

# Approaching Tibetan Studies

## About Tibet

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### Chronology of Tibetan History

416 or 127 BC AD 627	Nyatri Tsenpo becomes first Yarlung King, builds Yambulagang Palace in Yarlung Valley. Songtsen Gampo, known as Tibet's first great religious king, succeeds his father, the 32nd Yarlung King, who had, at the turn of the century, begun to unify many of Tibet's kingdoms.
649	Tibet is unified under the rule of Songtsen Gampo, Tibet's First Great Religious King: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Minister Thomi Sambhota creates Tibetan alphabet from Sanskrit</li><li>• Codifies laws</li><li>• Buddhist temples are constructed</li></ul>
754	Trisong Detsen, known as Tibet's second great religious king, takes the throne. Padmasambhava, Indian Buddhist Master, is invited to Tibet by Trisong Detsen to pacify Bon faith and help spread Buddhism in Tibet.
c. 779	Samye, Tibet's first Buddhist monastic university, is created by Trisong Detsen and Padmasambhava. First seven Tibetan Buddhist monks are ordained. Major Buddhist texts, translated from Sanskrit to Tibetan.
c. 792	Trisong Detsen declares Buddhism the state religion of Tibet.
815	Tri Ralpachen, Tibet's Third Great Religious King, takes the throne.
821-22	Treaty between Tibet and China
c. 836	Tri Ralpachen dies and his half brother, Langdarma, takes throne suppressing Buddhism in Central Tibet and re-establishing Bon as dominant religion.
842	Langdarma is assassinated by a Buddhist monk. The unified state of Tibet collapses.
988-1069	Tilopa, founder of Kagyu Sect of Tibetan Buddhism
1012	Marpa, "the translator", is born.
1040	Milarepa, student of Marpa, and great poet saint, is born.
1042	Second Dissemination of the Doctrine of Tibet, the revival of Buddhism, led by Atisha, a great Buddhist master brought to Tibet from India.
1073	Khon Konchok Gyalpo builds Sakya Monastery in Southern Tibet.
1207	Ghengis Khan occupies Tibet.
1249	Sakya Pandita (1182-1251) is appointed Tibetan Viceroy by Mongols.
1253	Phagpa (1235- 1280) succeeds Sakya Pandita in Mongol Court and becomes religious teacher for Kublai Khan.
1260	Kublai Khan appoints Phagpa Imperial Preceptor of Tibet. Sakya sect holds political and religious authority in Tibet.
1357	Tsongkhapa, founder of Gelugpa order of Tibetan Buddhism, is born.
1409	Ganden, first Gelugpa Monastery, is founded by Tsongkhapa.
1578	Altan Khan, Mongol Ruler over Tibet, bestows title of Dalai Lama, "Ocean of Wisdom," upon Sonam Gyatso (actually Third Dalai Lama).
1624	Antonio de Andrade, a Portuguese Jesuit missionary, believed to be first Western visitor to Tibet, sets up mission in Western Tibet.