date has placed the problem of an inherent weakness in the Late Han system of imperial governance in the context of the regency of the Empress Dowager, which led to the political involvement of matrilineal kin in ruling China. However, he clearly shows that the problem also stemmed from the emperor’s lack of legitimacy in general.

The Taiyuan Uprising and Tang Period Sogdian Garrison Commanders in Shanxi: Clues Provided by the Epitaph of Cao Yi

YAMASHITA Shoji

Among the Chinese character epitaphs written for Sogds found to date, we find many instances of appointment to the post of commander of garrisons (junfu 軍府) under the garrison militia (fubing 府兵) system between the Northern Dynasties and Early Tang periods. It is also a fact that Sogds were also involved in the formation of local militias that comprised the fighting units of the fubing system. From examples of such Sogdian involvement in military affairs, I had previously pointed out that Sogdian garrisons and army corps may be assumed to have existed at the time in question. However this is merely an assumption based on the existing epigraphy and research to date on the military institutions of the Northern Dynasties, Sui and Tang periods, concluding that there is still no hard evidence establishing that fact, until now.

That is to say, from the epitaph of Cao Yi, which was made public in 2011 in the city of Fenyang, Shanxi Province, we have evidence that a “chejifu 騎府” of the regional garrison was set up under the “sabao 薩宝” of Jiezhou介州 during the early Tang period, proving without a doubt the existence of a Sogdian garrison and army corps there. The garrison also joined the Tayuan Uprising led by Li Yuan 李淵 in 617, and it had incorporated Sogdian armed forces since before the founding of the Tang. Moreover, when compared to the Sui period epitaph of Yu Hong 虞弘 excavated in 1999, we find that the Tang period garrison had its origins in the local army corps led by Sogdian commander Yu during the last years of the Northern Zhou, and it becomes clear that Sogdian garrisons and army corps existed in the final years of the Northern Dynasties at the latest. Then during the Zenguan 貞觀 (627-49) era,
as the Tang Dynasty established control, these Sogdian garrisons and army corps were dishanded. In consequence, Sogdian ruling class returned to their former occupations such as commerce, and others became peasants of the Tang Dynasty.

The Trial of Clever Zhang Huaisu

FUJIMOTO Takeshi

It was in 1107, just after the start of the second chancellorship of Cai Jing 蔡京, that Zhang Huaisu 張懷素 was brought to trial for insurrection. Zhang, who by his magic and powers of persuasion had inveigled his way into the company of such well-known powerful literati as Lu Huiqing 呂惠卿 and Cai Bian 蔡卞, Cai Jing’s younger brother, faced charges along with Wu Chu 吳儲, a member of the powerful Wang Anshi 王安石 family. They also fraternized with literati of the old liners opposed to the sweeping economic and institutional reforms of 1069-72 implemented by Wang Anshi, so it seems that they planned to organize a group of cohorts dissatisfied with the Cai Jing regime.

The plot was uncovered by Fan Liao 范寥, who was a member of a powerful family who had produced a chancellor at the court of former Emperor Shenzong 神宗. Fan Liao had also left home to wander about the country, during which time he met Huang Tingjian 黃庭堅 in Guanxi. According some sources, Huang was on his deathbed and purformed a funeral service for Huang, but the author’s attempt to confirm this story has cast doubt on that account. In fact, Fan Liao was in cahoots with Zhang and had been ordered by Zhang to enlist Huang’s help in the plot. After failing to enlist Huang’s support and fearing Zhang’s ire, Fan gathered together the wherewithal to head for the capital, where he informed the authorities of his suspicions regarding insurrection on part of Zhang and Wu.

The information also targeted Cai Jing and was thus kept from the chancellor. Unable to nip the incident in the bud and now in danger of being implicated in the plot, Cai Jing had the trial heard before one of his underlings, a move that both kept Cai from harm and enabled him to deftly use the trial to rid