

漫谈中国 目次

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第一课 中国的历史

中国是现在世界上一个最老的国家，已经有几千年的历史。最早的历史因为没写下来，所以历史家说那不是可靠的历史。在纪元前差不多一千五百年的时候，中国已经有了写下来的历史，所以我们可以说，中国可靠的历史有三千五百年那么长。

从前中国人认为：中国是世界的中心，所以国家的名字叫「中」国。这一点儿也不奇怪。地中海叫地「中」海，也是因为从前西方人认为地中海是世界中心的缘故。中国文化是从中国北部黄河一带开始的，最早的几个朝代是：夏、商、周、秦、汉；后来发展到 中国的中部跟南部，其中比较重要的朝代有：唐、宋、元、明、清。这几千年的中国都是君主专制（君主专制的意思，就是说国家由皇帝 统治），一直到孙中山先生建立了中华民国，中国才渐渐走上民主的道路。

历史	lìshǐ	history (历史家: historian)
可靠	kěkào	reliable
纪元前	jìyuán qián	B.C. (纪元后: A.D.)
认为	rèn[wéi]	to assume, to think
奇怪	qíguài	strange, weird
地中海	Dìzhōnghǎi	the Mediterranean Sea
缘故	yuángù	reason
朝代	cháodài	dynasty
夏商周秦汉	Xià, Shāng, Zhōu, Qín, Hàn Dynasties	
唐宋元明清	Táng, Sòng, Yuán, Míng, Qīng Dynasties	
发展	fāzhǎn	progress, development; to develop, to expand
其中	qízhōng	among those
君主	jūnzǔ	king, ruler (君: person with perfect virtue)
专制	zhuānzhì	dictatorship
皇帝	huángdì	emperor
统治	tǒngzhì	to rule
建立	jiànli	to establish, to found
渐渐	jiànjiàn	gradually
民主	mínzhǔ	democracy, democratic

中国这几千年有很多的**发明**，也有很多人从别的国家到中国去学习中国文化。中国因为有这么多年的历史跟文化，所以从前的中国人比较**保守**，多半儿**总是**喜欢旧的，不喜欢新的；旧的总是好，新的总是不好。连**孔子**在两千五百年以前就说过，他只讲从前的**学问**，自己不**创造**什么新的。现在很多人 - **特别是**年轻人 - 不这么想了。他们觉得旧的东西里头有好有坏，新的东西里头也有好有坏。

中国在文化**方面**是世界国家里的一个老大哥，有很多可以给西方国家的**东西**。可是中国在**其他**方面还是一个**小弟弟** - 特别是在**民主制度**和**近代科学**方面，发展得还不够，**应该**向西方国家多多学习。

发明	fā míng	to invent, invention
保守	bǎo shǒu	conservative
总是	zǒng shì	always
孔子	Kǒng ^{zǐ}	Confucius
学问	xué wèn	knowledge (有学问: knowledgeable)
创造	chuàng zào	to create, creation
特别是	tè bié shì	especially (特别: special)
在...方面	zài...fāng miàn	in ...(certain)... respect
其他	qí tā	other
制度	zhì dù	system, structure
近代	jìn dài	modern (古代: ancient)
科学	kē xué	science, scientific
应该	yīng gāi	should

*^{zǐ} indicates variation of pronunciation, 破音字, please pay special attention.

例句

1. 中国的历史有三千五百年。
2. 他是一个很可靠的人，他说的话都很可靠。
3. 纪元前一千五百年的时候，中国就有了写下来的历史。
4. 很多人认为他做事不可靠。你认为他怎么样？
5. 我不知道他做事可靠还是不可靠，可是我认为他做事很奇怪。
6. 地中海在法国的南部，风景非常美。
7. 因为没钱的缘故，我不能去地中海玩儿了。
8. 美国东部发展得比较早，西部发展得比较晚；但是西部发展得比东部快。
9. 她和她的男朋友以后的发展怎么样，现在还不知道。
10. 中国历史上有很多朝代，有的朝代比较长，有的朝代比较短。
11. 我有三件大衣，其中一件是红的，两件是黑的。
12. 我不知道哪个国家现在还是君主专制，可是我知道哪个国家现在是军人专制。
13. 君主就是一个国家的国王或皇帝，他是统治这个国家的人。
14. 爸爸就是我们家的皇帝，他说的话，大家都得(děi)听，这是不是君主专制呢？
15. 清朝统治了中国两百多年，是中国历史上最后的一个朝代。
16. 中华民国是纪元一九一一年建立的，中华人民共和国是纪元一九四九年建立的。

17. 秋天到了，白天渐渐短了，天气也渐渐凉快了。
18. 民主的意思就是让人民做国家的主人。
19. 爱迪生(Àidíshēng: Thomas Edison)发明了电灯。
20. 她是一个保守的女孩子，我认为她很可靠。
21. 你为什么总是认为他不可靠？
22. 孔子是纪元前的人还是纪元后的人？
23. 你认为 孔子是世界上最有学问的人吗？
24. 有的人相信神创造了人，也有的人认为人创造了神。
25. 爱迪生还发明了其他的東西吗？
26. 要是你没有其他事情，我们就回去了。
27. 在君主专制方面，我知道得不多。
28. 加拿大的学校是英国制度，和美国不大一样。
29. 孙中山建立了中华民国，在中国近代历史上是一个非常重要的人。
30. 我们应该在科学方面多发展。

句子练习

1. 因为...的缘故，所以... vs. ...，「是」因为...的缘故
 reason → result result → due to the reason of (no need to use 所以)

因为她很可靠的缘故，所以我请她帶我的孩子。

我请她帶我的孩子，是因为她很可靠的缘故。

因为我有很多其他功课的缘故，所以我的中文功课没做完。
我的中文功课没做完，是因为我有很多其他功课的缘故。

因为君主专制的缘故，所以人民没有自由。
人民没有自由，是因为君主专制的缘故。

2. 由...subject...verb (being...verb-ed by...)

由...统治 君主专制的意思，就是说国家由皇帝统治。

由...演(yǎn)出 下面这个节目，由李老师班上的同学演出。

由...代表 这次比赛，我们班上就由小王代表吧。

3. 是从...(place or time).. 开始...的，(verb)到... (started from..., verb...to...)

中国文化是从中国北部黄河一带开始的，后来发展到中部跟南部。

中国文化是从纪元前开始的，发展到现在已经好几千年了。

我是从上午八点钟开始念书的，念到下午三点钟还没有念完。

4. - 特别是... (especially)

现在的人 - 特别是年轻人 - 不会那么保守了。

我对历史 - 特别是纪元前的历史 - 很有兴趣。

弟弟很喜欢看书 - 特别是科学方面的书。

5. 在...方面 (in...certain...respect)

中国在文化方面是世界国家里的一个老大哥。

中国在民主制度方面还是一个小弟弟。

在创造发明方面，张老师知道得非常多。

THE HISTORY OF CHINA

Many consider China to be the oldest civilization in the world because its history spans thousands of years. This statement is not without controversy. Since much of the early history was often based on oral legends, modern scholars tend to view these stories as myth rather than as factual history. This historiographical problem is common to other ancient civilizations such as Greece and Egypt whose early histories similarly depended upon legends. One could suggest, however, that China possesses one of the longest written histories in the world. The earliest records were inscribed on oracle bones (甲骨文) during the reign of the Shāng Dynasty (商朝, c.1800 to 1100 BC) and *Shǐ-jì* (史记, *the Grand Historical Records*) was written by Sīmǎ Qiān (司马迁) under the Hàn rulers (汉朝, 206 BC – 220 AD). This 130-volume anthology was the first major compendium of official history in Ancient China.

The Chinese have always been very proud of their heritage. This pride was reflected in the naming of their country, for another historical prejudice China shared with other advanced ancient cultures was the belief that its empire was at the center of the universe. *Zhōng-guó* (中国), literally means the “Middle Kingdom”. Likewise, Mediterranean signifies a civilization, which is at the center of the world [*Medius*, the middle; *terra*, the earth].

In China, the first important dynasties – the Xià (夏), Shāng (商), Zhōu (周), Qín (秦) and Hàn (汉) – established the northern region around the Yellow River as the seat of power. After the fall of the Hàn Dynasty in 220 AD, there was a long period of disunion, which lasted about 350 years. During this time, the central and southern regions grew in economic and political importance. Later on, the Táng (唐), Sòng (宋), Yuán (元), Míng (明) and Qīng (清) Dynasties among others ruled over China until the reign of the Last Emperor in 1911. Two dynasties were established by foreign powers: Yuán (Mongols) and Qīng (Manchus). The Zhōu was China’s longest dynasty, and the Qín was the shortest. However, bitter power struggles defined the eight centuries of Zhōu rule, while the fifteen years of the Qín Dynasty left China with a strong central government, standardized units of measurement, a unified currency, a common written language, and the completion of the Great Wall.

Two major themes have dominated the political history of China: one is the cycle of dynastic rise and fall; the other is the cycle of unity and fragmentation. The Chinese regarded their emperor as the “Son of Heaven” (天子) whose virtue, goodness, and authority (above all) came from above. This “Mandate of Heaven” (天命) gave him and his descendants complete control over his people. Within the history of each dynasty, the first few emperors usually succeeded in bringing peace and prosperity to the people. However, with power came corruption. Several generations later, rulers typically became ineffective and self-indulgent. People would be heavily taxed, daily life would become increasingly unbearable, and civil war would break out. When rebellion broke out towards the end of a dynasty, many leaders would rise up and compete with one another, until one victor finally defeated and/or consolidated the others. The Mandate of Heaven would be withdrawn from the unfit emperor, and claimed by another family, who would establish a new dynasty. This transitional period could take a few years, or in some cases, a few centuries. Although fragmentation was undesirable, it was the fate of a declining empire. As the author of *The Legend of Three Kingdoms* pointed out, “The cycle of unity and fragmentation is the way under heaven” (天下大势，分久必合，合久必分 -- Tiānxià dà shì, fēn jiǔ bì hé, hé jiǔ bì fēn).

The history of Imperial China lasted for 4000 years (ca. 2200 BC – 1911 AD). During the dynastic era, an absolute ruler – the Emperor – reigned over China. This form of government would not change until the Modern Era, when the democratic Republic of China was established by Dr. Sun Yat San (孫中山 Sūn Zhōngshān) in 1911. China's Modern Period began with the Opium Wars and the Nationalist cause in the first half of the twentieth century. With the withdrawal of the Nationalists to Taiwan following the Second World War and the Second Sino-Japanese War, the People's Republic of China was founded by the Communists under the leadership of Máo Zédōng (毛泽东). For many decades China remained diplomatically isolated from the West. In 1972 U.S. President Nixon visited Beijing. This important event paved the way for the Open Door Policy and enabled China's subsequent reintegration into the world economy in the late twentieth century. In just over a quarter of a century, a country that had been ravaged by failed internal policies as well as Cold War power struggles has managed to recreate itself into a formidable global power house at the onset of the 21st Century. One should, however, resist the tendency to read this shift as a narrative of triumph. How the 21st century will play out for China is left for history to determine.

中国历史朝代表

DYNASTIC TIMETABLE

2700 BC	黄帝	Legendary Yellow Emperor
2200 - 1800 BC	夏朝	Xià Dynasty
1800 - 1100 BC	商朝	Shāng Dynasty
1100 - 256 BC	周朝	Zhōu Dynasty
722 - 481 BC	春秋时代	<i>Spring and Autumn Period</i>
403 - 221 BC	战国时代	<i>Warring States Period</i>
221 - 206 BC	秦朝	Qín Dynasty
206 BC - 220 AD	汉朝	Hàn Dynasty
220 - 263	三国时代	Three Kingdoms Period
265 - 420	晋朝	Jìn Dynasty
386 - 589	南北朝	Northern and Southern Dynasties
589 - 618	隋朝	Suí Dynasty
618 - 907	唐朝	Táng Dynasty
907 - 960	五代十国	Five Dynasties
960 - 1279	宋朝	Sòng Dynasty
1279 - 1368	元朝	Yuán Dynasty
1368 - 1644	明朝	Míng Dynasty
1644 - 1911	清朝	Qīng Dynasty
1911 -	中华民国	Republic of China
1949 -	中华人民共和国	People's Republic of China