**Gender and Economic Life of China (to 1650 C.E.)**

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### Men’s Statue

- Head and leader of household
- Possessed all property
- Easy to divorce spouse
- Responsible for public affairs
- Ran government
- Honored for wisdom and strength
- Considered intelligent

### Woman's Status

- Loyal, obedient, and had to serve husbands
- Little or no property rights
- Difficult to divorce spouse
- Arranged marriages
- Took care of household chores
- Supposed to put herself last and everyone before her
- Not considered as strong and intelligent as men

### Introduction

During Ancient China, individuals portrayed various beliefs to show how each gender role should be played. They strongly believed in a Yin and Yang dyadic relationship. And although men and women were seen as opposites, it is this that brought harmony. They believed there was only female and male. Most importantly, women and men share the same body, for it was their soul which made them different.

**Let a woman modestly yield to others; let her respect others; let her put others first, herself last. Should she do something good, let her not mention it; should she do something bad let her not deny it.**

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### Male Property and Work

- Patriarchal household
- Strong and full of wisdom
- Political Leaders, Farmers, Merchants
- Took care of those who could not take care of themselves
- Spent most of their time working or socializing with other men of equal status

### Female Property and Work

- Greatest duty is to have a son
- Not acceptable to have own ambitions
- Household chores
- Expected to have many children
- Common to take up sewing and weaving at home
- Spent most of their time at home

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### Bibliography

- *Women’s Roles in Ancient Civilization: A Reference Guide by Bella Vivante*