

An Review of the Early Chinese Dynasties

This chapter explores the unification and expansion of China during the Qin and Han dynasties (221 B.C.E. to 220 C.E.). A rich tradition of the social and political philosophies of Confucians, Daoists, and Legalists was the foundation on which these and later dynasties rested. Some of the significant elements contributing to the unification of China in this period were

- The building of a centralized bureaucracy staffed with professionals educated in Confucian thought and values
- A prosperous economy based on technological and industrial development and long-distance trade
- The standardization of the written language

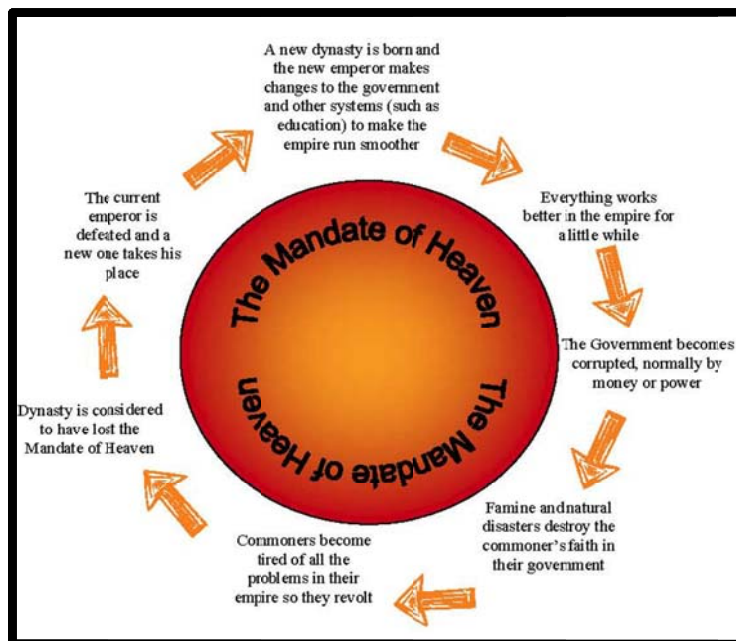
A Quick Review: The Shang and Zhou

• The Shang Dynasty

- 1570-1045 BCE
- Yellow River Valley
- Use of tortoise shells for _____
- Warriors; built cities with massive _____ (30 feet thick in places)
- Use of _____ in burials reflect trade and belief in its magical properties
- Skilled _____ casters
- Buried their warriors with _____ servants
- _____ overthrew the dynasty

• The Zhou Dynasty

- 1045-403 BCE
- Wei River Valley
- "Mandate of Heaven" – moral rulers would be _____ to continue ruling (Shang had been immoral and therefore overthrown)
- _____ was the center of Chinese society
- _____ society (powerful nobles governed their own states)
- All possessions of the father passed to his eldest son upon death thereby _____ family wealth and power
- Capital at Xian – beginning of the _____



• From Zhou to Qin: the Warring Period

- _____ or loose government of Later Zhou devolves into "Warring States Period"
- Autonomous smaller regions emerge as largely _____ nations
- Feudal lords attempting to gain power
- Periodic _____ ensues
- One among the several emerges to establish a new, far more centralized dynasty
- Qin Dynasty emerges as the _____ Chinese "Empire" 221 BC (pronounced "chin")