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## ASIAN 212

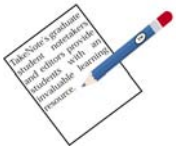
Professor Rusk



TakeNote®

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# TakeNote<sup>®</sup>

The Supplemental Lecture Notes Service at Cornell University

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## WELCOME

As the semester begins, we would like to recognize your decision to choose TakeNote<sup>®</sup> as a supplement to your lectures. We are confident that TakeNote<sup>®</sup> will help you gain a better understanding of your course material, as it has proven helpful to many Cornellians since 1985. However, please keep in mind that TakeNote<sup>®</sup> is not intended as a substitute for regular classroom attendance. When you miss a lecture, you miss slides, films, overheads and most importantly, the lecturer's distinct style and personality. You are also missing out on the most effective means of learning, which is actively participating in a class by listening and taking your own notes. Moreover, a significant drop in class attendance will impact TakeNote<sup>®</sup>'s ability to continue covering courses in the future. Professors will not allow us to cover courses if they have the impression that you are not attending lecture or taking your own notes. So please, use TakeNote<sup>®</sup> as it was intended – as a great study aid to enhance your own notes. The next time you think about not attending class, remember this: every time you miss a lecture, you have just thrown away approximately \$50 of your tuition!

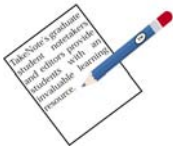
## PICK UP YOUR NOTES EACH WEEK

Each Monday, after 2:30 p.m., the previous week's notes are available at your distribution center. If you receive mailbox delivery, the notes will be in your box by 7 p.m. Occasionally (especially around exam time!), our distribution centers temporarily run out of notes. **We restock frequently, but subscribers who do not pick up their notes on a weekly basis are more likely to experience a delay.** It's your responsibility to pick up your notes every week. If you have any questions about your subscription or distribution, please call the TakeNote<sup>®</sup> office at 277-1892 or email us at [info@tnote.com](mailto:info@tnote.com). If a prelim for a class is scheduled on a Monday or Tuesday, we will make every effort to make TakeNote<sup>®</sup> available by Saturday or Sunday night at the CollegeTown Video location but there is no guarantee.

## QUALITY OF TAKENOTE<sup>®</sup>

Our notetakers and editors spend a great deal of time each week creating the notes and proofing them before distribution. However, once the notes have been printed, we depend on you to monitor the quality of TakeNote<sup>®</sup>. If you have any questions or comments about the notes, please call the TakeNote<sup>®</sup> office at 277-1892 or email us at [info@tnote.com](mailto:info@tnote.com).

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These notes represent a detailed interpretation of the professor's lecture. They are not a transcript of the lecture. TakeNote® is best used as a supplement to your own notes, not as a substitute.

Lecture Date: Tuesday, January 22, 2008

## **Introduction:**

### **Why study China?**

- Beijing 2008
- Bustling economy - Shanghai Stock Exchange Composite Index, 2006-2008
- Chinese literature
- Chinese medicine (traditional herbal medicine)
- Popular culture - Promotion for a historical drama on Hong Kong TV
- Games with history theme - *Chronicles of the Three Kingdoms* by Magitech
- Art, religion (Ming Dynasty painting of the goddess Guanyin - Avalokitesvara)

### **Course basics:**

Enroll in lecture and a section, email of br79@cornell.edu, office hours T11-12, W 1-2, and by appointment in RH 375, use blackboard discussion board for content questions.

Course website: <http://lrc.cornell.edu/asian/courses/gened/asian212>

Syllabus is on the website.

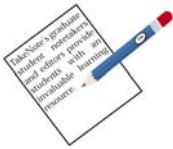
But main course page on blackboard (blackboard.cornell.edu) so be sure to sign up.

### **Textbooks:**

- *The Open Empire* by Valerie Hansen
- *Chinese Civilization Sourcebook* by Patricia Ebrey
- There will be more emphasis on the sourcebook, and we will use a lot of primary source

### **Overview of Syllabus:**

- Questions will be posted on blackboard each week. We will ask you to synthesize and make your own arguments or analysis of the materials.
- Of these weekly questions, you will have to write a total of six short papers and turn them in to your Tas. You will be required to write three papers in the first half of the semester, and three in the latter half of the semester. These will be graded.
- Download assignments in a timely manner because we can't keep them posted for a very long time due to copyright situations.
- The course consists of: Quizzes  
Exams  
Midterm and Finals (both take-home)



## **What (and when and where) is “China”?**

Shang Dynasty, 1523-1027 C.E.

Han Dynasty, around 100 C.E.

Song Dynasty around 1050 C.E.

Qing Dynasty 1644-1912

First possibility for historical organization is by looking at the states (dynasties). But there are quite a bit of change over time. Border has never been fixed, and it's been very fluid, and not at all constant (see the slide).

## **What is Dynasty?**

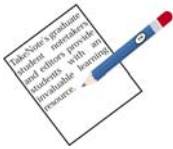
It is not what one thinks. Not necessarily inherited along the family line. See the introduction of *OE*.

## **Who is “Chinese?”**

- National identity of China – has thousands of years of history. Current Chinese government promotes it.
- Minimalist approach - is the other way to approach this question.

**What is Jia ( ) Family/home?** A search on baidu.com (Chinese equivalent of google.com) yields the following types of images:

- A family composed of a father, mother, and child – reflection of the 1 child policy.
- On the other hand, there is an image of the extended family (grandparents, pets, etc.)
- Early twentieth century novel, called *Family* – An image of a poster based on the novel is shown. It doesn't look particularly inviting; it's dark, gloomy, and looks like a haunted house. It's a movie about a troubled family with a lot of internal tension, in the early twentieth century. Tension arises from conflicts between different generations on such issues as: Should girls go to school? Should they study Confucian sciences? Should they just study domestic science? There are many internal disagreements and fights within a family.
- Typical idyllic image of China
- Artist's rendering of Neolithic village, Banpo (near Xi'an, Central China). Question: What is the place where families lived in this outline of the village? What are the roles of the families, in the village? Chinese families worked in variety of ways, and there is no single typical way that they lived.



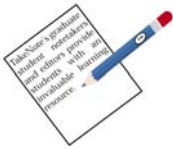
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Lecture Date: Thursday, January 24, 2008

Announcements:

- Correction from a slide from the last lecture... It was not BCE, but CE (Common Era)

- I. From the last week's slide "Artist's rendering of a **Neolithic Village**) Neolithic = New stone age, as opposed to Old Stone Age. A distinctive feature of the New Stone Age is **agriculture**. From an archaeological site, an oven was found which used to make potteries. Also a square house foundation was found, from which we could infer that the house will actually be situated underground. The existence of grain pits also speaks to the flourishing of agricultural production. Slides shown (available on blackboard):
- A. Painted ceramic bowls from Banpo culture.
  - B. Tomb with burial pottery – inside the pots there are grains and oils to take to the afterlife. Again, these archaeological findings speak to the existence of agriculture during the period. Some tombs have a lot of things and some have very little. It also speaks to the existence of power hierarchy in the society.
  - C. Foundation of four-room house, like today's townhouse, because each rooms seem independent from each other.
  - D. Neolithic longhouse (a series of 17 individual houses) .each individual houses have their own hearth.
- II. **Look at Geography through Google Earth** (available on blackboard)... See the different areas of China through different seasons. Most of the china is warmer than Ithaca and you don't see as much snow. Southwest border is colored in orange because there is a border dispute with Tibet.
- Look at the size of China – it's a huge area. If we superimpose it over to North America, it covers roughly from Southern Alaska to around Cuba. This vast geography meant two things:
- A. It took a long time to communicate and travel these distances for the people of old times
  - B. Huge amount of diversity, climate, terrain, type of agriculture people engage in. It's important to look at the areas to know what kind of activities people may have been engaged in.
  - C. North and South are mountainous – and there is a huge desert in the West
  - D. **Water is an important factor.** In mountains – from Mt. Everest – everything goes geographically downhill from there, and so comes the water from there. There are two important rivers that come out of Tibet. One is Yellow River. And the other is Yangzi River. Both flow into the East into the ocean.
  - E. **Tibetan Plateau**, and **Loess Plateau** to its Northeast, (brownish yellow color



because that's what it looks like – very rich soil for agriculture – but very difficult to establish road and things of that sort), to the north, there is **Mongolia**, dry and less easy to practice agriculture.

- F. Rainfall. Southeast gets a lot of rainfall, Northwest gets almost none; it's desert basically. Agriculture, without irrigation, would have been impossible on the Northwest half of China, (behind the red line in the slide from Google earth), but not so on the other side.
- G. **Yangzi Delta** – will become eventually a very important area later on, we'll discuss this in the class later on.
- H. **Water is constantly carrying things with it.** It means that everything is, when it's not in bloom, in this color of yellowish brown. Lots of sand.
- I. **Cut terraces** – are flatten terraces on different levels on hillsides for agricultural purposes. Agriculture was done in this way for thousands of years in Loess Plateau.
- J. **There are lots of holes which were created naturally – and often people make those themselves too.** Cave houses are typical of this area, of Loess Plateau. Why do they make caves? They lived in them. Apparently very happily (Prof. Rusk showed us a slide of a family standing in front of a nicely decorated cave house). Many people in this area still live in these caves today. It's actually very practical. It gives a very good insulation against the elements. Not only are there individual cave houses, but there are also cave complexes, with a central courtyard (he showed a slide). There is but one problem – soil tends to crumble. After several years they have to move into newly carved caves. (?)
- K. **Yellow River** carries all the yellow soils as it flows. Some of them get dropped on the way; some of them get carried all the way. River has a combined S shapes, like a snake. Just like California, the desert is irrigated with the water from Yellow river. Despite the fact that it is a desert area, the area is a major agricultural producer. For the Olympics 2008 Beijing is diverting a significant amount of water from Yellow River just to make sure that they will have enough water for the festivity. Beijing is constantly short of water.
- L. **Rivers creates flat plains** – flat area, where the water starts to get spread out. Not very productive for agriculture. Next time we'll talk more about this.