WHAP Essential Questions CH. 8

1. In the *Daodejing*, Laozi stated, “There is nothing in the world more soft and weak than water, yet for attacking things that are hard and strong there is nothing that surpasses it.” How is this statement representative of Daoist thought?
2. The Chinese have, arguably, the longest-lasting and most stable political structure of any powerful state in world history. What factors might help to explain this fact?
3. The Legalists held that the foundations of any state were agriculture and armed forces. Why would they believe this? Is there any truth to this statement?
4. Why did the political chaos of the Period of the Warring States give rise to philosophies such as Confucianism, Legalism, and Daoism?
5. Discuss the role that Qin Shihuangdi played in the unification of China. What were the foundations of his political philosophy?
6. Discuss the political and social reforms of Wang Mang. What led to the need for these reforms? How successful were they?
7. Examine the reign of Han Wudi. What challenges did he face and how did he overcome them? How has he influenced Chinese history?
8. What are the fundamental ideas and values of Confucianism? Make sure to include the concepts of *ren*, *li*, and *xiao* in your answer.
9. What were the fundamental principles of Legalism, and how do these differ from those of Confucianism and Daoism?
10. What were the most significant technological developments during this period of Chinese history?