

Periods of Chinese History

For an expansion of this table and a list of imperial reigns, go to
<http://pages.ucsd.edu/~dkjordan/chin/chinahistory/ChinaPeriods.html>

Pre-Imperial (Feudal) Era (Periods 1-4, ending in 222 BC)

- 00. Archaeologically Known pre-Shāng China
- 01. Mythical Period of the “Five Emperors” (Wǔ dì Jì 五帝纪)
- 02. Xià 夏 dynasty 2100-1500.
- 03. Shāng 商 dynasty 1600-1000.
- 04. Zhōu 周 dynasty 1100-221

Early Imperial (“Ancient”) Era (Periods 5-6, 221 BC - AD 220)

- 05. Qín 秦 dynasty 221-206
- 06. Hàn 汉 dynasty 206 BC-AD 220

First Intermediate Period (Periods 7-10, AD 220-581)

- 07a. Three Kingdoms (Sān Guó 三国) 220-280
- 07e. Six Dynasties (Liù Cháo 六朝) 220-581
- 08. Jìn 晋 dynasty 265-316
- 09. Sixteen States (Shíliù Guó 十六国) 304-439
- 10. Southern & Northern Dynasties (Nánběi Cháo 南北朝) 420-589

Middle Imperial (“Medieval”) Era (Periods 11-12, AD 581-907)

- 11. Suí 隋 dynasty 581-618
- 12. Táng 唐 dynasty 618-907

Second Intermediate Era (Periods 13-14, AD 907-979)

- 13. Five (Northern) Dynasties 五代 907-979
- 14. Ten (Southern) Kingdoms 十国 902-79

Third Imperial Era (Periods 15-19, AD 960-1367)

- 15. Sòng 宋 dynasty 960-1279
- 16. Liáo (=Khitan) 辽 dynasty 916-1125
- 17. Western Xià or Xīxià 西夏 dynasty 1032-1227
- 18. Jīn (=“Kin”=Jürchen) 金 dynasty 1115-1234
- 19. Yuán 元 dynasty 1271-1368

Modern Era (Periods 20-23, AD 1368-Present)

- 20. Míng 明 dynasty 1368-1644
- 21. Qīng 清 dynasty 1644-1911
- 22. Republic of China (Zhōnghuá Mínguó 中华民国) 1912-
- 23. People’s Republic of China
(Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó 中华人民共和国) 1949-