

# China and the world comparative timeline

Date	China	The world
3000s BC	3630 BC People cultivate silk worms to make silk fabric	c.3200 BC Writing first used in Mesopotamia  c. 3200 BC Bronze work begins in Greece  c.3000-1900 BC Indus Valley civilization in northern India
2000s BC	2000 BC Bronze working begins	c.2600 BC First stone circle constructed at Stonehenge in England  c.2570 BC Great pyramid of Giza built in Egypt
1000s BC	1650-1050 BC Shang dynasty  1200 BC Writing first used  1050-221 BC Zhou dynasty	c.1600 BC Earliest known glass developed in ancient Mesopotamia (modern day Iraq)  c.1500 BC First metal-working in Peru, South America  1336-1327 BC Reign of the pharaoh Tutankhamun in Egypt  c.1300-900 BC Olmec civilization thrives in north Mexico
900s BC	c.976-922 BC Reign of King Mu Wang, fifth Zhou king, during whose reign the dynasty reaches the peak of its power and territorial control.	c. 943 -720 BC Egyptian 22 <sup>nd</sup> dynasty rulers, originally from Libya, based at Tanis in north Egypt.  934 -609 BC Neo-Assyrian Empire in Mesopotamia

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800s BC	841 BC is taken by Chinese historians as the first year of consecutive annual dating, based on the <i>Records of the Grand Historian</i> by Sima Qian.	813 BC City of Carthage in North Africa is founded by the Phoenicians  c.800 BC First writing in the Americas is produced by the Zapotec people of Mesoamerica.
700s BC	780 BC First historic solar eclipse recorded in China.  771 BC End of Western Zhou dynasty as the capital Hao is sacked. Zhou rule continues from a new capital to the east.  770-476 BC Spring and Autumn Period as central control under the Eastern Zhou is weak and local rulers emerge.  c.750 BC First metal coins used	700s BC Coins start to be used in Lydia, now part of western Turkey.  730 BC Egypt falls to the rule of the kings of Nubia (modern day Sudan)
600s BC	c.604-531 BC Life of the Daoist philosopher Laozi	c. 625 – 500 BC First archaeological evidence for the urbanization of Rome
500s BC	591 BC Death of Sunshu Ao, China's first hydraulic engineer, who created an artificial reservoir by damming a river for a large scale project while working for Duke Zhuang of Chu.  552-479 BC Life of Confucius	528 BC Gautama Buddha attains Enlightenment and begins his ministry, thereby founding Buddhism in India.  510 BC Roman Republic established.  c.500 BC First large villages established on the coasts of Alaska, north America

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400s BC	400s BC Crossbow is invented  475-221 BC Warring States Period	431-404 BC Peloponnesian Wars between the Greek cities of Athens and Sparta.
300s BC	c.300 BC Compass invented and first use of cavalry in the Chinese army	c.321 BC Mauryan empire founded on the Indian subcontinent.
200s BC	221-207 BC Qin dynasty.  221-210 BC Construction of the first Great Wall from packed earth  206 BC-AD 200 Han dynasty	c.200 BC Iron starts to be used in western, and then eastern, Africa
100s BC	141-87 BC Reign of the Han Emperor Wu, considered one of the greatest emperors in Chinese history as the Chinese empire reaches its greatest extent.	146 BC Final victory of Rome over Carthage in North Africa.
99-1 BC	91 BC Completion of the <i>Records of the Great Historian</i> by Sima Qian – the first systematic history of China from c. 2600 BC until his own times.  28 BC First known written references to sunspots made by Chinese astronomers.	c.80-60 BC Coin production starts in England.  51-30 BC Reign of Cleopatra VII as last pharaoh of Egypt  48-44 BC Rule of Julius Caesar in Rome.  27 BC Augustus begins his rule as first emperor of the Roman empire.

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AD 1-99	<p>AD 1-100 Buddhism introduced into China from India</p> <p>AD 31 Du Shi, Chinese engineer and statesman, invents the first-known hydraulic-powered bellows to heat the blast furnace used when smelting cast iron.</p>	<p>AD 1-100 The kingdom of Aksum in east Africa flourishes as a centre of maritime and land trade with India and the Roman empire</p> <p>AD 43 Britain becomes part of the Roman empire. The first written script (Latin) is used in Britain.</p>
AD 100s	<p>c. AD 105 Cai Lun invents paper</p> <p>AD 184-205 Yellow Scarves (Turbans) Rebellion of Chinese peasants against Imperial farming taxes</p>	AD 122 Hadrian's Wall built across northern Britain
AD 200s	<p>AD 220 Emperor Xian, the last Han emperor, abdicates.</p> <p>AD 221-589 Period of Disunity</p>	AD 255 Construction begins on the final section of a wall around London.
AD 300s	<p>AD 322 The first pictorial record of stirrups, probably a Chinese invention, to increase rider control.</p> <p>AD 383 Battle of Fei River between rival royal powers is considered one of the most significant battles in Chinese history.</p>	<p>c. AD 300 Gupta empire flourishes in northern India</p> <p>AD 301 Armenia is the first country to adopt Christianity as state religion followed c. 320 by Ethiopia</p>

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AD 400s	AD 477-499 First pictorial record of the horse collar in China, this invention improved the pulling power of the horse as a beast of burden	c. AD 400 First emperors rule in Japan  AD 406-53 Life of Attila the Hun who establishes an empire stretching from Germany to Russia  c. AD 450 Anglo-Saxon period begins in England
AD 500s	AD 585 Construction begins on the Grand Canal linking the Huang He (Yellow) and Chang Jiang (Yangzi) rivers	AD c. 570 – 632 Life of the Islamic prophet Muhammad  AD 597 Augustine arrives in Kent to convert England to Christianity
AD 600s	c. AD 600 Porcelain invented  AD 618-906 Tang dynasty  AD 630s Sa`d ibn Abi Waqqas establishes the first Islamic mosque of China in Guangzhou  AD 690-705 Reign of the Emperess Wu Zetian	AD 622 Muhammad leaves the Arabian city of Mecca and arrives in Medina, an event which marks the beginning of the Islamic calendar (AH 1).  c.AD 658–684 First English poem (a religious hymn) written by the monk Caedmon
AD 700s	Li Bai (AD 701-62) and Du Fu (AD 712-770) are considered the two greatest Chinese poets  AD 742 Census of the Tang capital Chang'an (and local area) record a population of 1,960,188 people. (England had a population of around 1,000,000 people in AD 1086.)	AD 789 First recorded Viking raid on Britain occurs on the Dorset coast

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AD 800s	AD 868 Earliest known surviving woodblock-printed book, the Diamond Sutra	AD 886 Alfred, king of Wessex divides rule of England between his rule and Viking rule (Danelaw)
AD 900s	AD 960 -1279 Paper money invented	AD 920s Horse collar introduced to Europe  AD 939 Death of Athelstan, first king of all England.
AD 1000s	AD 1041-48 Bi Sheng invents ceramic movable type printing	AD 1066 Battle of Hastings marks the beginning of Norman England
AD 1100s	AD 1132 Gunpowder first used to fire weapons	AD 1170 Murder of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury
AD 1200s	AD 1279-1368 Yuan dynasty	AD 1215 Magna Carta signed between King John and his nobles at Runnymede, England.
AD 1300s	AD 1368-1644 Ming dynasty	AD 1348 The plague (Black Death) arrives in Dorset, England.
AD 1400s	AD 1406-21 Building of the Forbidden City in Beijing	AD 1485-1603 Tudor period in Britain
AD 1500s	AD 1514 Chinese begin trading with the Portuguese and support economic growth with imported silver	AD 1500s Protestant Reformation in Europe  AD 1588 Naval battle between English ships and an invading Spanish Armada

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<p>AD 1600s</p>	<p>AD 1644-1911 Qing dynasty</p>	<p>AD 1600 Founding of the British East India Company for trading with southern and eastern Asia</p> <p>AD 1600s Paper money first used in Europe</p> <p>AD 1642-9 English Civil War</p> <p>AD 1666 Great Fire of London</p>
<p>AD 1700s</p>	<p>AD 1726 The encyclopedia <i>Gujin Tushu Jicheng</i>, running to over 800,000 pages, is printed in 60 different copies using copper-based Chinese movable type printing.</p>	<p>AD 1711 British East India Company establishes first trading post in Guangzhou, China</p> <p>AD 1762-96 Reign of Catherine the Great, Tsar of Russia.</p> <p>AD 1771 First machine factory, a cotton mill, opens in Britain.</p> <p>AD 1776 Establishment of the United States of America</p> <p>AD 1789 French Revolution</p>
<p>AD 1800s</p>	<p>AD 1839-60 Trade disputes, particularly illegal trading of opium by Britain, leads to the Opium Wars.</p> <p>AD 1850-64 Taiping Rebellion – a large scale popular revolt against the authority of the Qing emperors</p> <p>AD 1899 Boxer Rebellion – a popular revolt against foreign influence in China.</p>	<p>AD 1801 Act of Union creates the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland)</p> <p>AD 1837-1901 Victorian period in Britain</p> <p>AD 1848 'The Communist Manifesto' by Karl Marx is published in London</p>

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<p>AD 1900s</p>	<p>AD 1912 Abdication of Puyi, the last Chinese emperor</p> <p>AD 1949 Foundation of the Peoples' Republic of China under the leader of the Comunist Party Mao Zedong</p>	<p>AD 1914-1918 First World War</p> <p>AD 1939-1945 Second World War</p> <p>AD 1997 Sovereignty of Hong Kong transferred to the People's Republic of China</p>
<p>AD 2000s</p>	<p>AD 2003 The Chinese space program launches its first human space flight, <i>Shenzhou 5</i>, following 4 uncrewed missions from 1999.</p> <p>AD 2008 Beijing Olympics</p>	<p>AD 2000 Millenium celebrations take place across the world</p> <p>AD 2012 London Olympics</p>

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