

CONTENTS

Diagrams and Tables	ix
Acknowledgements	xi
Chapter One Introduction: Interpretive Perspective	1
Chapter Two Retired Emperorship: The Northern Wei Innovation	23
Chapter Three The Northern Wei Case Concluded: The Regency of the Empress Dowager Wenming, 476–490	61
Chapter Four The Collapse of the Northern Qi	93
Chapter Five The Northern Zhou Case	127
Chapter Six The Xuanwu Men Incident of the Tang: Imperial Retirement Enters the Mainstream	167
Chapter Seven The Xuanwu Men Legacy: Taizong's Factionalization of the Position of Heir Apparent	195
Chapter Eight The Pervasive Factionalization of Taizong's Court	213
Chapter Nine Taizong—An Emperor on the Run	239
Chapter Ten Conclusion	253
Bibliography	261
Index	271