

*The Chí Initiative*

*It is always hard to do a new thing. There is the mere weight of precedent. There is the inertia of the present mechanism of government or warmaking. There is always the thought, Well, yes, that would ideally be a better system, but we've got so much to do right now; what about tomorrow?*

*It was a new leadership in Chí, the outsider Tyén family, who in an earlier century had been refugees from the state of Chín, who took over the rulership in Chí, and once in command, finally pushed the new idea.*

7. **The New Warfare** was long in preparation. Not only could the new mass army both conquer and occupy, it could operate on any terrain, whereas the old chariot force needed level land. All this needed to be worked out. The Sūndž, the first military text, works it out. It explains the basics, and then moves on to more sophisticated matters: how to maneuver against the other side's infantry. Mwòdž 17, the oldest of the Mician texts, complains that soldiers are dying and families are disrupted, and denounces the states which make war.

8. **The Battle of Mǎ-líng** in 0343, in which Chí was victorious over Ngwèi, – in Ngwèi territory – served notice to the world that the new warfare had come. The ruler of Chí took the Jōu title King, and the race to succeed Jōu as universal sovereign was officially on. The ritualistic Analects responded with predictable shock. The Lǚ meditation group began to issue their tract, which we know as the Dàu/Dý Jīng, setting forth an alternative: a government of peace.

9. **The Wider World.** The air at this time was full of new things, some of them with foreign origins. Alexander's conquest of Bactria in 0329-0327 put China within the zone of direct Greek influence, with immediate results.

10. **The New Statecraft.** Resource management had long been cultivated in Chí, but the theory of administration began to develop at this time, as a public debate with competing voices: the early Gwǎndž. It was this version of Chí statecraft that Mencius would encounter when he visited Chí.

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*The year 0343 is the great dividing line within the Warring States, just as the coming of the Chín Empire in 0221 is the line which irrevocably divides classical from Imperial China.*