

CHAPTER 4 Section 4 (pages 104–109)

The Unification of China

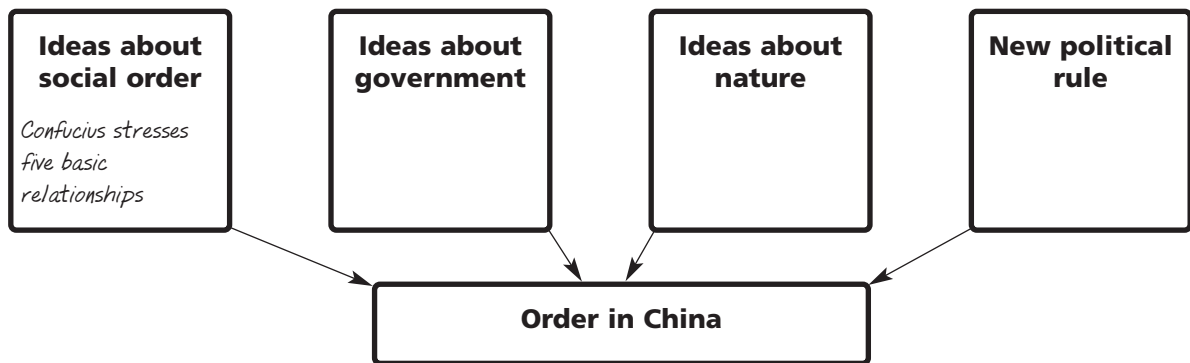
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the Persian empire.

In this section, you will learn how China was restored to order.

AS YOU READ

Use a chart like the one below to take notes on new ideas and changes in China that restored order.



TERMS AND NAMES

Confucius China's most influential scholar

filial piety Children's respect for their parents and elders

bureaucracy Organization of government into agencies and departments

Daoism Philosophy of Laozi that puts people in touch with the forces of nature

Legalism Chinese idea that a highly efficient and powerful government is the key to social order

I Ching Chinese book that gave advice on practical and everyday problems

yin and yang Powers that govern the natural rhythms of life and must be balanced

Qin dynasty Dynasty that unified China

Shi Huangdi First emperor of China; leader of the Qin Dynasty

autocracy Government in which the ruler has unlimited power

Confucius and the Social Order

(pages 104–105)

How did Confucius try to restore order in China?

After the fall of the Zhou dynasty, China became a land of troubles. Ancient Chinese values were forgotten. Civilization seemed doomed. Yet some thinkers tried to find ways to restore these values.

One of the most important thinkers was **Confucius**. He was born in 551 B.C. Confucius believed that order could return. But first, the peo-

ple would have to work at five basic relationships. These were ruler and subject, father and son, husband and wife, older and younger brothers, and friend and friend. The family relationships, he thought, were the most important. Confucius stressed that children should practice **filial piety**. This is respect for parents and elders.

Confucius also tried to make government better. He helped create the basis of a **bureaucracy**. This is a system of departments and agencies for running the government. Education was important for the people who held jobs in this kind of government.

Over time, the ideas of Confucius spread to other countries of East Asia.

1. How did Confucius try to restore ancient Chinese values?

Other Ethical Systems (pages 105–107)

What other ethical systems developed?

Another thinker of this period was Laozi. He said nature follows a universal force called the Dao, or “the Way.” His beliefs are called **Daoism**.

Other thinkers formed a set of beliefs called **Legalism**. They said the government should use the law to restore order in China.

Some Chinese people looked for practical advice in solving problems. They might refer to a book called ***I Ching***. Other people turned to the idea of **yin and yang**. These two powers represented the harmony between opposite forces in the universe.

2. What was the basic purpose of all these ethical systems?

states. This young ruler used the ideas of Legalism to unite China. After ruling for 20 years, he took a new name—**Shi Huangdi**. This means “First Emperor.”

Shi Huangdi doubled the size of China. He established an **autocracy**. In this kind of government, a ruler has unlimited power. Shi Huangdi forced wealthy *nobles* to give up their land in the country and move to his capital city. He destroyed his enemies. The emperor wanted to control ideas, too. He ordered his government to burn books.

Shi Huangdi also had peasants build a network of roads that linked one corner of the empire to another. He set standards for writing, law, money, and weights and measures to be followed throughout the empire.

In the past, some Chinese rulers had built sections of wall to try to block attacks from northern nomads. Shi Huangdi had hundreds of thousands of poor people connect these sections of wall and make a huge barrier. When finished, the Great Wall of China stretched for thousands of miles.

These steps won the emperor little support. When he died, his son took the throne. Just three years into his *reign*, peasants revolted and managed to overthrow the emperor. By 202 B.C., the Qin dynasty had given way to the Han dynasty.

3. Name two changes that Shi Huangdi made.

The Qin Dynasty Unifies China

(pages 107–109)

What happened during the Qin Dynasty?

A 13-year-old ruler became ruler of the **Qin Dynasty**. He ended the troubles of the warring

Daoism	Legalism
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The natural order is more important than the social order• A universal force guides all things.• Human beings should live simply and in harmony with nature.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A highly efficient and powerful government is the key to social order.• Punishments are useful to maintain social order.• Thinkers and their ideas should be strictly controlled by the government.

Skillbuilder

Use the chart to answer the questions.

1. Which set of ideas places more importance on social order?

2. In what ways are these ideas opposite?
