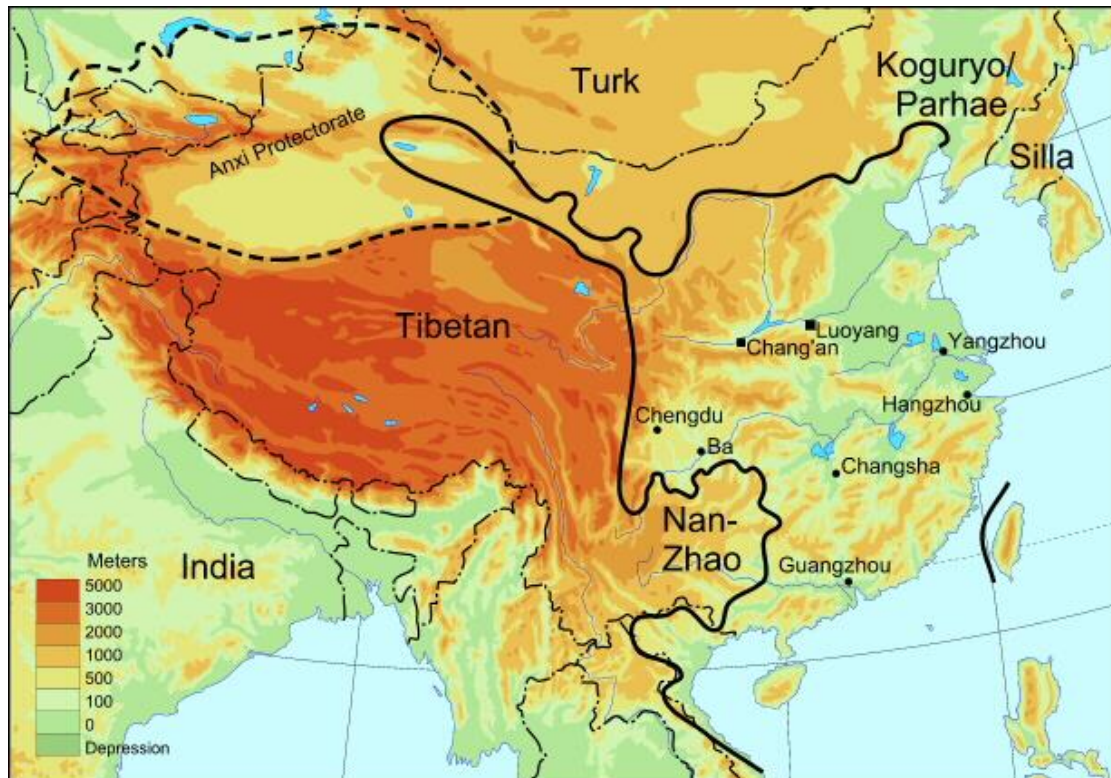


## Handout: The Tang (618-907)

### Contents of lecture

1. Introduction: The multicultural ambience of Tang China
2. Bureaucratic constitutionalism
3. The beginnings of the examination system
4. The Tang code



### The Sui and early Tang emperors

Sui: Wendi 文帝 (r. 589-605), Yangdi 煬帝 (r. 605-618) [*zunhao* 尊號 = posthumous honorary name]

Tang: Gaozu 高祖 (r. 618-626), Taizong 太宗 (r. 626-649), Gaozong 高宗 (r. 649-683), Empress Wu 武后 (r. 655-705), Xuanzong 玄宗 (713-756) [temple name = *miaohao* 廟號]

### The Three Secretariats (*san sheng* 三省)

*zhongshu sheng* 中書省 (Imperial secretariat)

*menxia sheng* 門下省 (Chancellery)

*shangshu sheng* 尚書省 (Department of State)

### Examination system

*chushen* 出身 (official qualification; “roll of officials”)

*yin* 蔭 (hereditary privilege)

*ju* 舉 (“to present”)

*mingjing* 明經 (“clear understanding of the Classics”) *jinshi* 進士 (“promoted scholar”)

### The Legal Code

*jian min* 賤民 (“base people”) *liang min* 良民 (“common people”)

### Essential secondary literature:

Adshead, Samuel Adrian M. *T'ang China: The Rise of the East in World History*. Houndmills: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004.

McMullen, David L. “Bureaucracy and Cosmology: the ritual code of T'ang China.” In: David Cannadine and Simon Price, eds. *Rituals of Royalty: Power and ceremonial in traditional societies*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987, pp.181-236.

Twitchett, Denis. “The Birth of the Chinese Meritocracy: Bureaucrats and Examinations in T'ang China.” *China Society Occasional Papers* 18 (1976), 1-33.