

<<天子>>

图书基本信息

书名：<<天子>>

13位ISBN编号：9787508513898

10位ISBN编号：7508513894

出版时间：2008-8

出版时间：旅舜 五洲传播出版社 (2008-08出版)

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页数：238

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## 前言

Throughout China's long history the life of emperors living in the imperial palace has remained a mystery. How were they able to ascend the throne? What did they do all day, everyday? How were their emotional experiences different from others'? What were their values and how did they behave? There were many concubines - rumored to be more than 3,000 for one emperor alone - what was their life like? These questions have aroused a lot of curiosity among the people of more modern eras. This book intends to help shine a little light on this history by examining several of the most representative figures among these monarchs. This book describes 12 of the most famous emperors in Chinese history. From the perspective of how they ruled, readers can see that, in a great and unified patriarchal society, the feudal monarchs operated in a way approximating a family type political system: the throne was inherited according to the priority of family members; and an emperor and his courtiers jointly formed a governmental system to control the country. In this system, the imperial power was sovereign, and it was regarded as an ideal condition when an august emperor and his sagacious ministers cooperated harmoniously. However, the emperors had continuously arrogated all powers to themselves until they turned into their opposites: this over centralized power resulted in corruption and degeneration within the government at the highest level, leading to collapse of the dynasty eventually. Before a new social structure came into being, in other words, fatalistic emperors seemed to continuously play this scenario out dynasty after dynasty. Each of the 12 emperors described in this book, most of them established a dynasty, had made great contributions. They were all-powerful, wielding their power, each in turn, and leaving an indelible impression on Chinese history. Through their experiences, readers will see the earth-shaking dynastic changes and how common people, even a Buddhist monk who were begging, became an emperor. In China, there is a saying, "The times produce their heroes." It was history that brought them their golden opportunities. They were good enough to be regarded as the most outstanding talents and the greatest heroic figures because they had crushed their enemies by winning decisive victories. Among the emperors discussed in this book some simply built on the achievements of their predecessors while others revived a nation. These emperors were well educated, versatile and outstanding. The full development of economy and culture provided necessary objective bases for them and they were required to play important roles in their time and make glorious achievements.

## 内容概要

This book describes 12 of the most famous emperors in Chinese history . From the perspective of how they ruled , readers can see that , in a great and unified patriarchal society the feudal monarchs operated in a way approximating a family type political system ; the throne was inherited according to the priority of family members ; and an emperor and his courtiers jointly formed a governmental system to control the country .

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章节摘录

插图：

## 后记

Most of the 12 emperors described in this book are well-known, while some are little known, such as Emperor Guangwu of Han and Emperor Wen of Sui. However, their positions in Chinese history can not be ignored. Because this book does not include another famous emperor, Genghis Khan, the readers may feel surprised. This is because the Mongols had never dominated the Central Plains during the era of Genghis Khan and it was Emperor Shizu of Yuan, Kublai Khan, the grandson of Genghis Khan, who had really founded the Yuan Dynasty and became the first-generation emperor of the Yuan in Chinese history. Genghis Khan also had a temple title, Taizu of Yuan, but it was posthumously given to him by Kublai Khan many years after his death. When Genghis Khan swept through Europe and went on a punitive expedition to Western Xia, the regimes in China were the Northern Song and the Jin dynasties. Therefore, it still requires further consideration as to whether Genghis Khan can be regarded as a Chinese khan or not. In order to be cautious, this book does not include him for the time being, and hereby reminds the readers.

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编辑推荐

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