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## MAJOR CHRONOLOGICAL DIVISIONS OF CHINESE HISTORY<sup>1</sup>

Archaic Chinese	Shang dynasty (ca. 1700-1100 BC)
	Western Zhou dynasty (ca. 1100-771 BC)
	Spring and Autumn period (770-476 BC)
	Warring States period (475-221 BC)
	Qin dynasty (221-206 BC)
Medieval Chinese	Western Han dynasty (206 BC-AD 25)
	Eastern Han dynasty (AD 25-220)
	Wei-Jin period (220-420)
	Southern and Northern dynasties (420-589)
Pre-Modern Chinese	Sui dynasty (581-618).
	Early and Middle Tang dynasty (618-907)
	Late Tang dynasty
	Five dynasties period (907-60)
	Northern Song dynasty (960-1127)
Modern Chinese	Southern Song dynasty (1127-1279)
	Yuan dynasty (1206-1368)
	Ming dynasty (1368-1644)
	Qing dynasty (1616-1911)
	Twentieth century

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<sup>1</sup> This list is based on Chen Ping (1999: 3). Archaic Chinese and Medieval Chinese are also known as Old Chinese and Middle Chinese. In the thesis, Archaic Chinese and Medieval Chinese are used interchangeably with Old Chinese and Middle Chinese.