History 170E
From City-State
to Autocratic Monarchy
Western Zhou (capital at Zongzhou): 1045-771 BCE
Eastern Zhou (capital at Luoyang; also known as Chengzhou 成周): 771-256 BCE
Hegemon

(*ba* 霸)

- Lord Huan of Qi 桓齊公 recognized as hegemon in 651 BCE
- Lord Huan mustered armies of Central States in response to Di invasions (662 BCE) & Chu attack on Zheng (656 BCE)
- Catapulted to status of hegemon by minister Guan Zhong 管仲
Major States of the “Spring and Autumn Era”
771-481 BCE

- Under hegemony of Lord Huan, Qi was dominant among Central States
- Jin seized hegemony from Qi in late 7th century BCE
- Chu: rising power on southern periphery
Administrative Structure of the City-State

- Capital city (*guo* 國); outlying towns (*du* 都; seats of local nobility); settlements (*yi* 邑)
- Ministers (*qing* 卿) of War (*司馬*), Lands (*Situ 司土*), Public Works (*Sikong 司空*), and Justice (*Situ 司徒*).
- Lesser officials (*daifu* 大夫)
- Capital citizenry (*國人*): major (and volatile) political force
Zichan 子產
(c. 581-522 BCE)

- Minister in Zheng 鄭 (once powerful state beset by internal violence)
- Elevated to chief minister in 543 BCE
- Instituted program of centralizing reforms
- Direct taxation of land
- Issued penal law binding on subjects, officials, and ruler alike
New Technologies of Warfare

- Mass-produced iron weapons (such as the sword below) and crossbows (left) transformed the nature of warfare
Bronze Currencies of Spring & Autumn Era
(from late 6th century BCE)

- Spade currency of Central Plain (left)
- Knife currency of Northeast (right)
City-State Currencies
(fourth-third centuries BCE)

- Anyi 安邑 (Wei city) at left
- Jinyang 晉陽 (Zhao city) at right
Qin and Chu Currencies

- Qin Banliang (“half-ounce”) round coin (left)
- Chu gold leaf currency (right)
Monetary Systems of the Warring States
Four distinct currency zones emerged

1. Spade currency: North China Plain
2. Knife currency: Qi & Yan
3. Round coins: Qin
4. Chu: spade currency, imitation bronze cowries, and gold leaf
Rise of the Autocratic State

- Rulers claimed title of “king” (wang 王) formerly restricted to the Zhou rulers
- Centralization of control over economic resources
- Creation of professional civil service
- New tactics and technology of warfare
Changing Nature of the *Shi* 士

- *Shi* originally designated the lowest rank of the Zhou nobility
- In the Warring States era (5th-3rd centuries BCE), *shi* came to mean men of learning trained in the arts of government who offered their services to rulers of the day
Territorial Administration of the Autocratic State

- **Patrimonial State**: award of domains (*guo* 国) to nobles
- **Autocratic State**: established new territorial units governed by officials appointed by rulers
- **Xian 縣**: strategic military bases, first created by Chu and Qin in seventh century BCE
- **Jun 郡**: beginning in fourth century BCE, larger territories created to defend frontier regions
- **Junxian 郡縣**: became territorial administration of the bureaucratic state and the Chinese empire
The First Emperor’s Terra Cotta Army

- Life-size figures guarded the entrances to the tomb of the First Emperor of Qin
- Although each soldier was individually cast, the ranks of soldiers reflects the disciplined infantry armies of the Warring States era
Principal States of the Warring States Era (c. 300 B.C.E.)