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## The Unification of China

MAIN IDEA	WHY IT MATTERS NOW	TERMS & NAMES
<b>RELIGIOUS AND ETHICAL SYSTEMS</b> The moral discipline of the warring states contributed to the development of the Chinese ethical systems.	The people, events, and ideas that shaped China's early history continue to influence China's role in today's world.	Confucius Chang Bai Juyi Ban Zhao Dunhuang Legation autocracy

**SETTING THE STAGE** The Zhou Dynasty, as you read in Chapter 2, lasted for at least eight centuries, from approximately 1027 to 256 B.C. For the first 500 years of their long reign, the Zhou kings oversaw a large empire, including both eastern and western lands. Local rulers reported to the king, who had the ultimate power. By the latter years of the Zhou Dynasty, the lack of dependent territories began to break up the empire into independent fiefdoms. Their almost constant conflict, which is known as "the warring states period," led to the decline of the Zhou Dynasty.

**READING NOTES** Like each in history, the ideas of the warring states affected the development of the world of China.

**Confucius and the Social Order** Toward the end of the Zhou Dynasty, China moved away from its ancient values of social order, harmony, and respect for authority. Chinese scholars and philosophers developed different solutions to restore these values.

**Confucius Urges Harmony** China's most influential scholar was Confucius (551-479 B.C.). Born in 551 B.C., Confucius lived in a time when the Zhou Dynasty was in decline. He led a scholarly life, studying and teaching history, music, and moral character.

Confucius was born at a time of crisis and violence in China. He had a deep desire to restore the order and moral living of earlier times to his society. Confucius believed that social order, harmony, and good government could be restored in China if society were organized around five basic relationships. These were the relationships between (1) ruler and subject, (2) father and son, (3) husband and wife, (4) older brother and younger brother, and (5) friend and friend. A code of proper conduct regulated each of these relationships. For example, rulers should practice kindness and virtuous living. In return, subjects should be loyal and law-abiding.

Three of Confucius's five relationships were based upon the family. Confucius stressed that children should practice **filial piety**, or respect for their parents and ancestors. Filial piety, according to Confucius, meant devoting oneself to one's parents during their lifetimes. It also required honoring their memories after death through the performance of certain rituals.

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**Chapter 6 Section 4 China History Answer**