

Dynastic Cycle in China

Strong Dynasty

establishes peace and prosperity; it is said to have the Mandate of Heaven.

In time, the dynasty declines and becomes corrupt; taxes are raised; power weakens.

Disasters such as floods, famines, peasant revolts, and invasions occur.

Old dynasty is seen as losing Mandate of Heaven; rebellion is justified.

New dynasty gains power, restores peace and order, and claims to have Mandate of Heaven.

Dynasty is overthrown through rebellion and bloodshed; new dynasty emerges.