Divination in ancient China
Divination was an important and distinctive aspect of religion in both ancient China and ancient Greece, and this book will provide the first systematic account and analysis of the two side by side. Who practised divination in these cultures and who consulted it? What kind of questions did they ask, and what methods were used to answer those questions? Apparently - yes! When is 'ancient China' for you, though? Around 2000 years ago - then yes, it was used as a form of divination - but mostly for the illiterate peoples. I think you’ll find that the concept of divination was around long long long before the I Ching (or any other currently recognisable ‘religion’, and the I Ching came about through ‘researching’ the universe as they knew it - and hence, a set of principles was devised. So, in this way, the two can’t really be overly separated so easily - divination and universal principles. The principles Religious practices in ancient China go back over 7,000 years. Long before the philosophical and spiritual teachings of Confucius and Lao-Tzu developed or before the teachings of the Buddha came to China, the people worshipped personifications of nature and then of concepts like “wealth” or “fortune” which developed into a religion. Early Evidence of Religious Practice. In China, religious beliefs are evident in the Yangshao Culture of the Yellow River Valley, which prospered between 5000-3000 BCE. At the Neolithic site of Banpo Village in modern Shaanxi Province (dated to between c. 4500-3750 BCE) 250 tombs were found containing grave goods, which point to a belief in life after death.