



C 政治类

Chapter 1 Politics



商汤

Shang Tang

Tang was the first ruling king of the Shang Dynasty in Chinese history. He overthrew Jie, the last ruler of the Xia Dynasty. He was the head of his tribe for more than 17 years, and during that period, he employed wise men as civil officials and revamped his government.

Seeing that the Xia Dynasty began to falter, Tang initiated eleven wars against Xia Dynasty, taking large quantities of land and subduing many vassal states. After an internal rebellion in Xia, Tang swept away the Xia armies in one final victory in 1600 B. C. . He then set Jie into exile until he died.

Tang's reign is regarded as a good one by the Chinese. He lowered taxes and the conscription rate of soldiers. His influence spread to the Yellow River, and many outlying tribes became vassal states. He also established Anyang as the new capital of China.





商汤

Shang Tang

汤是中国商朝开国国君，推翻了夏朝最后一个国君桀的统治。汤做了 17 年部落首领，期间召集智者参与政务，并对管理机构进行了改革。

当时夏朝的统治根基已经动摇，于是汤发起了 11 次进攻夏朝战争，夺取了大片土地，并征服众多诸侯国。夏发生内乱之后，汤于公元前 1600 年彻底打败夏军，取得最终胜利。夏桀被流放外地直至死去。

汤是中国人眼中的明君。他降低赋税，削减兵力，影响波及到黄河岸边，许多偏远的部落都归顺商汤，成为他的诸侯国。汤还把都城建到安阳。



姜子牙

Jiang Ziya

Also known as Jiang Taigong or Jiang Shang, a Chinese semi-mythological figure, resided next to the Weishui River about 3,000 years ago. The region was the feudal estate of King Wen of Zhou. Jiang Ziya knew King Wen was very ambitious, so he hoped to get his attention.



He often went angling at the Weishui River, but he would fish in a bizarre way. He hung a straight hook, with no bait, three feet above the water. He over and over said to himself, “Fish, if you are desperate to live, come and gulp down the hook by yourself.”

In a little while his outlandish way of fishing was reported to King Wen, who sent a soldier to bring him back. Jiang noticed the soldier coming, but did not care about him. Jiang just continued with his fishing, and was soliloquizing, “Fishing, fishing. No fish has been hooked-but



shrimp is up to tomfoolery.” The soldier reported this back to King Wen, who became more interested in Jiang.

King Wen sent a bureaucrat to invite Jiang this time. But Jiang again paid no attention to the invitation. He simply carried on fishing, saying, “Fishing, fishing. The big fish has not been hooked-but a small one is up to mischief.”

Then King Wen realized Jiang might be a great genius, so he went to invite Jiang personally, and brought many magnificent gifts with him. Jiang saw the king's earnest desire, so Jiang decided to work for him.

Jiang helped King Wen and his son turn over the Shang Dynasty and establish the Zhou Dynasty. Jiang was given the title of Taigong so people called him Jiang Taigong. His treatise on military strategy, *Six Secret Teachings*, is considered one of the *Seven Military Classics of Ancient China*. Jiang Ziya is a prominent character in the popular Chinese classical novel *Creation of the Gods*.



姜子牙 Jiang Ziya

姜子牙,又名姜太公或姜尚,是中国一个神话式的人物。大约3000年前,姜子牙居住在渭水河畔。这个地区是周文王的领地。姜子牙知道周文王是个很有抱负的国君,所以希望能得到周文王的注意。

姜子牙常去渭水钓鱼,但是钓鱼的方法异于常人。姜子牙的钓钩是直的,而且没有鱼饵,并且置于水面上三尺处。姜子牙不停地自言自语道:“不想活的鱼儿呀,你们愿意的话,就自己上钩吧!”

不久,姜子牙怪异的钓鱼方式就传到了文王耳中。文王派士兵前去将其带回。姜子牙注意到士兵来了,但是并不理他,继续钓鱼。姜子牙自言自语地说:“钓啊,钓啊,鱼儿不上钩,虾儿来胡闹!”士兵将情况报告给文王,文王对姜子牙的兴趣更大了。

这次文王派了一名官员前来邀请姜子牙,但是姜子牙仍然不理,只是继续钓鱼,并且仍自言自语道:“钓啊,钓啊,大鱼不上钩,小鱼别胡闹!”

这时文王意识到姜子牙应该是位奇人,于是亲自带了重礼前去相邀。姜子牙看到了文王的真诚,于是决定辅佐文王。

姜子牙协助文王及其子推翻商朝,建立周朝。姜子牙号太公,所以人称姜太



公。姜子牙有关军事战略的论文《六韬》被尊为《武经七书》(中国古代七大军事著作的汇编)之一。姜子牙是中国古典通俗文学作品《封神演义》里的一个重要人物。



管仲

Guan Zhong

Guan Zhong (died in 645 B. C.) was a politician in the Spring and Autumn Period. His given name was Yǐwú. Zhong was his courtesy name. Recommended by Bao Shuya, he was appointed Prime Minister by Duke Huan of Qi in 685 B. C. .



Guan Zhong modernized the state of Qi by starting multiple reforms. Politically, he centralized power and divided the state into different villages, each carrying out a specific trade. Instead of relying on the traditional aristocracy for manpower, he applied levies to the village units directly. He also developed a better method for choosing talent to be governors. Under Guan Zhong, Qi shifted administrative responsibilities from hereditary aristocrats to professional bureaucrats.

Guan Zhong also introduced several important economic reforms. He created a uniform tax code. He also used state power to encourage the production of salt and iron; historians usually credit Guan Zhong for introducing state monopolies of salt and iron. During his term of office, the state of Qi became much stronger and Duke Huan of Qi gained hegemony among the states. He is listed as the author of the *Guan-zi* , actually a much later (late Warring States) compilation of works from the scholars of the Jixia Academy.



管仲 Guan Zhong

管仲,名夷吾,字仲,卒于公元前 645 年。管仲是春秋时期的一位政治家。经由鲍叔牙的举荐,管仲于公元前 685 年成为齐桓公的国相。

管仲通过多项改革措施使齐国强大了起来。政治方面,管仲采取中央集权,把齐国分成不同的村庄,不同的村庄从事不同的职业。管仲不再依靠传统贵族作为人力资源,而是直接管理村级单位。管仲还发展了一种更好的选拔人才的方法。在管仲的统治下,齐国的政权从世袭贵族手里转移到了专业官僚手中。

管仲也进行了几项重要的经济改革,创造了“相地而衰征”的新税法,还使用政府权力鼓励盐铁生产。历史学家通常把国家对盐铁的垄断经营归功于管仲。在管仲任期内,齐国强大了许多,成就了齐桓公的霸业。

管仲被认为是《管子》名义的上作者,实际上是战国后期稷下学者的作品集。



勾践 Gou Jian

King Gou Jian of Yue (reigned 496 B. C. ~465 B. C.) was the king of the Kingdom of Yue (present-day Shanghai, northern Zhejiang and southern Jiangsu) near the end of the Spring and Autumn Period, named Luo Gou Jian. Gou Jian was the son of Marquess Yun Chang of Yue. He was defeated and captured by King Fu Chai of Wu of the neighbouring State of Wu. After three years of servitude and humiliation with his wife in the State of Wu, he gained the trust of King Fu Chai who eventually allowed him to return to his state where he resumed his rule and initiated major reforms. He soon appointed skilled politicians, such as Wen Zhong and Fan Li, as advisors to help build up the kingdom. During this time, his ministers also worked to weaken the State of Wu internally through bribes and diplomatic intrigue. All the while ruling his kingdom, Gou Jian never relished in riches as a king, but instead slept on sticks and eating food suited for peasants.



Talk About China in English—Celebrities

This way, he could remember his humiliations while serving under the State of Wu. There is a Chinese idiom, “Wo Xin Chang Dan” (literally meaning “sleeping on sticks and tasting gall”) coming about because of this and his perseverance. After ten years of economic and political reforms, his state at last became powerful enough to challenge and eventually annex the State of Wu in 478 B. C. , where King Fu Chai was forced to commit suicide. Later, King Gou Jian met the dukes in Xuzhou and gained hegemony among the states.



勾践

Gou Jian

越王勾践,公元前496年至公元前465年在位。勾践是接近春秋末期的越王,名叫姒勾践。越国在现在的上海,浙江北部和江苏南部。勾践是越国允常候的儿子,曾被邻国吴国的国王夫差打败。勾践与妻子在吴国忍辱负重服务了三年后,获得了吴王的信任并被放回越国,回国后勾践恢复了统治,进行了一些重要的改革。很快启用像文种和范蠡这样的政治家辅佐治国。同时,勾践的大臣还通过贿赂和外交阴谋从内部削弱吴国。在治理国家期间,作为一个国王,勾践从未享受富裕的生活,而是睡在柴火上,吃农民才吃的食物。通过这样的手段,勾践时刻不忘在吴国受到的耻辱。由此产生了一个汉语成语“卧薪尝胆”。十年的政治和经济改革之后,越国最终强大了起来。最后,越国于公元前478年打败吴国,吴王夫差被迫自杀。后来,勾践在徐州会见各诸侯国国君成为霸主。



商鞅

Shang Yang

Shang Yang (original name Kung-sun Yang, died in 338 B. C.) was a Chinese statesman and thinker whose successful reorganization of the state of Qin paved the way for the eventual unification of the Chinese empire by the Qin Dynasty (221 B. C. ~ 206 B. C.). Shang Yang believed that the integrity of a



state could be maintained only with power and that power consisted of a large army and full granaries.

Entering into the service of Duke Hsiao, head of the state of Qin, Shang Yang replaced the feudal division of the country with a system of centrally appointed governors. He instituted compulsory military service and a new system of land division and taxation and insisted on strict and uniform administration of the law. He is also said to have forced all persons into “productive occupations,” such as farming or



soldiering (but not commerce), and to have set up a system of mutual spying among the people. When he fell into disgrace in 338 B. C., he was tied to chariots and torn apart. The work *Shang Chün Shu* (“Book of the Lord of Shang”) probably contains writings and ideas of Shang Yang, although the exact authorship of the book is in doubt. It is one of the major works of the highly pragmatic and authoritarian legalist school of Chinese philosophy.



商鞅

Shang Yang

商鞅,原名公孙鞅,卒于公元前338年,政治家、思想家。商鞅对秦国政府的成功重组为秦国最终统一中国建立秦朝(公元前221年至公元前206年)铺平了道路。商鞅认为只有军力强大、物产丰足才能维持一个国家的完整。

被秦孝公起用后,商鞅停止了国家分治的局面,开始了中央集权。商鞅创建了兵役制,新的土地分配和征税制度,并且坚持严格统一地执行法律。据说商鞅还强制使所有的人从事像耕作和服役(除了商业)这样的“生产职业”。公元前338年,



商鞅失势,被车裂而死。《商君书》尽管具体的原作者尚存疑问,但它很可能有商鞅的作品和思想。它是非常重视实用和独裁的中国法家学派的主要著作之一。



秦始皇

Qin Shi Huang



Qin Shi Huang (born c. 259 B. C. , Qin, northwestern China, died 210/209) , personal name Zheng, was king of the Chinese State of Qin from 247 B. C. to 221 B. C. , and then the first emperor of a unified China from 221 B. C. to 210 B. C. , ruling under the name First Emperor.

Having unified China, he and his prime minister Li Si passed a series of major reforms aimed at cementing the unification, and they undertook some gigantic construction projects, most notably the precursor version of the current Great Wall of China. For all the tyranny of his autocratic rule, Qin Shi Huang is still regarded by many today as the founding father in Chinese history whose unification of China has endured for more than two millennia, with interruptions.



秦始皇

Qin Shi Huang

秦始皇,名嬴政,于公元前 259 年出生在中国西北部的秦国,卒于 209 年或 210 年。嬴政于公元前 247 年到 221 年作为秦王统治秦国,之后于公元前 221 年至公元前 210 年作为统一的中国的第一个皇帝统治中国,自称“始皇



帝”。

统一中国后,秦始皇和丞相李斯通过了一系列旨在巩固统一大业的主要改革措施。他们还进行了一些巨大的建设工程,其中最著名的就是今长城的前身。尽管秦始皇的统治独裁残暴,现在仍然有很多人认为秦始皇是中国历史上的开国者。秦始皇统一中国后,中国的统一状态已经顽强持续了2000多年,尽管中间时有间断。



李斯

Li Si

Li Si (born 280 B. C. , Chu state, central China, died 208 B. C. , Xianyang) was a Chinese statesman who utilized the ruthless but efficient ideas of the political philosophy of Legalism to weld the warring Chinese states of his time into the first centralized Chinese empire, the Qin Dynasty.

In 247 B. C. he entered the state of Qin to begin almost 40 years of service under the ruler later known as Shih Huang-ti (“First Sovereign Emperor”). As minister to the emperor, Li was responsible for most of the radical political and cultural innovations made in Qin after 221 B. C. .

Li caused the empire to be divided into 36 regions, each governed by a centrally appointed official. Under his guidance the emperor standardized coinage and weights and measures and began construction of the Great Wall to keep out barbarians from the north. Li Si was also influential in creating a unified writing system, which remained substantially the same until recent times. Finally, in an effort to prevent the growth of subversive thought, Li in 213 B. C. forbade the teaching of history and ordered the “burning of the books,” for which he earned the opprobrium of all future generations of Confucian scholars. When the emperor died in 209 B. C. , Li became involved in the eunuch Zhao Kao’s plot to void the proper succession. But the two conspirators quarreled, and Zhao Kao had Li executed.



李斯

Li Si

李斯,大概公元前 280 年生在中国中部的楚国,公元前 208 年死于咸阳,政治家。李斯利用无情但是有效的法家思想统一了战国时期的各个诸侯国,建立了中央集权的中国帝国——秦朝。

公元前 247 年李斯来到秦国,开始了将近 40 年的为秦王(后来的始皇帝)的服务。作为始皇帝的大臣,李斯负责了秦国公元前 221 年后大多数的政治和文化改革。

李斯促使帝国分为 36 个地区,每个地区由中央委派官员治理。在李斯的指导下,秦始皇统一了度量衡并且为了防止北方的蛮人入侵开始修建长城。对于文字的统一,李斯也是有影响的。统一后的文字一直使用到近代。最后,为了避免破坏性思想的成长,李斯于公元前 213 年禁止教授历史并且下令“焚书”,李斯因此受到了后来所有儒生的责骂。公元前 209 年始皇帝驾崩,李斯卷入了宦官赵高取消正当继位的阴谋。但是这两个阴谋家发生了反目,赵高处死了李斯。



吕不韦

Lü Buwei

Lü Buwei (died 235 B. C. , Szechwan Province, China) was a Chinese statesman, minister of the state of Qin, one of the small feudal kingdoms into which China was divided between 771 B. C. and 221 B. C. . Under Lü's clever management, the state of Qin, in northwest China, engulfed many of its neighbouring states, and by the end of Lü's ministry, China was well on the way to unification.

Originally a merchant, Lü used his influence to have one of the princes of Qin declared the heir apparent to the throne. And when the prince fell in love with one of Lü's concubines, Lü relinquished her, even though she was rumoured to be