

THE  
CAMBRIDGE  
HISTORY OF  
CHINA

3

SUI AND  
T'ANG CHINA  
589-618  
PART 2



THE CAMBRIDGE  
HISTORY OF  
CHINA

Volume 3  
Sui and T'ang China, 589–906, Part I

edited by  
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CAMBRIDGE  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

PUBLISHED BY THE PRESS SYNDICATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
The Pitt Building, Trumpington Street, Cambridge CB2 1RP, United Kingdom

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS  
The Edinburgh Building, Cambridge CB2 2RU, United Kingdom  
40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011-4211, USA  
10 Stamford Road, Oakleigh, Melbourne 3166, Australia

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First published 1979  
Reprinted 1997

Printed in the United States of America

Typeset in Garamond

*A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library*

*Library of Congress Cataloguing-in-Publication Data is available*

ISBN 0-521-21446-7 hardback

THE CAMBRIDGE HISTORY  
OF CHINA

*General editors*

DENIS TWITCHETT and JOHN K. FAIRBANK

Volume 3

Sui and T'ang China, 589-906, Part I

## GENERAL EDITORS' PREFACE

In the English-speaking world, the Cambridge Histories have since the beginning of the century set the pattern for multi-volume works of history, with chapters written by experts on a particular topic, and unified by the guiding hand of volume editors of senior standing. *The Cambridge modern history*, planned by Lord Acton, appeared in sixteen volumes between 1902 and 1912. It was followed by *The Cambridge ancient history*, *The Cambridge medieval history*, *The Cambridge history of English literature*, and Cambridge Histories of India, of Poland, and of the British Empire. The original *Modern history* has now been replaced by *The new Cambridge modern history* in twelve volumes, and *The Cambridge economic history of Europe* is now being completed. Other Cambridge Histories recently undertaken include a history of Islam, of Arabic literature, of the Bible treated as a central document of and influence on Western civilization, and of Iran and China.

In the case of China, Western historians face a special problem. The history of Chinese civilization is more extensive and complex than that of any single Western nation, and only slightly less ramified than the history of European civilization as a whole. The Chinese historical record is immensely detailed and extensive, and Chinese historical scholarship has been highly developed and sophisticated for many centuries. Yet until recent decades the study of China in the West, despite the important pioneer work of European sinologists, had hardly progressed beyond the translation of some few classical historical texts, and the outline history of the major dynasties and their institutions.

Recently Western scholars have drawn more fully upon the rich traditions of historical scholarship in China and also in Japan, and greatly advanced both our detailed knowledge of past events and institutions, and also our critical understanding of traditional historiography. In addition, the present generation of Western historians of China can also draw upon the new outlooks and techniques of modern Western historical scholarship, and upon recent developments in the social sciences, while continuing to build upon the solid foundations of rapidly progressing

European, Japanese and Chinese sinological studies. Recent historical events, too, have given prominence to new problems, while throwing into question many older conceptions. Under these multiple impacts the Western revolution in Chinese studies is steadily gathering momentum.

When *The Cambridge history of China* was first planned in 1966, the aim was to provide a substantial account of the history of China as a bench mark for the Western history-reading public: an account of the current state of knowledge in six volumes. Since then the out-pouring of current research, the application of new methods, and the extension of scholarship into new fields, have further stimulated Chinese historical studies. This growth is indicated by the fact that the History has now become a planned fourteen volumes, which exclude the earliest pre-dynastic period, and must still leave aside such topics as the history of art and of literature, many aspects of economics and technology, and all the riches of local history.

The striking advances in our knowledge of China's past over the last decade will continue and accelerate. Western historians of this great and complex subject are justified in their efforts by the needs of their own peoples for greater and deeper understanding of China. Chinese history belongs to the world, not only as a right and necessity, but also as a subject of compelling interest.

JOHN K. FAIRBANK  
DENIS TWITCHETT

*June 1976*

## PREFACE TO VOLUME 3

The Chinese is transliterated according to the Wade-Giles system, which for all its imperfections is employed almost universally in the serious literature on China written in English. For Japanese, the Hepburn system of romanization is followed.

Chinese personal names follow their native form, that is with the surname preceding the given name.

Place names present a complex problem, as many of them underwent changes during the course of the period covered by this volume, some of them several times. In general we have used the names in use in the period until 741 and employed as the head-entries in the monographs on geography in the two Dynastic Histories of the T'ang, even when (as for example from 742 to 758) this is strictly speaking an anachronism. In some cases there is possible confusion between modern provincial names, used as a regional description, and the names of T'ang provinces. The convention is adopted of hyphenating the syllables of T'ang place names, and not hyphenating modern names. For example Hopei represents the modern province, Ho-peï the T'ang province. For modern place names some non-standard spellings which have become customary, for example Nanking for Nanching, Sian for Hsian, are retained.

For dates the Chinese and Western years do not exactly coincide. The Western year which nearly coincides with the Chinese year is used as the equivalent of the Chinese year. For example 716 is used as equivalent to the fourth year *K'ai-yüan*, which in fact ran from 29 January 716 until 15 February 717 (it included an intercalary month). Dates, where given, are expressed in Chinese lunar months and days, since this makes reference to the Chinese sources simpler than if they were expressed in the Western calendar. Western equivalents may easily be found for the T'ang period in Hiraoka Takeo, *Tōdai no koyomi* (Kyoto, 1954).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We wish to thank the American Council of Learned Societies for two grants which have enabled us to support the editorial assistance of Robert Somers and Stephen Jones in the preparation of this volume. Mr Somers undertook preliminary editing on chapters 1 to 5. Mr Jones, in co-operation with Cambridge University Press, has edited the text of the entire volume. The maps were prepared by the editor and drawn by Ken Jordan FRGS and Reg Piggott.

We would also like to acknowledge the generous support given by the American Council of Learned Societies to the Conference on T'ang Studies held at Cambridge in 1969. That conference, in which all but one of the contributors to this volume took part, gave a new impetus to the study of the period, and proved invaluable in formulating the basic outline of Sui and T'ang history, and in establishing the major problems to which this volume and its successor attempt to provide answers.

My co-chairman at that conference, and the co-editor of the symposium volume, *Perspectives on the T'ang*, in which the papers were published, was the late Arthur F. Wright, who died while this volume was being prepared for press. I and my fellow contributors, several of whom have been his pupils, and all of whom were his personal friends, would wish to record our tribute to the great contribution he made to the study of medieval Chinese history, and our sadness that he did not live to see the completion and publication of this volume, in the progress of which he had been so deeply involved.

DCT



## ABBREVIATIONS

AM	<i>Asia Major</i> (new series)
BEFEO	<i>Bulletin de l'Ecole Française d'Extrême-Orient</i>
BSOAS	<i>Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies</i>
CTS	<i>Chiu T'ang shu</i>
CTW	<i>Ch'üan T'ang-wen</i>
CYYY	<i>Kuo-li chung-yang yen-chiu-yüan Li-shih yü-yen yen-chiu-so chi-k'an</i> (Academia Sinica)
HJAS	<i>Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies</i>
HTS	<i>Hsin T'ang shu</i>
JA	<i>Journal Asiatique</i>
JAOS	<i>Journal of the American Oriental Society</i>
JAS	<i>Journal of Asian Studies</i>
LSYC	<i>Li-shih yen-chiu</i>
MSOS	<i>Mitteilungen des Seminars für Orientalische Sprachen zu Berlin</i>
SGZS	<i>Shigaku zasshi</i>
SPPY	Ssu-pu pei-yao edn
SPTK	Ssu-pu ts'ung-k'an edn
SS	<i>Sui shu</i>
TCTC	<i>Tzu-chih t'ung-chien</i>
TD	<i>Taishō shinsbū Daizōkyō</i> edn of the Buddhist Tripitaka
TFYK	<i>Ts'e-fu yüan-kuei</i>
THGH	<i>Tōhō gakubō</i> ; refers to the journal of this name published in Kyoto unless specified THGH (Tokyo).
THY	<i>T'ang hui-yao</i>
TLT	<i>T'ang liu-tien</i>
TP	<i>T'oung pao</i>
TSCC	Ts'ung-shu chi-ch'eng edn
TT	<i>T'ung tien</i>
TTCLC	<i>T'ang ta chao-ling chi</i>
TYGH	<i>Tōyō gakubō</i>
WHTK	<i>Wen-hsien t'ung-k'ao</i>
WYYH	<i>Wen-yüan ying-hua</i>

## EDITIONS EMPLOYED FOR MAIN PRIMARY SOURCES

The Standard Dynastic Histories are cited in the punctuated critical texts published by the Chung-hua shu-chü, Peking. This edition is also available in a reprint published in Taipei. Works from this series to which reference is made are:

*Ch'en shu*, 2 vols., 1972

*Chiu T'ang shu* (abbreviated as *CTS*), 16 vols., 1975

*Chou shu*, 3 vols., 1971

*Hsin T'ang shu* (abbreviated as *HTS*), 20 vols., 1975

*Hsin Wu tai shih*, 3 vols., 1974

*Nan shih*, 6 vols., 1975

*Pei Ch'i shu*, 2 vols., 1972

*Pei shih*, 10 vols., 1974

*Sui shu* (abbreviated as *SS*), 6 vols., 1973

*Wei shu*, 8 vols., 1974

Collected works of individual authors, unless otherwise specified, are cited from the editions reprinted in the *Ssu-pu ts'ung-k'an*.

Buddhist works, unless otherwise specified, are cited from the *Taishō shinshū Daijōkyō* edition of the Buddhist canon.

The editions of other frequently cited primary sources are as follows:

*Ch'üan T'ang-wen*, imperial edn, 1814; reprinted in facsimile, Hua-wen shu-chü, Taipei, 1961; Hua-wen shu-chü, Taipei, 1961. (Abbreviated as *CTW*)

*Tzu-chih t'ung-chien*, Ku-chi ch'u-pan-she edn, Peking, 1956. (Abbreviated as *TCTC*)

*Ts'e-fu yüan-kuei*, edn of Li Ssu-ching, 1642; reprinted in facsimile Chung-hua shu-chü, Peking, 1960; Ching-hua shu-chü, Taipei, 1965. (Abbreviated as *TFYK*)

*T'ang hui-yao*, Kuo-hsüeh chi-pen tsung-shu edn, Shanghai, 1935; reprinted Chung-hua shu-chü, Peking, 1957. (Abbreviated as *THY*)

*T'ang liu-tien*, edn of Konoe Iehiro, 1724; reprinted in facsimile Wen-hai ch'u-pan-she, Taipei, 1962. (Abbreviated as *TLT*)

*T'ung tien*, Shih T'ung edn, Shanghai, 1936. (Abbreviated as *TT*)

*T'ang ta chao-ling chi*, Shang-wu yin-shu-kuan edn, Shanghai, 1959. (Abbreviated as *TTCLC*)

*Wen-hsien t'ung-k'ao*, Shih-t'ung edn, Shanghai, 1936. (Abbreviated as *WHTK*)

*Wen-yüan ying-hua*, edn of 1567 with prefaces by T'u Tse-min and Hu Wei-hsin; reprinted in facsimile, Chung-hua shu-chü, Peking, 1966. (Abbreviated as *WYYH*)

Table 1. *The Sui emperors and their reign periods*

Emperor	Reigned	Reign titles
Wen-ti	581-604	K'ai-huang 581-600 Jen-shou 601-4
Yang-ti	604-17	Ta-yeh 605-17
Kung-ti	617-18	I-ning 617-18

For full details see A. C. Moule, *The rulers of China 221 BC - 1949 AD* (London, 1957), p. 34.

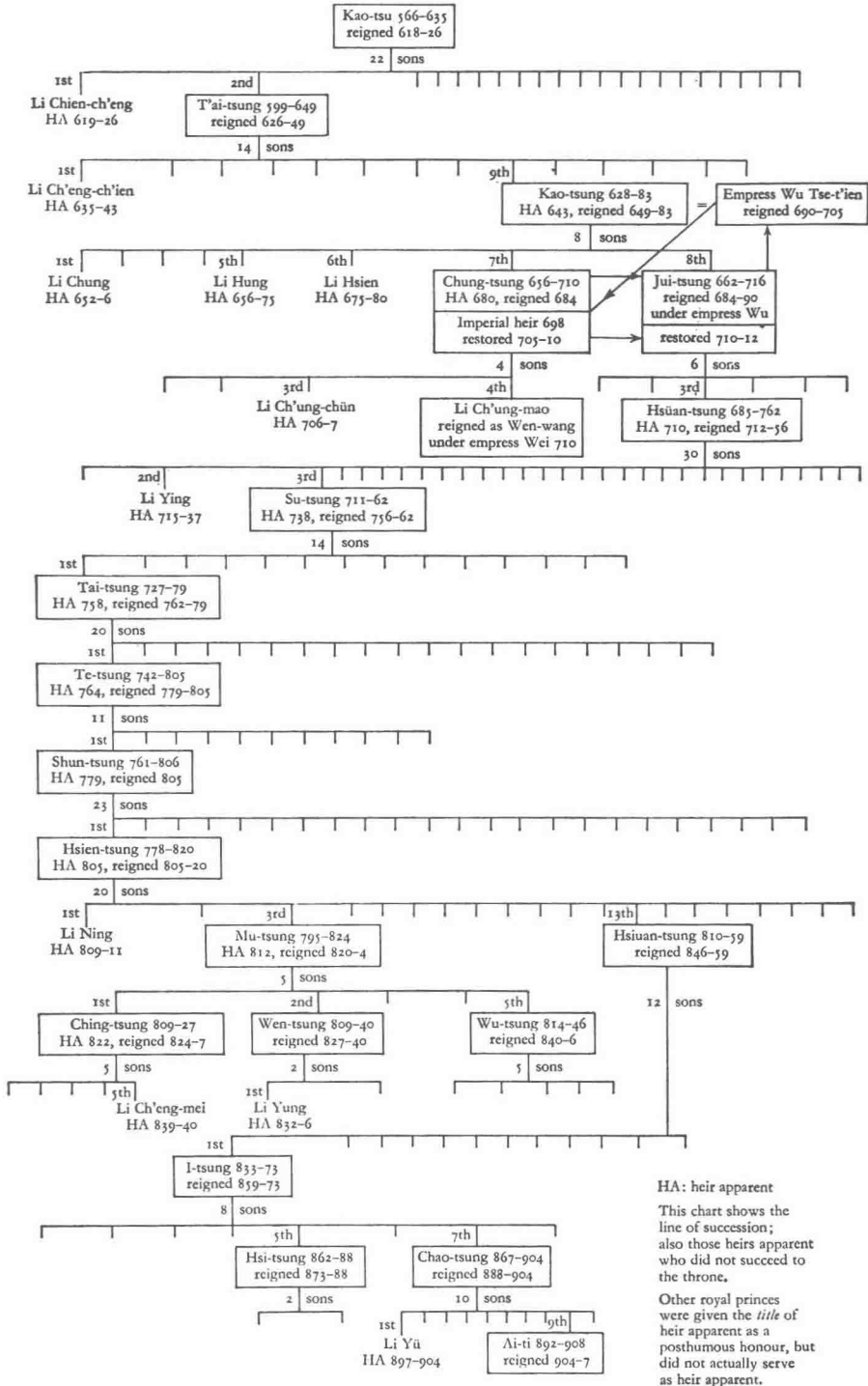
Table 2. *Outline genealogy of the T'ang imperial family*

Table 3. *The T'ang emperors and their reign periods*

Emperor	Reigned	Reign titles	
Kao-tsu	618-26*	Wu-te	618-26
T'ai-tsung	626-49	Chen-kuan	627-49
Kao-tsung	649-83	Yung-hui	650-5
		Hsien-ch'ing	656-60
		Lung-shuo	661-3
		Lin-te	664-5
		Ch'ien-feng	666-7
		Tsung-chang	668-9
		Hsien-heng	670-3
		Shang-yüan	674-5
		I-feng	676-9
		T'iao-lu	679
		Yung-lung	680-1
		K'ai-yao	681-2
		Yung-ch'un	682-3
		Hung-tao	683
Chung-tsung (court under control of empress Wu)	684†	Ssu-sheng	684
Jui-tsung (court under control of empress Wu)	684-90†	Wen-ming	684
		Kuang-chai	684
		Ch'ui-kung	685-8
		Yung-ch'ang	689
		Tsai-ch'u	689-90
Empress Wu Tse-t'ien Chou 'dynasty'	690-705	T'ien-shou	690-2
		Ju-i	692
		Ch'ang-shou	692-4
		Yen-tsai	694
		Cheng-sheng	694-5
		T'ien-ts'e wan-sui	695
		Wan-sui teng-feng	696
		Wan-sui t'ung-t'ien	696-7
		Shen-kung	697
		Sheng-li	697-700
		Chiu-shih	700-1
		Ta-tsu	701
		Ch'ang-an	701-4
Chung-tsung restored	705-10	Shen-lung	705-7
		Ching-lung	707-10
Shao-ti (court under control of empress Wei)	710†	T'ang-lung	710
Jui-tsung restored	710-12*	Ching-yün	710-12
		T'ai-chi	712
		Yen-ho	712
Hsüan-tsung	712-56*	Hsien-t'ien	712-13
		K'ai-yüan	713-41
		T'ien-pao	742-56

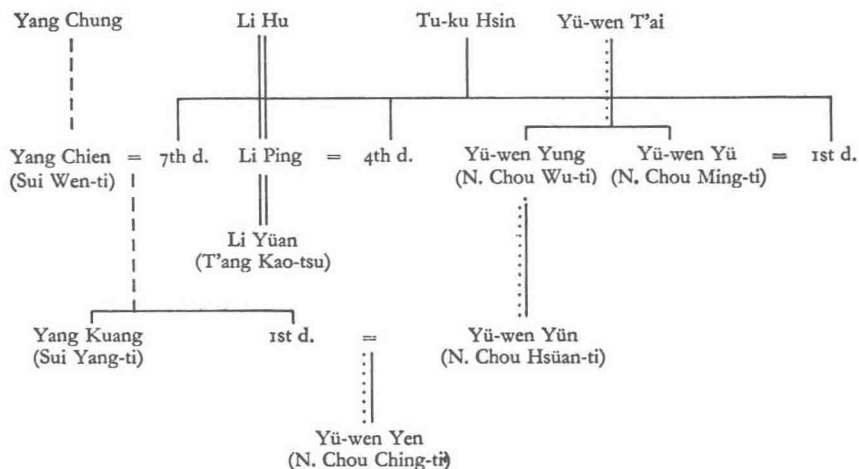
Table 3 (cont.).

Emperor	Reigned	Reign titles	
Su-tsung	756-62	Chih-te	756-8
		Ch'ien-yüan	758-60
		Shang-yüan	760-1
		Yüan	761-2
Tai-tsung	762-79	Pao-ying	762-3
		Kuang-te	763-4
		Yung-t'ai	765-6
		Ta-li	766-79
Te-tsung	779-805	Ta-li	779
		Chien-chung	780-3
		Hsing-yüan	783-4
		Chen-yüan	785-805
Shun-tsung	805*	Chen-yüan	805
		Yung-chen	805
Hsien-tsung	805-20	Yung-chen	805
		Yüan-ho	806-20
Mu-tsung	820-4	Ch'ang-ch'ing	821-4
Ching-tsung	824-7	Pao-li	825-7
Wen-tsung	827-40	T'ai-ho	827-36
		K'ai-ch'eng	836-40
Wu-tsung	840-6	Hui-ch'ang	841-6
Hsüan-tsung†	846-59	Ta-chung	847-59
I-tsung	859-73	Hsien-t'ung	860-73
Hsi-tsung	873-88	Ch'ien-fu	874-80
		Kuang-ming	880-1
		Chung-ho	881-5
		Kuang-ch'i	885-8
		Wen-te	888
Chao-tsung	888-904	Wen-te	888
		Lung-chi	889
		Ta-shun	890-2
		Ching-fu	892-3
		Ch'ien-ning	894-8
		Kuang-hua	898-901
		T'ien-fu	901-4
Ai-ti	904-7	T'ien-yu	904
		T'ien-yu	904-7

\* abdicated † correctly transliterated Hsüan-tsung. We have used this irregular form to avoid confusion with Hsüan-tsung (reign 712-56)

† deposed

For full details see A. C. Moule, *The rulers of China 221 BC - 1949 AD* (London, 1957), pp. 54-62. For detailed calendar see Hiraoka Takeo, *Tōdai no koyomi* (Kyoto, 1954).

Table 4. *Marriage connections of the T'ang royal house*

— Tu-ku clan      == Li clan (T'ang royal house)  
 ---- Yang clan (Sui royal house)      ..... Yü-wen clan (Northern Chou royal house)  
 Yang Chung, Li Hu and Yü-wen T'ai, the founders of the Sui, T'ang and Northern Chou royal houses, all served as high-ranking generals during the Western Wei, together with Tu-ku Hsin, to whose daughters all three married their sons.

Table 5. *T'ang weights and measures*

## (a) Length

10 *tsun* = 1 *ch'ib* (slightly less than 1 English foot)  
 5 *ch'ib* = 1 *pu* (double pace)  
 10 *ch'ib* = 1 *chang*  
 1800 *ch'ib* = 1 *li* (approx.  $\frac{1}{3}$  English mile)

## (b) Area

1 *mou* = a strip 1 *pu* wide by 240 *pu* long (approx. 0.14 acre)  
 100 *mou* = 1 *ch'ing* (approx. 14 acres)

## (c) Capacity

3 *sheng* = 1 *ta-sheng* (the standard pint)  
 10 *ta-sheng* = 1 *tou*  
 10 *tou* = 1 *hu*  
 1 *hu* = 1 *shib* (approx.  $1\frac{3}{4}$  bushels)

## (d) Weight

3 *liang* = 1 *ta-liang* (the standard ounce)  
 16 *ta-liang* = 1 *chin* (approx.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  English lb)

## (e) Cloth

1 *p'i* of silk = a length 1.8 *ch'ib* in width, 40 *ch'ib* long  
 1 *tuan* of hemp = a length 1.8 *ch'ib* in width, 50 *ch'ib* long

Further details are given in S. Balazs, 'Beiträge zur Wirtschaftsgeschichte der T'ang-Zeit', *MOS*, 36 (1933) 49 ff.

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