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| **Issue** | **Explanation** | **Qin**  **(221-207 BCE)** | **Han**  **(206 BCE – 220CE)** | **Sui (580-618)**  **Tang (618-907)** | **Sung**  **(960-1279CE)** |
| **Centrifugal forces and the will for empire** | * Multi-regional nature of territory requires tremendous force of political will to hold together (centripetal versus centrifugal forces) |  |  |  |  |
| **Limitations of agrarian revenue base** | Tax based on **products of land** (not industry, trade, etc.)   * Benefits: Relatively consistent * Bad: Natural limits to base * If more revenue desired, must find new sources * Any dynasty that goes too far beyond revenue base is overreaching |  |  |  |  |
| **Defense** | * Defend by fortifying or attacking enemies on own ground (defensive vs. offensive strategy) * Every dynasty must defend farmers to protect economic base |  |  |  |  |
| **Great Families** | * Allow great families to exist & challenge the state, or exterminate and face opposition |  |  |  |  |