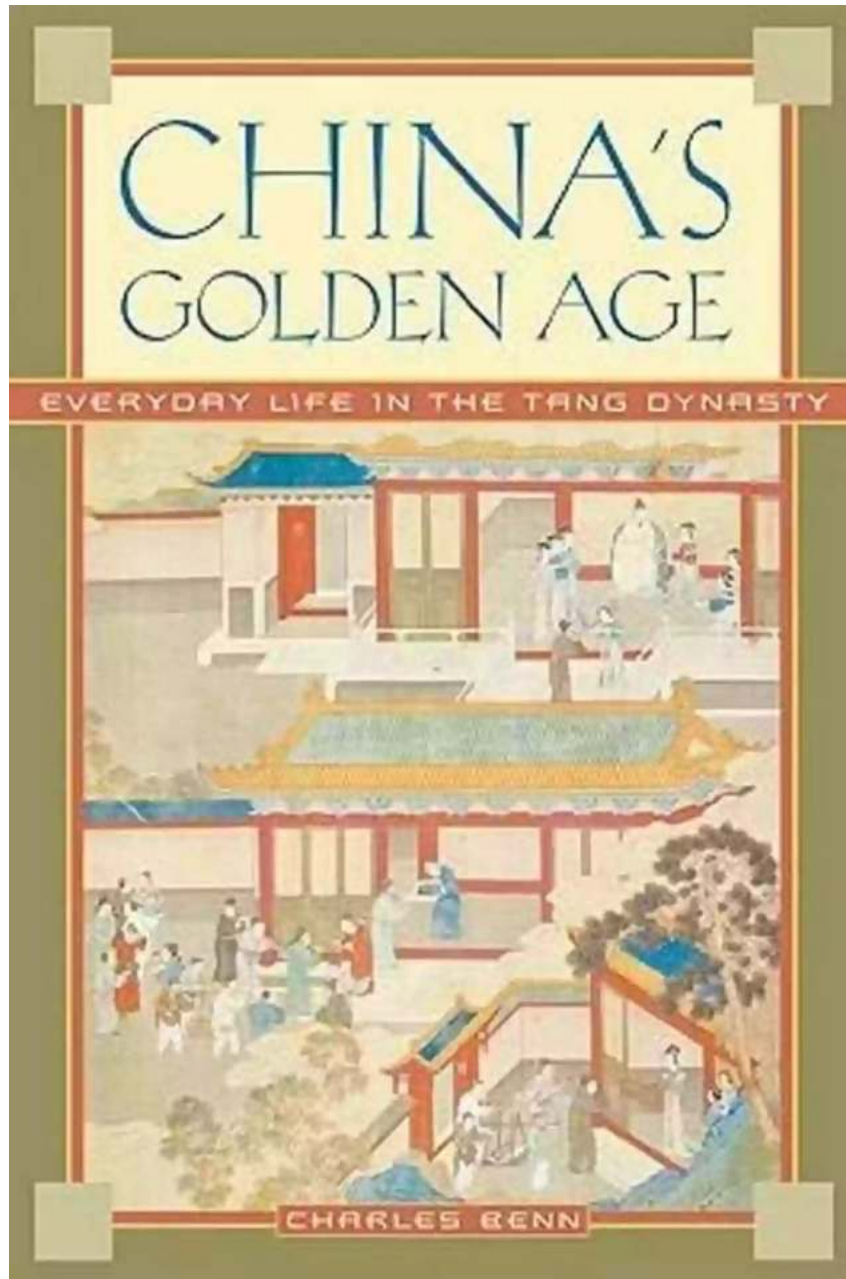
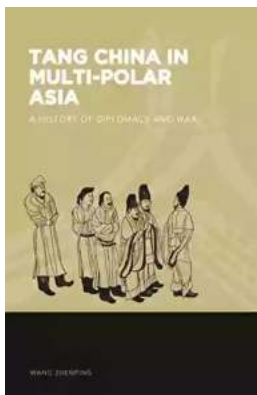
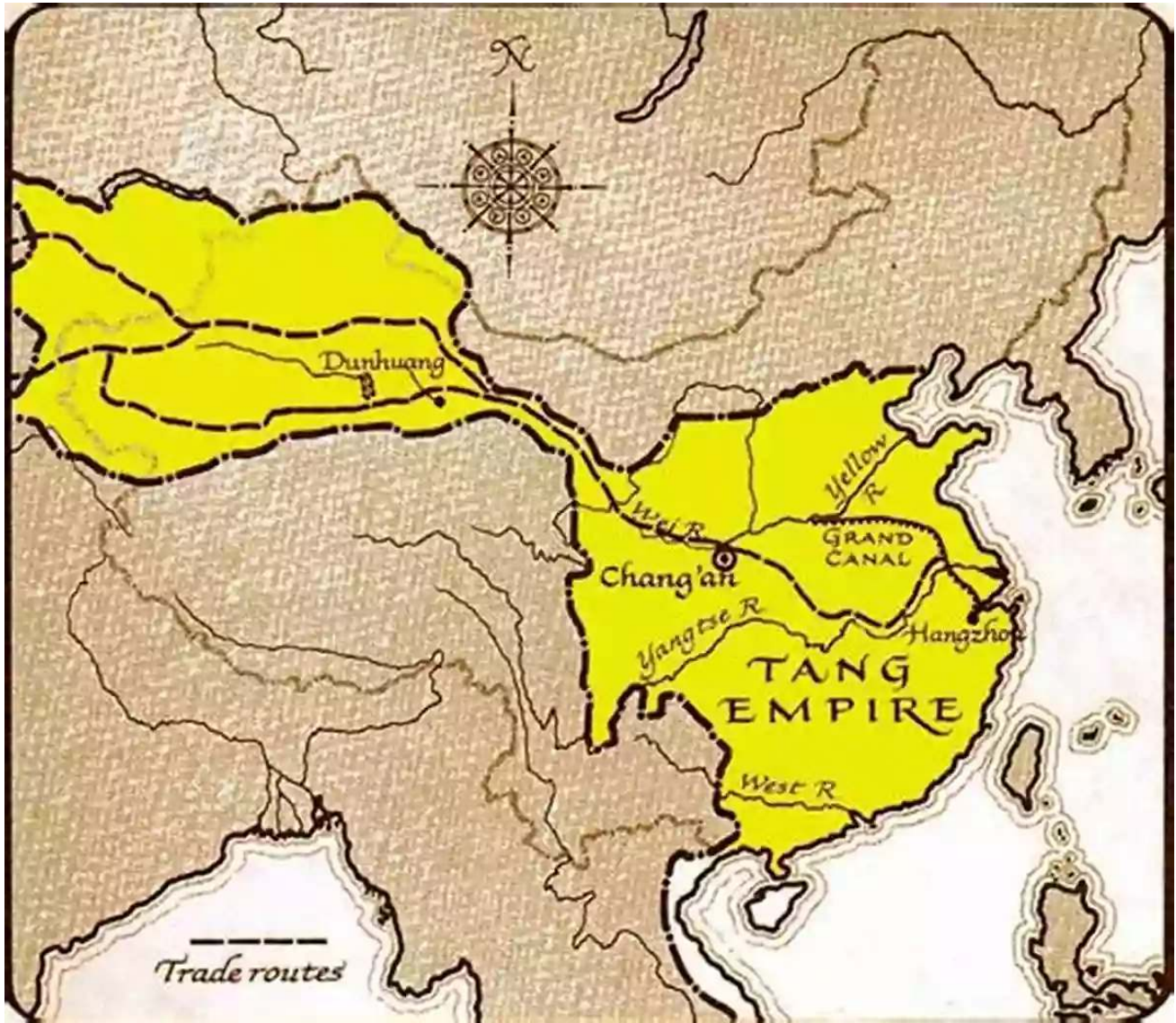


Tang China in Multi-Polar Asia: Rising Power, Cultural Flourishing, and Political Diplomacy



When it comes to the history of ancient civilizations, one cannot overlook the significant contributions of Tang China. With its strategic location, rich cultural heritage, and innovative governance, Tang China emerged as a dominant power in multi-polar Asia during the 7th to 10th centuries.



Tang China in Multi-Polar Asia: A History of Diplomacy and War (The World of East Asia)

by Zhenping Wang(Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 2242 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Print length : 482 pages



The Rise of Tang China: From Turmoil to Stability

The Tang Dynasty, founded in 618 CE, marked a turning point in Chinese history. Following centuries of political turmoil, Tang China brought stability to the region, paving the way for economic prosperity, territorial expansion, and cultural advancements.

Under the visionary leadership of Emperor Taizong, the Tang Dynasty embarked on a mission to restore order, strengthen governance, and expand its influence. The emperor's diplomatic approach towards neighboring states fostered regional stability and paved the way for prosperous trade routes.



The Silk Road: Tang China's Gateway to the World

One of the most remarkable achievements of Tang China was its strategic control over the Silk Road, an extensive network of trade routes connecting China with Central Asia, India, and Europe. The Tang Dynasty's control over this vital trade route allowed it to establish diplomatic and economic relations with numerous kingdoms and empires.



The Silk Road served as a conduit for the exchange of goods, ideas, and cultures between nations. This vibrant trade network facilitated the spread of Buddhism from India to China and beyond. Tang China, embracing Buddhism, became a center for religious and cultural exchanges, attracting pilgrims and scholars from all over Asia.

Tang China: A Cultural Powerhouse

Under the enlightened rule of the Tang Dynasty, China experienced an unprecedented cultural flourishing. The Tang period witnessed the golden age of Chinese poetry, with renowned poets such as Li Bai and Du Fu leaving an indelible mark on Chinese literature.

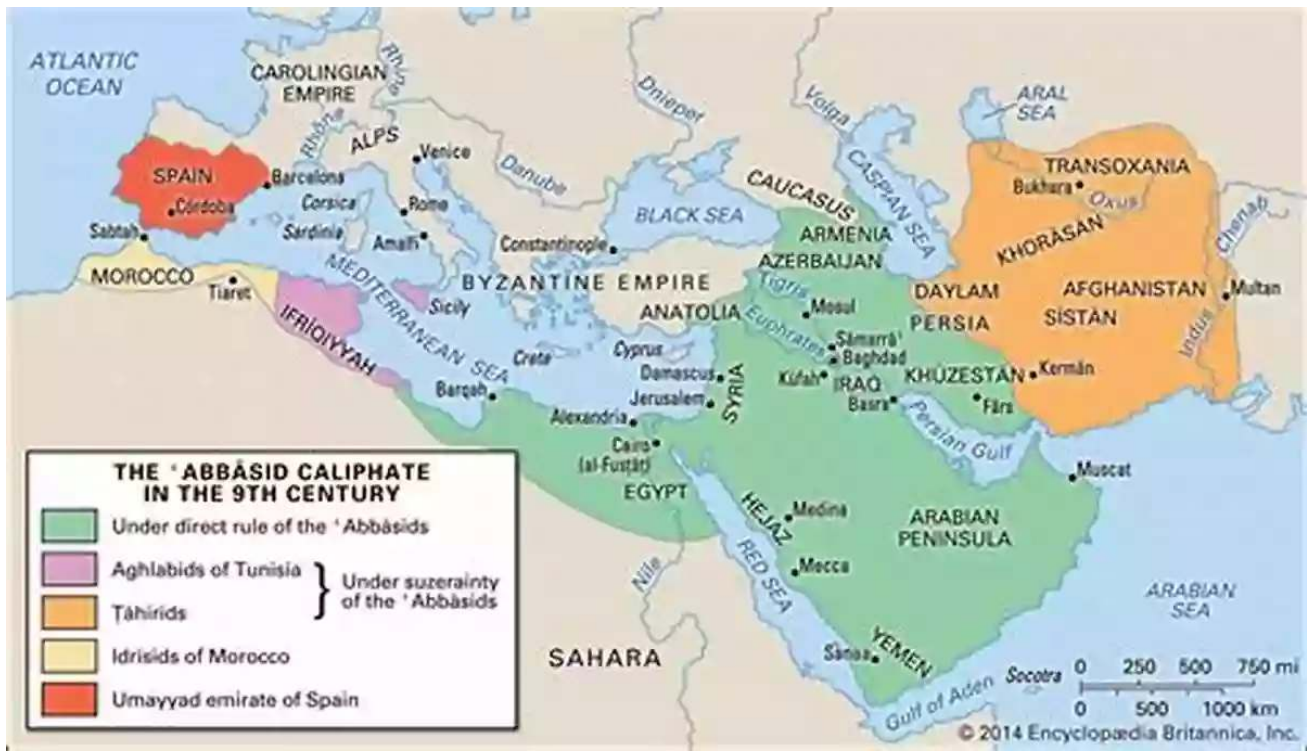


Art and music also thrived during the Tang Dynasty. Exquisite Tang ceramics, vibrant paintings, and melodious court music reflected the artistic sensibilities of the era. The grandeur of Tang artistry is still celebrated and admired today.

Tang China's Political Diplomacy

Tang China's diplomatic prowess extended beyond its borders. The dynasty maintained diplomatic relations with numerous nations, including Japan, Korea, Tibet, and the Abbasid Caliphate. These diplomatic endeavors not only secured

peaceful relations but also contributed to the spread of Chinese culture and influence.



The diplomatic mission of Zhang Qian, a prominent Tang official, to distant lands showcased the dynasty's ambition for extensive international connections. As a result, the influence of Tang China extended not only through Asia but also to parts of Africa and Europe, creating a multi-polar world order with Tang China at its core.

The Decline of Tang China

Despite its remarkable achievements, the Tang Dynasty eventually succumbed to internal turmoil and external pressures. Political intrigue, regional rebellions, and the inability to effectively manage military campaigns weakened the dynasty.

The An Lushan Rebellion in 755 CE dealt a severe blow to Tang China, leading to a prolonged state of decline. The dynasty's grip on power gradually weakened,

paved the way for the emergence of regional powers and ultimately leading to the fragmentation of China.

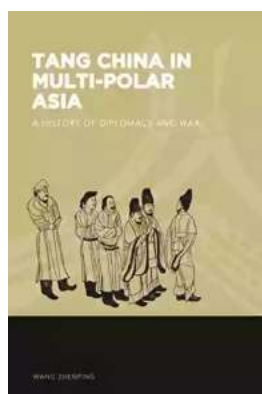
Legacy of Tang China: A Beacon of Civilization

Although the Tang Dynasty came to an end, its legacy endured. Tang China contributed significantly to the cultural, economic, and diplomatic landscape of multi-polar Asia. The influences of Tang China can be seen throughout the region, from the spread of Buddhism and Chinese art to the establishment of diplomatic protocols.



Today, the golden age of Tang China continues to inspire and captivate the imagination, reminding us of the remarkable achievements of this ancient civilization. It serves as a reminder that the ancient world was not confined to a

single dominant power but rather thrived within a multi-polar context, with Tang China as a shining example.



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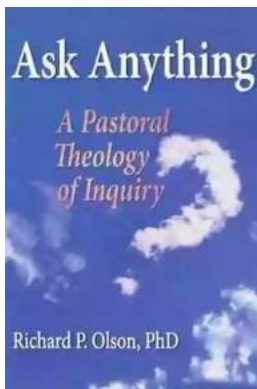
Using a synthetic narrative approach, this ambitious work uses the lens of multipolarity to analyze Tang China’s (618–907) relations with Turkestan; the Korean states of Koguryō, Silla, and Paekche; the state of Parhae in Manchuria; and the Nanzhao and Tibetan kingdoms. Without any one entity able to dominate Asia’s geopolitical landscape, the author argues that relations among these countries were quite fluid and dynamic—an interpretation that departs markedly from the prevalent view of China fixed at the center of a widespread “tribute system.”

To cope with external affairs in a tumultuous world, Tang China employed a dual management system that allowed both central and local officials to conduct foreign affairs. The court authorized Tang local administrators to receive foreign visitors, forward their diplomatic letters to the capital, and manage contact with outsiders whose territories bordered on China. Not limited to handling routine matters, local officials used their knowledge of border situations to influence the

court's foreign policy. Some even took the liberty of acting without the court's authorization when an emergency occurred, thus adding another layer to multipolarity in the region's geopolitics.

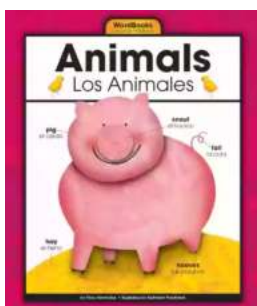
The book also sheds new light on the ideological foundation of Tang China's foreign policy. Appropriateness, efficacy, expedience, and mutual self-interest guided the court's actions abroad. Although officials often used "virtue" and "righteousness" in policy discussions and announcements, these terms were not abstract universal principles but justifications for the pursuit of self-interest by those involved. Detailed philological studies reveal that in the realm of international politics, "virtue" and "righteousness" were in fact viewed as pragmatic and utilitarian in nature.

Comprehensive and authoritative, *Tang China in Multi-Polar Asia* is a major work on Tang foreign relations that will reconceptualize our understanding of the complexities of diplomacy and war in imperial China.



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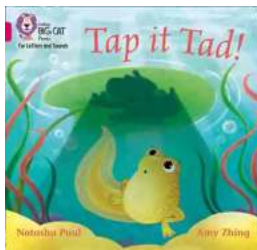
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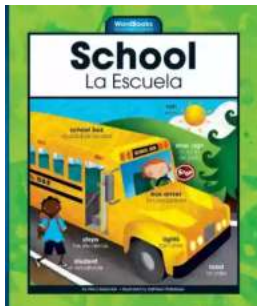
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