

told the empress that he would kill Wei Zheng sooner or later, but he eventually accepted Wei's suggestions tolerantly. That gave rise to an open and loose political atmosphere between the emperor and his ministers.

Emperor Taizong believed that "winning talented people is fundamental to the national prosperity." With an open mind and unique insight, he didn't stick to fixed patterns for appointing talents. He chose from former leaders of the insurgent troops, former ministers of the Sui Dynasty, favorite ministers of his political opponents and ordinary people of humble birth. Those wise or brave people later played a big role in formulating and implementing the new reforms, expanding the ruling foundation and stabilizing the political situation.

During the regime of Emperor Taizong, he earnestly drew from the experiences and lessons from the Sui Dynasty, establishing a series of policies aimed to stabilize society and develop the economy. He vigorously adjusted productive relations, social relations and the relations inside the ruling group. That resulted in clean politics and a recovering economy, and the period was thus called the "Peaceful and Prosperous Zhenguan Period" in history, paving the way for the prosperity of the Tang Dynasty.

Li Zhi, Emperor Gaozong, the successor of Emperor Taizong, was a coward and weak in health. Wu Zetian, the queen, was actively engaged in political affairs. After he passed away, Wu Zetian ascended the throne in 690, becoming the only female emperor in Chinese history. Wu controlled the empire for half a century. Wu Zetian's father was a nouveau riche, who rose with Li Yuan, Emperor Gaozu,



Wu Zetian, the only female emperor in Chinese history, has been sitting on the throne for 15 years and actually controlled the country for nearly half a century.