**WEEK 5: WRITING AND DISCUSSION ASSIGNMENT**

MANDATE OF HEAVEN

One of the central organizing principles of Chinese civilization has been “mandate of heaven” concept. It goes back to the very beginnings of organized government there and, though in a much modified and secularized form, guides the country’s communist rulers today.

So what exactly is this “mandate of heaven”?

This paper assignment is about defining the concept. Very briefly, in about 25-50 words per question, answer the following:

1) What exactly is the “mandate of heaven”?

2) How does having it legitimize a ruler’s power?

3) How does a ruler earn it?

4) And how does a ruler lose it?

**Please submit the assignment via Blackboard by the beginning of class on Tuesday, February 23.**

Be prepared to discuss your answer in class.