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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)
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| **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
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