

# DYNASTIC CYCLE

Dynasty is founded by a powerful leader



Period of great power and prosperity

- restores peace
- restores glory to country
- builds roads, irrigation systems, improves everyday life of people in dynasty

Period of Decline

- higher taxes
- social services decline
- natural disasters

Period of Rebellion, dynasty overthrown

New leader gains Mandate of Heaven

Leader loses Mandate of Heaven

Spend some time reading and thinking about this image of the Dynastic Cycle.

Be prepared to explain what you noticed and what you learned.

You do not have to write anything down--unless you want to.

nobles were expected to serve the king and raise armies to support him.

## The Rise and Fall of Dynasties

Many of China's dynasties rose and fell in a similar pattern. The Chinese believed that each dynasty first gained and then lost the Mandate of Heaven.

### A new dynasty rises.

- A strong ruler defeats other local rulers.
- The new dynasty expands China's borders.

### The new dynasty rules.

- It restores peace.
- It chooses loyal officials.
- It makes reforms.

### The dynasty grows weak.

- Large empire difficult to govern.
- Heavy taxes pay for projects and luxuries.
- Officials become corrupt.

### A period of violence follows.

- Local rulers fight for power.

### The dynasty loses the Mandate of Heaven

- Rebellion and invasion
- Floods, famine, earthquakes
- The dynasty falls.

### Chart Skills

- 1 Why do dynasties become weak?
- 2 Why do you think Chinese people saw floods and earthquakes as proof that a dynasty had lost the Mandate of Heaven?

21st Century Learning

Next, read and think about this image of the Rise and Fall of Dynasties from our textbook.

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