

The Failures Of Explaining China by John Earl Baker 1927

When speaking of the rise and fall of dynasties in China, John E Baker, former appointee to Joint Committee on Relief and Rehabilitation of China in 1948 states;

The usual cycle has consisted of three stages. First came a period of growth during which the conqueror tightened his hold on the conquered territory. Next followed a period of calm splendor, during which it seemed that no threat could possibly prevail against the ruling house, and during which wealth and adornment were added to the general comfort enjoyed by the more fortunate classes. After the zenith came a period of similar length during which disintegration advanced under weak or dissolute rulers who were generally mere tools in the hands of designing favorites.

The end of a dynasty has ever been signaled by the appearance of a pathetic figure, some amiable incompetent, some visionary progressive or some desperate individualist, utterly unable to sweep back the tide waters of destruction.