era.” (Be sure to discuss each level of Chinese society, who made up each, and the power and/or influence each had in relation to one another.)
2. If the civil service exams were in theory open to all men, what factors might, in practice, prevent a man from succeeding on the exam?
3. How did the structure of land ownership change in China after the Qin dynasty united China?
4. What factors made life difficult for peasants in China in the classical period?
5. How would Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism respond to the Yellow Turban Rebellion?
6. Discuss and interpret the main idea of the poem below.

For ten years I never left my books,
I went up...and won unmerited praise.
My high place I do not much prize;
The joy of my parents will first make me proud.
Fellow students, six or seven men,
See me off as I leave the City gate.
My covered coach is ready to drive away;
Flutes and strings blend their parting tune.
Hopes achieved dull the pains of parting;
Fumes of wine shorten the long road....
Shod with wings is the horse of him who rides
On a spring day the road that leads to home.

- Pho Chu-I, *After the Examination*,
800 C.E. during the Tang Dynasty
7. Discuss and interpret the main idea of the poem below.

The cob of corn in springtime sown
In autumn yields a hundredfold.
No fields are seen that fallow lie:
And yet of hunger peasants die.
As at noontide they hoe their crops,
Sweat on the grain to earth down drops.
How many tears, how many a groan,
Each morsel on thy dish did mould!

- Li Shen, 8th century B.C.E.