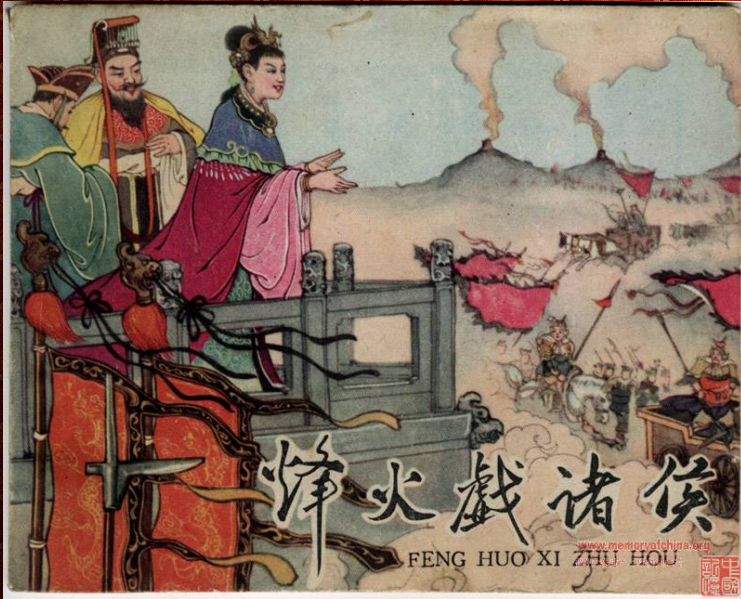


CHINA UNDER THE ZHOU DYNASTY

CH. 8/SEC. 2



RISE & FALL OF THE ZHOU



- Shang kings were overthrown by the Zhou
 - Shang warriors refused to fight and defend because the Shang dynasty rulers grew corrupt
 - Shang king cared only about his enjoyment—people resented him

MANDATE OF HEAVEN

- Zhou leaders believed they had heaven's support to overthrow the Shang
- Heaven was the highest force of nature—gave dynasties the power to rule
- Could take over by force—if successful the mandate was yours
- A dynasty would lose their mandate if they were not ruling justly—kind and serve the interests of the people
 - Natural disasters or uprisings were seen as omens that a dynasty had lost their mandate



A new dynasty is born and the new emperor makes changes to the government and other systems (such as education) to make the empire run smoother

Everything works better in the empire for a little while

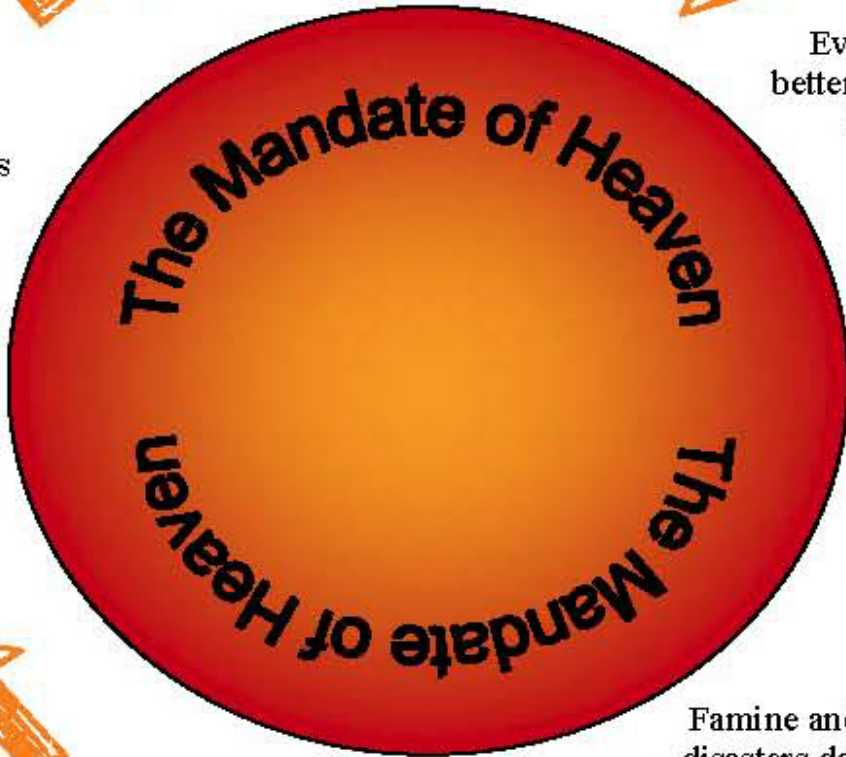
The Government becomes corrupted, normally by money or power

Famine and natural disasters destroy the commoner's faith in their government

Commoners become tired of all the problems in their empire so they revolt

Dynasty is considered to have lost the Mandate of Heaven

The current emperor is defeated and a new one takes his place



The Mandate of Heaven

The Mandate of Heaven

GOVERNING THE ZHOU

- The kingdom of China became large under the Zhou
 - To keep control family members were put in charge of regions or states
 - Eventually the nobles turned against their rulers
 - Nobles and joined with nomadic warriors to overthrow the king—didn't succeed by the Zhou's power was never the same
 - Warlords pledged loyalty to the king—many wanted power for themselves

THE WARRING STATES

- 475 BC to 221 BC—
period of mass chaos
 - Millions died
 - The Zhou overthrown/
disappeared
 - Fighting until a new
dynasty emerged and
united China



ZHOU SOCIETY

- Zhou borrowed many traditions from the Shang
 - Same laws, similar clothing, same language
 - Differences: gave up human sacrifice and stopped using oracle bones
- Majority of people were peasants—farmed the land, and served as soldiers
 - Small number of merchants, artisans, and slaves
 - Some people were sold into slavery when their family had hard times—slavery also a punishment for crime

FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

- High value on family
- Demand that individuals show loyalty to their family
 - Older family members had more power than younger ones
 - Men had a higher status than women

