

Creation of the Bureaucratic Empire



Qin Dynasty 221-206 BC



Qin Dynasty

black lines represent
Great Walls

Qin Dynasty 221-206 BC



- **Qin ruled by King Zheng and unified land holdings**
- **Zheng calls himself “First Emperor”**
- **Consolidated and standardized China**
- **Redistricted China into new administrative system**
- **Gun-control was instituted**
- **Brutal despot who micromanaged the country**
- **Looked for *Peng Lai* and immortality**

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Terracotta army of the First Emperor

Creation of the Bureaucratic Empire



Terracotta army unearthed near Xi'an

Han Dynasty 202 BC-AD 220

漢高祖像



Liu Bang

- With the death of the first emperor in 210 BC, the empire fell apart followed by several unsuccessful replacements
- Liu Bang (Gaozu) finally took power between 202-195 BC
- Wrestled with how to control his empire without ruthless force
- Appointments to civil service positions based on merit
- Wudi, who ruled 141-87 BC had a clever way of controlling China by dividing land among ancestral heirs
- Han rulers relied upon Confucius' moral basis of subordinate relationship to control the masses
- Wang Mang created Xin Dynasty

Han Dynasty 202 BC-AD 220



The furthest extent
of the Han Dynasty

black lines represent
Great Walls

Asian Steppe—Threat from the North

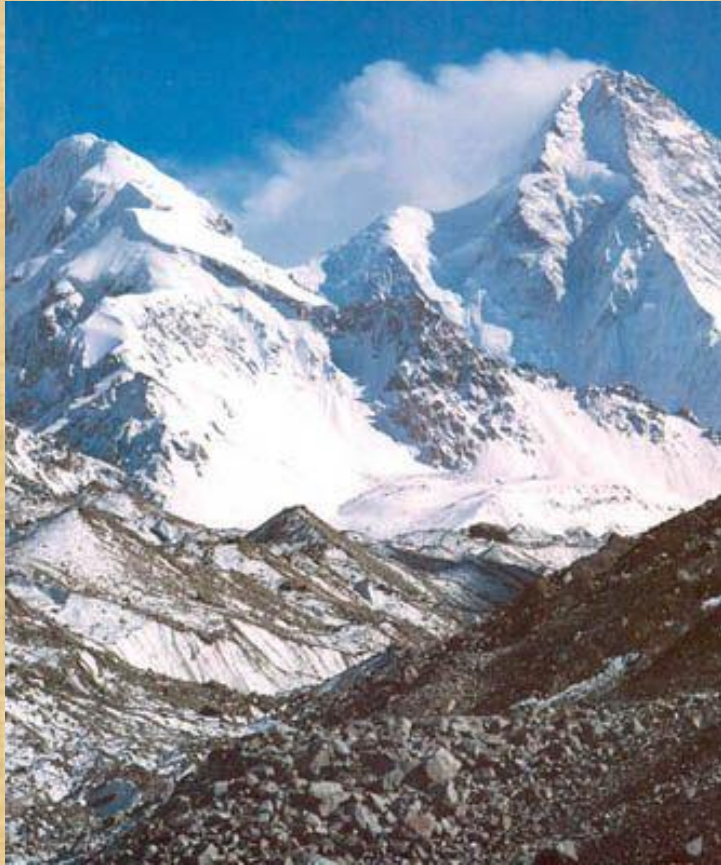


Asian Steppe—Threat from the North



Xiongnu nomadic armies invaded deep into China in spite of the Great Wall

Myth, Magic, and Marvellous



- *Huainanzi* contains many stories of magic and immortality in the Kunlun Mountains
- These mountains lie in northern Tibet where the Tibetan Bon had similar stories
- In the West, stories about Shangri-La come to us in novels like *Lost Horizon* by Hilton



Death and the Hereafter

- **Souls were dualistic: one part went to the clouds and the other remained in the ground. Therefore, the dead were buried with supplies.**
- **Concept of a judgment day started in the Han dynasty**
- **Queen Mother of the West**



Confucianism in vogue during Han

- **Credit is given to the scholars who managed to reflect the needs of the society.**
- **Emperor was the intermediary between the heaven and earth and was to rule in harmony with the universe....or else.**

Colonizing the South during Qin-Han

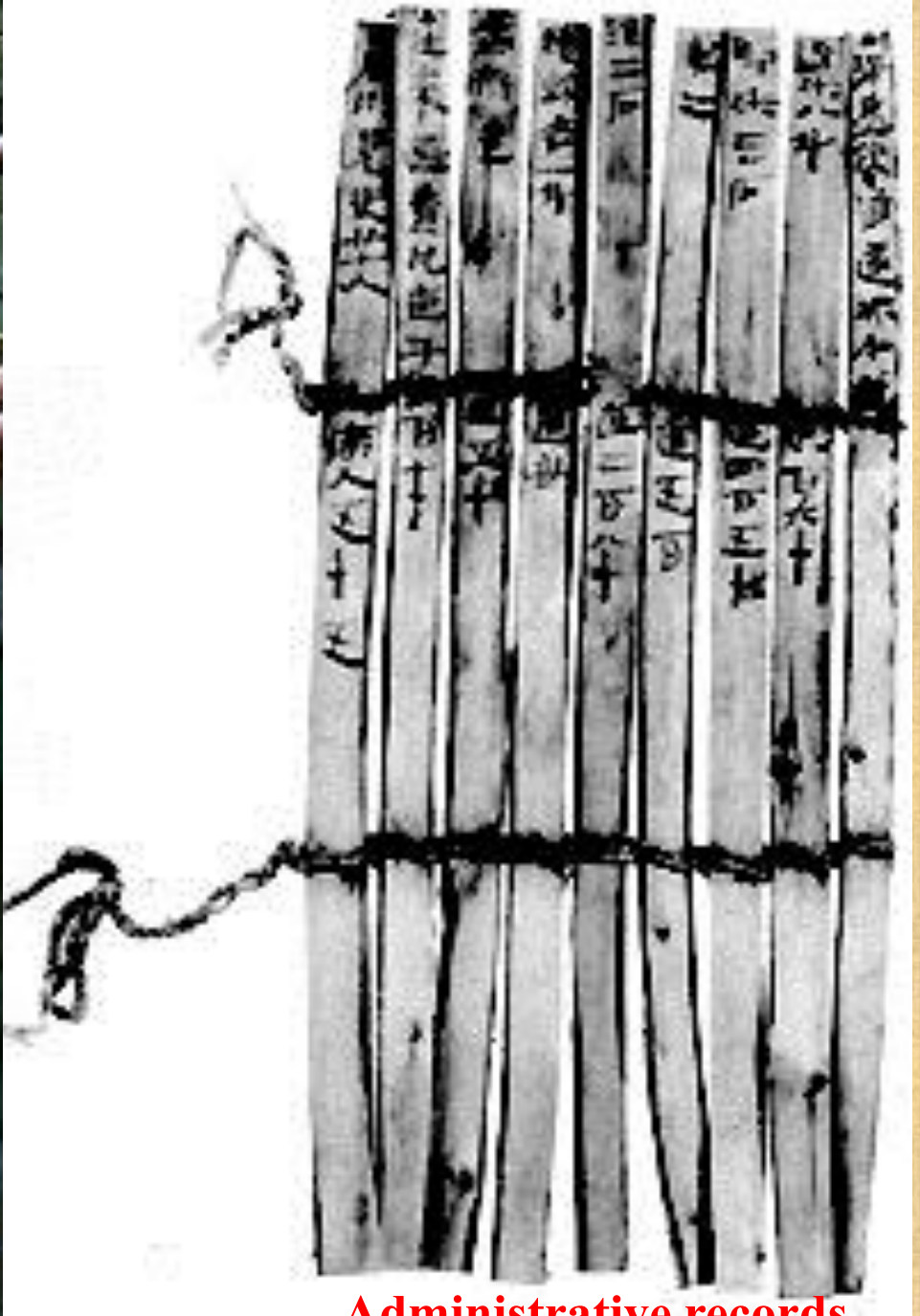
- **4-centuries of very rapid spreading southward**
- **5-10 million Chinese immigrated south in the first 150 years of the new millennium**

Fall of the Han Dynasty

- **During the 2nd century AD, Han started to unravel due to the court eunuchs.**
- **Taxes declined, locusts attacked, flooding, religious rebellion etc. caused even further trouble for the Han Dynasty.**
- **Many see parallels between the Roman Empire and the Han Dynasty:**
 - **Large empires expanded to limits of control**
 - **Large bureaucracies**
 - **Problems with barbarians**
- **There were also many differences:**
 - **China was more agrarian than the Roman Empire (the Roman Republic was like the China)**
 - **China was linguistically and culturally more homogenous than Rome**

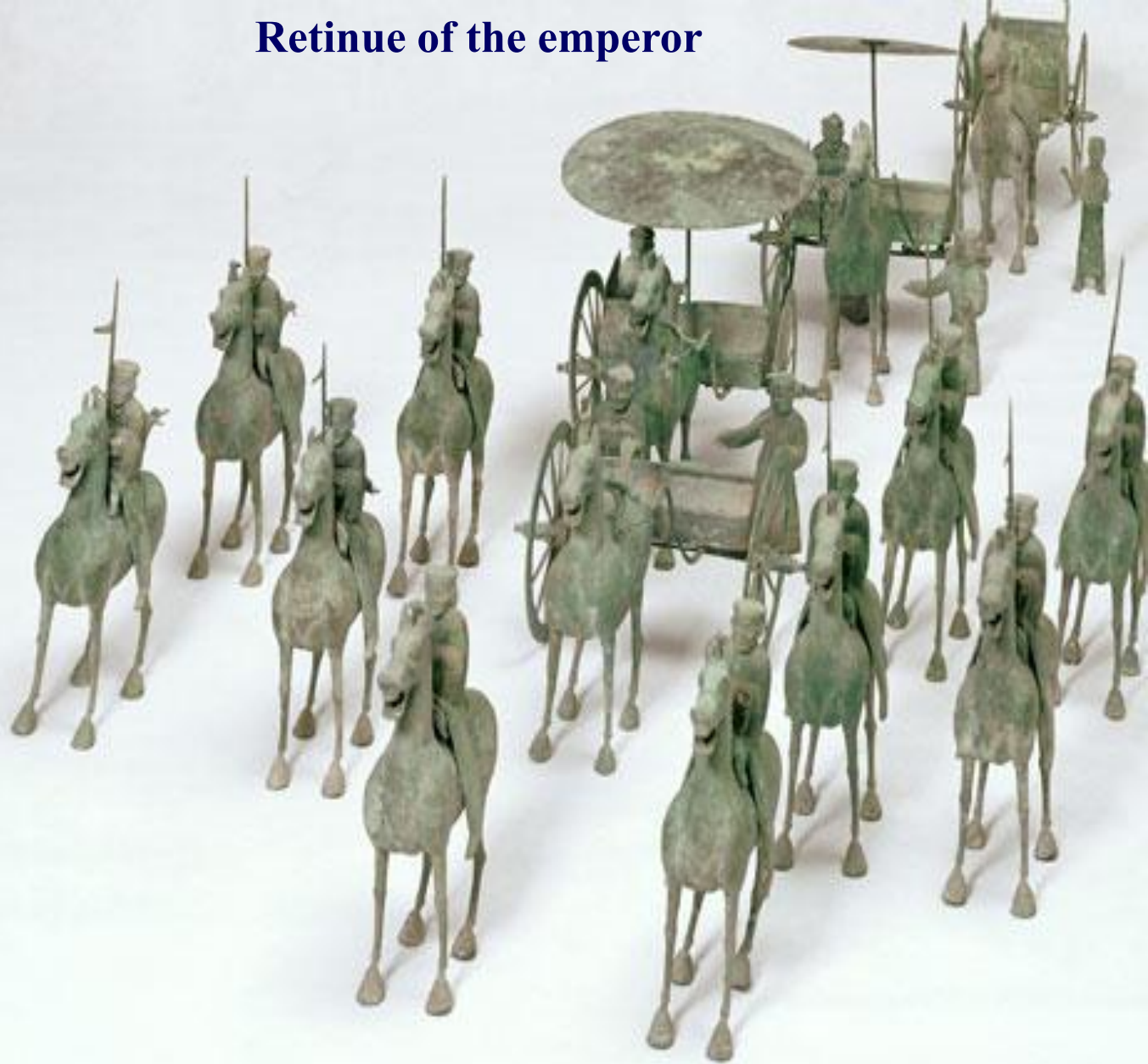


Silk worm feeding



Administrative records

Retinue of the emperor



Bronze "Money Tree"

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Interesting site:

<http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hm/05/hm05.htm>