

### The Mandate of Heaven and Dynastic Rule

During its long history, China had many ruling dynasties. The Mandate of Heaven helped to explain the dynastic cycle, the rise or fall of ruling families.

**Dynastic Cycle:** the rise and fall of ruling families in China.  
(Based on the idea of the Mandate of Heaven, the right to rule)

#### How did the Mandate of Heaven Explain Changes in Dynasties?

<p>The idea of dynastic rule lasted until 1911, more than 3,500 years. The first dynasty is known as the Shang. During the Shang dynasty's rule, Chinese civilization officially took its shape in world history developing systems of government, social class, and other early achievements. An important duty of the emperor was performing rituals to please the gods. The Chinese believed that heaven was the home of many gods and spirits. Shang Di was the chief god and if they were pleased, they sent good harvests and victory in war.</p>	
<p>The Chinese emperor was understood to be the "Son of Heaven" responsible for maintaining harmony between the human life and heaven. He ruled society with the belief that he had the right to rule called the Mandate of Heaven.</p> <p>The "Mandate of Heaven" is an ancient Chinese philosophical concept. The Mandate determines whether an emperor of China is virtuous enough to rule. If he does not fulfill his obligations as emperor, then he loses the Mandate and thus the right to be emperor.</p>	
<p><u>There are four ideas to the Mandate:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Heaven grants the emperor the right to rule, govern well, and fairly. The emperor's virtue determines his right to rule.</li><li>2) Since there is only one Heaven, there can only be one emperor at any given time.</li><li>3) Since heaven granted a ruler the mandate, the people, in turn, owed the ruler complete loyalty and obedience.</li><li>4) No one dynasty has a permanent right to rule. If a ruler is overthrown, then it was taken by itself as an indication that the ruler had lost the Mandate of Heaven.</li></ol>	
<p>Signs that a particular ruler had lost the Mandate of Heaven included peasant uprisings, invasions by foreign troops, drought, famine, floods and earthquakes. Of course, drought or floods often led to famine, which in turn caused peasant uprisings, so these factors were often interrelated.</p>	



**The First Empire:** Qin Dynasty

- How did the First Emperor unite the kingdom? (List the ideas below)
  - Legalism - harsh rules + punishments to gain power
  - standard single law code, weight + measurement system
- Which school of thought did Shi Huangdi follow? What happened to the other schools of thought?
  - Legalism (used to control knowledge and ideas)
  - Persecuted followers of Confucianism and burned Confucist books
- How and WHY was the Great Wall built?
  - Built/connected to defend against invaders
  - Built w/ peasants laboring under brutal conditions
  - Didn't keep invaders out, but became a symbol of China
- Why did the Qin Dynasty fall?
  - Revolts broke out due to his harsh policies + rule.
  - A peasant led the revolts, received the Mandate of Heaven and set up the Han Dynasty.

**Expansion Under the Han/Achievements:** Han Dynasty

- Describe the Silk Road's purpose and use.
  - TRADE between China, India, and the Mediterranean world.
  - Exchange goods from one area to another.
- Why did China set up the Civil Service Exam? Why did men like the idea of the Civil Service Exam?
  - ↳ To choose government officials
  - ↳ strengthened China
  - ↳ Allowed officials to gain jobs through merit, not birth or wealth
  - ↳ shared common values and traditions
  - ↳ - 3 day test in brick cell
- What were the Civil Service Exams like?
  - Had to pass local exams first before imperial test
  - Know more than 400,000 characters of Confucian text
- List as many of the achievements of the Han Empire as you can find.
  - Astronomers improved the calendar
  - invented seismograph (records direction of earthquakes)
  - Medical colleges + medical treatment increased
  - Flood control systems
  - Invented practical tools (wheelbarrow, mill wheel)
- Why did the Han Dynasty fall?
  - Invaders destroyed the empire

## Golden Ages in China: Tang+Song Dynasties

- Why are the Tang and Song Dynasties known as the "Golden Ages"?
  - Reunited China
  - Experienced long periods of peace
  - Economy prospered and the arts flourished
- How did the Song Dynasty protect its trade?
  - Built a navy (making it a seapower)
- List as many inventions of the Tang and Song Dynasties as you can find.
  - Magnetic compass
  - block printing
  - movable type
- Which school of thought was related to the Chinese literature and painting?  
Daoism (nature scenes)
- Why did the Song Dynasty fall?
  - Was always constantly battling invaders
  - Mongols conquered China and took over the Song Empire.

## Mongol Conquest: Yuan Dynasty

- How large was the Mongol Empire?  
Pacific Ocean to Europe
- What Chinese name did the Mongols use for their dynasty? Yuan
- Describe the transportation system the Dynasty created. What was it used for?
  - Built roads to every province with system of relay riders
  - Transportation of news, trade goods, technical information.
- How did the Dynasty contribute to cultural diffusion?
  - Chinese inventions (compass, stern post rudder, mechanical clock, gunpowder) traveled to the West.
- Why did the Yuan Dynasty fall?
  - Chinese people resented (went against) the foreign rule by the Mongols
  - Peasant leader claimed Mandate of Heaven

## Chinese Revival: Ming Dynasty

- What is the Forbidden City?

Imperial palace and government buildings in Beijing

- Which school of thought did the Ming Dynasty revive?

Confucianism

- Why did the Ming Dynasty send out sea exploration voyages?

- Restore the Chinese authority at sea and renew trading ties

- How did the Ming emperors limit foreign trade from Europe?

- Isolated China by cutting off contact with the outside world.

- Why was the decision to limit foreign contact a bad choice?

- Europeans were beginning to develop new technology and explore other lands. Since China was isolated, it didn't advance the same way.

- Why did the Ming Dynasty fall?

- Foreign invasion by the Manchus (Manchuria) who set up their own dynasty.

## Invaders from the Northeast: Qing Dynasty

- What did the Manchus want to limit?

- contact with foreigners

• (Absorbing into Chinese civilization and culture)

- Describe how the Chinese viewed themselves. Why did they believe this?

- Civilization was superior to any other

- surrounding areas adopted Chinese culture

\* - Foreigners wanted Chinese goods (silk, tea, porcelain)

- How did the Chinese refer to the Europeans?

Called them barbarians

- List the problems the Qing Dynasty experienced as they declined in power.

- High taxes put on people

- Limited land for growing peasant population

- lack of food  
shortage for population

- How did the Industrial Revolution impact Europe?

- Increased the military power of

European nations allowing them to create fleets to reach China.

- floods, droughts

- famine

- revolts by peasants

\* → used strength to demand more trading w/ China!

# Draw The Dynastic Cycle diagram on the back of your notes

**A rebel leader defeats others to restore peace and creates...**

**Problems arise under Aging Dynasty.**

**Triggered by:**

- Natural disasters (floods, earthquakes) which disrupt farming
- Famine pushes people to riot and rebel
- Foreign invasions causing warfare

**Aging Dynasty loses Mandate of Heaven**

**New Dynasty gains the Mandate of Heaven**

- A new ruler unifies China

**New Dynasty Prospers**

- Increase in population
- Repairs defenses
- Builds roads/canals/better farming

**New Dynasty becomes Aging Dynasty after several generations**

**Aging Dynasty begins to decline**

- Taxes people too much
- Ignores corrupt officials
- Begins to lose control of people and land