

Continuities and Patterns

China

Ethnocentrism “Middle Kingdom”

Isolated by physical geography
Surrounded by??



Xenophobia





Creativity and Innovation

- 4th century BCE - Sailors were limited to sailing within sight of shore in good weather, because they could not navigate in the dark fog or away from land-based landmarks with the maps they had. What device could help them?
- 4th century BCE - Enemy soldiers in the past have tunneled under the walls of your city. What could be devised to pour into their tunnels to stop them?
- 2nd century BCE - Suspension bridges across rivers and deep ravines had traditionally been made with iron. Over the years they rusted and had to be replaced. What metal stronger than iron could be developed?
- 2nd century BCE - A mathematical concept was needed in accounting to indicate when people were in debt
- 1st century BCE - -What type of mechanical device, operated by one person, could haul heavy (200-2,000) military equipment over difficult terrain?
- 3rd century CE - China has always been plagued by terrible, destructive earth-quakes that have killed up to 800,000 people. Earthquakes often triggered food riots or attempts at rebellion. The emperors wanted to know as soon as possible when an earthquake took place, to send food aid and military forces to prevent violence.

	China	Europe
Iron tipped plow	6 th BCE	2,200 years later
Kites	5 th BCE	2,000 years later
Natural gas as fuel	4 th BCE	2,300 years later
Crossbow	4 th BCE	200 years later
Ship rudder	4 th BCE	1,100 years later
Canals for transportation	3 rd BCE	1,900 years later
Parachute	2 nd BCE	2,000 years later
Paper and printing	2 nd BCE	1,400 years later
Fishing reel	2 nd CE	1,400 years later
Porcelain	3 rd CE	1,700 years later
Stirrups	3 rd CE	300 years later
Matches	6 th CE	1,200 years later
Chess	6 th CE	500 years later
Playing cards	9 th CE	500 years later
Gunpowder	9 th CE	300 years later
Flamethrower	10 th CE	1,000 years later
Rocket	11 th CE	200 years later
Guns and cannons	12 th CE	450 years later

Importance of Family

- Patriarchy
- Ancestor Worship
- Filial piety



Low Status of Women

- Subservient to male head of household
- Arranged marriages
- Bearing sons helped status

Lessons for Women written during Han Dynasty

1. **Humility**
2. **Husband and Wife**-The sole role of a woman as a wife was to serve her husband.
3. **Respect and Caution**-As defined by the yin-yang duality, in yang (men's hardness is his virtue) whereas in yin (women's weakness was an asset), husband and wife should mutually respect each other.
4. **Womanly Qualifications**-wifely virtue + wifely speech + wifely appearance + wifely work).
5. **Whole-hearted Devotion to the husband**--if the husband were to die, there would be no re-marriage for the widow.
6. **Implicit Obedience** towards the mother and father-in-law.
7. **Harmony Between Younger In-laws**

Conflict with Nature

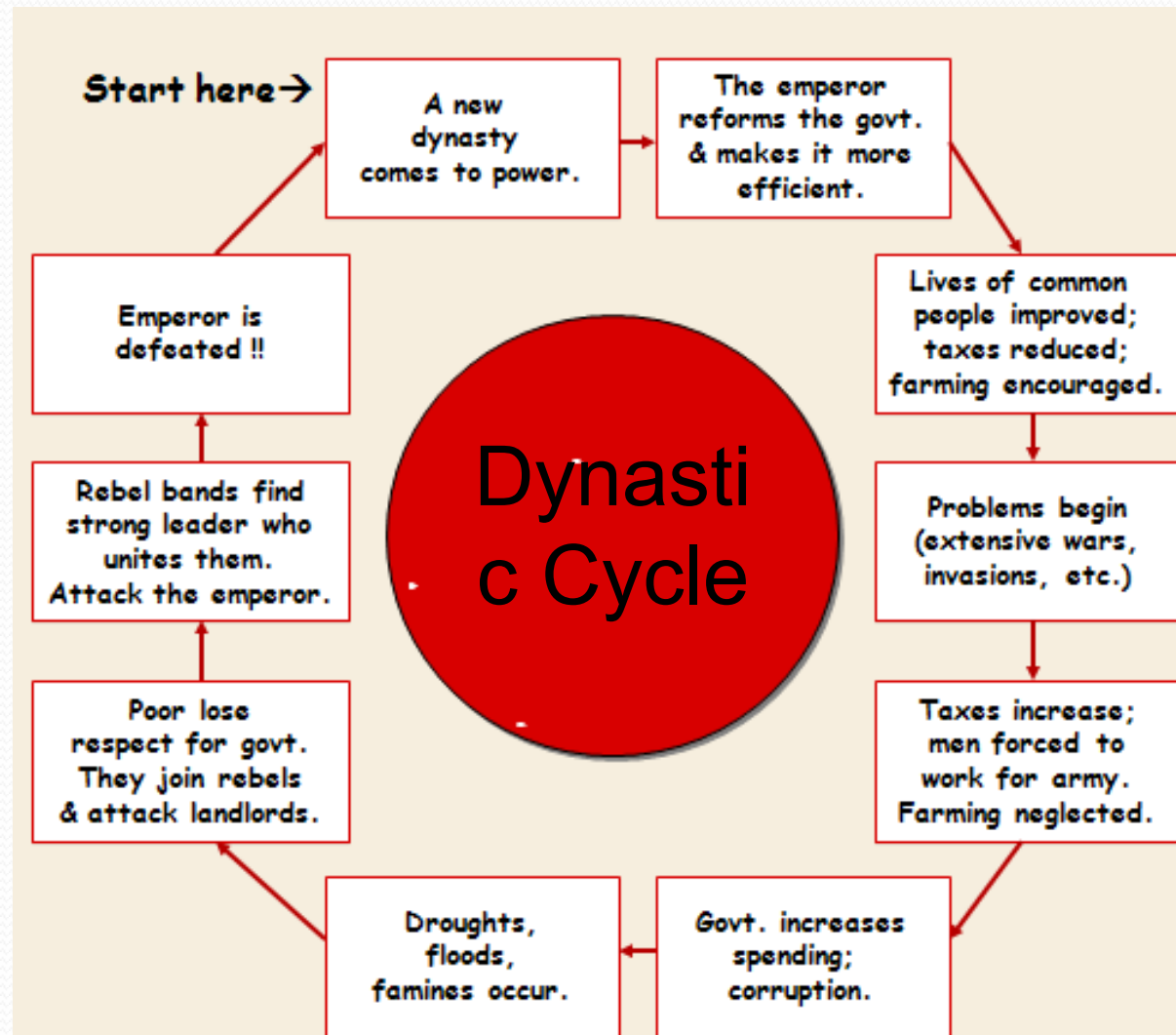
- Floods
- Earthquakes
- Typhoons
- Droughts
- Insect infestations



Yellow River- Huanghe River= “China’s Sorrow”

Dynastic Cycle

Mandate of Heaven



Chinese Dynasties Song

(To the tune of Frere Jacques)

Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han

Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han

Sui, Tang, Song

Sui, Tang, Song

Yuan, Ming, Qing, Republic

Yuan, Ming, Qing, Republic

Mao and Deng

Mao and Deng

Dynasty/Era	Dates
Hsia	c1994-c1523 BC
Shang	c1523-c1028
Western Chou (Zhou)	c1027-770
Eastern Chou (Zhou)	770-256
Warring States	403-222
Ch'in (first unified empire)	221-206
Han	202 BC-AD 220
Western Han (expanded Chinese state beyond the Yellow and Yangtze River valleys)	202 BC-AD 9
Hsin (Wang Mang, usurper)	AD 9-23
Eastern Han (expanded Chinese state into Indochina and Turkestan)	25-220
Three Kingdoms (Wei, Shu, Wu)	220-265
Chin (western)	265-317
Chin (eastern)	317-420
Northern Dynasties (followed several short-lived governments by Turks, Mongols, etc.)	386-581
Southern Dynasties (capital: Nanjing)	420-589
Sui (reunified China)	581-618
Tang (a golden age of Chinese culture; capital: Xian)	618-906
Five Dynasties (Yellow River basin)	902-960
Ten Kingdoms (southern China)	907-979
Liao (Khitans; capital at site of Beijing)	947-1125
Sung	960-1279
Northern Sung (reunified central and southern China)	960-1126
Western Hsai (non-Chinese rulers in northwest)	990-1227
Chin (Tatars; drove Sung out of central China)	1115-1234
Yuan (Mongols; Kublai Khan est. capital at site of Beijing, c. 1264)	1271-1368
Ming (China reunified under Chinese rule; capital: Nanjing, then Beijing in 1420)	1368-1644
Ch'ing (Manchus, descendants of Tatars)	1644-1912
Republic (disunity; provincial rulers, warlords)	1912-1949
People's Republic of China	1949-

Authoritarian, Bureaucratic Government

- Emerges after warring period after fall of Zhou Dynasty
- Zhou had been feudalistic
- After chaotic times Qin dynasty emerges 221 BCE



Qin Dynasty

Qin Shi Huangdi – First Emperor of China

- Standardized coins, law code, weights & measure , written language
- Built Great Wall for protection
- Centralized government
- Tyrant or hero?

Cultural Conservatism

- What does conservatism mean?
- Why would China have been conservative?

Education Valued

- Civil Service Exam
- Confucian Ideal



Hard Lives of Peasants

- 90 % of population
- High taxes

