

Reformation of the Cinic World in Ancient Eastern Eurasia

Masaharu ARAKAWA

China's history has been shaped by alternating cycles of "Greater China" and "Lesser China". The beginning of this "Greater China" was the Tang Empire formed in the 7th century. It has been pointed out that the Tang Empire was a "new Chinese empire" that was a fusion of the Hu and Han empires, and it is often referred to as the "Tuoba State" because of its descent from the Northern Wei Dynasty, which was founded by the Xianbei tribe. More recently, there has been an increasing number of attempts to define the broad space of Eastern Eurasia and to place the Cinic world within it. However, in such discussions, we find that a critically important region has been overlooked. That is the existence of the border region (West Turkestan~Afghanistan~Northwest India) where the eastern and western parts of Eurasia overlap. In this seminar, we will focus on the trends in this border zone, and reassess the "shape" of the Cinic world from the 4th to 7th centuries, with particular emphasis on politics, economics, and religion.