

The present paper discusses the evolution of the Chinese perception on the surrounding nations during the period of formative process of the Chinese civilization, namely from Western Zhou dynasty (c. 1045 - 771 B.C.) to Western Han dynasty, which led this process to its end. The core of the paper describes the depiction of the barbarians in particular periods and texts of the Chinese ancient era, stresses the changes of this depiction in the course of time and also follows the factors, which could have influenced this perception. A very important part of the paper is a characteristics of the cultural stereotypes, which can be observed in the depiction of barbarians and which seemed relevant to Chinese for description of barbarian's differences.