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dy·nas·ty  (dī nă-stē)

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n. pl. **dy·nas·ties**

1. A succession of rulers from the same family or line.
2. A family or group that maintains power for several generations: *a political dynasty controlling the state.*

[Middle English *dynastie*, from Old French, from Late Latin *dynastīa*, lordship, from Greek *dunasteia*, from *dunastēs*, lord; see [DYNAST](#).]

dy·nas tic (dī-năs tĭk) *adj.*

dy·nas ti·cal·ly *adv.*

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Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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