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Reading Response Questions:

Steven Solomon, “The Gran Canal and the Flourishing of Chinese Civilization”

1. Why was water so important to centralized state authority in pre-modern China?
2. How did successive Chinese dynasties harness control of water as a political tool?
3. How did water shape trade along the Silk Road?
4. How was the Grand Canal central to the reunification of China in the seventh century and to its continued development through the twelfth century?