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978-1-107-49508-1 - Son of Heaven: A Biography of Li Shih-Min,

Founder of the T'ang Dynasty

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LI SHIH-MIN, EMPEROR T'ANG T'AI TSUNG

Reproduced from a rubbing of the ancient stone at Li Ch'üan, Shensi, West China.

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SON OF HEAVEN

*A Biography of Li Shih-Min, founder of  
the T'ang Dynasty*

BY

C. P. FITZGERALD

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## PERSONS OF IMPORTANCE IN THIS HISTORY

BILGÄ KHAN.	Turk. Rival to Qadir Khan.
CHAI SHAO.	General. Brother-in-law of Li Shih-Min.
CHANG CHIEH-YÜ.	Concubine of Li Yüan.
CHANG-SUN, THE LADY.	Empress. Consort of Li Shih-Min.
CHANG-SUN WU-CHI.	Minister. Brother-in-law of Li Shih-Min.
CH'ËN SHU-TA.	Minister. Scion of Ch'ên dynasty.
CH'ËNG HSIN.	Boy minstrel. Favourite of Crown Prince Ch'êng-Ch'ien.
CH'IN SHU-PAO.	General.
CH'ÜAN KAI-SU-WËN.	Regicide and dictator of Korea.
CHUR KHAN.	Ruler of the Turks. Brother of Qadir Khan.
CH'U SUI-LIANG.	Minister.
CH'Ü-T'U T'UNG.	Sui general. Submitted to T'ang dynasty.
FANG HSÜAN-LING.	Minister and friend of Li Shih-Min.
FU-YUN KHAN.	Tartar. Ruler of the T'u-yü-hun.
HÖ-KAN CH'ËNG-CHI.	Assassin. Served Prince Li Ch'êng-Ch'ien.
HOU CHÜN-CHI.	General.
HSIAO HSIEN.	Pretender of Liang dynasty.
HSIAO, THE LADY.	Empress. Consort of Yang Ti.
HSIAO YÜ.	Minister. Brother of the Empress Hsiao.
HSÜEH CHÜ.	Pretender in Kansu.
HSÜEH JËN-KUO.	Son and successor of Hsüeh Chü.
I CH'ËNG, PRINCESS.	Sui princess. Wife of four Khans.
KAO K'AI-TAO.	Pretender. Called Prince of Yen.
KAO SHIH-LIEN.	Minister. Uncle of Empress Chang-Sun.
LI CH'ËNG-CH'ËN.	Son of Shih-Min. Crown Prince.
LI CHIEN-CH'ËNG.	Elder brother of Shih-Min. Crown Prince.

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## PERSONS OF IMPORTANCE

- |                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| LI CHIH.        | Son of Shih-Min. Afterwards Crown Prince.        |
| LI CHING.       | General. Conqueror of the South.                 |
| LI HSLAO-KUNG.  | Prince Chao. General. Cousin of Shih-Min.        |
| LI MI.          | Pretender. Submits to T'ang dynasty but rebels.  |
| LI SHÊN-T'UNG.  | Prince Huai An. Uncle of Shih-Min. General.      |
| LI SHIH-CHI.    | Formerly Hsü Shih-Chi. General.                  |
| LI TA-LIANG.    | General.   |
| LI T'AI.        | Prince Wei. Son of Shih-Min by a concubine.      |
| LI TAO-HSÜAN.   | Prince Huai Yang. Cousin of Shih-Min. General.   |
| LI TAO-TSUNG.   | Prince Jên Ch'êng. Cousin of Shih-Min. General.  |
| LI, THE LADY.   | Sister of Shih-Min. Wife of Chai Shao.           |
| LI Tzŭ-T'UNG.   | Pretender in south-east China.                   |
| LI YU.          | Prince Chi. Son of Shih-Min by a concubine.      |
| LI YÜAN.        | Father of Shih-Min. Emperor T'ang Kao Tsu.       |
| LI YÜAN-CH'ANG. | Prince Han. Half-brother of Shih-Min.            |
| LI YÜAN-CHI.    | Prince Chi. Younger brother of Shih-Min.         |
| LIANG SHIH-TU.  | Pretender in north Shensi.                       |
| LIU HEI-T'A.    | Rebel in north-east China.                       |
| LIU WÊN-CHING.  | General. Early T'ang supporter.                  |
| LIU WU-CHOU.    | Pretender, in north Shansi. Ally of the Turks.   |
| LO I.           | General. Governor of Yu Chou (Peking).           |
| LO SHIH-HSIN.   | Young general.                                   |
| MA CHOU.        | Minister and censor.                             |
| P'EI CHI.       | Eunuch in charge of Fên Yang Palace.             |
| QACHASHAR.      | Turk. Brother of Tutar Khan.                     |
| QADIR KHAN.     | Ruler of the Eastern Turks.                      |
| SIBIR KHAN.     | Elder brother of Qadir Khan. Ruler of the Turks. |
| SUNG CHIN-KANG. | General of Liu Wu-Chou.                          |
| TOU CHIEN-TÊ.   | Pretender. Called Emperor of Hsia.               |



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## PERSONS OF IMPORTANCE

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|--------------------|--|
| TU FU-WEI.         | Rebel against Sui. Submits to T'ang dynasty.   |
| TU JU-HUI.         | Friend and minister of Li Shih-Min.  |
| TUTAR KHAN.        | Turk. Nephew of Qadir Khan.  |
| WANG HSÜAN-TS'Ê.   | Ambassador to Indian kingdoms.   |
| WANG SHIH-CH'UNG.  | Pretender. Called Emperor of Chêng.  |
| WEI CHÊNG.         | Minister.  |
| YANG CHIEN.        | Emperor Sui Wên Ti, founder of Sui dynasty.  |
| YANG HSÜAN-KAN.    | Rebel against Sui Yang Ti.   |
| YANG TI.           | Emperor Sui Yang Ti.   |
| YANG T'UNG.        | Sui Prince Yüeh. Grandson of Yang Ti.  |
| YANG YU.           | Sui Prince Tai. Grandson of Yang Ti.   |
| YIN HUNG-CHIH.     | Maternal uncle of Li Yu Prince Chi.  |
| YÜ-CH'IH CHING-TÊ. | General of Liu Wu-Chou, later captain of Shih-Min's guard.   |
| YÜ-WÊN HUA-CHI.    | Regicide. Son of Yü-Wên Shu. Pretender.  |
| YÜ-WÊN SHIH-CHI.   | Son of Yü-Wên Shu. T'ang general.  |
| YÜ-WÊN SHU.        | Sui general. Scion of Northern Chou Tartar dynasty.  |
| <i>and</i>         |  |
| LI SHIH-MIN.       | Second son of Li Yüan Duke of T'ang. Founder of the T'ang dynasty, Emperor T'ang T'ai Tsung. Born, A.D. 600. Ob. A.D. 649. |

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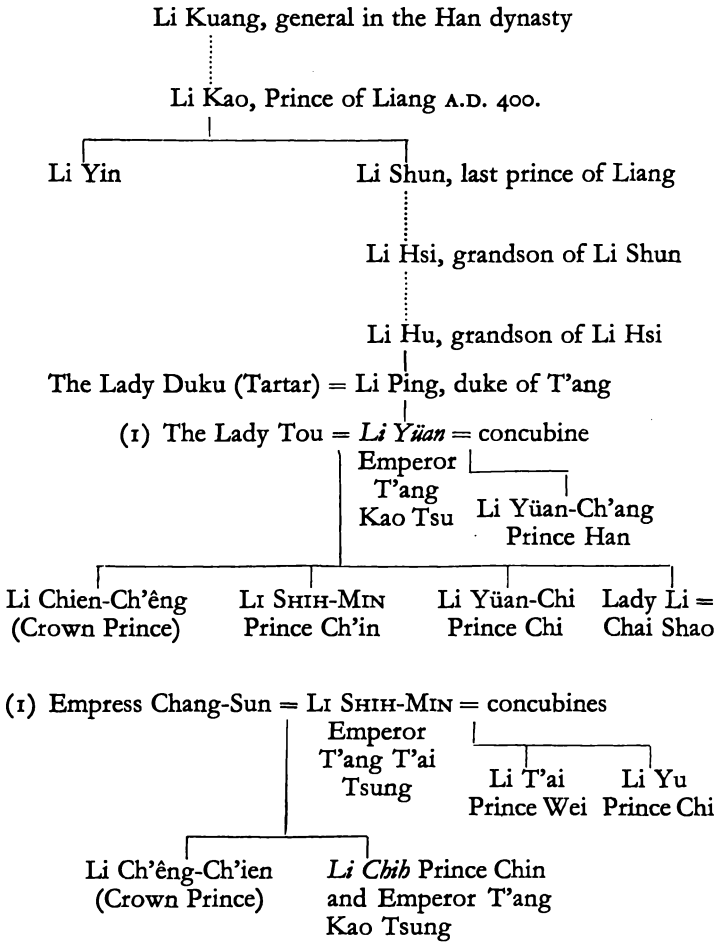
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GENEALOGICAL TABLE  
 OF THE T'ANG IMPERIAL FAMILY



COLLATERALS

Li Shên-T'ung Prince Huai An, cousin of *Li Yüan*  
 Li Hsiao-Kung Prince Chao  
 Li Tao-Tsung Prince Jên Ch'êng, cousin of Li SHIH-MIN  
 Li Tao-Hsüan Prince Huai Yang, cousin of Li SHIH-MIN

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## NOTE

### NOMENCLATURE

In this book, which deals with a subject unfamiliar to most western readers, I have endeavoured to simplify the difficulties of Chinese nomenclature. As far as is consistent with lucidity I have omitted the names of minor characters. The reader who succeeds in memorising the names of persons which still remain may be comforted with the knowledge that they all relate to people of importance, prominent in the history of the time.

Place-names have also been reduced to a minimum. With one or two exceptions the modern name has been employed, seventh-century city names being used only when the city no longer exists, or where, as is commonly the case in Shansi, Shensi, and Honan, the old name is still in use. Turkish and Central Asiatic names have been rendered in their native form, not as given in the Chinese texts. The Wade system of romanisation for Chinese words has been adhered to throughout, except in the case of some recognised variations, such as the names of the provinces.

It should be realised that in Chinese the surname precedes the personal name. Thus in "Li Shih-Min", Li is the surname, Shih-Min the personal name. Personal names may be single or double. "Li Yüan" is an example of a single personal name. In the seventh century double surnames, now rare, were still common. In such names as Chang-Sun Wu-Chi or Yü-Wên Shu, the first two words, linked by a hyphen, are the double surname, the second pair or single word, the personal name.

In place-names I have omitted the hyphen sometimes placed between the words composing the name, in order to avoid any risk of place-names being mistaken for personal names.

A full list of all prominent persons mentioned in this biography will be found on p. vii.

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## BIBLIOGRAPHY

The principal source used is the *Mirror of History* or *Tz'ü chih t'ung chien*, by Ssü-Ma Kuang (A.D. 1019–86) of the Sung dynasty, with the commentary of Hu San-Shêng of the Yüan dynasty. Quotations and direct translations unless otherwise indicated are from this work.

Other Chinese texts consulted include *Chiu t'ang shu*; *T'ung chien chi lan*; *T'ang tai tsung shu*; *Ch'ang an chih*; *T'ang liang ching ch'êng fang k'ao*; and the great encyclopedia compiled by order of the Emperor K'ang Hsi, the *Ch'in ting ku chin t'u shu chi ch'êng*.

European books include *Histoire Générale de la Chine*, by P. de Mailla (Paris, 1778), a Jesuit translation of the *T'ung chien kang mu*; *A Thousand Years of the Tartars*, by Parker (London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., 1928); *The Formation of the Chinese People*, by Li Chi (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1928); *Recherches sur les superstitions en Chine*, by P. Henri Doré (Shanghai Mission Catholique, 1916); *Buried Treasures of Chinese Turkestan*, by A. von Le Coq (London: George Allen & Unwin, 1928).

The Maps are prepared from the *Atlas of China*: London, China Inland Mission, and from a Japanese *Historical Atlas of China*.

Old place-names and sites have been identified by indications in the Chinese texts and by two ancient Sung dynasty maps of China engraved on a stone tablet in the Pei Lin at Ch'ang An. For the topography of battlefields and sieges I have visited the ground at Ch'iao Shu Ku, Huo Chou (in Shansi), and Ch'ang An, Lo Yang and Ssü Shui.

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