With both some historic历史上重要的 examples of powerful eunuchs太监 and the seeming似乎 disdain鄙视 for eunuchs themselves, why do so few几乎没有 Chinese Emperors abolish废除 the usage使用 of eunuchs altogether? Why not replace all eunuchs with female女性 servants仆人, for example?

Dimitris Almyrantis, Lover of stories the world has forgotten (2016-present) Answered Jul 28

You miss the point不得要领: eunuchs were disdained precisely准确的，正好，恰恰 because their very仅仅在名词前表示强调 existence was advantageous有利于 to the Emperor, their power contingentadj be contingent on 取决于 on the Emperor’s personal whim突发奇想 on a whim说干就干 . Emperors kept consistently持续的 relying on依赖于 the eunuchs because their own power was vastly极大的 expanded扩张 through the institution机构，制度 of eunuchry太监制度.

Dowager遗孀 Empress皇后 Tzu His慈禧 , de facto实际上 ruler of the last half-century of the Chinese empire, surrounded by concubines n 妃子 and eunuchs.

Naturally, classical正统 historiography编撰历史 is averse不愿意 to pointing this out指出. Nobody who wants to convince the throne to take action against its own favourite underlings下属 will take time explaining解释 how these underlings further促进 the throne’s own corruption腐败 and autocratic独裁的 excess没有节制. But the point remains仍然在这, everybody knew that the eunuchs were the Emperor’s (or Empress’, in one recent最近的 case案例) own men, and the idea of the dynasty朝代 taking out除去 the eunuchs of its own good will, rather than而不是 in response to对什么都回应 some external外部的 (i.e. Western) pressure, was a contradiction矛盾.

Simply put简而言之, absolute独裁 rulers of all sorts各种 want to act行为 irresponsibly不负责 and without limit无限制—for nothing more than仅仅是 the universal human impulse冲动 that同位语 one’s precious self is the wisest聪慧 of all beings生物. In this pursuit追求 they are threatened威胁, and ancient Chinese government consciously有意识 sought to do 尝试做 threaten them with:

Well-established历史悠久 institutions制度: Traditions, customs习俗 and technocracies技术官僚政府, like the Confucian儒家 literati文人（复数） who manned某个岗位工作 the bureaucracy官僚制度, or the long series长系列 of proprieties礼仪 the “philosopher king贤人政治” of China had to observe遵守, because “this is how it is done”. Confucianism, much like modern constitutionalism宪政 or really any “civilized” system of rule统治, tries to tame驯服 the ruler统治者 from a selfish, whimsical异想天开的 being生物 into a responsible public person by foisting强加 on them a long list of rules, norms行为准则 and sacred神圣的 boundaries界限 they’ve got to respect .Local power centres: feudal封建 and provincial省份 elites, whose power is not dependent on依赖于 the Emperor’s favour好感 or the central mechanism机制 of the capital. The larger the empire, the more independent interests利益 it contains, the less likely更不可能 is one man to be able to dictate听写，主宰 is will outside the capital without risking civil war. Rulers, and central governments, don’t like it when provincial地方省份 interests利益 limit their power to act.

But, both of the above are necessary to build a healthy and viable可行的 polity, and hence adv 所以，插入句子 integral to对什么来说是必须的 China’s long-term长期的 success, even if即便，尽管 imperially帝国的-sponsored赞助提倡 Chinese political theory does not acknowledge承认 the beneficence仁慈 of (2), or the conflict冲突 with the imperial office办事处，部门 implicit adj 含蓄的 be implicit in隐含在 in (2) [this being said即便如此, classical sources经典的资源 - being both uncensorable不可审查 and written before the consolidation巩固 of the power of emperors, make it clear early philosophers哲学家 were aware of意识到 these].

Eunuchs were a means方式、方法 for the emperor to circumvent规避 both (1) and (2), by creating a ruling统治 elite精英 with no traditions or customs outside “pleasing me” - everything political the eunuchs did was dejure法律的 illegal非法的, even when blatantly明目张胆 public, and so above高于 law and tradition. And also a ruling统治 class utterly完全彻底 dependent on the throne, precisely恰恰是 because they were despised鄙视 by everyone else, hence所以 unable to threaten his power. If eunuchs had been a more enfranchised获得投票 and respected受尊敬 class of “noble slaves”, as in Islamic伊斯兰 countries, then the Emperor would be in threat of受到威胁 deposition罢免:（与过去事实相反的虚拟语气：从句使用had done, 主句用would/could/should have done） but事实 they weren’t, and he wasn’t.

Chinese criticism of the regime政权, even when it didn’t dare openly公开 flout蔑视 the emperor’s expanding公开 authority权威 as toxic有毒的 (since the idea of total obedience顺从 to him was vital in holding阻止+from the country from dissolving机构分解: restrictions on对什么的限制 imperial authority皇帝权威 were supposed to本来应该 come from the Emperor’s own philosophical education and moral cultivation道德培养, the strange marriage结合 of Warring States-period战国时期 warlordism军阀主义 with checks and balances分权制衡 found in Confucius孔子’ very old writings文字作品), still felt and recognised认可 the eunuchs as damaging有破坏力 to the constitutional宪法的 makeup构成 of the state. Unable to call out命令某人出动 the emperor as the lynchpin关键中的关键 of their corruption腐败, it settled for勉强接受，接受 criticizing his “bad advisors顾问”, the eunuchs, as if似乎 the eunuchs had existence存在 separate分开 from the throne’s own desire渴望 for power.

The link you give (Eastern Depot仓库: the Ming KGB) is an excellent example. Eunuchs were the Ming emperors’ secret service巨构, procurers设法获得 of pleasure, and early on even imperialist支持皇帝的人 agitators煽动者 (and bad at it). All things not included in the idea of the sage贤明的 Confucian ruler, all toxic有害的 to the practice实践 of lawful and transparent透明的 government, but also all things any power-hungry, imperfect不完美, and ego-driven自我驱动 human put in a position获得职权 of power wants to have around him. So they kept appearing出现, not as a venerated受尊敬的 tradition-no matter不管 the age of the institution-but as a matter of human nature.

Some late-Qing清 proposals提议, as the question knows or predicts预测, did indeed recommend推荐 the replacement替代 of the bloated膨胀起来，自大 eunuch corps 一群人 with a much smaller body of women. And if the purpose of the eunuchs was indeed as publicly admitted承认—namely也就是, the valets and household managers管家 of the emperor, his mother, wives, and concubines妃子—then an all-female service would have done perfectly well. But that purpose was ultimately tangential to与什么没有什么关系 what eunuchs became, i.e. professional courtiers侍从, and so just wouldn’t do.

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He went to CD on a whim

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