

Continuities/Patterns in Chinese History

1. Ethnocentrism

Chinese believed their culture superior to others
China as “Middle Kingdom”

2. Xenophobia

Fear and distrust of foreigners

3. Creativity and innovation

Science and technology/inventions
Art and literature
Infrastructure projects

4. Importance of family

Patriarchy
Ancestor worship and veneration

5. Low status of women

Social and economic
Submissive

6. Conflict with nature

Floods, earthquakes, typhoons, droughts, insect infestations sometimes led to mass starvation

7. Authoritarian, strong central bureaucratic government (not initially)

8. Dynastic cycle

Revolts against strong, often abusive, central government

9. Cultural conservatism

Limited cultural change over 3500 years

10. Education valued

Confucian influence
Scholar-gentry

11. Hard lives of peasants

Large portion of population