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Elements in the Global Middle Ages

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LATE TANG CHINA AND THE WORLD, 750–907 CE

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Late Tang China and the World, 750–907 CE

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Abstract: In recent decades, the Tang dynasty (618–907) has acquired a reputation as the most “cosmopolitan” period in Chinese history. The standard narrative also claims that this cosmopolitan openness faded after the An Lushan Rebellion of 755–63, to be replaced by xenophobic hostility toward all things foreign. This Element reassesses the cosmopolitanism-to-xenophobia narrative and presents a more empirically grounded and nuanced interpretation of the Tang empire’s foreign relations after 755.

Keywords: Battle of Talas, An Lushan Rebellion, xenophobia, Sinographic sphere, Late Tang dynasty

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