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**Empress Dowager Cixi The  
Concubine**

The Empress Dowager Cixi lived at the end of nineteenth century and the turn of the twentieth. She was the concubine of one emperor and the mother of the next after seizing power. With two interruptions she ruled China for the rest of her life but always in the name of

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male emperor at the time and often from behind a screen so that she never saw the officials who enacted her decisions.

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On 28 February 1854, Cixi was elevated to the fifth rank of consorts and granted

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the title "Concubine Yi". In 1855, Cixi became pregnant, and on 27 April 1856, she gave birth to Zaichun, the Xianfeng Emperor's first and only surviving son. On the same day, she was elevated to the fourth rank of consorts as "Consort Yi".

## **Empress Dowager Cixi - Wikipedia**



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Empress Dowager Cixi (1835–1908) is the most important woman in Chinese history. She ruled China for decades and brought a medieval empire into the modern age. At the age of sixteen, in a nationwide selection for royal consorts, Cixi was chosen as one of the emperor's numerous concubines. When he died in 1861, their five-year-old son succeeded

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## **Empress Dowager Cixi: The Concubine Who Launched Modern ...**

Empress Dowager Cixi: The Concubine Who Launched Modern China is a 2013 biography written by Jung Chang, published by Alfred A. Knopf. Chang presents a sympathetic portrait of the Empress Dowager Cixi, who unofficially

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controlled the Manchu Qing Dynasty in China for 47 years, from 1861 to her death in 1908. Chang argues that Cixi has been "deemed either tyrannical and vicious, or hopelessly incompetent—or both", and that this view is both simplistic and inaccurate.

## **Empress Dowager Cixi: The**

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Empress Dowager Cixi: China's Last  
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The Concubine Who Launched Modern China” by Jung Chang “A reputation for sexual depravity”. “Colossal documentary pool”. All of which is, according to Jung Chang’s 2013 biography Empress Dowager Cixi: The... “The plot”. For instance, in 1898, Emperor Guangxu, ...

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**Book review: "Empress Dowager  
Cixi: The Concubine Who ...**

Cixi proved herself to be an able player of these often deadly games. From her first position as a concubine to the Xianfeng emperor in 1852, she rose through court life to become the power behind the screen. At the age of just 25, she engineered a palace coup to place

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her young son, Zaichun, on the throne.

**Empress Dowager Cixi: The concubine who launched modern China**

In her concluding judgment on the character and achievements of Cixi, the Qing dynasty's legendary empress dowager, Jung Chang observes: "In some

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four decades of absolute power, her  
political...

**Empress Dowager Cixi: The  
Concubine Who Launched Modern ...**

Lady Yehenara, otherwise known as  
Empress Dowager Cixi, was arguably  
one of the most successful concubines in  
Chinese history. Cixi first entered the



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court as a concubine to Xianfeng Emperor and gave birth to his only surviving son, who later became Tongzhi Emperor.

## **Concubinage - Wikipedia**

Cixi became the Dowager Empress after her beau's passing—but awkwardly, she had to share her throne with her old

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rival: the official Empress. Even worse, Cixi's actual "power" was non-existent. Eight ministers held the real keys to the kingdom. They were the ones who got to advise the new Emperor, Cixi's five-year-old son Zaichun.

### **Powerful Facts About Empress Cixi, China's Shadow Queen**

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In 1852, at age sixteen, Cixi was chosen as one of Emperor Xianfeng's numerous concubines. When he died in 1861, their five-year-old son succeeded to the throne. Cixi at once launched a coup against her son's regents and placed herself as the true source of power—governing through a silk screen that separated her from her male

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**Empress Dowager Cixi: The Concubine Who Launched Modern ...**

The Empress Dowager Cixi 1903-1905 (Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery Archives) Even if Alute was murdered, Cixi wasn't necessarily responsible, as author Sterling Seagrave

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points...

**Cixi: The Woman Behind the Throne  
| History | Smithsonian ...**

Cixi was a Chinese empress dowager and regent who effectively controlled the Chinese government in the late Qing dynasty for 47 years, from 1861 until her death in 1908. Selected as a concubine

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of the Xianfeng Emperor in her adolescence, she gave birth to a son, Zaichun, in 1856. After the Xianfeng Emperor's death in 1861, the young boy became the Tongzhi Emperor, and she became the Empress ...

**Chinese Empress Dowager Cixi  
Portrait ~ Ancestor Portrait ...**

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## **Empress Dowager Cixi: The Concubine Who Launched Modern ...**

Another woman, Empress Cixi,

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effectively ruled China as Dowager Empress from 1861 until her death in 1908. But Cixi was forced to rule from behind a yellow screen, unseen by the petitioners who spoke with her son and later nephews, ineffective Qing rulers who relied on the much greater skill of Cixi to govern China.



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Empress Dowager Cixi: The ...**

Fortunately, after a two-year preparation period, the then-Empress Dowager selected her as an imperial concubine from among the large pool of Manchu and Mongol girls. Qing emperors were forbidden from taking Han Chinese wives or concubines. She would serve

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Emperor Xianfeng as a fourth-rank  
concubine.

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