**Zhou Dynasty Qin Dynasty Han Dynasty**

Phase 1:

Phase 2:

Phase 3:

Phase 4:

Phase 5:

**The Dynastic Cycle:**

**Known in China**

**as the**

**“Mandate of Heaven”**

Stage 1 – The Emergence of a New Leader

Out of chaos emerges a warrior leader who initiates a new state. Characterized by:

* expansion of public works.

Stage 2 – Period of

General Efficiency

Period of general efficiency. The second generation has come to power, learning from the founder. Period characterized by:

* peace & prosperity.

Stage 3 – The Leveling-off Period

Later generations begin the initial decline of efficiency. Ties with the founders are lost. Leaders are increasingly focused on luxury and working less in government. Period characterized by:

* growing signs of discontent among the people.

Stage 4 – The Period of Decline

This generation has little knowledge of the founder other than from history and legend. Leaders unable to accomplish the necessary duties to operate the government. Too much power has been given up to corrupt and inefficient ministers and bureaucrats. Period characterized by:

* a general loss of confidence.

Stage 5 – Chaos

Leaders unable to accomplish any governmental tasks. Period characterized by

* eventual revolution from within or invasion from without.

\*Out of this chaos emerges a new leader…