

Chapter 8: The Unification of China Reading Questions

In Search of Political and Social Order – p. 150

1. What was going on in China that led philosophers to address problems of political and social order?
2. For each of the major Chinese philosophies (Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism), note the circumstances under which it was founded (included people, if applicable), and key values/beliefs.

The Unification of China – p. 156

3. What dynasty reestablished control after the Period of the Warring States?
4. What steps did Shihuangdi take to secure his control?
5. Why did Qin Shihuangdi order the destruction of philosophical books and the execution of hundreds of teachers?
6. Shihuangdi worked to standardize laws and coinage, built roads, and centralized the government. What chapter 7 leader did the same thing?
7. Qin Shihuangdi ensured that even though the populations of China spoke different languages, they could still communicate. What did he do to ensure this?
8. How did the Great Wall and the Emperor's Tomb help lead to the end of the Qin dynasty?

The Early Han Dynasty – p. 159

9. What leader restored China to order following the rebellion mentioned in question 8?
10. The Zhou had been decentralized; the Qin centralized. What did Han Liu Bang decide to do?
11. What event made Liu Bang change towards a centralized government?
12. Han Wudi had a problem: he needed reliable, intelligent, educated individuals to run his bureaucracy. What did he do to make sure he had them?
13. In spite of having inferior technology, why were the Xiongnu often at an advantage against the Chinese?
14. How did Han Wudi solve the problem of the Xiongnu invasions?

From Economic Prosperity to Social Disorder – p. 162

15. What can we learn about Han Chinese society from *Classic of Filial Piety* and Ban Zhao's *Lessons for Women*.
16. What emperor nationalized iron-working? ("nationalized" means put under the control of the state)
17. Why was Chinese silk so highly valued?
18. List the inventions created by the ancient Chinese.

Economic and Social Difficulties – p. 163

19. What led to financial difficulties during the reign of Han Wudi?
20. What led to peasant rebellions?
21. How did Wang Mang attempt to prevent peasant rebellions? Why did these policies fail with both the rich and the poor?

Later Han Dynasty – p. 165

22. What led to the Yellow Turban Uprising?
23. What led to the internal weakness that brought down the Han dynasty?