Chronology of the Three Dynasties (Xia, Shang and Zhou)

With or without the book burning, the exact chronicle years of the Xia and Shang kings might not have existed in the Zhou dynasty’s written annals. However, the Zhou dynasty’s chronicle should have existed prior to the Qin Empire’s book burning of 213 B.C., as could be contrasted by the existence of the Lu Principality’s annals called *The Spring & Autumn Annals* and the Jinn-Wei Principalities’ annals called *The Bamboo Annals*.

In the Han dynasty, Sima Qian, from the cinder and ash, managed to glean the reign years of the Lu Principality’s early lords prior to the corroborated interregnum (841-828 B.C. per *Shi-ji* 840-827 per Zhang Wenyu), and jotted down in *Shi-ji* some fragmentary records like 4 years for Lu Lord Kaogong; 6 years for Lu Lord Shanggong; 14 years for Lu Lord Yougong; 50 years for Lu Lord Weigong; 37 years for Lu Lord Li4gong; 32 years for Lu Lord Xian’gong; 30 years for Lu Lord Zhen’gong [or Lu Lord Shen’gong in *The Bamboo Annals*]; and 9 years for Lu Lord Wugong. *Shi-ji* was a privately written history book by Sima Qian of the Western Han dynasty. By the end of the Western Han dynasty, Liu Xin came up with some alternative years on the Lu lords, such as 60 years for Lu Lord Shanggong, 35 years for Lu Lord Xian’gong and 2 years for Lu Lord Wugong, and derived the year 1122 B.C. for the Zhou conquest of the Shang dynasty on basis of the moon phase data in *Shang-shu*, albeit failing to take into account the variance precession. Seng Yixing of the Tang dynasty, having incorporated the precession, came up with the year 1111 B.C. Since there was no evidence to prove that Liu Xin forged the new set of the early Lu lords’ years, some benefit of doubt is deserved here. That is, between the time of Sima Qian and Liu Xin, some ancient records, similar to the double-wall bamboo slips from Confucius’ residence, could have given Liu Xin the justification for using the new set of data to extrapolate the Zhou dynasty’s reign years. On basis of the same set of data, modern bronzeware expert Zhang Wenyu derived the year 1106 B.C. for the Zhou conquest of the Shang dynasty. Zhang Wenyu, applying the consistent proprietary interpretation approach to the bronzeware texts, derived the years of 840-827 B.C. for the interregnum.

In A.D. 279, there was the excavation of the Jinn Principality’s bamboo annals. However, *The Bamboo Annals* was lost and recompiled in the aftermath of the Yongjia Cataclysm, with the Southern and Northern Dynasties taking separate approach to recompiling the said book. At the time of Eastern Jinn Emperor Yuandi, Li Chong’s bibliography only listed 3014 volumes of books at the imperial library per *Jing-ji Zhi* of *Sui Zhi*. By the Sui dynasty, the recompiled book *The Bamboo Annals* contained the 60-year cycle sexagenary years that could not have existed before the Qin Empire’s first state-sanctioned anterior quarter remainder calendar, namely, *Zhuanxu-li* (247-104 B.C./247 B.C.-85 A.D.), that was inherited by the Han dynasty. The Qin’s *Zhuanxu-li* calendar was modeled after an experimental epochal calendar, namely, the famed *Yin-li* anterior quarter remainder calendar that could be designed or invented just one chronogram or 84.71 years before the Qin Empire’s *Zhuanxu-li* calendar. By the Northern Soong dynasty, Shao Yong in *Huang Ji Jing Shi* revamped the epochal calendar to forge the thearchs’ years using divination and hexagrams. Before Shao Yong, Huangfu Mi of the Jinn dynasty forged the thearchs’ years on basis of the Han dynasty argot and prophecy books. It was most likely that during the Southern Soong dynasty, Luo Mi realigned three cycles of sexagenary years and forged the reign years of the contemporary version of *The Bamboo Annals*. Luo Mi subtracted 120 years from the Shang dynasty to yield 508 years (1558-1051 B.C.) and 60 years from the Zhou dynasty to yield 795 years (1050-256 B.C.) in comparison with Liu Xin’s 629 summary years for the Shang dynasty and 867 summary years for the Zhou dynasty. The 1995-2000 Gap Reign Year Project (i.e.,
‘Xia-Shang-Zhou duan-dai gongcheng’), i.e., a multi-dynastic engineering project, came out with the Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties’ chronicle years that selectively used the astral signs’ records in history, including the forged *The Bamboo Annals*’ data on the five planet’s conjunction, crisscrossing or one line alignment, as well as the fictional data on the Jupiter’s quail heart position on the ecliptic in *Guo Yu*. The three columns of numbers from *The Bamboo Annals*, Shao Yong’s *Huang Ji Shi Jing* and the Gap Reign Year Project are listed here for contrasting the falsification, only.

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<th>Xia Dynasty (B.C.)</th>
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