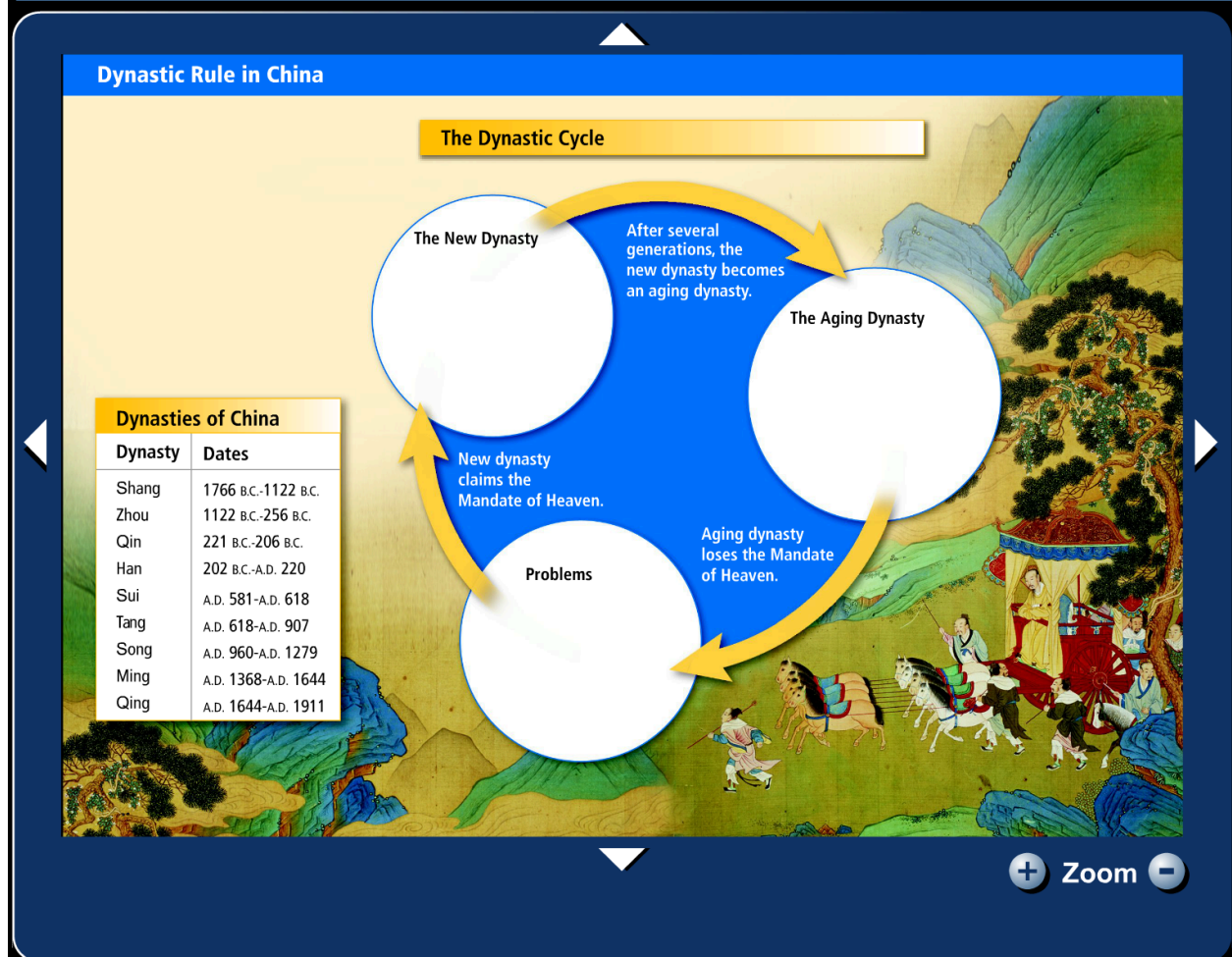


The Dynastic Cycle



The Dynastic Cycle: Dynasties ruled China for most of its history until 1912. The Chinese believed that dynasties could gain or lose the Mandate of Heaven, depending on how wisely an emperor ruled. In order to claim the mandate, a new dynasty would improve transportation or water supply systems, offer peasants land, or bring peace and unity to a fractured society. But an aging dynasty often lost control of its provinces and neglected its duties. It could be accused of losing its Mandate of Heaven when major **problems** would arise such as invasions, floods, or peasant revolts.

The dynastic cycle is an important political theory in Chinese history. According to this theory, each **dynasty** rises to a political, cultural, and

economic peak and then, because of moral corruption, declines loses the Mandate of Heaven, and falls, only to be replaced by a new **dynasty**.