

Wu Zetian(1)

By : **JudyFengLiu**

Hello, I am Judy and welcome to my film about women in Chinese history. Today, I would like to introduce you to 武则天 (Wu Zetian); the only woman in the history of China to assume the title of Empress Regent (in Chinese: 女皇帝, huǒng dì). 武则天 was born in 624AD and died in 705AD. The daughter of a high-ranking civil servant and one of the founders of the Tang Dynasty, she grew up to be beautiful, vivacious and intelligent. At only 14 she was recruited to the court of Emperor Tang Gaozong and became one of his concubines. At that time, emperors had one wife whose title was 皇后 huǒng hòu which means empress, and there were a lot of concubines who were ranked into classes; 嫔 pín was a lower one and 武则天's new title of 武则天 defined her as a concubine with the fifth rank of Tang's nine-rank system for imperial officials, nobles, and consorts. Taizong gave her the name 武媚儿 wǔ mèi'ér (meaning charming & beautiful) but she would later change it to 武则天. 武则天 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.

Published on
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Taizong gave her the name 媚娘 (mèi niáng) (meaning charming & beautiful) but she would later change it to 武则天 (wú zé tiān). 武则天 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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