## Chinese

<u>History</u>



Wu Zetian (624-705) Wu Zetian was the only female in China to lead the dynasty. According to Confucian belief, a woman is not supposed to lead. However, Zetian ruled successful. She was an autocrat who had high desires to gain and keep power. To other people, she was a woman who was doing a " man's" work. However, despite these negative perceptions towards women, she was able to rule China. During this period, the dynasty experienced immense peace and culturally diverse periods.

## Qin Liangyu

Qin Liangyu was a commander-in-chief of the Sichuan Province. When she was young, she trained in the martial arts. She was excellent archer who practiced archery frequently. Her husband was a military commander. During his reign, rebels from Bozhou attacked the government forces. She offered help to her husband and defeated the rebels. Later after the death of her husband, she assumed his rank and responsibility. Her juniors described her as refined and elegant commander who had a towering presence among her troops.

## Li Qingzhao

She is the China's greatest woman poet. Her poems exist only in fragments. However, they continue to be regarded as the best just like the old days. She was born in a literary family and started her work when she was a teenager. During her life, she produced seven volumes of essay and six volumes of essays. However, due to bad storage, only the fragments of this work exist today. Her work is well appreciated due to the sticking diction and integration of personal experiences. The poems reflect her dramatic lifetime after the death of her husband.