

Chapter 1 : China's Years of History | East Asia Student

Tales from Years of Chinese History covers the history of China in an anecdotal fashion that makes each event come alive. Entertaining and informative, this ambitious narrative will enlighten all those who wish to know more about the chronicles of the Middle Kingdom.

China is a nation with a five-thousand-year history. Somehow we are supposed to believe that China has more history than other places. The Shang dynasty founded around BC of the Yellow River valley in northern China is as far back as we have solid archaeological evidence and positive proof of the first written records. Earlier than that, history disintegrates into mythology. But even if you accept the preceding mythical Xia dynasty as the start, it takes you back only to around BC. In terms of age, civilizations in other parts of the world precede China. Writing systems in Egypt and Mesopotamia predate Chinese writing by a thousand years. China was first unified in BC, a century after Alexander the Great had created the Hellenistic Empire, and just a few centuries before the zenith of the Roman Empire. Three, three-and-a-half, four millennia – surely all ancient enough. The myth is important because of the inference that China is uniquely old and so deserves special consideration. This has real-life consequences. When dealing with China – whether trying to turn a profit or awaiting democratic reforms – the implication is you need to be more patient and just wait a little bit longer. After all, the country has five thousand years of history. Here is the full quote: That could indicate the duration for our patience. Google struggled to gain market share and had problems with the Chinese authorities. Events came to a head in with a series of cyber attacks against Google, targeting the Gmail accounts of Chinese dissidents; the attacks originated in China and were tracked to state institutes. A good example of this is when Chris Patten, the last Governor General of Hong Kong, was preparing a speech for his swearing-in ceremony. The implied superiority of such a long history begets a dangerous sense of entitlement. They paint hyperbolic vignettes juxtaposing Oriental sophistication with Western crudity; silk-robed scholars sip tea and contemplate poetry while far away in darkest Europe the inhabitants run around in furs. The idea of Chinese civilization as a monolithic unchanging entity stretching in an unbroken line through the millennia is another myth that colours perceptions of China past, present and future. Sometimes the falsehoods are not just quaint asides, but the very foundations of narratives. Jacques regurgitates the line that China is special because of its antiquity and continuity, and adds his own take on it: He sees an ascendant China ruled by Confucian authoritarianism, and, as it becomes more powerful, the reassertion of the age-old sense of superiority and a return to tributary-style relationships with lesser nations. This sort of commentary is demeaning to Chinese people, turning them into passive victims of their history forever condemned to repeat it. Free e-book when you register for our newsletter About us Camphor Press is a British-Taiwanese publishing house, founded in and focused on East Asia.

Chapter 2 : Tales from Years of Chinese History Volume II by Lin Handa

With readable and enternatining stories from China's past, this book is a unique addition to the field of Chinese history. Open these pages to discover the great figures of Chinese history: Du Yu, the tamer of floods; Qin Shihuang, the First Emperor of China; Confucius, the great philosopher; Sima.

In this period, local military leaders used by the Zhou began to assert their power and vie for hegemony. The situation was aggravated by the invasion of other peoples from the northwest, such as the Qin , forcing the Zhou to move their capital east to Luoyang. This marks the second major phase of the Zhou dynasty: The Spring and Autumn period is marked by a falling apart of the central Zhou power. In each of the hundreds of states that eventually arose, local strongmen held most of the political power and continued their subservience to the Zhou kings in name only. Some local leaders even started using royal titles for themselves. China now consisted of hundreds of states, some of them only as large as a village with a fort. As the era continued, larger and more powerful states annexed or claimed suzerainty over smaller ones. By the 6th century BC most small states had disappeared from being annexed and just a few large and powerful principalities dominated China. Some southern states, such as Chu and Wu, claimed independence from the Zhou, who undertook wars against some of them Wu and Yue. Many new cities were established in this period and Chinese culture was slowly shaped. The Hundred Schools of Thought of Chinese philosophy blossomed during this period, and such influential intellectual movements as Confucianism , Taoism , Legalism and Mohism were founded, partly in response to the changing political world. The first two philosophical thoughts would have an enormous influence on Chinese culture. Bi disc with a dual dragon motif, Warring States period A cup carved from crystal , unearthed at Banshan, Hangzhou. After further political consolidation, seven prominent states remained by the end of 5th century BC, and the years in which these few states battled each other are known as the Warring States period. Though there remained a nominal Zhou king until BC, he was largely a figurehead and held little real power. The final expansion in this period began during the reign of Ying Zheng , the king of Qin. His unification of the other six powers, and further annexations in the modern regions of Zhejiang , Fujian, Guangdong and Guangxi in BC, enabled him to proclaim himself the First Emperor Qin Shi Huang. Imperial China "Empire of China" redirects here. For the empire founded by Yuan Shikai, see Empire of China

â€” The Imperial China Period can be divided into three subperiods: Early, Middle, and Late. Major events in the Early subperiod include the Qin unification of China and their replacement by the Han, the First Split followed by the Jin unification, and the loss of north China. The Middle subperiod was marked by the Sui unification and their supplementation by the Tang, the Second Split, and the Song unification. The Late subperiod included the Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties. The original version dated to the Song dynasty

â€” CE. It captures the daily life of people and the landscape of the capital, Bianjing present-day Kaifeng during the Northern Song. Qin dynasty

â€” BC.

Chapter 3 : Tales from years of Chinese History (Two Volumes) - Harvard Book Store

Tales from Years of Chinese History Volume II has 12 ratings and 0 reviews. With readable and enternatining stories from China's past, this book is.

The ancient China era was c. Without any reliable historical records, most of what has been pieced together about prehistoric life in China comes from speculation about human activity at archaeological sites and unearthed relics. The rest comes from what might be truth within Chinese mythology. The Xia Dynasty c. Most of the evidence for the Xia Dynasty, including its name, is perhaps just legend. Chinese civilization began along the Yellow River in the Shang era, and spread from there when Bronze Age culture reached its peak. Then, traditional Chinese philosophies, such as Confucianism and Daoism, developed in the feudal Zhou era as China expanded in territory and population. Ancient China finally fractured into warring kingdoms for years, and its reunification marked the start of the imperial China age. The Shang Dynasty c. Many bronze objects and jade articles, which date back to BC, have been found to support these early archaeological records. The earliest form of Chinese writing " oracle bones " was found. The inscriptions on animal bones had pictographic characters. The Zhou Dynasty BC After the Shang era, the larger Zhou era territory was divided by a network of feudal states and was ruled over by kings. The king of Zhou only had direct control over a small portion of the realm and received tributes from the feudal states. It was a fairly peaceful time but, after BC, the Zhou king lost his authority and seven prominent states emerged. This era was divided into three periods: It marked the transition from tribal society to feudal society. Major philosophies and religions emerged that were the basis of Chinese beliefs in later eras, such as Confucianism and Daoism. The imperial China period makes up the bulk of Chinese history. With the cyclical rise and fall of dynasties, Chinese civilization was cultivated and prospered in times of peace, then reformed after rebellions and conquests. During this period, a number of institutions were established that laid the foundation of the basic political system for the next 2, years. The short-lived Qin Dynasty was the first to unite China as a country under an emperor instead of a ruling clan. A bureaucratic government was introduced, and was continued by the less extreme Han Dynasty. He and his Qin state united China by conquering the other warring states, and he ruled with an iron fist. Qin Shi Huang centralized the power of the empire after he took the throne and set up a system of laws. He standardized units of weight and measurements, as well as the writing system. The Qin Dynasty was the first and shortest imperial dynasty in China. During the later period of the Qin Dynasty, Liu Bang, a peasant leader, overthrew the unpopular Qin regime and established the Han Dynasty. In the Han Dynasty, a bureaucratic system in which promotion was based on merit was established and Confucianism was adopted by the state for national governance. During the reign of Emperor Wudi r. The multiethnic country became more united during the Han regime. It had far-reaching impacts for every dynasty that followed it. Its hold on power was tenuous, however, and China again fractured, this time into the Southern and Northern Dynasties " During this messy time, many religions emerged and Buddhism was popular among the barbarian kingdoms in North China. China went from having four warring kingdoms to being the most culturally sophisticated and technologically developed nation. Finally, it was consumed by the rise and fall of the phenomenal Mongol Empire, which stretched to Europe. It was a short, intense dynasty, with great conquests and achievements, such as the Grand Canal and the rebuilding of the Great Wall. It ruled for three centuries, and it was also the golden age for poetry, painting, tricolored glazed pottery, and woodblock printing. This situation continued to the end of the Tang Dynasty. This ended when one of the northern kingdoms defeated its neighbors and established the Song Dynasty. The modern-day northern Hebei Province was occupied by the Khitan and was under the control of the Liao Dynasty " In the northwest, the Western Xia Dynasty " " ruled by the Tanguts " controlled the modern-day Gansu and northwestern Shaanxi. Then the Song government moved and reestablished the capital in Hangzhou, establishing the Southern Song Dynasty " The Song era was a period of technological advances and prosperity. During the Song Dynasty, the handicraft industry as well as domestic and foreign trade boomed. Many merchants and travelers came from abroad. The " four great inventions " of the Chinese people in ancient times paper, printing, the compass,

and gunpowder were further developed in the Song Dynasty. At the end of the 12th century, Mongolian rule grew steadily. With Genghis Khan and his descendants expanding their territory, the Mongol Empire extended all the way to Eastern Europe. The part of the Mongolian khanate that ruled China was known as the Yuan Dynasty. He made Dadu modern-day Beijing the capital of the first foreign-led dynasty in China. However, they became increasingly inadequate in the ages of exploration, colonization, and industrialization. The Ming Dynasty. The Forbidden City After a series of natural disasters and rebellion movements led by the Han people, a new native dynasty was established in . It was the last ethnic Chinese dynasty, sandwiched between two foreign ones. The Ming Dynasty represented a long period of stability. When his son and successor, Zhu Di, ascended the throne, he started to build the Forbidden City in Beijing. In , he officially made Beijing his capital. He was very supportive of international trade and sponsored several voyages to the West. It was an era of native Chinese strength and prosperity, which faltered due to natural disasters and greedy leadership, as had so many dynasties before it. Eventually, the Ming Dynasty fell due to the frequent peasant rebellions and Manchu attacks. The Manchus attacked China for three generations in succession, and finally founded the Qing Dynasty. The two most famous emperors of the Qing Dynasty were Emperor Kangxi and the Qianlong Emperor. Their reigns were "a golden age of prosperity". However, the last Chinese dynasty is shamefully remembered for the forced trade of the late Qing era. China was reduced to being a semi-colonial, semi-imperial country after the First Opium War, which began in . However, the Republic of China could not be firmly established across China, with civil war ensuing for decades.

Chapter 4 : Years of History Â· Chinese Lesson

Get this from a library! Tales from years of Chinese history. [Handa Lin; Yuzhang Cao] -- Open these pages to discover the great figures of Chinese history: Du Yu, the tamer of floods; Qin Shihuang, the First Emperor of China; Confucius, the great philosopher; Sima Qian, the great.

Most of them are tragic stories and of course there is also romantic comedy. Their love story is considered as the Chinese version of Romeo and Juliet. They studied together in Songshan Academy in Hangzhou for the next three years and Zhu gradually fell in love with Liang. One day Zhu had to go home as her father missed her so much. But under, Zhu professed that she would be a match-maker to introduce one of his sisters to Liang. Unfortunately, it was too late and Zhu had been betrothed by her father to Ma Wencai, a son of an high local official. The two had no way to change it but to shed tears face to face. They promised at parting that even if they could not stay together during their lifetime, they hoped to be buried in the same tomb after death. Hearing his death, Zhu vowed to die for love after him. She was very grieved and prayed the heaven to open up the tomb. Then miracle appeared, the tomb opened as she hoped and Zhu leaped into it immediately, and then the tomb soon closed. Their touching love story is very popular in China and East Asia areas. Top 10 Chinese Love Songs Ever 2. The earliest record of this myth is over years ago. Niulang was an honest and kind cowherd who lived by himself herding cattle and farming. One day he met a beautiful girl named Zhinu, the seventh daughter of the Goddess, who had descended to the earth to look for fun. Zhinu soon fell in love with Niulang and came down secretly from the heaven to earth and married him. They lived a happy life and gave birth to two children. Unfortunately, the Goddess soon found out the fact that her daughter married a mortal. She was furious and immediately took Zhinu back to the heaven. Niulang was very grieved after his wife Zhinu left him. He was about to catch up with his wife, the goddess found Niulang and used her hairpin to slash it across the sky and created the Milky Way between to top him. Then Zhinu became the star Vega and Niulang the star Altair. They were separated on the two banks and could only shed their tears. Moved by their love and devotion, lots of magpies formed bridge for the couple to meet each other. On that day Chinese people will look up the sky and watch the two stars Altair and Vega meet on the same side of the Milky Way for the yearly meeting. It tells the love story between Bai Suzhen a snake turned lady and Xu Xian, a scholar. Bai Suzhen was a human incarnation of a white snake spirit. She fell in love with Xu Xian. The two married and soon had a child. However, their happiness was short-lived and soon was destroyed by a monk Fahai, who has great magical powers, He soon discovered the real identity of Bai Suzhen and decided to separate them but failed. Fahai then captured Xu Xian and imprisoned him in Jinshan Temple. In order to rescue Xu Xian, Bai Suzhen and her sister Xiaoqing used their powers to flood the temple. He went to pay respect to his mother at the Lei Feng Pagoda, his filial piety moved the heaven and freed Bai Suzhen from Leifeng Pagoda, the whole family were finally reunited. Top 10 Classic Chinese Love Poems 5. Zhang Sheng met Cui Yingying in a temple and soon fell in love with her. A sudden gust of the wind shifted the curtain. They saw each other and soon fell in love at first sight. Then Zhuo Wenjun run away together with him but found that he had a very poor family. They had to run a wine shop and live in poverty until her father finally forgave them and gave them some support. Liu still loved Jiao, he did not want to marry another man, she had no choice but drowned herself in a lake. Hearing her death, Jiao also hanged himself on a tree in his yard to express his faithful love to his wife. Moved by his filial piety, the Seventh descended to Earth to marry Dong Yong without the knowledge of his father, the Jade Emperor. When Jade Emperor discovered this he ordered his daughter to return to the Heaven and threatened to kill Dong Yong if she did not follow his order. The Seventh Fairy had no choice but to leave her husband. However the couple is allowed to reunite only once a year across the Milky Way at the 7th July evening of Chinese Lunar Calendar The story is much favored by the general public and has been selected on the List of Chinese Intangible Cultural Heritages. According to the legend, Hou Yi was a mighty archer who had shot down nine of the ten suns, leaving just the one that still lights up our sky. He hoped their happiness last forever and asked the Queen Mother of the West for some magic water for the eternal of life. She lives there with a rabbit named Jade. This touching story spread in China widely and the

common people began to pray to the moon for good luck and safety from this virtuous goddess. The novel mainly centres love story of Jia Baoyu and Lin Daiyu. Lin had a very sentimental character. Later Jia became a monk in a temple, mourning of his beloved one.

Chapter 5 : Tales from Years of Chinese History Volume I by Lin Handa

*Tales from Years of Chinese History: A Must-read Book for Primary School Students (Chinese Edition) [su zhi liang] on calendrierdelascience.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. consisting of three volumes, this book series are a selected collection of stories arranged in chronological order.*

Chapter 6 : 10 Greatest Chinese Love Stories Ever

Tales from Years of Chinese History covers the history of China in an anecdotal fashion that makes each event come alive. Entertaining and informative, this ambitious narrative will enlighten all those who wish to kw more about the chronicles of the Middle Kingdom.

Chapter 7 : Tales from Years of Chinese History: v. 1 by Lin Handa (Hardback,) | eBay

Get this from a library! Tales from years of Chinese history. Volume 1. [Handa Lin] -- Volume 1 starts from ancient times and culminates in the last years of the Eastern Jin dynasty ().

Chapter 8 : Tales from Years of Chinese History Volume 2 : Lin Handa :

Tales from Five Thousand Years of Chinese History, consisting of two volumes, is a collection of stories arranged in chronological order, covering a period from ancient times to the pre-Opium-War Qing Dynasty.

Chapter 9 : History Timeline

Every lecture of From Yao to Mao: Years of Chinese History may seem like a journey across a virgin landscape, for the ground it covers has been largely unexplored in the history courses most of us in the West have taken.