

SCOP Chinese Dynasties Cheat Sheet

Version 3.0

*Dynasties are listed chronologically. Pay special attention to **bolded terms**, which appear frequently in tossups.*

Dynasty	Period	Details
Zhou	1000s BCE-200s BCE	Eastern Zhou dynasty includes the Spring and Autumn Period and the Warring States Period ; Mandate of Heaven established, granting rulers divine right; Legalism, Confucianism, and Tao became established philosophies
Han	200s BCE-10s CE 20s CE-200s CE	Shipped goods to Rome and the middle east with the Silk Road ; Taoist Yellow Turban Rebellion occurred; followed by the Three Kingdoms Period ; preceded by Qin (pronounced “Chin”) dynasty (note that this is not the same as the Qing dynasty below); Han now names the largest ethnic group in China
Tang	600s-900s	Chinese Golden Age , during which the arts, like the poetry of Li Po and Du Fu , flourished; saw the rule of Empress Wu and the An Lushan Rebellion ; preceded by Sui dynasty; followed by Song dynasty
Song	900s-1100s	First use of gunpowder and paper money ; preceded by Five Dynasties Period ; defeated by the Mongol Kublai Khan , who founded its successor, the Yuan dynasty
Ming	1300s-1600s	Rebuilt the Great Wall , which was originally constructed by Qin Shi Huangdi, first emperor (Qin dynasty); known for ornate porcelain vases ; preceded by Yuan dynasty; followed by Qing dynasty
Qing (pronounced “Ching”)	1600s-1911	Final Chinese dynasty; fell to Sun Yat-sen , who founded the Republic of China; weakened by the Opium Wars and the Boxer Rebellion ; defeated the Taiping Rebellion , whose leader believed he was the brother of Jesus; ruled by Empress Dowager Cixi (pronounced “su-shee”)