

The Tang dynasty was largely a period of progress and stability, except during the An Lushan Rebellion and the decline of central authority in the later half of the dynasty. Like the previous Sui dynasty, the Tang dynasty maintained a civil service system by recruiting scholar-officials through standardized examinations and recommendations to office. This civil order was undermined by the rise of regional military governors known as *jiedushi* during the 9th century. Chinese culture flourished and further matured during the Tang era; it is considered the greatest age for Chinese poetry. Two of China's most famous poets, Li Bai and Du Fu, belonged to this age, as did many famous painters such as Han Gan, Zhang Xuan, and Zhou Fang. There was a rich variety of historical literature compiled by scholars, as well as encyclopedias and geographical works.

唐朝（618年~907年）是中國史上漢朝之後的另一個盛世，亦是中國史上一個輝煌時期。共289年，22位皇帝。由唐高祖李淵所建立，與隋朝合稱隋唐。唐室出身關隴集團，先祖李虎在南北朝的西魏是八柱之一，封唐公。其後代李淵為隋朝晉陽（在今山西太原西南）留守，在隋末民變時出兵入關中以爭奪天下，於618年受隋恭帝楊侑禪位建國唐朝，在唐朝統一戰爭中統一了天下。唐朝的首都為長安（今陝西西安）。并設東都洛陽、北都晉陽等陪都。

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