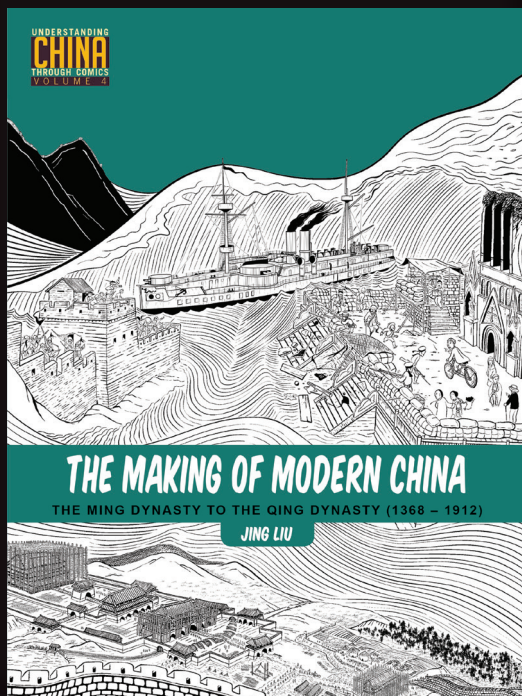
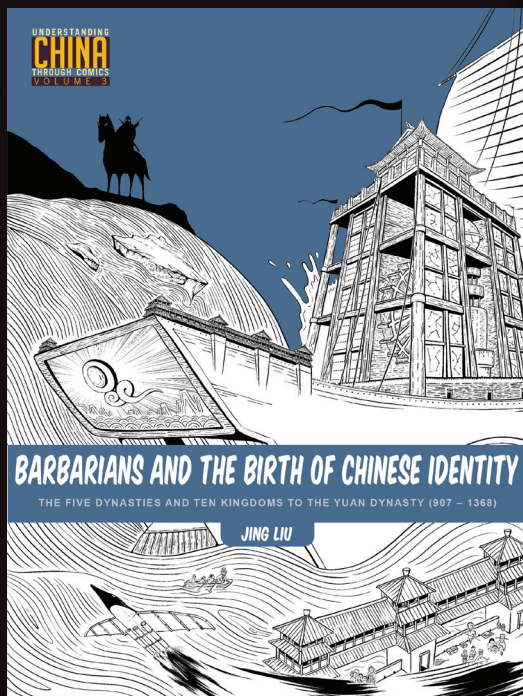
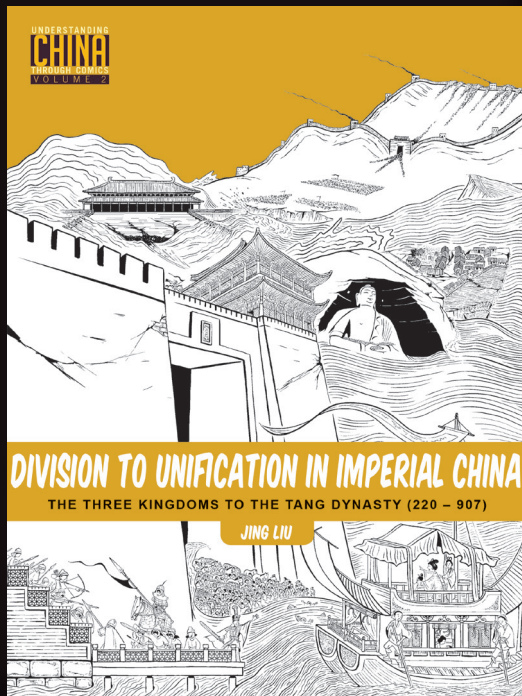
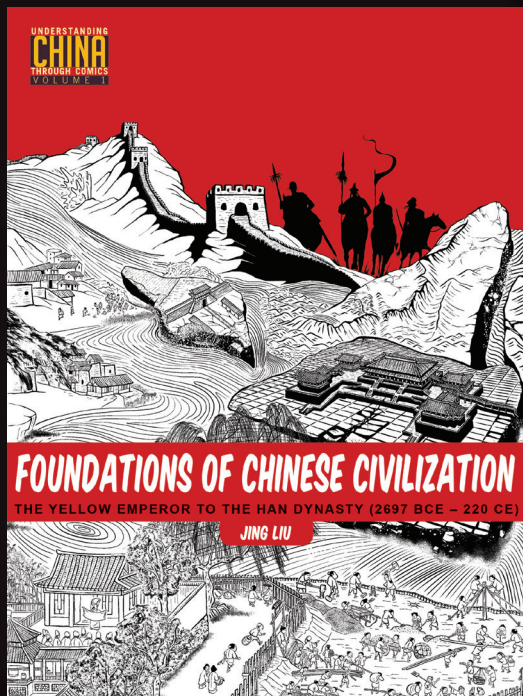


UNDERSTANDING CHINA THROUGH COMICS

in 4 volumes, by Jing Liu

SAMPLER



PRAISE FOR THE **UNDERSTANDING CHINA THROUGH COMICS** SERIES

"A **great way to learn** about China's vast history!"—Amy Tan, author of *The Joy Luck Club*

"Excels at clarifying the often-confusing transitional periods between dynasties.... **An excellent introduction** to the large trends of early Chinese history."—*School Library Journal*

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—Portland Book Review

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"The book does what it says it does: **a child will come away with a basic understanding of early Chinese history**, what makes the Chinese tick as a people and culture."—*Asian Review of Books*

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—Alan Baumler, Professor of History at Indiana University of Pennsylvania

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Grace Zeng, Chinese Teacher and Middle School Chinese Curriculum Area Leader at International School of Beijing

*"Trying to disentangle, let alone understand, the long history of China is not for the faint of heart. The labyrinth of Chinese dynasties, intertwined ethnicities, and gigantic land mass can put off the adventurer to this fascinating nation. We need help to explore and explain how this country came to be. **Jing Liu has done us a great service in his Understanding China Through Comics series.** Not only has he made China's history accessible to us, but he has done so with both wit and charm. On top of that, he has offered us lively visual and concrete vignettes that stick in the mind, mapping pivotal events in space and time."*

—From the Introduction to Volume 3 by David M. Jacobson, historian, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences and Northeast Normal University

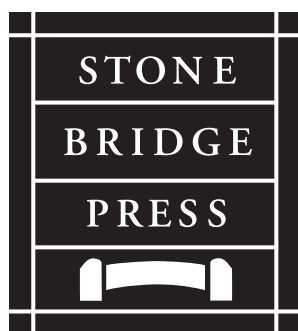
Who is Jing Liu?

Jing Liu is an artist and entrepreneur from Beijing, China. He is currently the Managing Director of Moli Design, a China-based design firm that counts the BBC, MasterCard, The Ford Foundation, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, and UNICEF among its many clients. Jing graduated from Beijing University of Technology with undergraduate degrees in industrial design and engineering, and a masters in international economics and trade.

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UNDERSTANDING CHINA THROUGH COMICS
VOLUME 1

**FOUNDATIONS OF
CHINESE
CIVILIZATION**

**The Yellow Emperor to the Han Dynasty
(2697 BCE - 220 CE)**

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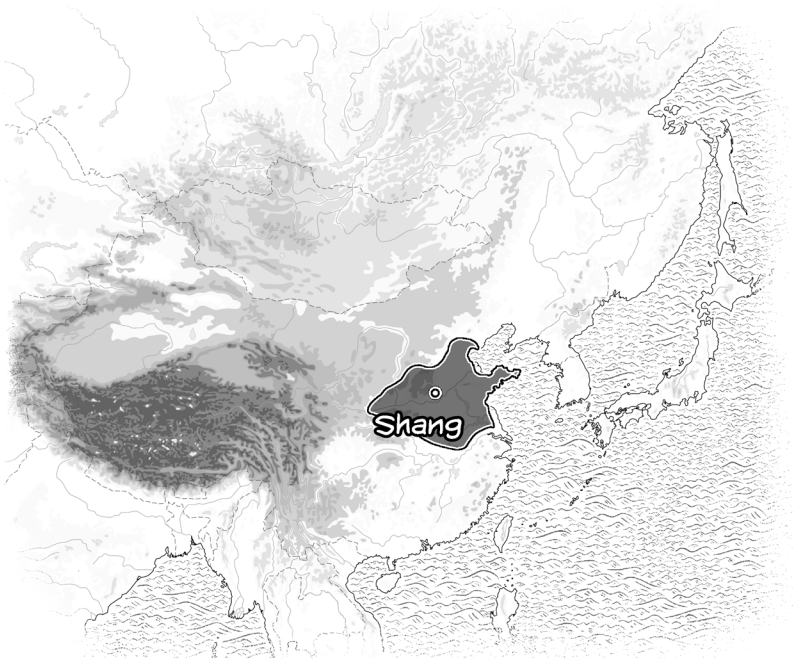
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THE SHANG DYNASTY

c. 1600 - 1046 BCE

As history would have it, the Shang followed the quasi-legendary Xia dynasty.

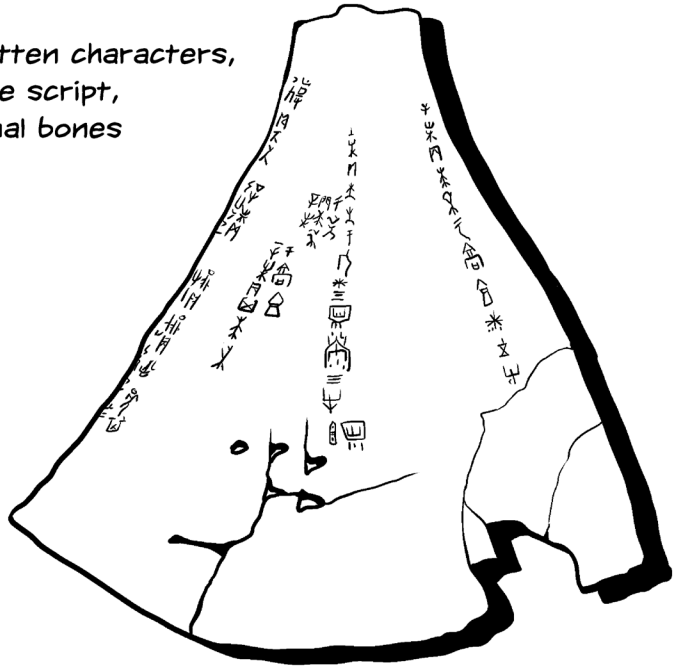


◎ Capital Yin (Anyang)



Writing appeared and Chinese civilization made the leap from myth to history.

Ancient Chinese written characters, known as oracle bone script, were carved on animal bones or turtle shells.

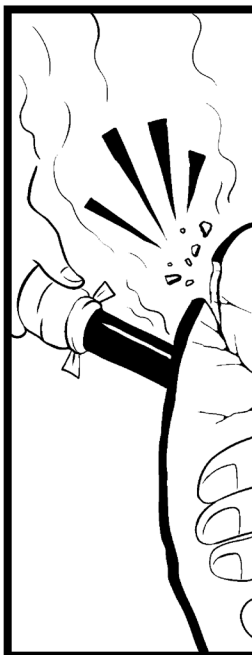


Oracle bone script
(c. 1200 - 1050 BCE)

The Shang dynasty kings used diviners to read oracle bones in order to gain insight into future events.



My wife is pregnant.
Is it a boy or a girl?



A wide range of divination texts left traces of the Shang society for archeologists.

These oracle bones talked about topics like weather, harvests, wars, rituals, and health.



150,000 oracle bones have been found so far.

We understand about 1/3 of 4,500 oracle bone characters.

Some modern Chinese characters can be traced back to the Shang.

Oracle bone script	Modern Chinese	Core meaning
--------------------	----------------	--------------



牛

ox



羊

goat



京

capital



鼎

vessel



田

field



木

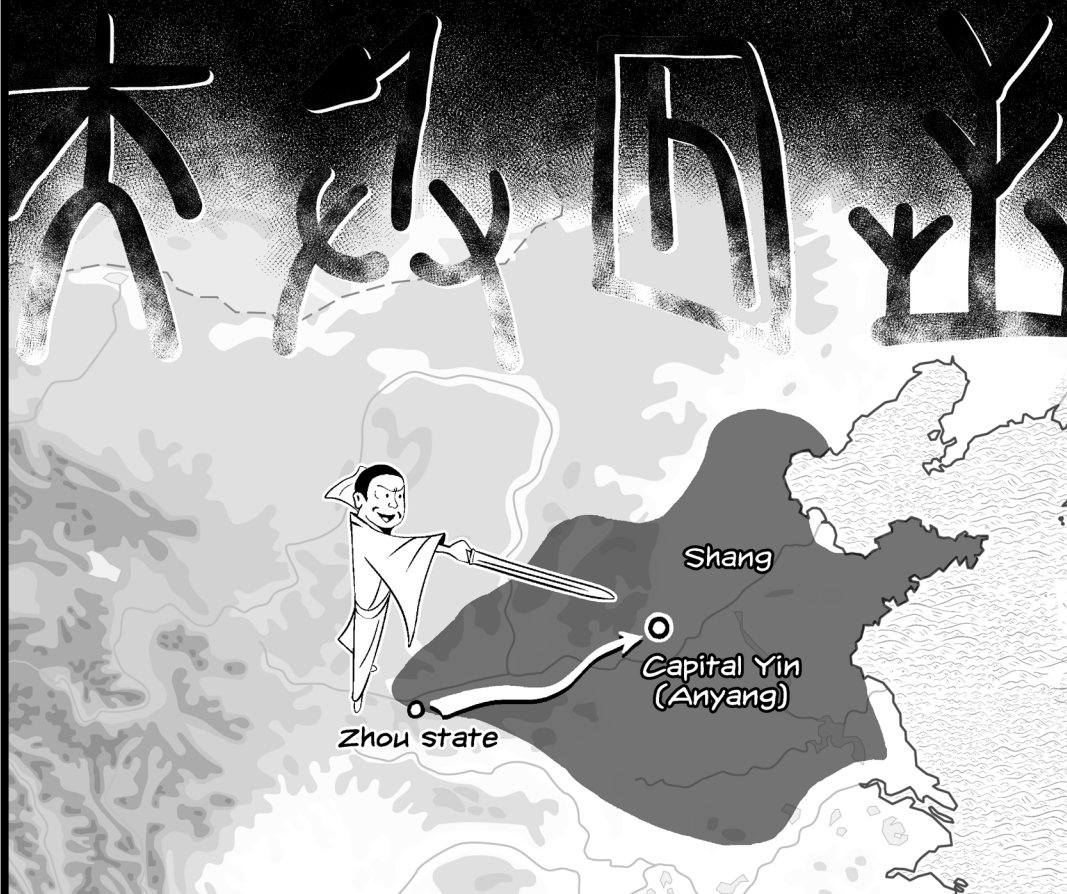
tree



水

water

The oracle bone script recorded that the Shang was constantly at war with rebellious vassal states and hostile neighbors.

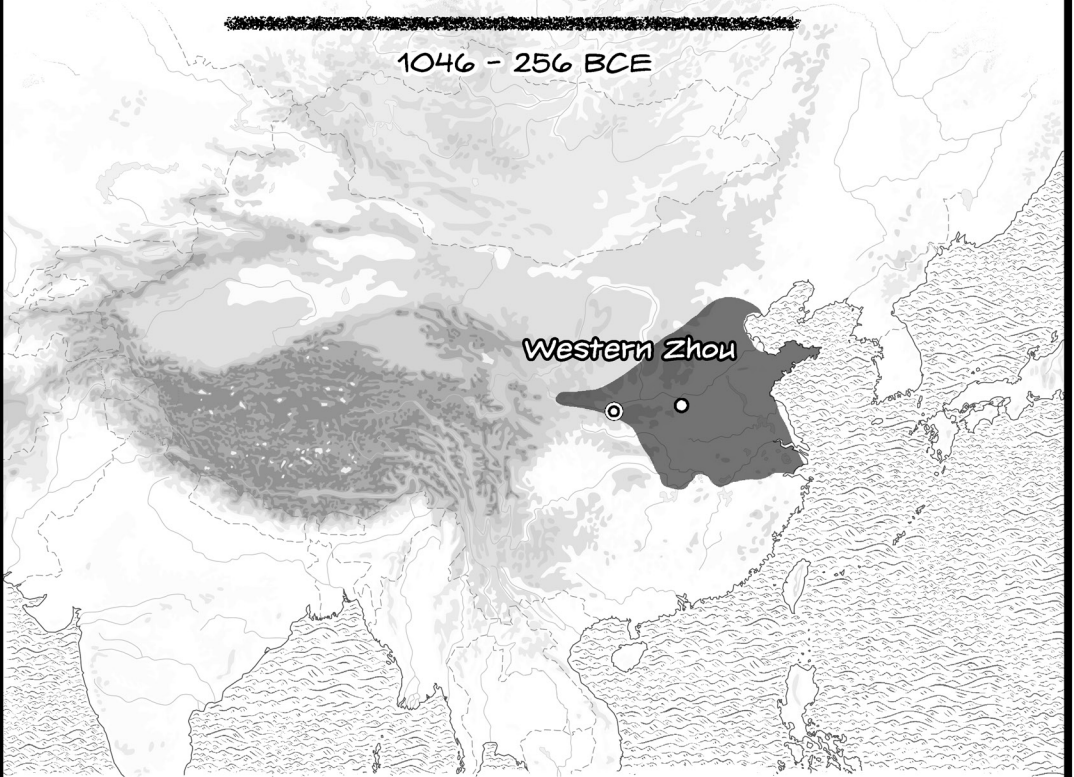


In 1046 BCE, around 800 Shang vassals led by the Zhou state rose up and toppled their Shang overlords.

King Wu of Zhou (reigned 1046 - 1043 BCE) proclaimed the establishment of the Zhou dynasty.

THE ZHOU DYNASTY*

1046 - 256 BCE



- ◎ Capital Haojing (Xi'an)
- Eastern capital Luoyi (Luoyang)

* The first part of the Zhou dynasty is referred to as the Western Zhou dynasty and lasted from 1046 to 771 BCE.

Three pillars of the Zhou

To convince the Shang people to accept a new dynasty, King Wu and his younger brother, the Duke of Zhou, developed a set of practices and codes that served as the starting point for Chinese political philosophy.

分封

Colonial fiefs
to secure new
conquests



宗法

Clan law
to unite
colonies
around
the court

礼乐

Rites and music
to enhance social
hierarchies



The Duke of Zhou

UNDERSTANDING CHINA THROUGH COMICS
VOLUME 2

DIVISION TO UNIFICATION IN IMPERIAL CHINA

The Three Kingdoms to the Tang Dynasty
(220 – 907)

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“My flower shall slay all other flowers” 135

Emperor Yang's cousin, Li Yuan (566 - 635), efficiently took control of the Sui capital and established the Tang dynasty.

20 different rebel groups challenged the newly established Tang. It took 10 years for the Tang to defeat its opponents and reunify China.

THE TANG DYNASTY

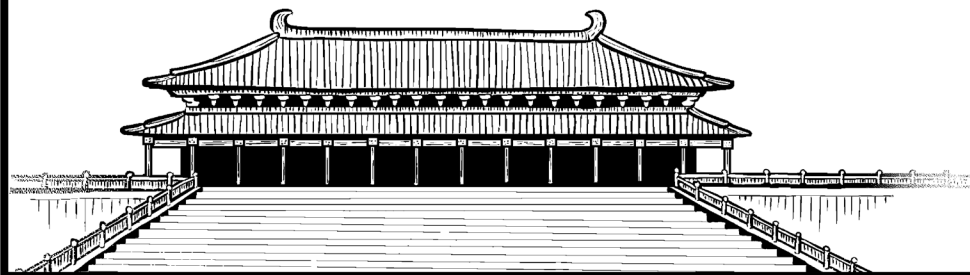
618 - 907



The Tang inherited many things from the Sui dynasty:

- ✓ The equal-field system
- ✓ The three departments and six ministries
- ✓ Imperial examinations
- ✓ The Grand Canal
- ✓ Sui granaries
- ✓ Fewer and weaker nomads due to military campaigns led by the Sui rulers

All in all, the Tang were off to a good start.

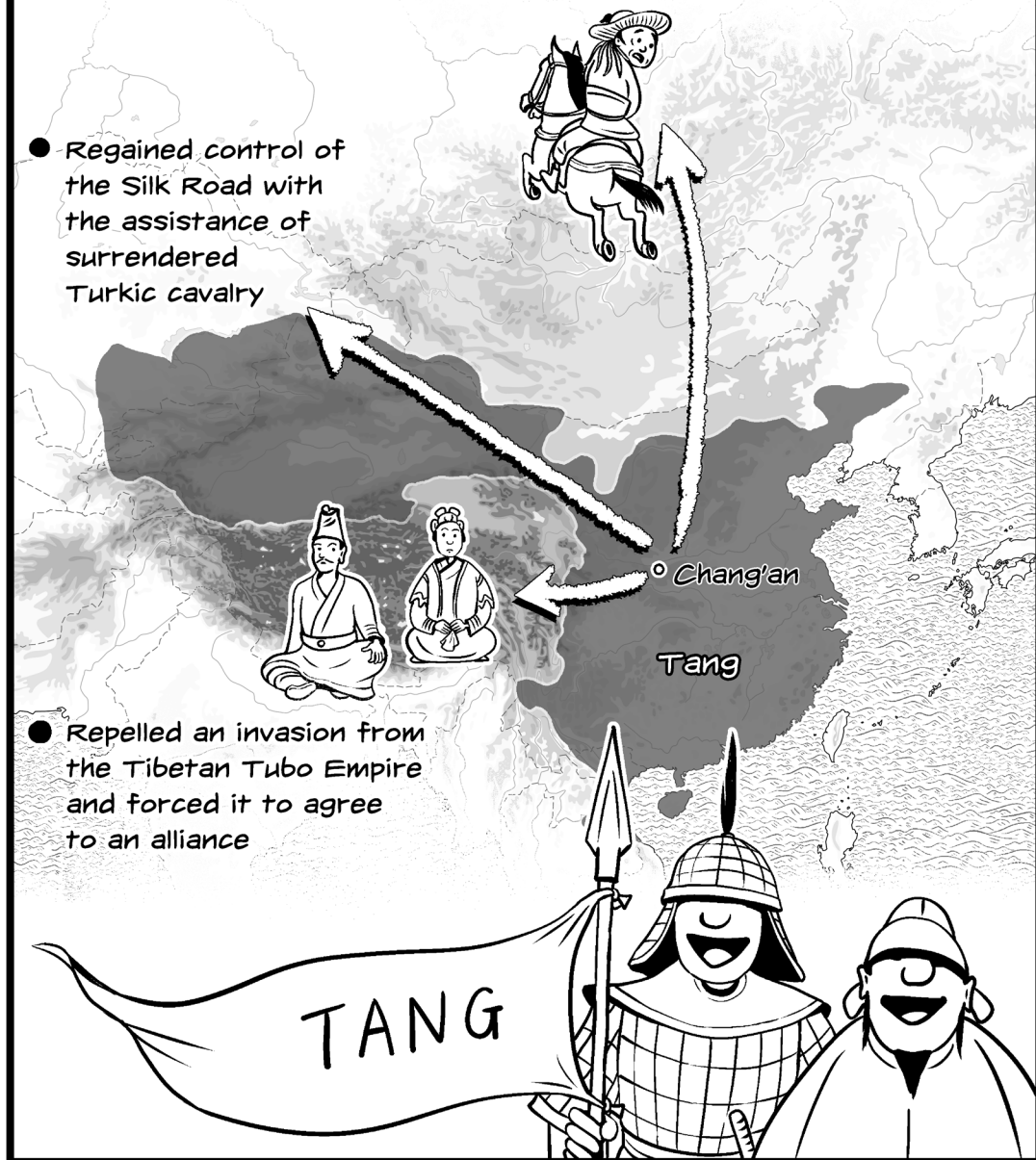


The Tang achieved regional supremacy in 40 years.

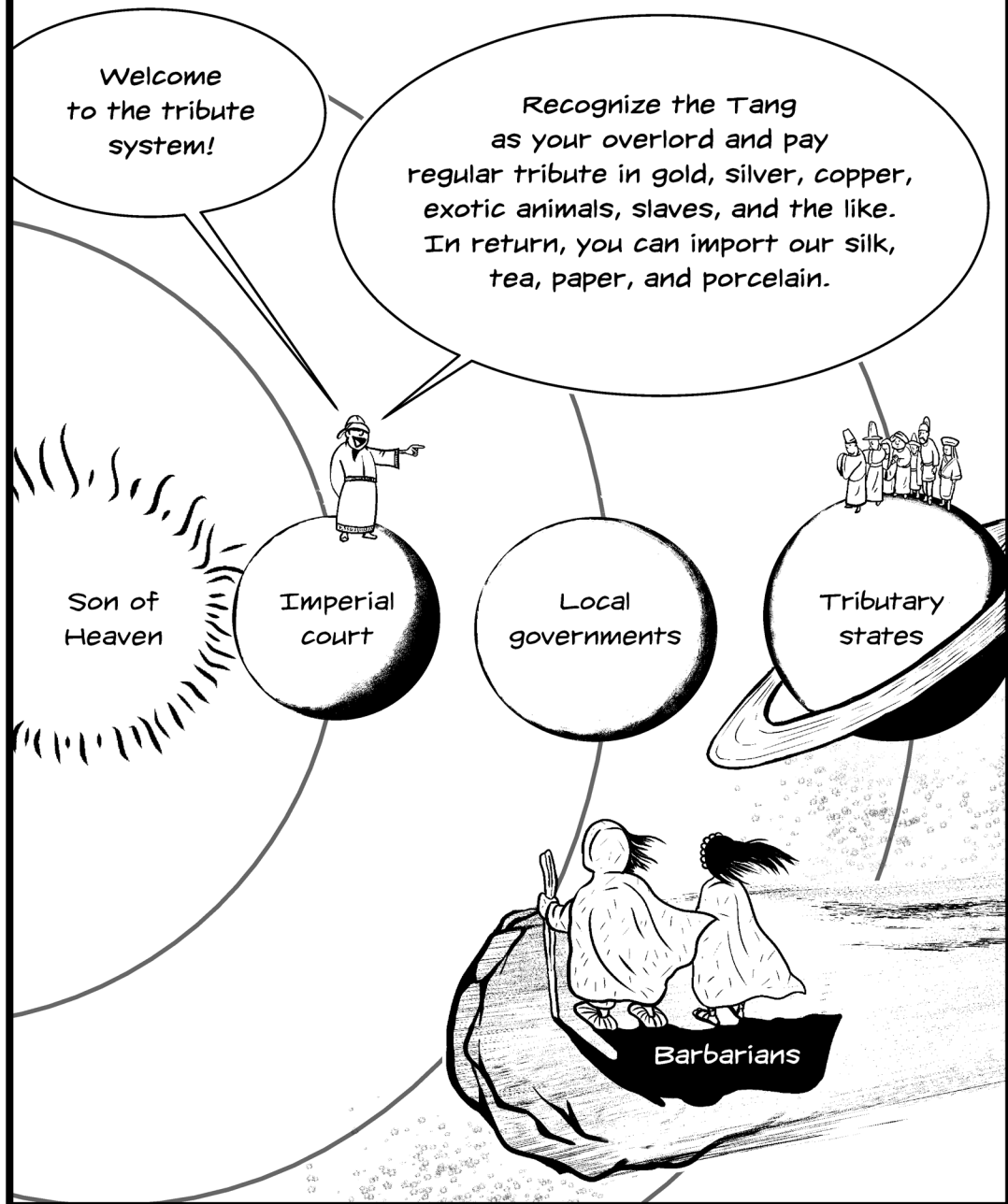
- Defeated the Turkic Empire in the north

- Regained control of the Silk Road with the assistance of surrendered Turkic cavalry

- Repelled an invasion from the Tibetan Tubo Empire and forced it to agree to an alliance

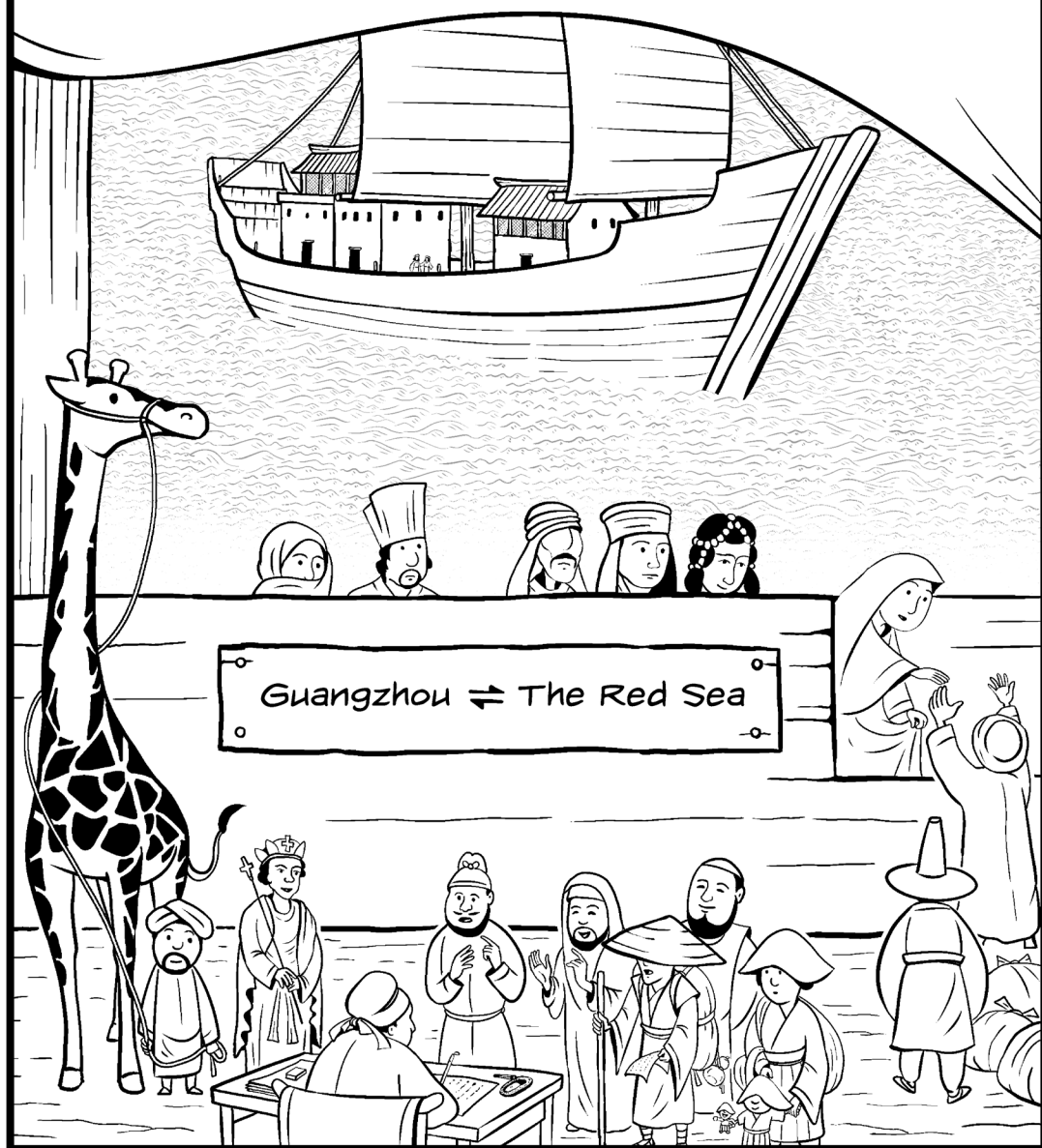


The Tang dynasty established its own world order.

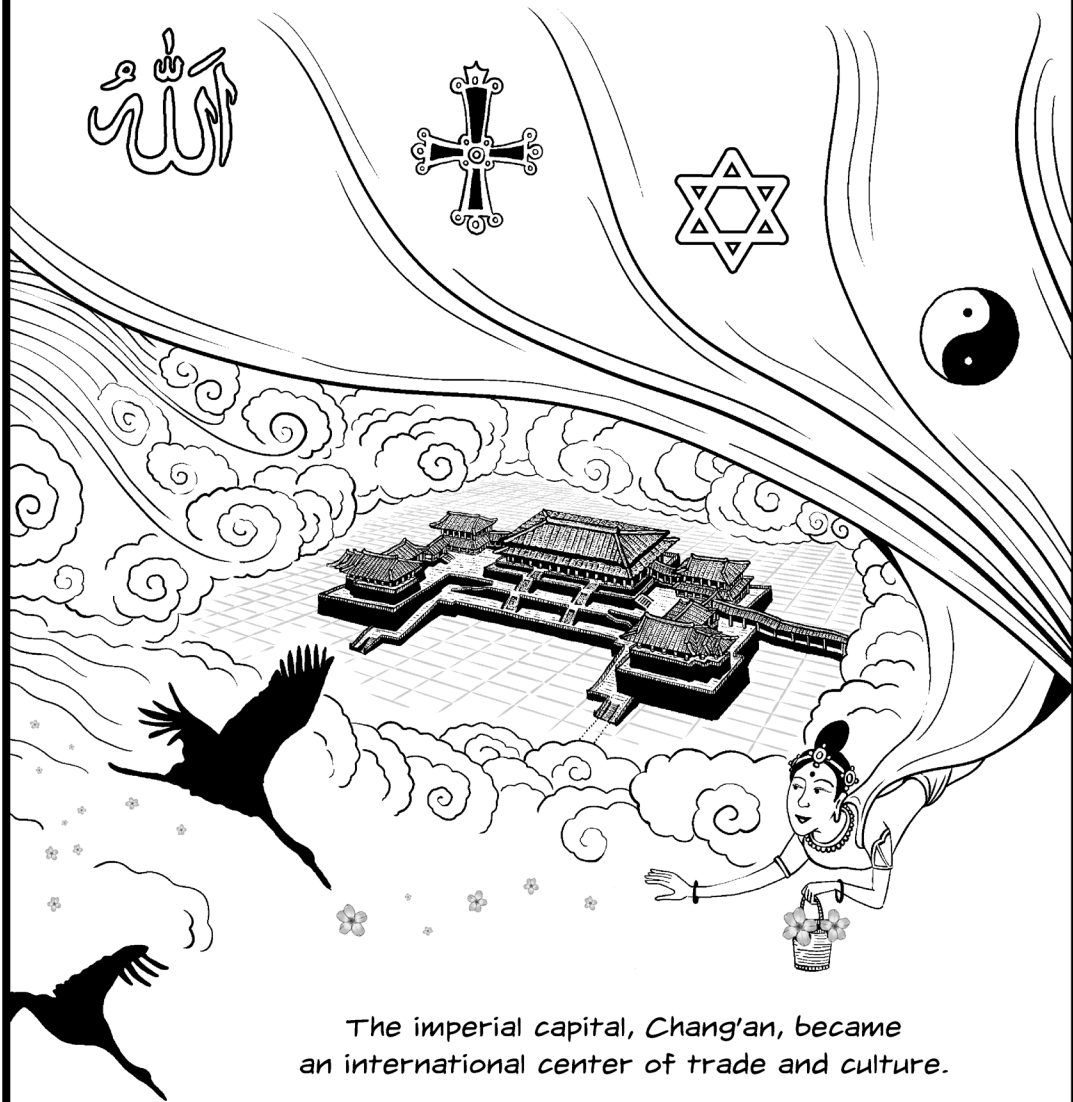


DIVISION TO UNIFICATION IN IMPERIAL CHINA

Arabs, Persians, Jews, Turks, Indians, Japanese, Koreans,
and Southeast Asians came to China to do business and study.

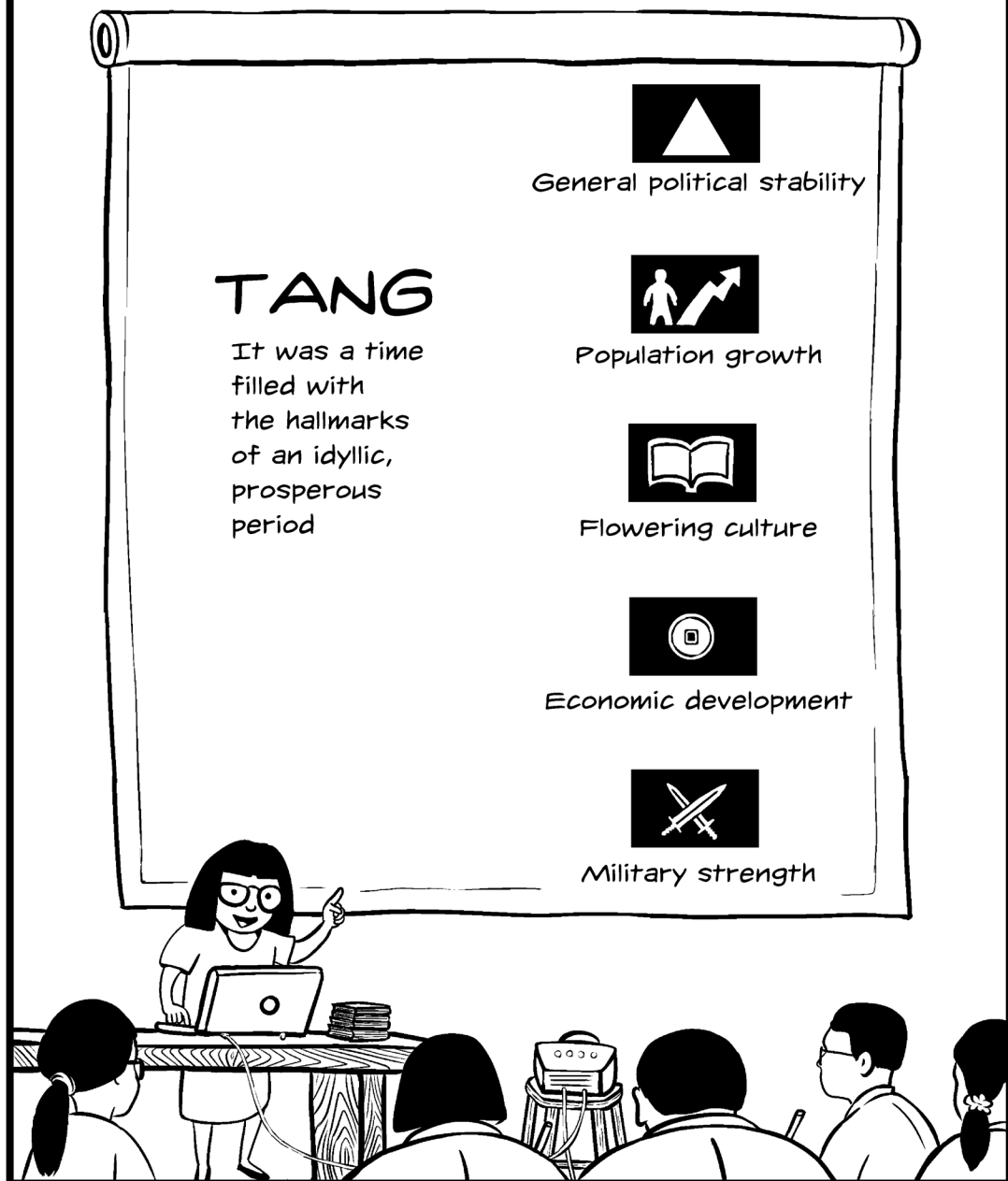


Foreigners brought in new religions such as Islam, Nestorian Christianity, and Judaism, adding to a cultural diversity perhaps unmatched in the history of China.



The imperial capital, *Chang'an*, became an international center of trade and culture.

In Chinese history textbooks today, the Tang dynasty is considered China's golden age.



UNDERSTANDING CHINA THROUGH COMICS
VOLUME 3

BARBARIANS AND THE BIRTH OF CHINESE IDENTITY

The Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms
to the Yuan Dynasty (907 – 1368)

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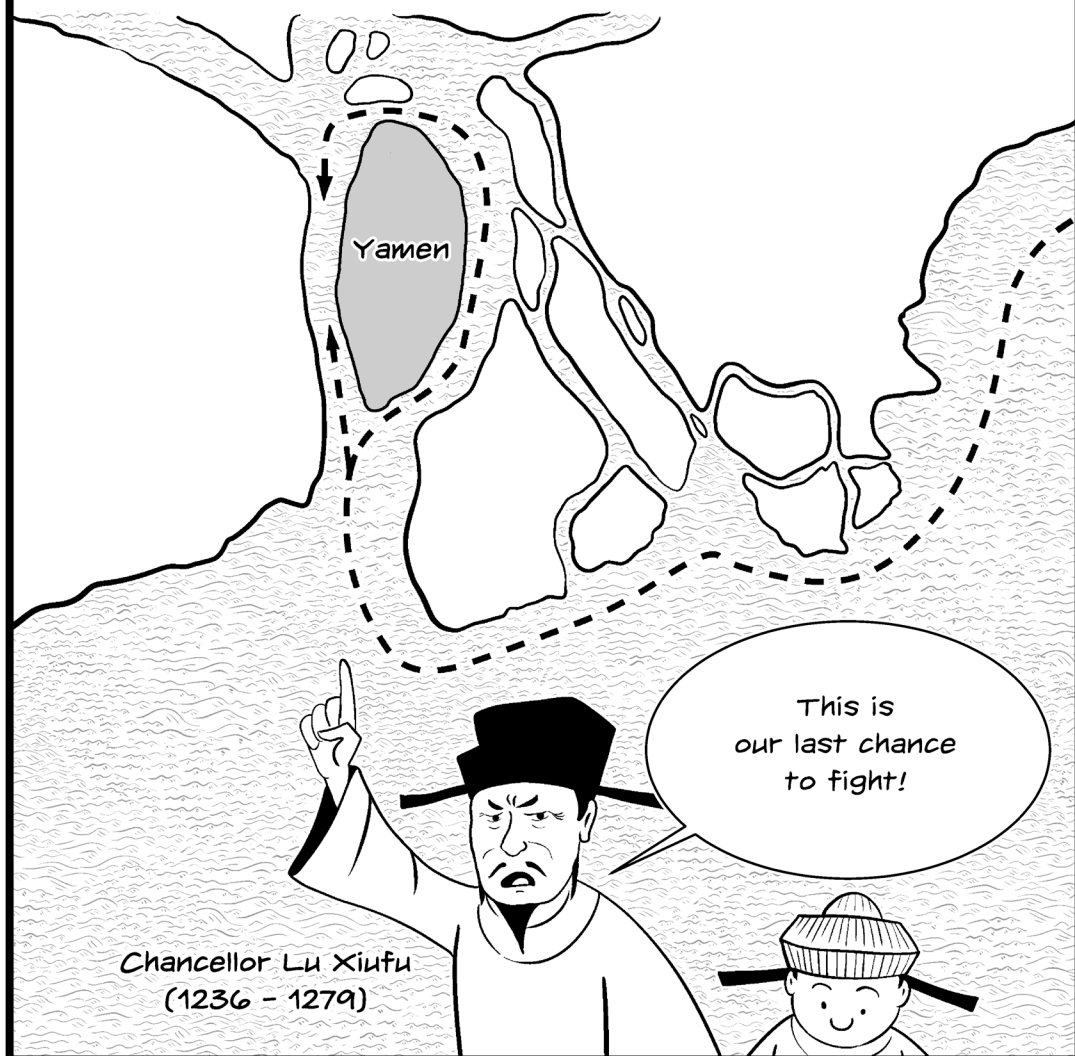
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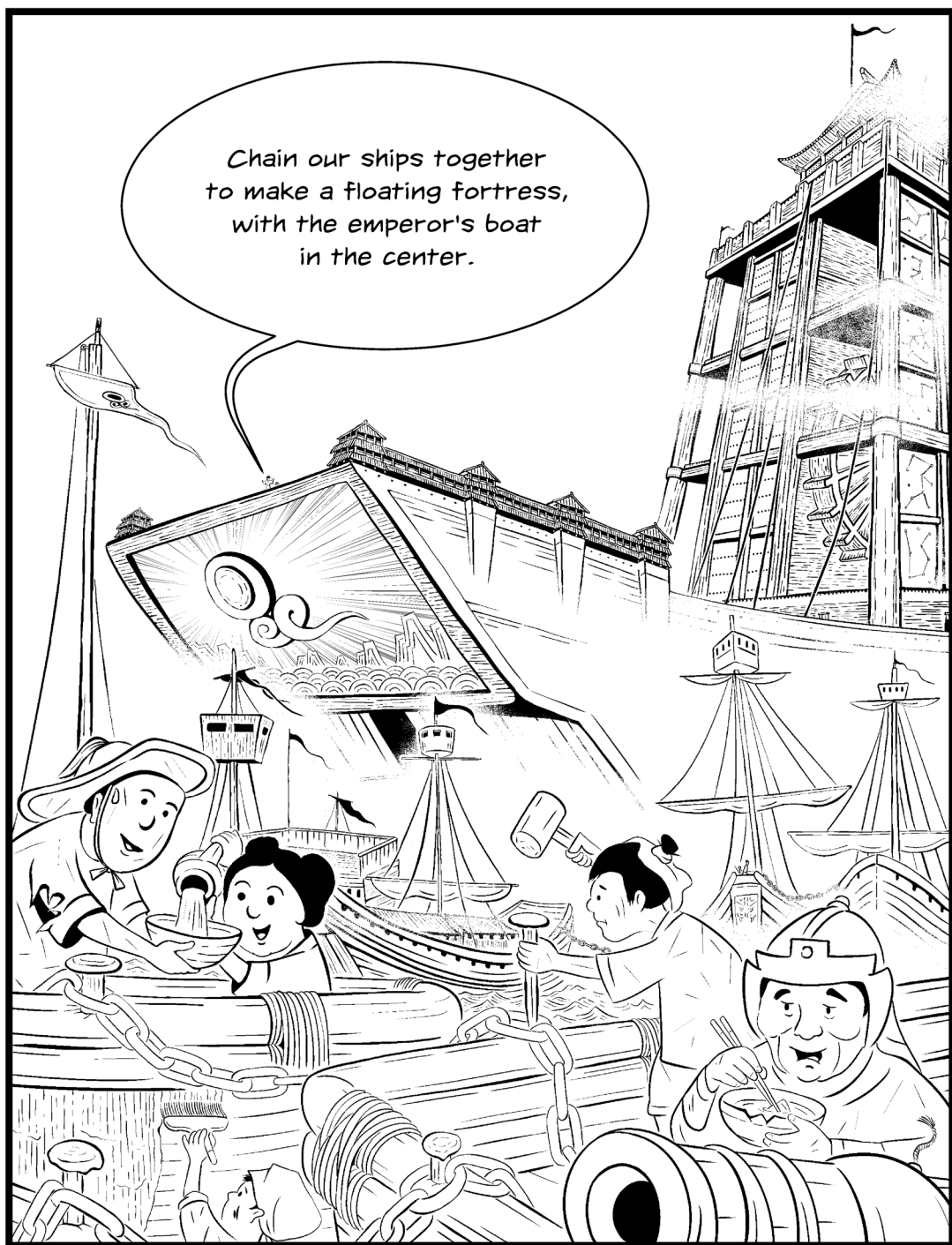
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Last stand of the Song Chinese

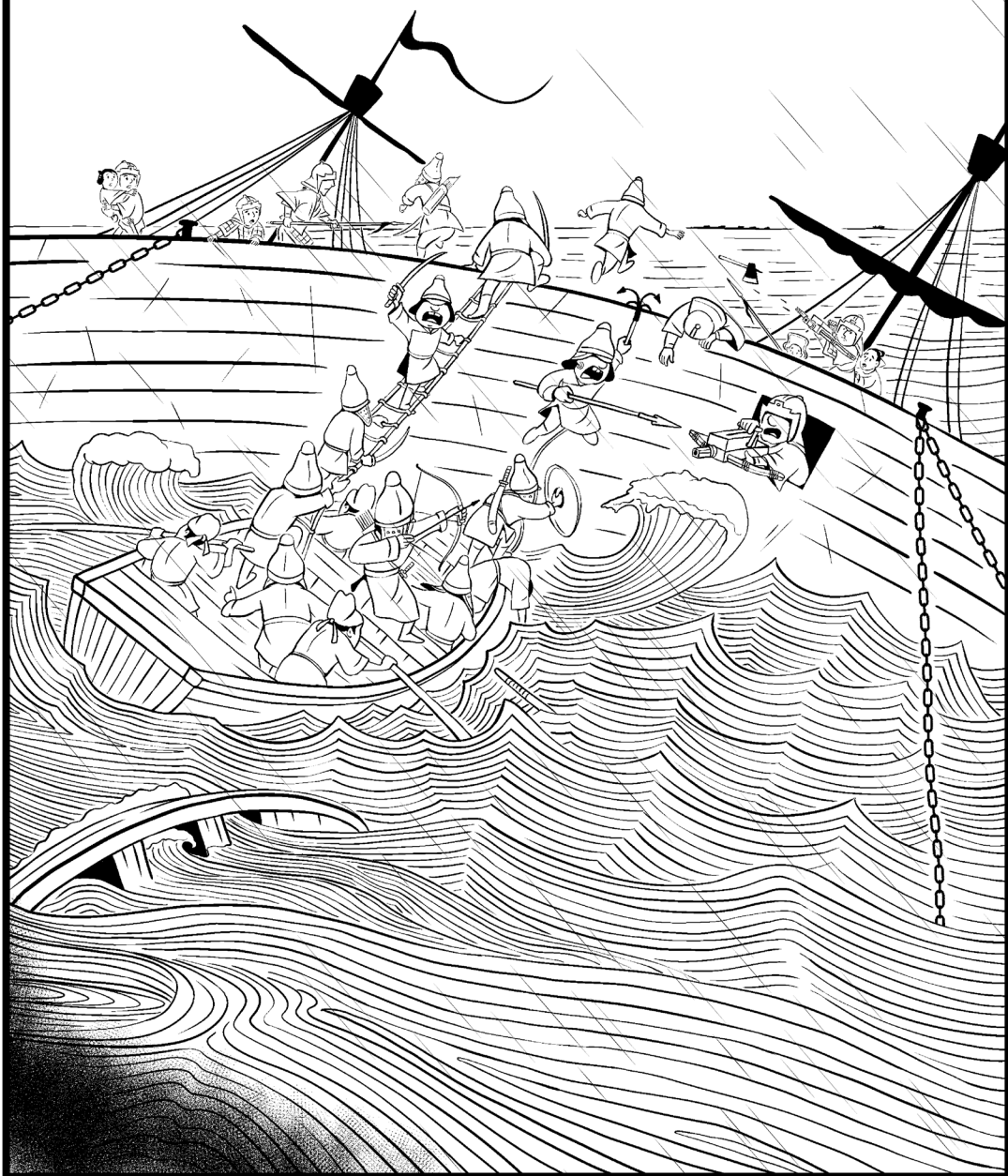
In 1279, the remaining Song resistance of 200,000 men and women took refuge in a fleet of 1,000 ships.

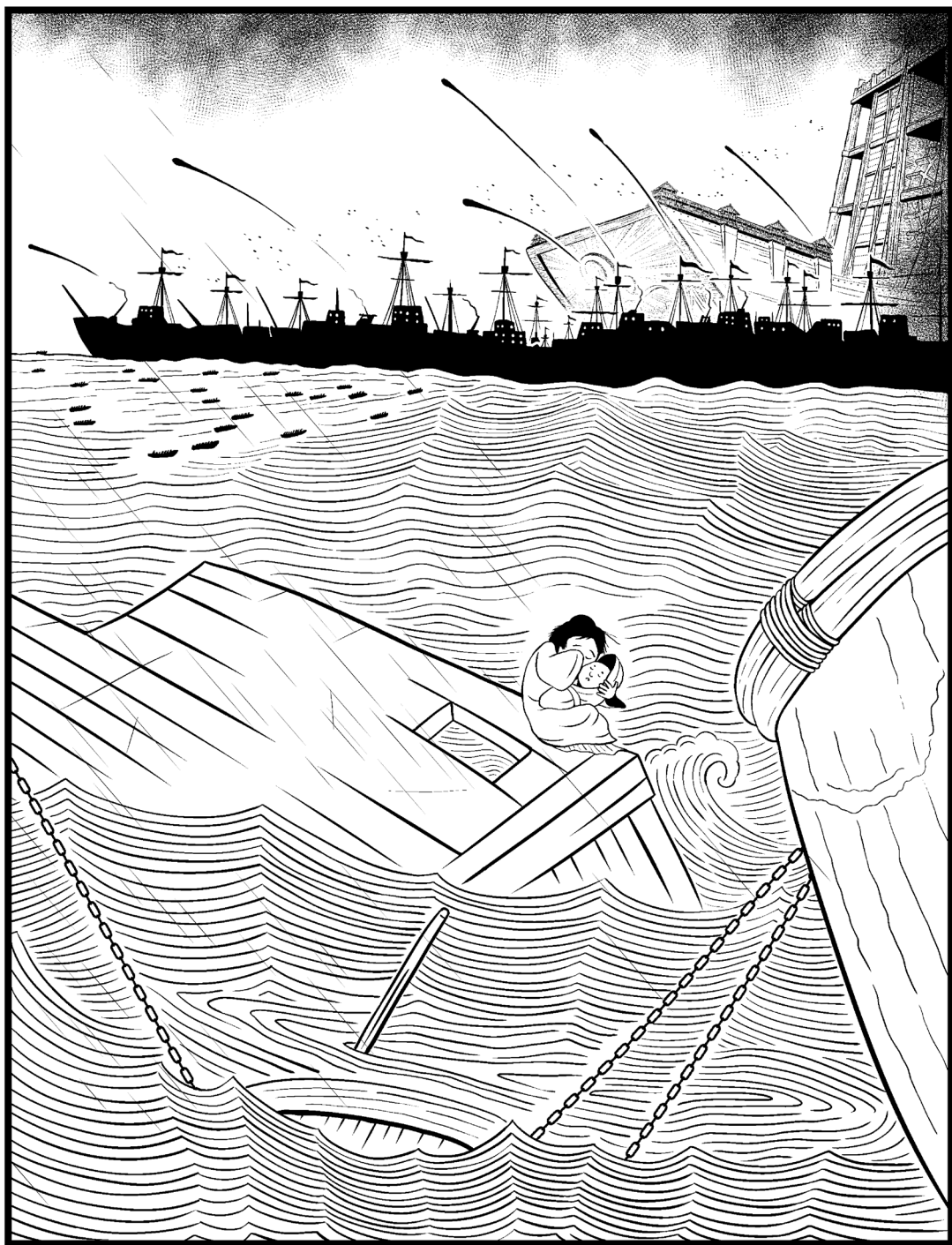
The Yuan navy found them at Yamen.





On March 19, 1279, the main assault was launched.

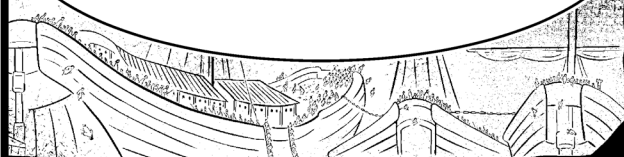




BARBARIANS AND THE BIRTH OF CHINESE IDENTITY

Knowing all was lost, Lu Xiufu went to the emperor.

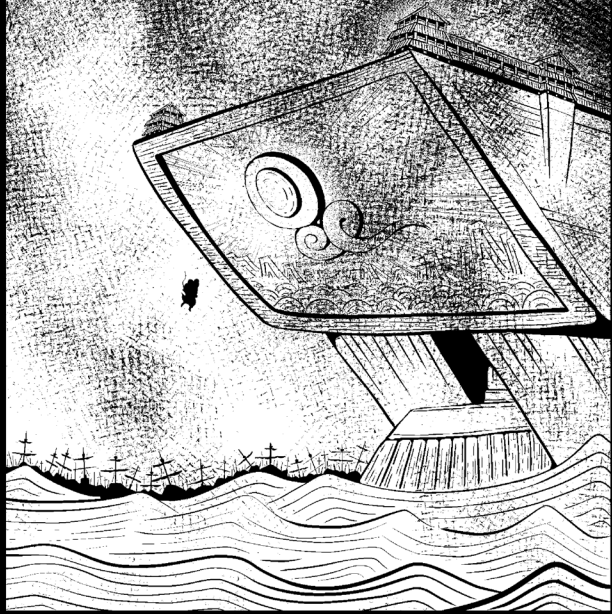
Today our country is destroyed. Let's not bear even more pain by surrendering.



Lu tied the 8-year-old crying boy and the imperial seal to his back...



...and jumped into the sea, ending the Song dynasty.



The battle of Yamen alone
cost the Song Chinese
100,000 lives.



The Mongol conquest had disrupted agriculture,
causing widespread famine. The population of China
fell from 140 million to 60 million.

Life under Mongol rule

Kublai Khan imposed a military style of rule on his newly conquered subjects.



No concealed weapons



No self-organizing



No public gatherings



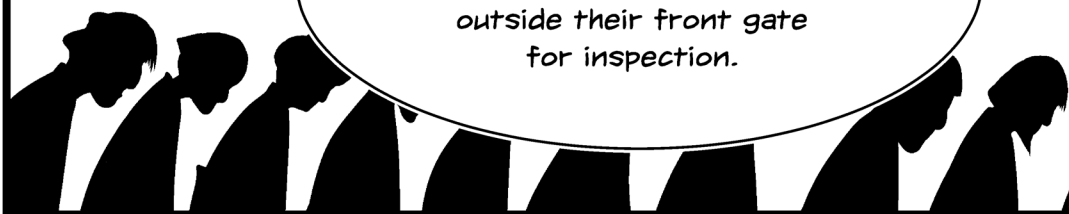
No group worship



No entertainment after dark



Every household
must write down the names
of all family members and put that list
outside their front gate
for inspection.



UNDERSTANDING CHINA THROUGH COMICS
VOLUME 4

THE MAKING OF MODERN CHINA

The Ming Dynasty to the Qing Dynasty (1368 – 1912)

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"Bandits can tear my body apart,
but please don't hurt my people"

In 1644, a rebel army closed in on Beijing.

The rebel leader Li Zicheng lost his left eye
to an arrow during the siege of Kaifeng city.
He took revenge by breaking the Yellow River dyke,
flooding the city and killing 300,000 people.

Order the nearest
frontier armies to
defend Beijing!



Before any help could come, Li Zicheng's army entered the capital on May 26, 1644.



Li Zicheng
(1604 - 1644)

Emperor Chongzhen gathered his sons.



Today you
are royal princes.
Tomorrow you'll become
ordinary boys.

Run for your lives.
Don't worry about me...



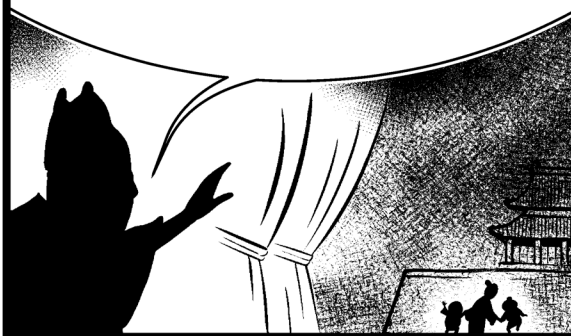
...I will die
for my country.



Be very careful from now on.

When you meet officials,
call older ones My Lord,
and younger ones gentleman.

When you meet civilians,
call older ones grandpa,
and younger ones big brother...



Emperor Chongzhen went
on to kill his daughters.

What will the bandits
do to girls like you?

Why are you so unlucky
to be born into the
royal family?



In darkness, the emperor climbed up a hill in the imperial gardens
outside the Forbidden City. He hanged himself on a tree,
ending the Ming dynasty.



Emperor Chongzhen left a note.

I am incapable and weak, so Heaven is punishing
me by allowing bandits to sack the capital.

I hide my face with fallen hair because
I'm too ashamed to face my ancestors.

Bandits can tear my body apart,
but please don't hurt my people.

His death had unexpected consequences for Li Zicheng.
The remaining Ming army didn't surrender as Li had hoped,
and many fought on to avenge the dead emperor.

The Ming commander, Wu Sangui (1612 - 1678),
allied with the Manchus to attack Li Zicheng.

The rebel army quickly collapsed.
Li Zicheng died on the run.



The Manchus restored order in Beijing and declared the establishment of the Qing dynasty in 1644.

THE QING DYNASTY

1644 - 1912



"We're here to protect
Chinese tradition"

We the Manchus are
different from earlier nomads.

They had controlled
a large Chinese population within
the Great Wall before establishing
their own dynasty, but we have
no such experience.

Xianbei



Khitan



Jurchen



Mongol

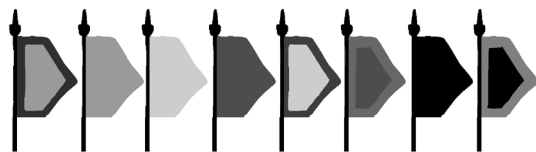
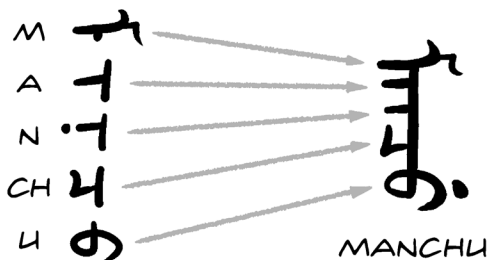


Emperor
Shunzhi
(1638 - 1661)

Our written language was created in 1599.

We just began to call ourselves Manchus in 1635.

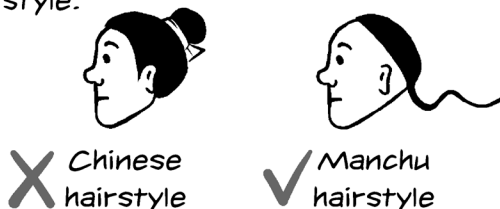
We have only been organizing our people under the Eight Banner system, a military rule that divides households into eight divisions, for a short period of time.



While this system is an effective way to manage our people, we are only 1 million strong. How do we rule a country with more than 100 million people and 5,000 years of history?

Furthermore the Ming resistance is still active. Several Ming princes fled to southern China and claim to be the rightful heirs to the Ming dynasty.

Many Chinese men rebel against the Qing once we order them to wear their hair in the Manchu style. In Yangzhou city alone, hundreds of thousands of residents have died in stubborn resistance!



"Simple and effective ... This direct, appealing introduction to the foundations of one of the world's oldest civilizations is recommended for teens and adults." —*Library Journal*

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