

Origins of Chinese Civilization:

Neolithic Period to the Western Zhou Dynasty



Present-day China

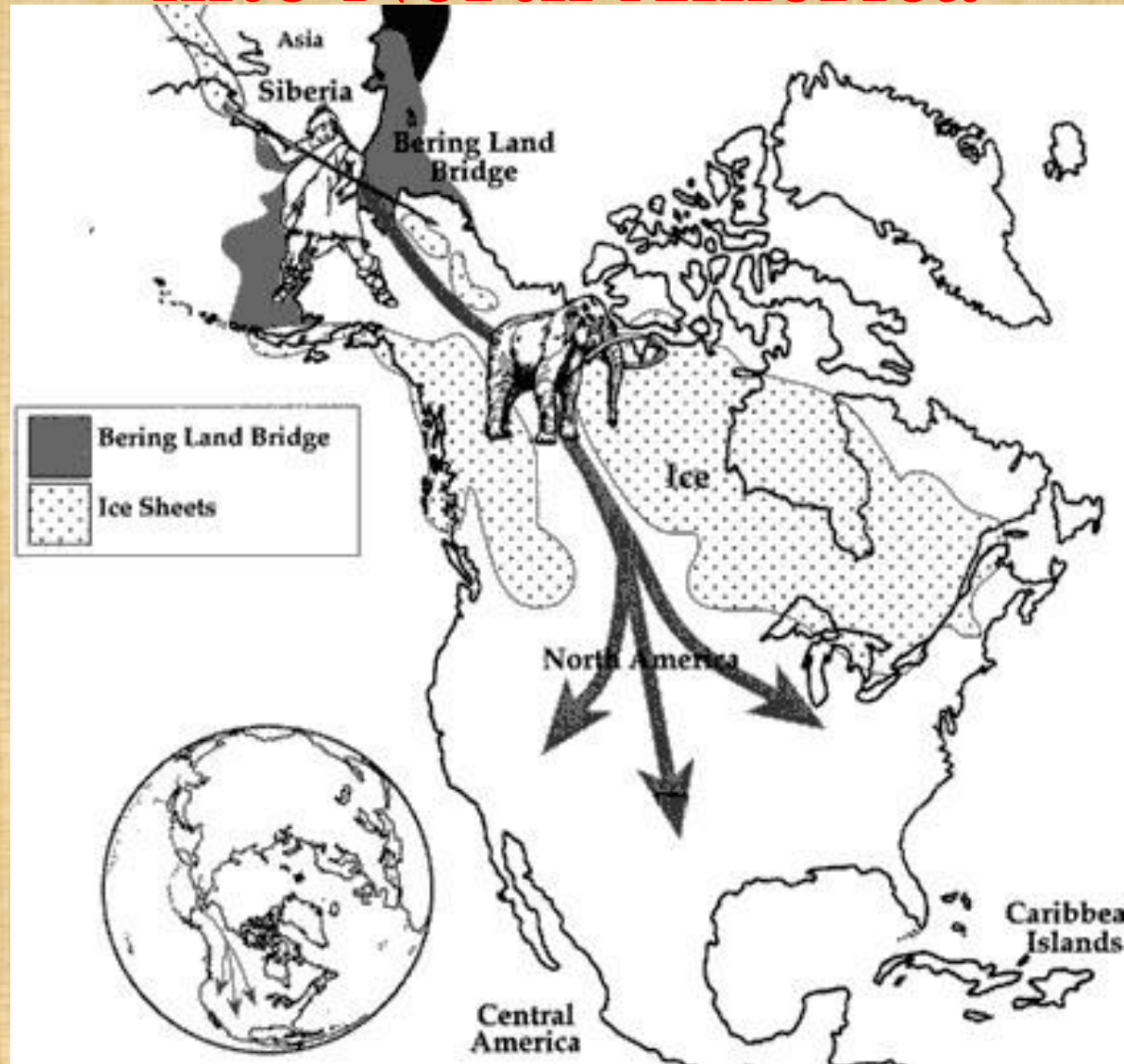


Migration Routes of the “The Seven Daughters of Eve”

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Spread of Oriental Peoples into North America



Prehistory of the Chinese Civilization:

China considered itself to be the center of the world. While it is clear today that all peoples came out of Africa, there have been people in China for nearly 100,000 years.

Modern man came to China during the Neolithic period ca. 10,000-5,000 BC.

7 millennia ago, a civilization was fully operational in China:

With division north and south—north colder produced grains and the south warmer produced rice.

There was also a cultural split east-west.

Neolithic China: The Yangshao and Lungshan

ca. 12,000-2,000 BC



The Yangshao and Lungshan



**Pottery from this Neolithic
ca. 4000 BC**

Xia Dynasty 2100 to 1800 B.C



Shang Dynasty ca. 1600-1050 BC





Shang invented writing and used it on tortoise shells for divination among the regular uses.

NB Chinese developed as a logographic and not a phonetic language.

Shang Bronzes





Zhou Dynasty ca. 1050-256 BC



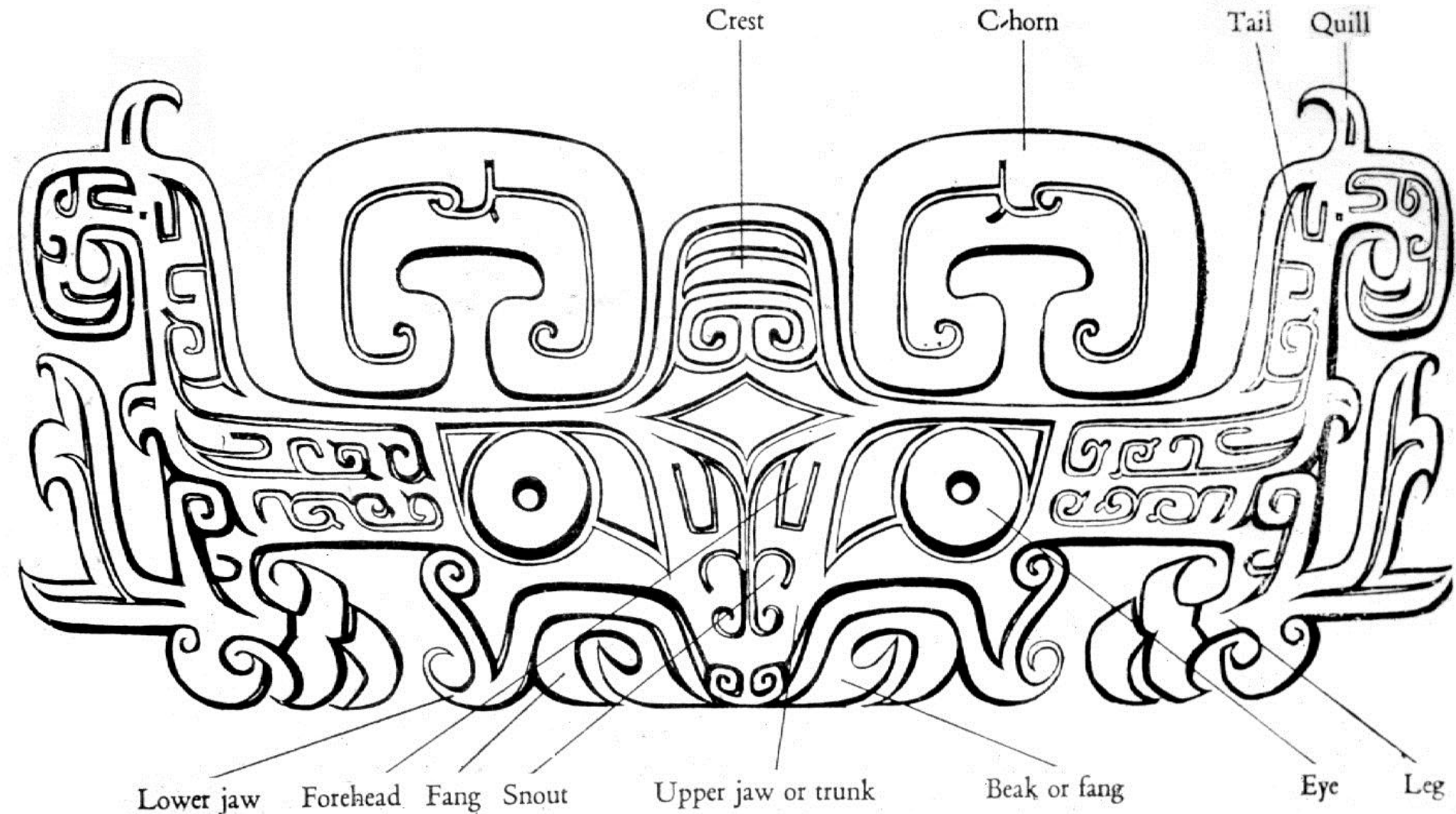
Zhou Dynasty
at its greatest
extent

black lines represent
Great Walls built by
the Zhou

Zhou Dynasty

- **Reduction of human sacrifice**
- **Heaven came into their religion**
- **Ethical worldly system tied to divine will**
- **Rulers ruled with divine approval or else**

Toatie Rubbings







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Interesting chapter sites:

<http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/hm/01/hm01.htm>

<http://www.travelchinaguide.com/intro/history/>

General travel information:

<http://depts.washington.edu/chinaciv/timeline.htm>

<http://travel.state.gov/travel/china.html>

http://travel.state.gov/travel/tips_china.html