


Han Dynasty

(206 BCE – 220 CE)



- ◆ The Chinese people rebelled against the strict control of the Qin Dynasty and started the Han Dynasty
- ◆ New emperor Liu Bang opened China to education and religion (Confucianism and Buddhism)
- ◆ Government positions were now based on ability (proven by a very difficult test) rather than favoritism – this puts better people in charge

- ◆ **The Silk Road begins** – Europe, Africa and the Middle East want Chinese silk and spices (especially salt!)
- ◆ Merchants also take with them the methods for making paper, magnetic compasses, Chinese doctors' discoveries about the human body and the ideas of Confucianism and Buddhism