

MAJOR PERIODS IN CHINESE HISTORY

<u>Dynasty or Period</u>	<u>Dates</u>	<u>Major Developments in Religion</u>
Shang (Yin)	15th-11th c. BCE	Ritual: divination and sacrifice by Shang kings.
Zhou		
Western:	11th-8th c. BCE	Doctrine of Mandate of Heaven; Beginnings of Five Classics
Eastern:	8th-3rd c. BCE	
"Spring & Autumn"	722-481 BCE	Confucius (Classical
"Warring States"	480-221 BCE	Mencius, Xunzi Confucianism)
		"Laozi," Zhuangzi (Classical Daoism)
Qin	221-206 BCE	Legalism as government ideology.
Former Han	206 BCE - 9 CE	Confucianism becomes state orthodoxy.
Xin	9 - 23 CE	Wang Mang, the "usurper"
Latter Han	23-220 CE	Beginnings of Daoist religion; Buddhism enters China
Six Dynasties (disunion) (or Wei-Jin period and Northern and Southern dynasties)	220-589	Daoism and Buddhism flourish; Confucianism declines
Sui	589-618	New schools of Buddhism: Pure Land, Tiantai, Huayan, and Chan
Tang	618-907	845: suppression of Buddhism Precursors of Neo-Confucian revival (e.g. Han Yu)
Five Dynasties	907-960	Daoism continues to develop.
Song	960-1279	Confucian revival (Neo-Confucianism); Pure Land and Chan Buddhism flourish.
Northern: 960-1127 (1127: Jurchen take over Northern China)		
Southern: 1127-1279 (1279: Mongols take over all of China)		
Yüan (Mongol)	1279-1368	Zhu Xi's Neo-Confucianism becomes orthodox
Ming	1368-1644	Wang Yang-ming's Neo-Confucianism

Qing (Manchu)	1644-1911	Critical study (<i>kaozheng</i>) of ancient texts; Western learning enters China; Tibetan Buddhism supported by Manchu rulers.
Republic of China (ROC)	1911-	Confucian bureaucratic and education systems dropped; traditional religions maintained. 1949: defeated by Communist revolution, driven to Taiwan, martial law until 1987.
People's Republic of China (PRC; ROC moves to Taiwan)	1949-	Under Mao Zedong (d. 1976): Confucianism discredited, temples destroyed, atheism is official doctrine. 1966-1976: "Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution" Under Deng Xiaoping (d. 1997): Confucianism regains some legitimacy, Daoism and Buddhism partially restored, beginnings of revival of popular religion. Under Jiang Zemin and Hu Jintao: "Confucius fever," supported by government; popular religion continues to grow

