

## FOUR WAYS OF LOOKING AT CHINESE HISTORY

| Archaeological/Archival   | Academic Consensus  | Material Determinist  | Ideational Determinist   |
|---|---|---|--|
| Lower Paleolithic<br>Middle Paleolithic<br>(c. 250,000 BC)<br>Upper Paleolithic<br>(c.50,000 BC in West,<br>30,000 BC in East Asia) | Peking Man ( <i>H. erectus</i> )<br>Neanderthal Man? (maybe<br><i>H. sapiens</i> in Africa, West)<br><i>H. sapiens</i> (c. 30,000 BC)   | <b>PRIMITIVE COMMUNISM</b>                                      | Animism (Heaven wrapped in Earth)<br>only small, prestate groups, fissioned<br>by envy, envy-avoidance   |
| Mesolithic<br>(c.10,000 BC)   |   |   |  |
| Beginning Neolithic<br>(c. 10,000 BC in West,<br>c. 6,000 BC in East Asia)  | Yangshao & Qingliangang<br>(c. 6,000 BC)  |   | tension increases as small groups<br>increase in number, locate closer<br>together   |
| Late Neolithic<br>(c. 3,000 BC, China)  | Longshanoid horizon   | <b>SLAVE SOCIETY</b> begins                                     | <b>EARLY CIVILIZATION</b><br>begin to separate Heaven & Earth;<br>mythic heroes (Shennong, Fuxi) first<br>rulers (Huangdi, Yao, Shun)  |
| Early Bronze Age<br>(c. 2,000 BC, China)<br>Middle Bronze Age<br>(c. 1,300 BC, China)<br>Late Bronnze Age<br>(c. 1,000 BC)          | <b>ANCIENT PERIOD</b><br>Xia state<br>early Shang state<br>Yin phase of Shang<br><br>Western Zhou   | <b>LATE SLAVE SOCIETY</b>                                       | hereditary-traditional rulers (Yu)<br>Heaven maybe raised to night sky<br>regression to fertility Heaven (?)<br>transition to high civilization begins<br>Zhou revives Heaven as night sky<br>Heaven re-presented onto Earth as the<br>feudal empire of Zhou |
| Early Iron Age<br>(c. 600 BC, China,<br>c. 1,500 BC, West)  | Eastern Zhou<br>Spring-Autumn (770 BC)<br>Warring States (479 BC)<br>Qin Dynasty (221-208)<br>Western Han (206 BC-9 AD)   | <b>(DECENTRALIZED)<br/>FEUDAL SOCIETY</b>                       | <b>1st STAGE HIGH CIVILIZ.</b><br>philosophers internalize Heaven<br>first bureaucratic states; big markets<br>first universal states  |
| Middle Iron Age<br>(c. 1st c AD)  | Eastern Han (23-220)<br>Three Kingdoms (220-265)<br>Western Jin (265-317)   | <b>CENTRALIZED FEUDAL<br/>SOCIETY</b>                           | <b>1ST CRISIS OF HIGH CIVILIZ</b>  |
| Late Iron Age/<br>Early Industrial Age<br>(c. 10thc AD)   | <b>MEDIEVAL PERIOD</b><br>Northern & Southern Dyn.<br>Sui Dynasty (580-618)<br>Tang Dynasty (618-906)<br>Five Dyn./Ten King.(906-60)<br>Northern Song (960-1126)<br>Liao (Khitan) (907-1118)<br>Southern Song (1126-1276)<br>Jin (Jurched) (1118-1234)<br>Yuan (Mongols) (1134-<br>1368)<br>Ming (1368/1404-1644)<br>Qing (Manchus) (1644-<br>1912) | “sprouts” of capitalism   | Buddhist Heaven becomes dominant<br>linear time & time preference<br><b>2nd STAGE HIGH CIVILIZ.</b><br>“double-mindedness”<br>Confucian Heaven Buddhized   |
| Full Industrial Age<br>(c. 1880- )  | <b>MODERN PERIOD</b><br>Early Republic (1912-1926)<br>National Republic (1926-49)<br>Socialist Republic (1949-?)  | <b>1842: CAPITALIST<br/>SOCIETY</b> (under foreign<br>pressure) | Buddho-Confucian Heaven weakens  |
|   |   | <b>SOCIALIST SOCIETY</b><br>c.2100 PURE COMM.                   | Marxist pseudo-Heaven dominates<br><br>c.1957: crisis of civ resumes   |