

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

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Pronunciation Guide

Hello Delegates!

We understand the challenges of Mandarin pronunciation and have prepared a guide to help. For English speakers, this may seem daunting, but your effort to pronounce names correctly is appreciated. If you need more assistance with Mandarin pronunciation or understanding its concepts, feel free to contact the dias.

As the dias, we have opted to utilize the Hanyu Pinyin system for transcribing Chinese names. While this system closely resembles the English alphabet, it's important to note that the pronunciations differ significantly.

Consonants:

- 'q' is pronounced like the 'ch' in 'cheer', but with the tongue further forward.
- 'x' is similar to 'sh' in 'she', but with the tongue slightly further forward.
- 'zh', 'ch', 'sh', 'r' are retroflex sounds, pronounced with the tongue curled back.

Vowels:

- 'i' in different contexts can sound like 'ee' in 'see' or the 'i' in 'sir'.
- 'u' is like 'oo' in 'food', but with rounded lips.

Common Pronunciation Challenges:

- The 'r' in Mandarin is more like a French 'j' or the 's' in 'pleasure', not the English 'r'.
- 'c' is similar to 'ts' in 'cats'.
- The combination 'ai' sounds like 'eye'
- The combination 'ao' sounds like 'ow' as in 'how'

Just start combining these principles together, and you should usually be correct. This guide is a basic approximation of Mandarin pronunciation, it's expected that as you blend vowels and consonants, there may be some errors or lingering questions. As mentioned before, we encourage delegates to reach out to us with any remaining concerns.

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Royal Family and Inner Court

Crown Prince Li Zhe

Character Name: Li Zhe

Group: Royal Family and Inner Court

Position: Crown Prince

Personal History: Li Zhe was born as the third son of Empress Wu. By 680, he was named Crown Prince - set to replace his father, Emperor Gaozong, after his brother, Li Xian, was ousted by Empress Wu. As the Crown Prince, Li Zhe is well-versed in court politics and can navigate relationships well. Li Zhe is exasperated with Empress Wu's control over the kingdom and is starting to lose respect for her authority.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** As the Crown Prince, Empress Wu trusts you to exercise imperial powers should your father be unable to fulfill them. However, you are wary of her and aim to stay unassuming, aware that she had the previous crown prince exiled.
- **Other Royal Family & Inner Circle:** You are viewed favorably by other family members and the court, although you suspect this may only be surface level and out of fear for Wu Zetian.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Direct contact with Empress Wu:** You are able to send notes and get direct information from Empress Wu.
- **Representative of Empire:** You are the successor of the dynasty; although still very much a figurehead, your name holds gravitas across the Empire. Any attack against you is viewed as an attack upon the Empire as a whole.
- **Ability to access the royal treasury:** You have direct access to the royal treasury that houses Empress Wu's personal riches.
- **Access to senior advisors:** You can contact advisors who can offer you information about political, economic, and social developments in the Empire.

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Prince Wu Chengsi

Character Name: Wu Chengsi

Group: Royal Family and Inner Court

Position: Prince

Personal History: Wu Chengsi was the nephew of Empress Wu. He is an active member of the court, leading him to have well-developed political skills. Wu Chengsi is hoping that Empress Wu decides to name him Crown Prince and is trying to gain her favor.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Empress Wu holds a deep fondness for her nephew, viewing him as a trusted confidant with whom she shares a close relationship. She highly regards Wu Chengsi's counsel, valuing his judgment and giving weight to his advice in most matters.
- **Other Royal Family & Inner Circle:** Wu Chengsi's swift rise to prominence raises concerns among the Li Clan members of the Royal Family. Being from the Wu Clan, his ascent sparks apprehension and a sense of threat within the Royal Family, particularly due to the growing influence and power wielded by the Wu Clan. This rapid progression leads to a palpable unease and wariness among the members of the Li Clan regarding Wu Chengsi's increasing stature and authority.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Direct contact with Empress Wu:** You are able to send notes and get direct information from Empress Wu.
- **Representative of Empire:** You are a successor of the dynasty and your name holds gravitas across the Empire. Any attack against you is viewed as an attack upon the Empire as a whole.
- **Access to the royal palace and staff:** You aspire to become crown prince and have gained complete knowledge of the royal palace and its staff.
- **Ability to access administrative documents:** You are able to access all administrative documents.

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Prince Li Dan

Character Name: Li Dan

Group: Royal Family and Inner Court

Position: Prince

Personal History: Li Dan was born the fourth and final son of Empress Wu. He was raised to possibly succeed his older brothers, and as such, is well-versed in court politics, though to a lesser extent than his brothers. He has the Empress's favor and uses it to his advantage in court. Li Dan hopes to impress his mother enough to be named Crown Prince instead of his brother.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** The Empress values Li Dan, often appreciating his restraint in policy matters. In her court, Li Dan holds a significance Wu Zetian finds comforting.
- **Other Royal Family & Inner Circle:** The inner circle does not favor Li Dan over the Crown Prince, and he finds himself competing for their favor and also vying for Empress Wu's support. Balancing these delicate relationships becomes increasingly challenging as Li Dan navigates the intricacies of the court.
- **Wu Chengsi:** There are rumors in the court that Wu Chengsi is hoping to be Crown Prince. You are suspicious of your cousin's ambitions and jealous of his proximity to your mother, the Empress.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Direct contact with Empress Wu:** You are able to send notes and get direct information from Empress Wu.
- **Representative of Empire:** You are a successor of the dynasty and your name holds gravitas across the Empire. Any attack against you is viewed as an attack upon the Empire as a whole.
- **Appeal to court and government officials:** Your familiarity with court politics has given you strong relationships and respect with these officials.
- **Respect of the people:** Your humility has earned you the respect of people throughout the empire.

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Crown Princess Wei

Character Name: Wei

Group: Royal Family and Inner Court

Position: Crown Princess

Personal History: Crown Princess Wei is the wife of Li Zhe and therefore next in line to become empress. She greatly respects Wu Zetian's intelligence and political cunning and has learned much from observing the Empress. She plans to use her skills to gain a larger influence over the court once her husband becomes emperor.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Despite harboring fear and suspicion towards Empress Wu due to the cruel fate suffered by her husband's first wife, Wei must maintain a tactful and respectful demeanor, considering Empress Wu's role as her mother-in-law.
- **Other Royal Family & Inner Circle:** Within the court and among family members, she garners favor owing to her esteemed lineage. Hailing from a respected family of both military and court officials, she enjoys a favorable reputation, which enhances her standing and influence within royal circles.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Direct contact with Crown Prince Li Zhe:** You are able to send notes and get direct information from Li Zhe.
- **Knowledge of government:** Your upbringing has given you an acute understanding of government and court politics.
- **Appeal to female citizens:** You have a strong following of female citizens as a result of your dignified nature and role in the royal family
- **Personal guard:** You have a well-trained guard of 10 men who respond directly to you and not Empress Wu. They follow your every command and would sacrifice their lives for you.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Princess Taiping

Character Name: Taiping

Group: Royal Family and Inner Court

Position: Princess

Personal History: Princess Taiping is the youngest daughter of Empress Wu. She takes after her mother and is both strategic and cunning. She and Li Dan have a particular bond as brother and sister. Princess Taiping has grown a hatred of her mother's cruel approach to eliminating her rivals and she no longer trusts Empress Wu to rule, wishing to establish Li Dan as emperor instead.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Empress Wu recognizes a reflection of herself in her daughter, Princess Taiping, acknowledging Taiping's intelligence, cunning nature, and ambition. This similarity leads Empress Wu to heavily rely on Taiping, creating a significant dependency between them.
- **Li Royal Clan:** Due to Princess Taiping's striking resemblance to Empress Wu Zetian in terms of wit and ambition, coupled with their shared apprehensions about Empress Wu's rule, members of the royal family and the inner circle harbor suspicions toward Taiping. Despite being part of the Li Clan, this likeness to Empress Wu fosters skepticism and wariness among the courtiers regarding Taiping's intentions and aspirations.
- **Wu Family Clan:** Closely aligned with the Wu Clan due to her close relationship and stance with Empress Wu. However, the Wu Clan remains suspicious of Taiping due to her blood ties with the Li Clan.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Direct contact with Empress Wu:** You are able to send notes and get direct information from Empress Wu.
- **Influence over Taoists:** As a previous Taoist nun, your name holds weight and respect with other Taoists in the empire.
- **Access to senior advisors:** You can contact advisors who can offer you information about political, economic, and social developments in the Empire.
- **Respect of locals and scholars:** Your financial generosity has earned you the respect of people and scholars throughout the empire.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Imperial Secretary Shangguan Wan'er

Character Name: Shangguan Wan'er

Group: Royal Family and Inner Court

Position: Imperial Secretary

Personal History: Shangguan Wan'er was chosen to be Wu Zetian's personal secretary when she was only a teenager. She is renowned for her writing skills and political advice. She is incredibly loyal to Empress Wu and the Empress's children. Nevertheless, she holds some resentment for Empress Wu's role in the execution of her father, Shangguan Yi.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Wan'er shares a complex relationship with Empress Wu. She admires and respects Empress Wu for rescuing her from poverty and granting her a significant position. However, underlying this gratitude is a simmering resentment toward Empress Wu's past actions against Wan'er's family, fueled by the Empress's perceived cruelty. Wan'er enjoys considerable trust from Empress Wu, often playing a pivotal role in drafting edicts and advising on political matters.
- **Li Clan:** Wan'er's close involvement in stately affairs alongside Empress Wu affords her significant proximity to the Li Clan. Renowned for her reliability and exceptional intelligence as a secretary, Wan'er has garnered attention from multiple members of the Li Clan, earning admiration for her political acumen and sparking romantic interest among some. Her influence within the Li Clan reflects her strategic prowess and charm, solidifying her role as a respected figure within their circles.
- **Wu Clan:** Wan'er's experience with the Wu Clan is similar to that of the Li Clan. Her involvement in matters alongside Empress Wu solidifies her standing as a reliable and remarkably intelligent secretary. Wan'er's adeptness has not gone unnoticed, captivating the attention of various members within the Wu Clan, and garnering admiration both politically and romantically. Her strategic acumen and charm contribute to her influence and allure within the Wu Clan, positioning her as a figure of significance.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Direct contact with Empress Wu:** You are able to send notes and get direct information from Empress Wu.
- **Ability to access administrative documents:** You are able to access all administrative documents.
- **Ability to access secrets:** You are able to access information about the actions of other government officials.
- **Calligraphy as a weapon:** Your calligraphy skills are well-renowned in the empire and are highly sought after.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Xue Ji

Character Name: Xue Ji

Group: Royal Family and Inner Court

Position: Calligrapher

Personal History: Xue Ji is a famous calligrapher who works within the imperial court. He is known for his poetry, painting, and calligraphy, and therefore is greatly respected within the academic world. Xue Ji is particularly close to Li Dan and tends to support him in his political endeavors.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Xue Ji's relationship with Empress Wu Zetian, known for her patronage of arts and culture, was one that carried an air of mutual respect. His outstanding proficiency in calligraphy and artistic contributions garnered recognition from Empress Wu, who appreciated his cultural expertise within the court. Despite not being deeply involved in political machinations, his sway through cultural influence might have earned him a degree of favor from the Empress.
- **Li Dan:** Xue Ji's closeness to Li Dan extended beyond mere artistic admiration. Serving as an advocate and ally to Li Dan in political matters, Xue Ji's support bolstered Li Dan's endeavors. Their relationship, rooted in shared cultural interests and eventual familial bonds, enabled Xue Ji to contribute actively to Li Dan's political aspirations.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Direct contact with Empress Wu:** You are able to send notes and get direct information from Empress Wu.
- **Direct contact with Li Dan:** You are able to send notes and get direct information from Li Dan.
- **Access to media:** You have access to all the scribes in the Empire and can control what is broadcasted in society.
- **Ability to create statements on behalf of Empress Wu:** You can release statements throughout the Empire on behalf of Empress Wu.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Imperial Attendant Yan Zhiwei

Character Name: Yan Zhiwei

Group: Royal Family and Inner Court

Position: Imperial Attendant

Personal History: A trusted envoy and fervent follower of Empress Wu, Yan Zhiwei was known for his respect for allies and enemies alike. He would favor peaceful solutions to international problems and would therefore constantly be at odds with his fellow attendant, Tian Guidaο. Yan Zhiwei has extensive knowledge of foreign adversaries, owing to his past in the military.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Yan Zhiwei shares a close and trusted relationship with Empress Wu Zetian, earning her favor due to his diplomatic prowess and dedication to seeking peaceful resolutions. His loyalty and adeptness in handling foreign affairs align with Empress Wu's vision, and she values his insights and contributions in dealing with international matters.
- **Tian Guidaο:** Yan Zhiwei's relationship with Tian Guidaο, another imperial attendant, is marked by constant tension and disagreements. Tian Guidaο, known for his more aggressive stance in diplomatic negotiations, often clashes with Yan Zhiwei's preference for peaceful resolutions. Their conflicting approaches to handling foreign adversaries create friction within the inner court, with differing perspectives on how to address international issues.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Direct contact with Empress Wu:** You are able to send notes and get direct information from Empress Wu.
- **Diplomacy:** You are well-versed in the art of diplomacy and can serve as an effective negotiator with others.
- **Respected by other nations:** Your style of diplomacy has gained you the respect of the diplomats of other nations.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Imperial Attendant Tian Guidao

Character Name: Tian Guidao

Group: Royal Family and Inner Court

Position: Imperial Attendant

Personal History: Tian Guidao fervently believed in the supremacy of the Chinese empire, looking down on the inhabitants of other kingdoms. As such Empress Wu would employ his services to display a show of force, especially to the Turks, whom Tian Guidao disliked with a passion. He would often advance a pessimistic view of any situation and withhold discussions of peace and would therefore constantly be at odds with his fellow attendant, Yan Zhiwei.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Tian Guidao's relationship with Empress Wu Zetian is founded on his fervent belief in showcasing the might and superiority of the Chinese empire. Empress Wu values Tian Guidao's loyalty and his unwavering commitment to projecting strength, especially in dealings with adversaries such as the Turks. She often seeks his counsel when considering displays of force or military strategies against foreign kingdoms.
- **Yan Shiwei:** Tian Guidao and Yan Shiwei, both serving as imperial attendants, maintain a strained and contentious relationship. Their differences in approach and ideologies consistently put them at odds. Tian Guidao's inclination towards demonstrating military might clash with Yan Shiwei's preference for peaceful negotiations. Their conflicting perspectives on handling international matters lead to frequent disagreements and friction within the royal court.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Direct contact with Empress Wu:** You are able to send notes and get direct information from Empress Wu.
- **Brutal diplomacy:** You believe that peace is for the weak and can employ strong-armed tactics in your negotiations.
- **Feared by other nations:** Your style of diplomacy has gained you fear from the diplomats of other nations.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Chancellors and Officials

Minister Lou Shide

Character Name: Lou Shide

Group: Chancellors and Officials

Position: Minister of War

Personal History: Appointed Minister of War by Wu Zetian, he boasts years of bureaucratic and military experience. He was commissioned to be commander numerous times in battles against invading nomadic tribes, such as the Khitan and Tibetans. In addition, Shide possesses favorable relations with Chancellor Di Renjie, for Lou was the one who recommended him for the position of chancellor in the first place. Overall, Shide is well-respected and trusted by Empress Wu.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Lou Shide enjoys a trusted relationship with Empress Wu Zetian owing to his extensive military experience and devoted service. His loyalty and efficiency in overseeing military matters align with the Empress's vision for a secure empire.
- **Other Chancellors:** Lou Shide, besides being recognized for his military expertise, is known for his humility, caution, and unwavering sense of justice among fellow chancellors. His pragmatic approach earns him respect, fostering a harmonious working relationship within the council.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Direct contact with Empress Wu:** You are able to send notes and get direct information from Empress Wu.
- **Direct contact with all military leaders:** You are able to send notes and get direct information from any military leaders within the committee and outside of it.
- **Draft:** You can initiate an empire-wide draft to recruit new soldiers to the Tang army.
- **Ability to access administrative documents:** You are able to access all administrative documents.
- **Diplomacy:** You are well-versed in the art of diplomacy and can serve as an effective negotiator with enemies.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Secretary General Huan Yanfan

Character Name: Huan Yanfan

Group: Chancellors and Officials

Position: Secretary General of the Supreme Court

Personal History: Huan Yanfan was secretary general of the Supreme Court with superior negotiation skills and extensive knowledge of the corruption, disputes, and scandals of the inner court. He witnessed Wu dismissing significant cases, granting pardons to one of her lovers for his crime, and protecting her aggressive secret police officials. Huan has great admiration for the Heavenly Emperor, Gaozong, and believes Wu is betraying the trust he placed in her.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Huan Yanfan harbored deep disapproval toward Empress Wu Zetian due to her questionable judicial interventions, which he believed undermined the justice system and contradicted Emperor Gaozong's intentions. His loyalty and respect were more inclined towards Emperor Gaozong's ideals rather than towards Wu Zetian.
- **Other Chancellors:** Huan Yanfan maintained professional relationships with fellow chancellors, often sharing concerns about Wu Zetian's influence on legal matters and her handling of inner court affairs. His stance was aligned with those who were more inclined towards preserving the sanctity of the law and Emperor Gaozong's legacy.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Renowned legal mind:** As the highest court official in the Empire, your knowledge of the laws is unparalleled. People from legal scholars to commoners respect your interpretation of the laws and your judgments.
- **Ability to put people on trial for breaking the law:** You have the power to accuse and introduce legal action against other delegates. A trial will not be conducted without the agreement of the chair and crisis room, and a simple majority directive passed to try the accused delegate.
- **Ability to accuse an official of crimes:** You can accuse another delegate of crimes against Empress Wu.
- **Ability to access administrative documents:** You are able to access all administrative documents.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Minister Cui Xuanwei

Character Name: Cui Xuanwei

Group: Chancellors and Officials

Position: Minister of Civil Service Affairs

Personal History: As Minister of Civil Service Affairs, Cui Xuanwei upholds integrity and is not easily swayed by power politics. He worked closely with Huan Yanfan in the Supreme Court to prevent corruption. Although Cui is becoming increasingly dissatisfied with Wu's poor morals, she still holds him in high regard and has even personally selected him for his position, which was uncommon at the time.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Empress Wu valued Cui Xuanwei's loyalty and competence, having personally handpicked him for his role—an unusual act that underscored her trust in his abilities. However, Cui's disapproval of Wu Zetian's moral decisions led to a growing conflict of principles, despite the initial mutual respect between them.
- **Other Chancellors and Officials:** Cui Xuanwei collaborated with other chancellors and officials, particularly Huan Yanfan, to maintain ethical standards within the government. His steadfastness and commitment to justice earned him the respect of many colleagues, although his growing dissent with Wu Zetian's governance created a divide among the officials.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Direct contact with Empress Wu:** You are able to send notes and get direct information from Empress Wu.
- **Ability to access administrative documents:** You are able to access all administrative documents.
- **Respect of the people:** Your history of integrity has earned you the respect of the people in the Empire.
- **Ability to influence social policy:** You can push for changes in policies impacting civil affairs, social assistance, and the civil service system.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Chancellor Yuan Shuji

Character Name: Yuan Shuji

Group: Chancellors and Officials

Position: Chancellor

Personal History: Yuan's family has been serving in government for over three generations. Thus, he has always been skilled in navigating complex political dynamics and finding the right opportunity for ascension. As a judge in the Supreme Court and military advisor to Li Dan, he possesses legal and military knowledge. Yuan rarely openly opposes Empress Wu; however, his loyalty lies with her sons, who he believes are the rightful leaders of the empire.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Yuan Shuji maintains a subdued stance in his interactions with Empress Wu, rarely openly challenging her decisions. However, his loyalty predominantly aligns with her sons, reflecting his belief in their rightful leadership over the empire.
- **Other Chancellors and Officials:** Yuan Shuji's role as a chancellor positions him among the influential figures in the council. His measured approach to politics and allegiance to the princes shapes his interactions and alliances with other officials, fostering connections primarily with those who share similar loyalties or strategic inclinations

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Control over capital administration:** You are tasked with maintaining the capital, including controlling the city gates and policing.
- **Ability to influence policies:** Unless enacted by Empress Wu, you can change or veto government policies.
- **Access to senior advisors:** You can contact advisors who can offer you information about political, economic, and social developments in the Empire.
- **Ability to access administrative documents:** You are able to access all administrative documents.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Chancellor Di Renjie

Character Name: Di Renjie

Group: Chancellors and Officials

Position: Chancellor

Personal History: Di Renjie was a celebrated politician in the Tang dynasty, having come from a family that produced numerous well-known civil servants. As a chancellor, he leverages his experience as Secretary General at the Supreme Court and Deputy Minister of Public Works to promote policies to benefit the kingdom. Di is well-trusted by Empress Wu and hopes to leverage this connection to advance in the bureaucracy.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Di Renjie shares a close relationship with Empress Wu Zetian, earning her trust and confidence through his dedicated service and insightful counsel. His rapport with the empress positions him favorably within her council.
- **Other Chancellors and Officials:** Di Renjie maintains diplomatic relationships with fellow chancellors and officials, leveraging his expertise and alliances to navigate the political landscape and further his aspirations within the administration.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Respect of government officials:** Your history of civil service has earned you the respect of other government officials in the Empire.
- **Ability to access administrative documents:** You are able to access all administrative documents.
- **Ability to influence policies:** Unless enacted by Empress Wu, you can change or veto government policies.
- **Ability to accuse an official of crimes:** You can accuse another delegate of crimes against Empress Wu.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Prince Wu Sansi

Character Name: Wu Sansi

Group: Chancellors and Officials

Position: Prince and Commanding General of Imperial Guards

Personal History: A chancellor and Prince, Wu Sansi serves a crucial role in managing the administrative aspects of Empress Wu's kingdom. However, Wu Sansi is resentful that Empress Wu demoted his father, Wu Yuanqing, despite having been pardoned for any crimes. Nevertheless, Wu Sansi hopes to continue his relationship with Empress Wu to advance in the kingdom's leadership.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Wu Sansi maintains a complex relationship with Empress Wu Zetian, balancing his ambitions with a desire to navigate the intricate political landscape within her court.
- **Wu Clan:** Wu Sansi shares familial connections within the Wu clan, which, despite past challenges and political upheavals, he uses to solidify his standing and influence in the kingdom.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Representative of Empire:** You are a successor of the dynasty and your name holds gravitas across the Empire. Any attack against you is viewed as an attack upon the Empire as a whole.
- **Access to senior advisors:** You can contact advisors who can offer you information about political, economic, and social developments in the Empire.
- **Ability to influence policies:** Unless enacted by Empress Wu, you can change or veto government policies.
- **Control over imperial guards:** You control the imperial guards that defend the palace and royal family and can refuse entry or exit of any person.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Chancellor Zhang Jianzhi

Character Name: Zhang Jianzhi

Group: Chancellors and Officials

Position: Chancellor

Personal History: Zhang Jianzhi is a highly educated scholar with a love for Confucianism and deep connections to the imperial university. With his strong background, he served as a legislator, imperial censor, secretary general of a notable prefecture, and eventual Minister of Justice. As Zhang's power as chancellor grew, he grew increasingly dissatisfied with Empress Wu's leadership and Buddhist ideals and expressed this sentiment privately to other officials.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Zhang Jianzhi harbors a growing discontent with Empress Wu's leadership and philosophical inclinations, expressing reservations about her approach to governance within closed circles.
- **Other Chancellors and Officials:** Zhang Jianzhi's views and sentiments find resonance among select officials, establishing a network of shared dissatisfaction with aspects of Empress Wu's rule and ideologies.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Oversight of local affairs:** You are tasked with promoting the well-being of each circuit and thus can access information about local affairs.
- **Ability to influence policies:** Unless enacted by Empress Wu, you can change or veto government policies.
- **Access to senior advisors:** You can contact advisors who can offer you information about political, economic, and social developments in the Empire.
- **Ability to access administrative documents:** You are able to access all administrative documents.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Zhou Xing

Character Name: Zhou Xing

Group: Chancellors and Officials

Position: Politician and Secret Police Official

Personal History: As a politician and secret police official for Empress Wu, Zhou is known for being fiercely loyal, ruthless, and vindictive. Known for his legal skills during his youth, he had the opportunity to be promoted from magistrate until Emperor Gaozong mysteriously changed his mind. To this day, he possesses resentment toward his previous administration and family and willingly carries out the most violent orders from Empress Wu. Zhou is rumored to be responsible for the death of thousands. With Wu growing increasingly suspicious of the Li clan members, Zhou has been watchful.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Zhou Xing is a staunch executor of Empress Wu's directives, loyal to her commands without question, and plays a key role in carrying out her most severe and secretive undertakings.
- **Other Chancellors and Officials:** Zhou Xing operates within the shadows, maintaining an elusive profile amongst his peers and colleagues, primarily recognized for his enigmatic and fearsome allegiance to Empress Wu's directives.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Ability to gather intelligence:** You have access to a large spy network that can gather intelligence about events inside and outside the empire.
- **Ability to spread misinformation:** You can use your spy network to spread misinformation and provide false information to other delegates.
- **Ability to arrest and interrogate prisoners:** You can capture another official and interrogate them. Additionally, you can gain access to intelligence from prisoners.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Lai Junchen

Character Name: Lai Junchen

Group: Chancellors and Officials

Position: Politician and Secret Police Official

Personal History: Lai Junchen serves as a member of the secret police for Empress Wu. He is ruthless and does not hesitate to falsely accuse others to achieve his goals, even those in the royal family. He was also a supporter of brutal interrogation tactics and was infamously a subject of fear by those who knew of his record. Nevertheless, Lai Junchen knows that Empress Wu is keeping a watchful eye on him.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Lai Junchen operated within Empress Wu's sphere of influence, executing orders within the secret police apparatus and carrying out aggressive tactics to maintain her authority and eliminate perceived threats.
- **Other Chancellors and Officials:** Lai Junchen's interactions and relationships with fellow chancellors and officials primarily revolved around his role in the secret police, where his cruel actions and false accusations were sources of intimidation and distrust among his peers.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Ability to gather intelligence:** You have access to a large spy network that can gather intelligence about events inside and outside the empire.
- **Ability to spread misinformation:** You can use your spy network to spread misinformation and provide false information to other delegates.
- **Ability to accuse an official of crimes:** You can accuse another delegate of crimes against Empress Wu.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Li Clan Members

Former Prince Li Xian

Character Name: Li Xian

Group: Li Clan Members

Position: Former Prince

Personal History: Li Xian was the former crown prince of the Tang dynasty, having been ousted by Empress Wu who greatly disliked him, owing to a deterioration in their relationship and her belief that he was attempting to lead a coup against her. He greatly detests Empress Wu and the royal family for their role in diminishing his role and seeks opportunities to regain his influence. As a former crown prince, he is well-versed in court politics and hopes to use this to his advantage.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Li Xian holds a strong animosity towards Empress Wu Zetian, blaming her for his dethronement and subsequent downfall from grace. Although his mother, he sees the Empress as a usurper and a tyrant.
- **Li Royal Clan:** Li Xian remains aligned with certain members of the Li royal family, seeking their support to reclaim his rightful place and leverage his legitimate claim to the throne. He aims to strengthen his position within the family while strategizing his return to power.
- **Wu Clan:** Li Xian harbors animosity towards the Wu royal clan, especially Empress Wu Zetian, blaming them for orchestrating his removal from authority. He perceives them not only as adversaries but also as a potential threat to the stability and influence of the Li Royal Clan.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Respect of scholars:** As a well-renowned writer, you have gained the respect of many influential scholars in and outside the empire.
- **Sympathy of locals:** Despite your ousting from the position of crown prince, many citizens still remain sympathetic to you.
- **Ability to gather intelligence:** You continue to have access to government sympathizers who can gather intelligence about events inside and outside the empire.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Prince Li Zhen

Character Name: Li Zhen

Group: Li Clan Members

Position: Prince

Personal History: Li Zhen is the eighth son of Emperor Taizong and the older brother of Emperor Gaozong. Although Li Zhen respects his brother, he distrusts the motives of Empress Wu and believes that she seeks to act against the Li Clan. Li Zhen is well versed in many skills as a prince, including literature and warfare. Nevertheless, he was known to be cruel among his staff and subordinates, dismissing those who spoke against him.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Li Zhen holds an adversarial relationship with Empress Wu Zetian. He harbors deep suspicions towards her, believing that she poses a threat to the Li clan's position and even the Tang dynasty itself.
- **Li Royal Clan:** Li Zhen maintains a connection with select members of the Li royal clan, particularly his uncles and cousins, sharing concerns about Empress Wu's ascendancy and her potential plot against the Li lineage. He wants to attempt to unite them to challenge Empress Wu's authority.
- **Wu Clan:** Li Zhen's stance towards the Wu Clan is one of distrust and apprehension. He perceives them as collaborators with Empress Wu Zetian's supposed agenda and remains vigilant against their influence within the imperial court.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Control over local politicians:** As prefect of the Xiang Prefecture, you have influence over local politicians and legislation.
- **Revered and hated leader:** Your talent in horseriding, archery, and writing has earned you the respect of others but you are hated for your tendency to make ill-informed decisions.
- **Ability to tax locals:** As prefect, you can levy taxes and fees on the local politicians and any merchants doing trade within your borders.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Prince Li Chong

Character Name: Li Chong

Group: Li Clan Members

Position: Prince

Personal History: Li Chong was the son of Li Zhen and the grandson of Emperor Taizong. As a prince, he served in numerous local governments throughout the kingdom and was renowned for his administrative management. Much like his father, Li Chong holds Empress Wu in disdain and wishes for a day when the Li family can regain their influence in the court.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Li Chong holds a deeply adversarial relationship with Empress Wu Zetian. He, along with other members of the Li Clan, harbors profound suspicions about her intentions and perceives her as a significant threat to the Li Clan's standing and the stability of the Tang dynasty. Li Chong was actively involved in the attempt to undermine her authority due to these concerns.
- **Li Royal Clan:** Li Chong maintains strong ties with various members of the Li Royal Clan, including his father, Li Zhen, and his uncles and cousins. They share common apprehensions about Empress Wu's growing influence and her alleged plans against the Li Clan. Together, they sought ways to counter her authority and prevent potential harm to the interests of the Li family.
- **Wu Clan:** Li Chong regards the Wu Clan with distrust and suspicion, considering them as collaborators with Empress Wu Zetian's objectives. He sees their rise in status and influence within the court as a direct threat to the Li Clan's position.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Control over local politicians:** As prefect of the Mi Prefecture, you have influence over local politicians and legislation.
- **Ability to tax locals:** As prefect, you can levy taxes and fees on the local politicians and any merchants doing trade within your borders.
- **Naval connections:** Due to your prefecture's proximity to the ocean, you have numerous connections with naval officers. You can call for the construction of ships or recruit naval officers.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Prince Li Sujie

Character Name: Li Sujie

Group: Li Clan Members

Position: Prince

Personal History: Li Sujie was the fourth son of Emperor Gaozong and was heavily favored by his father. He is a scholar at heart and is well-versed in reading and writing. However, he draws the watchful eye of Empress Wu who constantly questions his allegiance to her. As Empress Wu gained power, Li Sujie was demoted to Prince of Poyang and sentenced to house arrest. As such Li Sujie does not see the actions of the Empress favorably.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Li Sujie's relationship with Empress Wu Zetian was characterized by suspicion and a power struggle. As a member of the Li Clan, Li Sujie faced continuous scrutiny and distrust from Empress Wu due to his maternal lineage and perceived loyalty to his deceased mother, Consort Xiao.
- **Li Royal Clan:** Li Sujie maintained a close relationship with various members of the Li Royal Clan, particularly his brothers and relatives. Despite being repeatedly demoted and exiled due to Empress Wu's suspicions, he remained committed to the interests of the Li family. The tragic fate that befell Li Sujie deeply impacted the entire Li Clan, fostering further distrust and opposition against Empress Wu's rule.
- **Wu Clan:** Li Sujie held a contentious relationship with the Wu Clan, especially with Empress Wu. His demotions and eventual execution were orchestrated by Empress Wu and her affiliates, indicating a deep-seated conflict between the Li and Wu Clans. The antagonism between these factions intensified during Empress Wu's reign, leading to unfortunate consequences for Li Sujie and his family.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Control over local politicians:** As prefect of the Mi Prefecture, you have influence over local politicians and legislation.
- **Ability to tax locals:** As prefect, you can levy taxes and fees on the local politicians and any merchants doing trade within your borders.
- **Control over trade and communication:** As the Mi Prefecture is the hub for many trade and communication routes, you can control access to these routes.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Military Leaders

General Tang Xiujing

Character Name: Tang Xiujing

Group: Military Leaders

Position: General

Personal History: Tang Xiujing was a general from a long line of decorated generals serving under several past dynasties. After passing the imperial examination, Tang Xiujing started his career as a communications officer under Emperor Gaozong's brother. After successfully defending against a Turkish attack in 679, Tang Xiujing was given the role of military advisor. He is fiercely loyal to the cause of the kingdom.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Tang Xiujing maintained a professional relationship with Empress Wu Zetian, demonstrating loyalty and dedication to the kingdom rather than any personal affiliation. He upheld a sense of duty and commitment to the state, focusing on his role as a military leader rather than involving himself in political matters or personal connections with the Empress.
- **Other Military Officers:** Tang Xiujing enjoyed the respect and camaraderie of his fellow military officers. His success in defending against the Turkish attack in 679 enhanced his reputation among his peers, fostering admiration for his strategic prowess and leadership skills. He collaborated effectively with other military officers, building a network of mutual respect and cooperation within the military ranks.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Revered General:** Your soldiers have unquestionable loyalty to you and can be called on at any time to take part in battle.
- **Access to Imperial Reinforcements:** Your skill as a general is well-known by Empress Wu. You may request reinforcements from the Imperial Guard to fill the ranks of your army.
- **Ability to arrest and interrogate prisoners:** As a military general, you can command your forces to capture prisoners of war before choosing to hold them as ransom, interrogate them, or execute them.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

General Li Duozuo

Character Name: Li Duozuo

Group: Military Leaders

Position: General

Personal History: Li Duozuo was a general and a member of the Mohe people. He was well-versed in military strategy and tasked with command of the imperial guard. Due to the increased pressure caused by China's Turkish and Mongolian neighbors, Li Duozuo is primarily tasked with suppressing their rebellions on the border. Although he follows the commands of Empress Wu, Li Duozuo's true alliance lies with Emperor Gaozong.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Li Duozuo was a trusted military leader under Empress Wu Zetian's reign, executing her commands diligently. However, his deeper allegiance lay with Emperor Gaozong, balancing his service to the throne with his loyalty to the previous ruler.
- **Other Military Leaders:** Li Duozuo collaborated and worked alongside fellow military officers, forging alliances and cooperation in addressing external threats and rebellions. His leadership and strategic prowess earned him respect and recognition among his peers, fostering relationships crucial for effective military operations.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Inspiring Leader:** Your reputation has created a cult of personality about you amongst your soldiers. Your armies are not at risk of mutiny assuming you uphold your reputation and do not act despotically.
- **Influence over Mohe tribes:** Local tribe leaders fear you and may be more willing to submit to your demands for money or troops.
- **Ability to arrest and interrogate prisoners:** As a military general, you can command your forces to capture prisoners of war before choosing to hold them as ransom, interrogate them, or execute them.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

General Li Jingye

Character Name: Li Jingye

Group: Military Leaders

Position: General and Duke of Ying

Personal History: Li Jingye was a general and the Duke of Ying. He is well respected among these people and known for his ability to quickly mobilize forces. Like many of his fellow Li clan members, he is disillusioned with Empress Wu's rise to power and hopes to see her downfall.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Li Jingye stood in staunch opposition to Empress Wu Zetian's reign.
- **Other Military Leaders:** Li Jingye fostered alliances with several military leaders who shared his sentiments regarding Empress Wu's dominance.
- **Li Royal Clan:** As a member of the Li clan himself, Li Jingye had various connections and alliances within the broader Li Royal Clan. He maintained close ties with some of his clan members who shared his dissatisfaction with Empress Wu Zetian's authority. These connections were vital in garnering support and mobilizing resources for his opposition to the Empress's rule.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Charismatic Leader:** Your charisma allows you to maintain full control of your army and effectively recruit new troops if needed.
- **Control over local politicians:** Due to your title, you have influence over local politicians and legislation.
- **Ability to arrest and interrogate prisoners:** As a military general, you can command your forces to capture prisoners of war before choosing to hold them as ransom, interrogate them, or execute them.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

General Pei Xinjian

Character Name: Pei Xinjian

Group: Military Leaders

Position: General

Personal History: Pei Xinjian was born a noble from the prestigious Pei clan who was appointed as general in 665. He was a trusted general of Emperor Gaozong and was tasked with suppressing the rebellion of a Turkish emperor in 679. His victory over this conflict granted his extraordinary trust within the kingdom. However, due to the executions of the Turks, Pei Xinjian became disillusioned with the cause of the Tang dynasty and floated the idea of resigning from his post.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Pei Xingjian, a seasoned veteran with years of service, contemplates relinquishing his position due to disillusionment with the Tang dynasty's policies. While contemplating departure, his dissent resonates with conflicting emotions regarding Empress Wu Zetian's governance, yet his sentiments hold an indifferent air toward her stance.
- **Other Military Leaders:** Pei Xingjian had associations and rapport with various military leaders within the Tang dynasty. His strategic victories against Turkic leaders like Ashina Duzhi and Ashide Wenfu would have elevated his standing among fellow military commanders, fostering respect and alliances within the military ranks.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Influence over court politics:** Your name holds weight in the government, owing to the legacy of your Pei clan that contributed many members to positions in government.
- **Respect of the Umayyad Caliphate:** Through your escort mission of then Persian throne successor Narsieh, you have earned the trust of the Persian empire.
- **Ability to arrest and interrogate prisoners:** As a military general, you can command your forces to capture prisoners of war before choosing to hold them as ransom, interrogate them, or execute them.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Religious Leaders

Yuquan Shenxiu

Character Name: Yuquan Shenxiu

Group: Religious Leaders

Position: Buddhist Monk

Personal History: Yuquan Shenxiu is a well-respected member of the Buddhist temple. He has strong opinions and is often seen as intimidating, giving him an uncanny ability to sway people to his line of thinking. Shenxiu was greatly respected by Wu Zetian and was named state preceptor in the Imperial Court.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Shenxiu enjoyed a deep mutual respect with Empress Wu Zetian, who esteemed his wisdom and spiritual guidance, elevating him to a prominent role within her court.
- **Other Religious Leaders:** Shenxiu maintained associations with various Buddhist religious figures, fostering a network of disciples and admirers drawn to his influential teachings and profound insights into Buddhist philosophy.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Direct contact with Empress Wu:** You are able to send notes and get direct information from Empress Wu.
- **Access to monks:** As the head of the Monastery of the Six Perfections, your network of Buddhist monks spans throughout the empire.
- **Influence over religious policy:** You can push for changes in policies impacting domestic and international religious affairs.
- **Monk entourage:** You are constantly surrounded by a group of five monks who are secretly highly skilled in combat. They will defend you if you are attacked, however, they cannot be used to attack or assassinate another delegate.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Fazang

Character Name: Fazang

Group: Religious Leaders

Position: Buddhist Monk

Personal History: Fazang is an important member of the Buddhist community as well as a respected philosopher. He supports outreach to foreign countries and has engaged in philosophical discourse with many foreign scholars in the past. He holds Wu Zetian's favor, and as a result, a relatively high position in court.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Fazang enjoyed a close and supportive relationship with Empress Wu Zetian, as she provided him with patronage and favor, allowing him to thrive in his pursuit of Buddhist teachings and cultural exchanges. He held her admiration for his scholarly endeavors and dedication to spreading Buddhism.
- **Other Religious Leaders:** Fazang fostered alliances and collaborations with various religious leaders, both domestically and abroad, engaging in extensive discussions and collaborative efforts to translate Buddhist texts. His exchanges and partnerships with these leaders aimed to deepen the understanding and dissemination of Buddhist philosophy beyond borders.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Multilingual:** Your skills of translation have allowed you to translate Buddhist scriptures in an effort to spread its influence.
- **Influence over Huayan Buddhism:** Your role as the leader of the Huayan school gives you massive influence over its adherents.
- **Influence over religious policy:** You can push for changes in policies impacting domestic and international religious affairs.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Xue Huaiyi

Character Name: Xue Huaiyi

Group: Religious Leaders

Position: Buddhist Monk

Personal History: Xue Huaiyi is a Buddhist monk—with a strong dislike of Taoism—from a poor family who ascended into Empress Wu's vision by pure chance. Xue was at the forefront of numerous religious projects, such as the Heavenly Hall. He is rumored to be the secret lover of Wu as he is granted uncharacteristic privilege and favoritism in the palace for a person of his standing. Not only does he have Wu's ear but a level of immunity from punishment: officials have trouble controlling his arrogant, reckless behavior.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Xue Huaiyi was rumored to have a particularly close relationship with Empress Wu Zetian, speculated to extend beyond a mere religious affiliation. Despite his lowly origins, he rose to a position of prominence and received unusual favoritism from the Empress, overseeing significant construction projects and being entrusted with crucial responsibilities, indicating a level of trust and intimacy.
- **Other Religious Leaders:** Xue Huaiyi's disdain for Taoist monks and his notorious behavior led to strained relationships within the religious community. His aggressive attitude toward Taoism and his violent tendencies created animosity among other religious leaders, causing a rift and general avoidance from those within the religious circles.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Direct contact with Empress Wu:** You are able to send notes and get direct information from Empress Wu.
- **Access to the royal palace and staff:** Your frequent visits to the royal palace have earned you the fondness of the palace staff.
- **Influence over religious policy:** You can push for changes in policies impacting domestic and international religious affairs.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Foreign Diplomats

Junior Emperor Justinian II

Character Name: Justinian II

Group: Foreign Diplomats

Position: Junior Emperor

Personal History: Although still a teenager, Justinian II is known to be a quick-witted, cruel, and able ruler. As the sole heir to Constantine IV, he was on the brink of claiming the Byzantine throne—one of the most powerful empires in the world. He has an appetite for conquest and expansion into Asia Minor and will go to any lengths to achieve it. In addition, as Byzantium has been increasing influence along the Silk Road, trade is also of interest to this enthusiastic young heir.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Justinian II views Empress Wu Zetian as a figure of both fascination and caution. He recognizes her as a shrewd and powerful ruler, much like himself, and perceives potential mutual benefits in diplomatic interactions. However, he remains guarded, understanding her reputation for ruthlessness and cunning political maneuvering.
- **Other Foreign Diplomats:** Justinian II seeks to form alliances and diplomatic ties with other foreign diplomats, especially those from influential realms. He is keen on forming strategic partnerships to bolster Byzantine interests, expand trade routes, and potentially secure military support for his ambitious expansion plans.
- **Royal Court:** Justinian II perceives the royal court as a crucial arena for negotiation and influence. He aims to establish strong diplomatic relations within the court, seeking to build alliances and garner support for Byzantine interests. He is mindful of the court's dynamics and understands the significance of establishing favorable relations to navigate potential challenges.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Representative of Byzantine Empire:** You are the successor of the Byzantine Empire. Any attack against you is viewed as an attack upon the Empire as a whole.
- **Personal guard:** You have a well-trained guard of 10 men that respond directly to you. They follow your every command and would sacrifice their lives for you.
- **Ability to spread misinformation:** You can use your spy network to spread misinformation and provide false information to other delegates.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Emir Mu'awiya II

Character Name: Mu'awiya II

Group: Foreign Diplomat

Position: Emir

Personal History: Mu'awiya ibn Yazid is the son of Caliph Yazid I, the ruler of the Umayyad Caliphate, and favored to succeed his father as the next caliph. Still a teenager, Mu'awiya is nevertheless an intelligent and cunning figure, hoping one day to subvert the policies of his father when he becomes caliph. He hopes to prove himself as a successor through his international diplomacy.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Mu'awiya II regards Empress Wu Zetian with a mixture of respect and curiosity. He acknowledges her formidable reputation and sees potential opportunities to establish diplomatic connections with the Tang Dynasty through her rule. While cautious of her political acumen, he aims to navigate these ties to secure future alliances beneficial to the Umayyad Caliphate.
- **Other Foreign Diplomats:** Mu'awiya II engages with other foreign diplomats to expand his network of alliances. He is strategic in fostering relationships with neighboring regions and distant powers, aiming to forge alliances that could potentially bolster the Umayyad Caliphate's influence and trade routes.
- **Royal Court:** Mu'awiya II views the royal court as a gateway to initiating diplomatic discourse and solidifying relations. He endeavors to navigate the intricacies of the Tang Dynasty's court dynamics, seeking avenues to establish beneficial diplomatic ties and secure support for future endeavors within the Umayyad Caliphate.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Representative of Umayyad Empire:** You are the successor of the Umayyad Empire. Any attack against you is viewed as an attack upon the Empire as a whole.
- **Access to the Silk Road:** Your empire's stance on multiculturalism and proximity to the Silk Road allows you to have easy trade and communication access to faraway countries.
- **Experienced General:** Your past wartime experiences have given you access to a standing army during your diplomacy missions.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Empress Consort Jito Unonosarara

Character Name: Jito Unonosarara

Group: Foreign Diplomat

Position: Empress Consort

Personal History: Empress Jito was the empress consort and wife of Emperor Tenmu, one of the most influential rulers of Japan's Asuka period. Alongside Tenmu, she was instrumental in advocating for the centralization of governmental authority, an effort that aimed to strengthen the imperial family's power amidst a landscape dotted with rival clans. She also participated in the compilation of the Asuka Kiyomihara Code, laying the groundwork for legal reforms that sought to refine the administrative apparatus and solidify a more uniform law throughout the realm. Her influence was also evident in cultural affairs, as she supported the promotion of Buddhism and the arts, which were integral to the state's ideological foundation during Tenmu's era.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Empress Jito, much like Empress Wu Zetian, possessed a strong-willed demeanor uncommon among women of her time. Educated and resolute, she feels a kinship with Empress Wu, recognizing in her the potential for capable leadership. Drawing from Japan's history of Empress Regents, Jito supports Empress Wu's decision to seize power, believing her as capable as any man to govern effectively.
- **Other Royal Family & Inner Circle:** The inner royal family and court harbor apprehension towards Jito due to deeply entrenched patriarchal beliefs. Their cultural biases, influenced by the tributary relationship between Tang and Japan, often lead to a lack of warmth towards Japan and a perception of cultural inferiority. This dynamic contributes to a sense of skepticism and reservation within the inner circles towards Empress Jito's influence and position.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Representative of Japan:** You are the successor of the Japanese Empire. Any attack against you is viewed as an attack upon the Empire as a whole.
- **Naval connections:** Due to your prefecture's proximity to the ocean, you have numerous connections with naval officers. You can call for the construction of ships or recruit naval officers.
- **Missionary network:** You can leverage your network of missionaries in China to gather information or promote misinformation.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Crown Prince Hyoso

Character Name: Hyoso

Group: Foreign Diplomat

Position: Crown Prince

Personal History: Crown Prince Hyoso, son of King Sinmun, frequently acted as a diplomat on behalf of the Kingdom of Silla. During this time, Silla was one of the Three Kingdoms of Korea, and diplomacy was crucial in managing relations with neighboring states, including Japan and Tang China. As a diplomat, Hyoso would be tasked with navigating complex multinational relationships, facilitating cultural exchanges, and ensuring the political stability of Silla through strategic alliances.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Hyoso holds great respect for Empress Wu Zetian's reign as a female monarch, akin to Silla's prior female ruler, King Seondeok. He values her authority within the Tang Empire and seeks a respectful relationship that aligns with Silla's diplomatic goals.
- **King Sinmun:** Hyoso maintains a respectful and collaborative relationship with his father, King Sinmun, ensuring that his diplomatic endeavors align with the monarch's vision and the broader interests of the Silla kingdom.
- **Other Royal Family and Inner Court:** After the Silla-Tang War in 676, Prince Hyoso engages in a delicate phase of reconstruction and gradual reconciliation with Tang China. He plays a key role in carefully restoring the tributary relationship between Tang and Silla. His efforts are centered on repairing and strengthening connections with the royal family and inner court.
- **Japan:** As a diplomat, Hyoso engages in fostering peaceful and cooperative relations with Japan, aiming to establish beneficial trade and cultural exchanges that bolster Silla's international standing.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Representative of Silla:** You are the successor of the Silla Kingdom. Any attack against you is viewed as an attack upon the Kingdom as a whole.
- **Naval connections:** Due to your prefecture's proximity to the ocean, you have numerous connections with naval officers. You can call for the construction of ships or recruit naval officers.
- **Influence over Buddhism:** Korean Buddhists are renowned within Silla and China. You can exert your influence over them to advocate for changes in religion or to gain information.

Council of Empress Regnant Wu Zetian

Luoshengyan

Character Name: Luoshengyan

Group: Foreign Diplomat

Position: Representative for Nanzhao

Personal History: Luoshengyan was a figure associated with the Nanzhao Kingdom, which thrived in what is now Yunnan, China. As the son of Xinu, the chieftain of the Mengshe tribe, Luoshengyan held a significant leadership role within his community. Nanzhao was a polity known for its cultural diversity and for serving as a nexus of trade and cultural exchange between Southeast Asia and China. Luoshengyan's position would have placed him at the center of these dynamics, likely involving him in military campaigns, governance, and the maintenance of the kingdom's diverse socio-political landscape.

Relationships

- **Empress Wu Zetian:** Luoshengyan, representing Nanzhao, strategically vies for Empress Wu Zetian's favor to elevate the Mengshe tribe's standing in Yunnan. He thinks Empress Wu will bring prosperity and unity to Nanzhao, recognizing her openness to trade as an opportunity to forge a potent alliance, fostering mutual economic benefits and reinforcing ties between the burgeoning Nanzhao kingdom and the Tang Dynasty under her rule.
- **Royal and Inner Court:** Luoshengyan's father, Xinu, strategically ingratiated himself within the inner court of Nanzhao to secure support and favor in the Yunnan region. His calculated efforts aimed to strengthen the position of the Mengshe tribe and bolster support for Nanzhao's interests within the kingdom. As a result, Luoshengyan benefited from his father's cultivated relationships and network within the court, allowing him to hold a significant leadership role within Tang.

Powers

These powers are related to your resources or position. They can be enacted in committee through joint directives alongside at least two other delegates. Be sure to think about the consequences of using these powers.

- **Representative of Nanzhao:** You are the successor of the Nanzhao Kingdom. Any attack against you is viewed as an attack upon the Kingdom as a whole.
- **Access to the Silk Road:** You have access to trade and communication with faraway countries through the Silk Road.
- **Close relationships with other Asian groups:** You have developed strong relationships with tribes in Southern Asia and neighboring countries including Tibet.