



2022-23年度章群教授紀念公開學術講座  
Prof. Chang Chuen Memorial Public Lecture Series (2022-23)

歷史系主辦  
Presented by the Department of History

DECOLONIZING THE HISTORIOGRAPHY OF CHINA:  
A NEW LOOK AT “SINICIZATION,” “THE TRIBUTE SYSTEM”  
AND “CHINESE DYNASTIES.”

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ABSTRACT

Standard narratives of the Chinese past depict China as a continuous entity since ancient times, attaining its current territorial shape through cultural osmosis rather than military force, and presiding over a peaceful, hierarchical and Sinocentric system of Asian states maintained through Confucian deference. This vision has been promoted by Chinese governments, but it is also commonplace in survey courses, textbooks and popular culture produced outside of China, especially in the Anglophone world, and is even routinely referenced by politicians and diplomats from the US. It is also patently wrong, as anyone who has ever read any Chinese history knows: wars and conquest have been no less common in China and East Asia than anywhere else; modern migrations by Chinese into “frontiers” backed by state power have displaced indigenous peoples in ways reminiscent of European settler colonialism in the Americas, and the legacy of this expansion remains problematic decades after the establishment of the People’s Republic of China in the territory of the former Qing empire. This lecture will examine how three key concepts in the historiography of China, “Sinicization,” the “tribute system” and “Chinese dynasties,” have ingrained and perpetuated an inaccurate exceptionalism in how we talk about the past and present of peoples and states in geographical China.

The Annals of the Chinese Emperors

The first Dynasty named Shang.	P. 298.
The second Dynasty named Tang.	P. 313.
The third Dynasty named Tcheou.	P. 339.
The fourth Dynasty named Tsin.	P. 346.
The fifth Dynasty named Han.	P. 367.
The sixth Dynasty named Heou han.	P. 369.
The seventh Dynasty named Tsin.	P. 375.
The eighth Dynasty named Song.	P. 379.
The ninth Dynasty named Ti.	P. 381.
The tenth Dynasty named Leang.	P. 384.
The eleventh Dynasty named Tchin.	P. 387.
The twelfth Dynasty named Souy.	P. 389.
The thirteenth Dynasty named Tang.	P. 414.
The fourteenth Dynasty named Heou leang.	P. 415.
The fifteenth Dynasty named Heou tang.	P. 417.
The sixteenth Dynasty named Heou tin.	P. 419.
The seventeenth Dynasty named Heou han.	P. 420.
The eighteenth Dynasty named Heou tcheou.	P. 422.
The nineteenth Dynasty named Song.	P. 443.
The twentieth Dynasty named Yuen.	P. 451.
The twenty-first Dynasty named Ming.	P. 450.
The twenty-second Dynasty named Tching.	P. 450.

Date March 20, 2023 (Monday)  
Time 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm (HKT)  
Language English



Zoom Meeting ID: 912 3529 6619  
Passcode: 201164

<https://hkbu.zoom.us/j/91235296619?pwd=SXpmTk9nazlMWnJpamlZVzM5eFJqZz09>

歡迎參加  
All are welcome

