

name: _____ class: _____ date: _____

ASIAN CIVILIZATIONS

UNIT 20

Chinese Philosophies

Chapter 3.4-5

The Zhou Dynasty, which followed the Shang, ruled for 772 years (1122 - 256 BC). In the beginning, the Zhou ruled from their ancestral home in the West in the Wei River valley. Around 771 BC, invaders overran China. Some say that families who rivaled for the throne gave these barbarians free passage through western provinces. The Zhou king escaped death and headed east to establish a new capital, Luoyang. Despite his assertion that he remained in power, rival families disagreed arguing that the invasions were a clear sign that the gods have taken the Mandate of Heaven from the Zhou. From 480 - 222 BC China was in a state of all out civil war, an era known as the "Warring States Period." More than 200 years of fighting, death, and destruction led many to believe that it was their fault that the gods had turned against them. Tied to that belief they also thought they had the power to change the opinions of the gods. As a result many new systems of ideas (philosophies) emerged, all of which promised to bring peace to China and return the favor of the gods. Together these philosophies have come to be known as the "Hundred Schools of Thought." Included among these philosophies are three prominent ideas: Confucianism, Legalism, Daoism.

Instructions: Using the textbook (chapter 3.4, 3.5) summarize the key information about each of the three philosophies in the organizer below. Be sure to include information on the nature of government, the role of the leader, and behavior of the subjects (the people).

