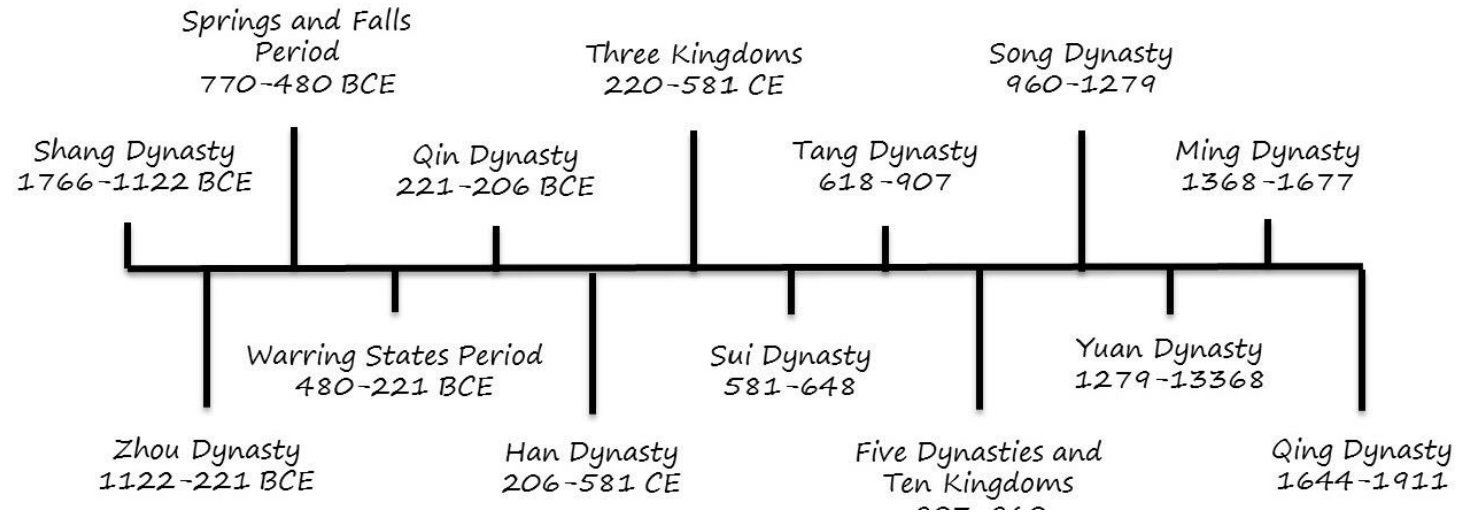


Aim: What caused dynasties to rise and fall in China?

Chinese Dynasties



- What is a revolution?
- When do you think a revolution is justified?

- How did China's physical geography influence the location of its early civilization?

China's First Dynasties

Main Idea

China's river valley civilizations built the foundations of a long-shared Chinese culture. The achievements of the Shang and Zhou dynasties can be felt to this day.

China's Geography

The development of civilization in early China was aided by features like long rivers, fertile soils, temperate climates, and isolated valleys.

Rivers, Soils, Climates

- China's first civilizations developed in river valleys
- Two major rivers supplied water for earliest civilizations
 - Chang Jiang, also called Yangzi
 - Huang He, or Yellow River
 - Both flow east from Plateau of Tibet to Yellow Sea

Silt

- Annual floods deposited rich soil, silt, on flood plains
- Valley of Huang He particularly fertile due to silt
 - Fine dusty soil
 - Carried into China by desert winds

Huang Ye River or Yellow River





Macro areas in Chinese history,

From the long Chinese and East Asian history, we can find out several historic macro areas.



steppe

- a large area of flat unforested grassland in southeastern Europe or Siberia.

The mountains, deserts, jungles and other geographic features have isolated Chinese culture. Having little contact with others , the Chinese believed their culture was the center of the earth.

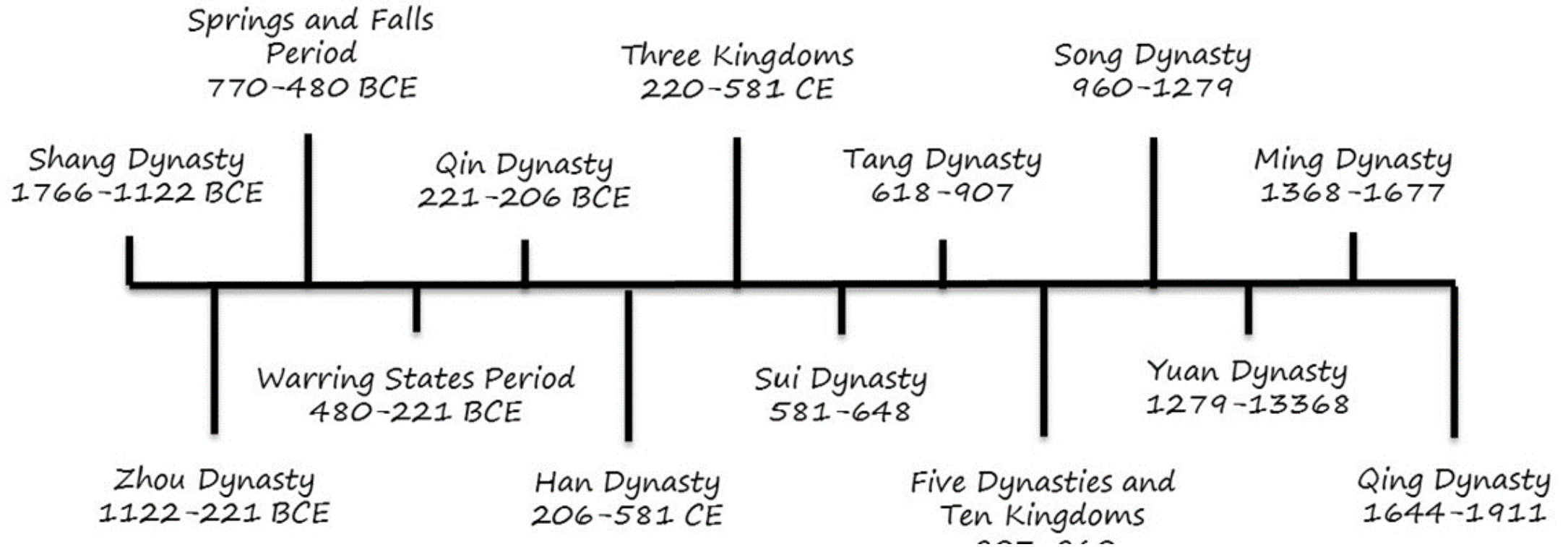


Early Views

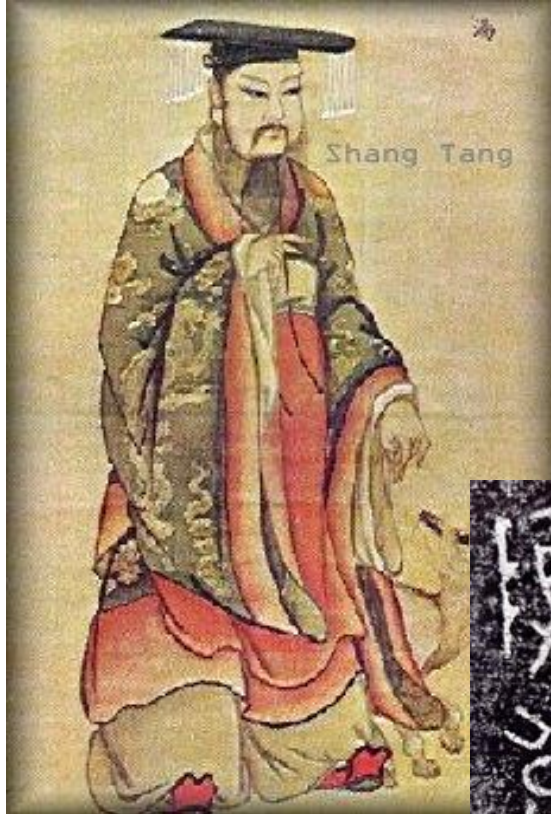
- The Chinese called themselves “**The Middle Kingdom**” because they believed they were at the center.



Chinese Dynasties





Shang Dynasty



- About 1650 BCE, the Shang gained control of northern China. Ruling families began to gain control, similar to small kingdoms.
- The Shang set up the first dynasty.
 - **Dynasty**: *A series of rulers from a family.*
 - **Aristocracy**: *wealthy landowners who pass power from one generation to the next*



 Land under the rule of the Shang Dynasty

 Current boundaries of China and Mongolia

0 1000km

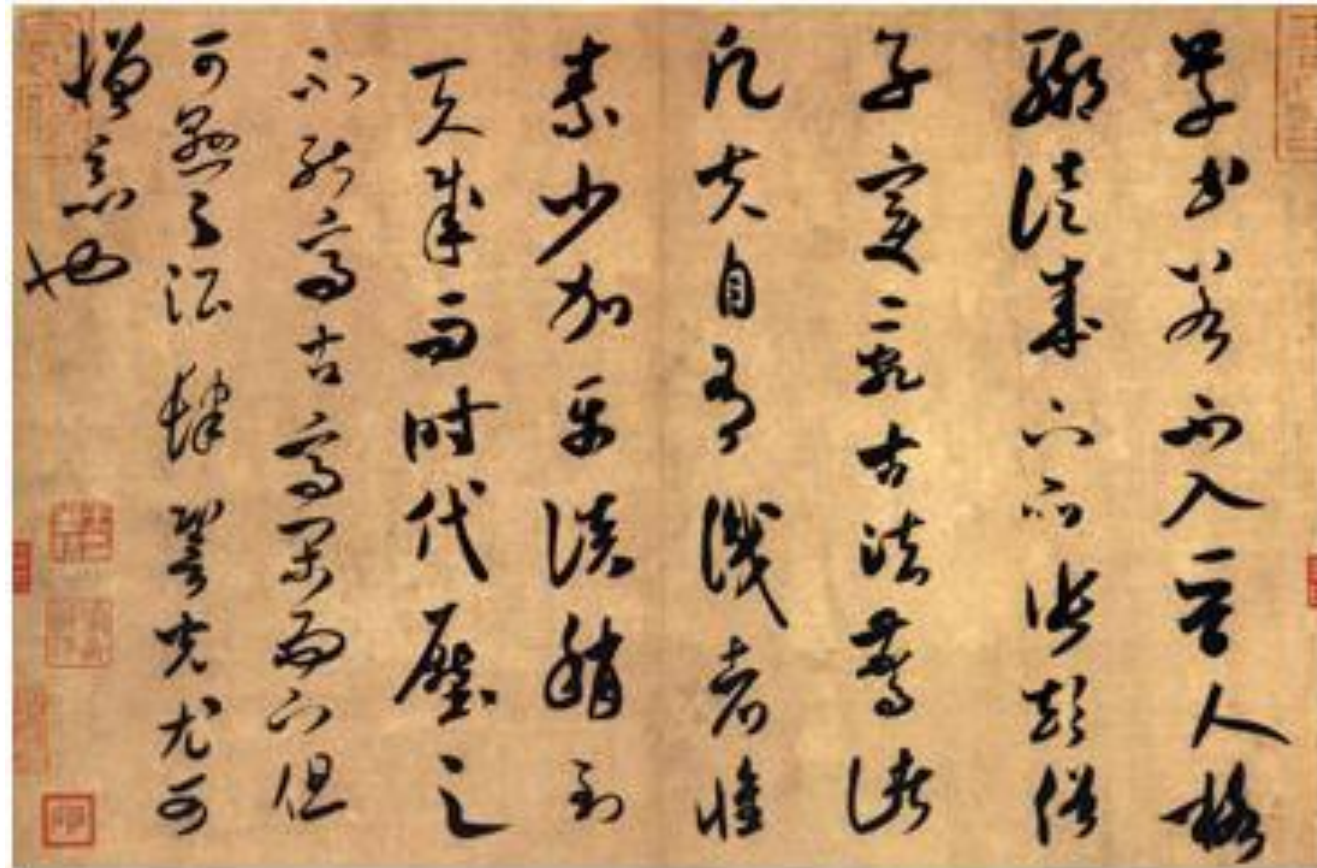
What characteristics of a civilization do we see in Ancient Chinese Civilizations?

Social Class Structure

- Rigid class distinctions
- The ancient civilization was much like others with nobility owning the land, merchants and craftspeople trading and living in the cities and a large population of peasants living in surrounding villages.

Writing System

- Chinese Characters



Polytheistic Peoples

- Polytheistic - many Gods and nature spirits.
- Looked to dead relatives to help them in daily life and to help them please the Gods.
- Oracle Bones – (animal bones) – priests scratched questions for the gods



- How did the Zhou to justify the overthrow of the Shang?

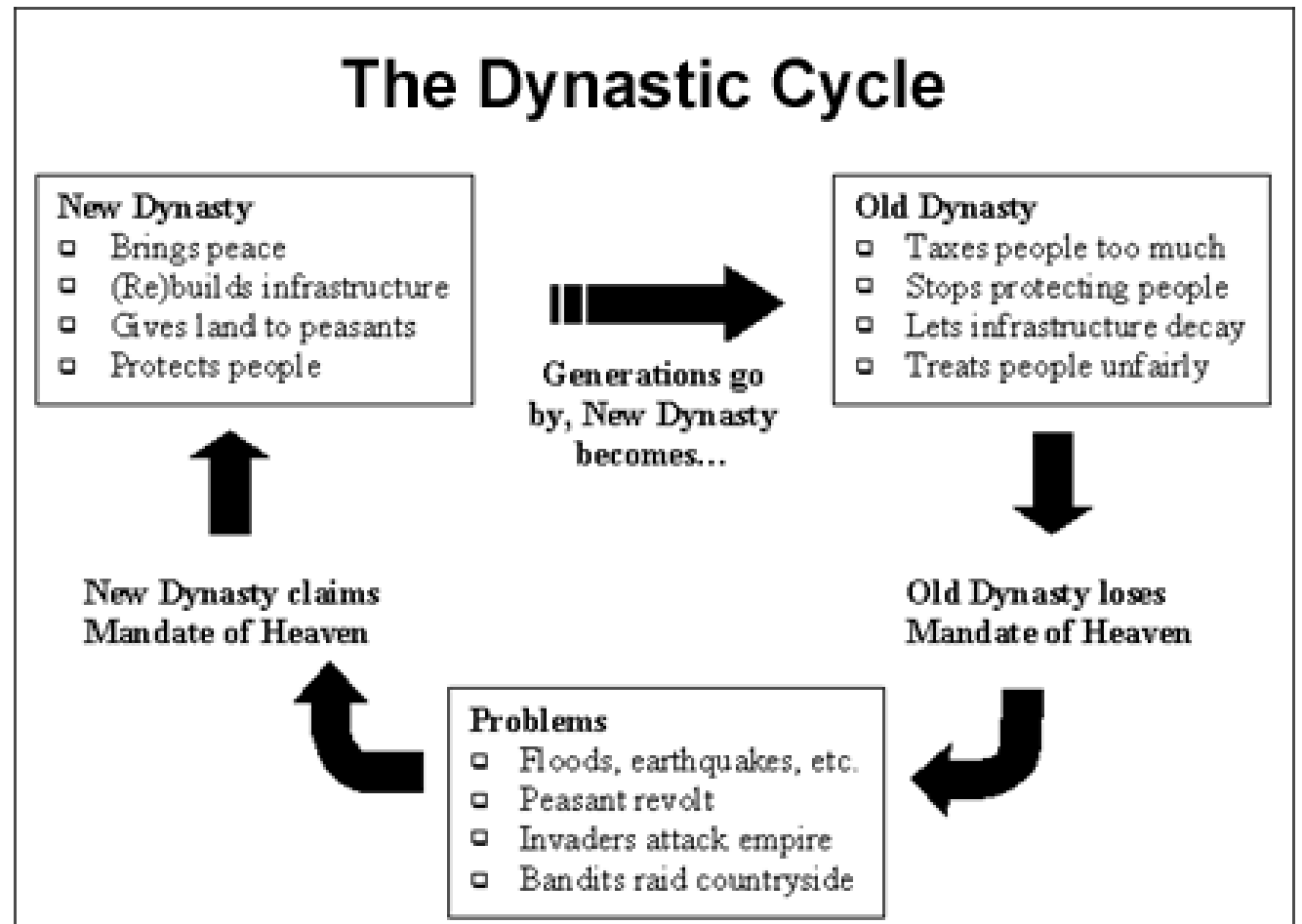


Rise and Fall Cycle of Dynasties

Used to explain changes in dynasties

Mandate of Heaven

- Right to rule given by gods. If ruler behaves badly, corruptly, etc. that mandate was removed and passed to someone else.
- Created by the Zhou to justify the overthrow of the Shang.



Dynasty

Ruling family

Four Chinese Dynasties

Four Chinese Dynasties				
	SHANG	ZHOU	QIN	HAN
When	1750–1122 B.C.	1045–256 B.C.	221–206 B.C.	202 B.C.–A.D. 220
Important Leaders	Numerous kings with large armies and control over the land; ruled from capital city of Anyang	 Wu	 Qin Shihuangdi	 Liu Bang
Main Ideas and Accomplishments	Developed social classes that included farmers, merchants, aristocrats, and royal family	Longest-lasting dynasty in Chinese history; established Mandate of Heaven	Strengthened central government; created single monetary system	Population and landmass grew under Han; opened China to trade and commerce by building Silk Road
Influences on Chinese Culture	Influenced Chinese religion and culture; created Chinese written language	Developed irrigation and flood-control systems to help farmers grow more crops	Introduced use of censors to check on government officials; Qin built the first Great Wall to keep out invaders	Created government's civil service examination; major inventions: steel, paper, acupuncture, advanced sea travel