



Overview

Modern China presents a dual image: a society transforming itself through economic development and infrastructure investment that aspires to global leadership; and the world's largest and oldest bureaucratic state, with multiple traditions in its cultural, economic, and political life. The modern society and state that is emerging in China bears the indelible imprint of China's historical experience, of its patterns of philosophy and religion, and of its social and political thought. These themes are discussed in order to understand China in the twenty-first century and as a great world civilization that developed along lines different from those of the Mediterranean.

ChinaX makes the riches of Harvard's collections and the expertise of its faculty accessible to learners worldwide. We will engage intellectual and religious trends, material and political culture, the local diversity and the national unity, art and literature, and China's economic and political transformation— past, present and future.

China: Civilization and Empire explores the development of this great civilization from the Neolithic to the last dynasty. We see the formation of political structures and social practices that have lasted into the present; we learn to appreciate artistic and literary traditions of sophistication and refinement; we inquire into its philosophical and religious legacies and their significance for our own lives; and we trace the creation of the largest economy in world history.

Content *China: Civilization and Empire* consists of the following five parts, a total of 25 units:

- China (Part 1): Political and Intellectual Foundations: From the Sage Kings to Confucius and the Legalists
- China (Part 2): The Creation and End of Centralized Empire
- China (Part 3): Cosmopolitan Tang: Aristocratic Culture
- China (Part 4): Literati China: Examinations and Neo-Confucianism
- China (Part 5): From a Global Empire under the Mongols to a Global Economy under the Ming Dynasty

China (Part 1): Political and Intellectual Foundations: From the Sage Kings to Confucius and the Legalists

Part 1 includes an overview of China, historically, geographically, and culturally, starting with the origins and legitimation of what we come to know as China and includes an exploration of the integral thinkers (Confucius, Laozi, etc.) of the early period.

China (Part 2): The Creation and End of Centralized Empire

Part 2 covers the period from the Qin to the Sui with the creation of the first unified empire and an exploration of state building and dissolution, focusing on the realization of the self and the influence of Buddhism during the medieval period.

China (Part 3): Cosmopolitan Tang: Aristocratic Culture

Part 3 explores the reunification of China under Tang with a focus on Chinese aristocratic culture during the Tang period from poetry to calligraphy to literature.

China (Part 4): Literati China: Examinations and Neo-Confucianism

Part 4 takes us from the early imperial period to the late imperial period exploring new ideas and the role of the exam system and government with a focus on the Song dynasty.

China (Part 5): From a Global Empire under the Mongols to a Global Economy under the Ming Dynasty

Part 5 explores the impact of the conquest dynasties and the world of the Ming.

Objectives and Structure

In *China: Civilization and Empire*, you will learn to develop your own approaches to history and gain a critical appreciation of China's literary, philosophical, political and cultural resources. You will also learn to express ideas more clearly and confidently; to think more analytically and critically through the study of primary and secondary sources.

Parts 1-5 span over 6,000 years of history. Each part consists of 4-8 units, each with videos, readings, interactive engagements, assessments, and discussion forums. There are a total of 25 units in *China: Civilization and Empire*.

China: Civilization and Empire is self-paced and open enrollment.

Readings

No books are required for the course. Many readings from the course are contained in Wm. Theodore de Bary and Irene Bloom, eds., *Sources of Chinese Tradition*, 2nd ed., volume 1 and 2 (Columbia UP, 2000 and 2001). If you want to supplement your study, Patricia Buckley Ebrey, *The Cambridge Illustrated History of China*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge UP, 2010), is a text that accompanies the units and discussions by providing essential chronological survey information.

Instructor

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China and the Modern World, taught by Professor William C. Kirby

Grading and Certificates

Learners who earn a satisfactory grade (75% or higher) will be eligible to receive a certificate from edX as a downloadable, printable PDF.

A passing grade is 75% or higher. Assessments are auto-graded. Your final grade is based on your participation in required assessments, discussion forums, and interactive activities. Honor-code and ID-Verified Certificates are issued on-demand via the edX dashboard. Once you pass each part, check your dashboard. XSeries certificates are issued every 15th of the month.

	China: Civilization and Empire (Parts 1-5)			China and the Modern World (Parts 6-10)		
Cost	Free	\$90/part	\$450	Free	\$90/part	\$450
Earn	Honor-code Certificate	ID-Verified Certificate	XSeries Certificate	Honor-code Certificate	ID-Verified Certificate	XSeries Certificate

Note: All content and learning formats are the same. Please contact edX Learner Support with questions info@edx.org.

Policy on Collaboration

Learners are encouraged to collaborate with other learners on units' assessments, learning activities, and discussions. However, each learner should undertake final assessments individually, per the edX Terms of Service. <https://www.edx.org/edx-terms-service>.

EdX Honor Code Pledge

By enrolling in the ChinaX edX course, you have agreed to:

- Complete all midterms and final exams with your own work and only your own work. You will not submit the work of any other person.
- Maintain only one user account and not let anyone else use your username and/or password.
- Not engage in any activity that would dishonestly improve your results, or improve or hurt the results of others.
- Not post answers to problems that are being used to assess student performance.

Use for Personalization and Pedagogical Improvements

Our goal is to provide current and future learners with the best possible educational experience. To further this goal, we sometimes present different users with different versions of course materials and software. We do this to personalize the experience to the individual learner (assess the learner's level of ability and learning style, and present materials best suited to the learner), to evaluate the effectiveness of our course materials, to improve our understanding of the learning process and to otherwise improve the effectiveness of our offerings. We may publish or otherwise publicize results from this process, but, unless otherwise permitted under this Privacy Policy, those publications or public disclosures will not include Personal Information. Please refer to the Privacy Policy for additional details on how we handle those items once received by us (<https://www.edx.org/edx-privacy-policy>). Read our research statement (<http://harvardx.harvard.edu/research-statement>) to learn more.