Wu Zetian(1)

By : JudyFengLiu

Hello, Iâ m Judy and welcome to my film about women in Chinese history. Today, I would like to introduce you to æ–¦wÇ å zÃ©å¤© tiÄ n; the only woman in the history of China to assume the title of Empress Regent â ¦or in Chinese: (å¥³nÇ ç å¸ huÃ¡ng dÃ¬). æ–¦wÇ å zÃ©å¤© tiÄ n was born in 624AD and died in 705AD. The daughter of a high-ranking civil servant and one of the founders of theå tÃ¡ng Dynasty, she grew up to be beautiful, vivacious and intelligent. At only 14 she was recruited to the court of Emperorå tÃ¡ngå¤ªtÃ iå® zÅ ng and became one of his concubines. At that time, emperors had one wife whose title was ç å huÃ¡ng hÃ²u which means empress, and there were a lot of concubines who were ranked into classes; æ cÃ¡iäººrÃ©n was a lower one andæ–¦wÇ å zÃ©å¤© tiÄ nâ s new title of â æ cÃ¡iäººrÃ©nâ defined her as a concubine with the fifth rank of Tangâ s nine-rank system for imperial officials, nobles, and consorts. Taizong gave her the name æ–¦wÇ åª mÃ¨iå¨ niÃ¡ng (meaning charming & beautiful) but she would later change it toæ–¦wÇ æ zhÃ o. â æ zhÃ oâ was a word she coined herself; the meaning inferring an emblazoning light, akin to the power of the sun and the moon in the sky.

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