Database of Song Policymakers and Diplomats (version 1.0) [SPaD010.mdb]

Currently downloadable at www.ntackett.com
[or http://history.berkeley.edu/people/nicolas-tackett]

This database contains basic data on Song policymakers and Northern Song diplomats. Included among policymakers are all known Northern and Southern Song chief (and deputy chief) ministers, commissioners (and deputy commissioners) of military affairs, notaries (and deputy notaries) of the Bureau of Military Affairs. Included among diplomats are Northern Song ambassadors and deputy ambassadors to Liao, as well as Northern Song escorts accompanying Liao ambassadors to Song. Besides listing the officials in question (by name and Chinese Biographical Database ID number), the database also records years of birth and death when known.

This database has been exploited so far for two publications:

1) Nicolas Tackett, "Imperial Elites, Bureaucracy, and the Transformation of the Geography of Power in Tang-Song China." In *Die Interaktion von Herrschern und Eliten in imperialen Ordnungen des Mittelalters*, edited by Wolfram Drews. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2018.

2) Chapter 1 of Nicolas Tackett, *The Origins of the Chinese Nation: Song China and the Forging of an East Asian World Order*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

The downloadable database includes three data tables: **BIO-DATA**, **DIPLOMATS**, and **POLICYMAKERS**. In addition, it includes the queries used to produce Tables 1.1-1.5 of *The Origins of the Chinese Nation*.

BIO-DATA:

Basic data on individuals (both diplomats and policymakers) largely culled from the Chinese Biographical Database (CBDB). The data table contains six fields:

cbdb_personid: Unique ID number of individuals in the database (including both diplomats and policymakers) with entries in CBDB. Equivalent to c_personid, the CBDB person identification number, thereby permitting the integration of the database tables into CBDB. This table does *not* include individuals in the **DIPLOMATS** and **POLICYMAKERS** tables who do not have CBDB entries, except in two cases (cbdb_personid=999000 and 999001). Note that when preparing this database, I used the **2013.10.8** build of CBDB.

name_full: Full name (in Chinese characters) of the individual.

birthyear: Year of birth of the individual. Many dates were determined by subtracting the age at death (minus one) from the year of death. When age at death and/or year of death are unknown, the birthyear was estimated, usually by subtracting 59 from the CBDB index year.

c_index_year: Equivalent either to the year in which the individual turned 60 *sui*, or the year of death of the individual (if the individual died before the age of 60 *sui*). *Usually* an estimate, except when both the year of death and the age at death happen to be known. Identical to the CBDB index year, except: 1) when CBDB excluded the year of death of an individual, but I was able to identify it (usually using XCB); 2) when CBDB's estimated index_year was implausible given the years in which an individual served in office (in which case I did considerable research on a case-by-case basis to try to determine a more plausible index_year).

c_death_year: The year of death. Unlike birthyear and c_index_year, this field is never an estimate; it is left blank (i.e. null value) when the year of death cannot be determined precisely using historical sources. Most data comes from CBDB, though I found a number of additional death years in XCB.

c_death_age: Age at death (taken from CBDB). Like c_death_year, this field is left blank when the age cannot be determined precisely.

DIPLOMATS:

This table contains a list of Northern Song ambassadors and deputy ambassadors to Liao, as well as escorts accompanying Liao envoys while in Song territory. Most ambassadors and their deputies were identified using Nie Chongqi 聶崇岐, "Song Liao jiaopin kao 宋遼交聘考," *Yanjing xuebao* 燕京學報 27(1940):1-51, and/or Fu Lehuan 傅樂煥, "Song Liao pinshi biao gao 宋遼聘使表稿," *Shiyusuo jikan* 史語所集刊 14(1949):57-136. Escorts were identified using comprehensive keyword searches in XCB, SHY, SS, and vols. 1-140 of QSW (i.e., roughly-speaking the Northern Song-era volumes of QSW). The table includes eight fields:

ID: Unique ID number for each instance of an individual serving as a diplomat. This ID number should *not* be conflated with cbdb_personid.

Date: Year in which the individual began his diplomatic mission (a mission that lasted anywhere from a few days in the case of some escorts to a month or two in the case of ambassadors).

Name_full: Full name (in Chinese characters) of the individual.

Appointment: Diplomatic appointment held by the individual. Only abbreviated titles (in Chinese characters) are included: 國信使 (ambassador), 國信副使 (deputy ambassador), 接伴使 (welcoming commissioner), 館伴使 (hospitality commissioner), and 送伴使 (parting commissioner).

Appointment_details: Identifies more details on the diplomatic appointment (e.g. distinguishing ambassadors sent for the New Year from ambassadors sent for the Liao emperor's birthday). I was not entirely systematic in filling out this field.

Current office: Office held concurrently with the diplomatic appointment. The individual would obviously have been exempt from the duties of this office while on the diplomatic mission. I was not entirely systematic in filling out this field.

cbdb_personid: Equivalent to cbdb_personid in **BIO-DATA** (and, thus, to c_personid in CBDB). Left blank (i.e. null value) if individual does not have an entry in **BIO-DATA**.

Reference: Reference to source of data.

POLICYMAKERS:

This table contains a list of Northern and Southern Song policymakers. For the most part, I followed Xu Ziming 徐自明, *Song zaifu biannian lu jiaobu* 宋宰輔編年錄校補, annotated by Wang Ruilai 王瑞來 (Beijing: Zhonghua shuju, 1986); and/or the "Zaifu 宰輔" chapters of SS (i.e. 卷 210-214). In accordance with the content of these two sources, **POLICYMAKERS** includes chief (and deputy chief) ministers,

commissioners (and deputy commissioners) of military affairs, and notaries (and deputy notaries) of the Bureau of Military Affairs. The table has seven fields:

ID: Unique ID number for each instance of an individual serving as a policymaker. This ID number should *not* be conflated with cbdb_personid (nor with ID in the **DIPLOMATS** table).

cbdb_personid: Equivalent to cbdb_personid in **BIO-DATA** (and, thus, to c_personid in CBDB). Left blank (i.e. null value) if individual does not have an entry in **BIO-DATA**.

name_full: Full name (in Chinese characters) of the individual.

s_date: Year in which the individual began serving in the office in question.

e_date: Year in which the individual ceased serving in the office in question.

office: Standardized names of the offices in question: 宰相 (chief minister), 副宰相 (deputy chief minister), 樞密使 (commissioner of military affairs), 樞密副使 (deputy commissioner of military affairs), 簽書樞密院事 (notary of the Bureau of Military Affairs), 同簽書樞密院事 (deputy notary of the Bureau of Military Affairs). Note that, in reality, chief ministers and deputy chief ministers received a number of different titles over the course of the dynasty. See Zhang Xiqing 張希清, *Songchao dianzhang zhidu* 宋朝典章制度 (Changchun: Jilin wenshi chubanshe, 2001), 42 for a useful table. In addition, commissioners of military affairs often received the title 知樞密院事 (and not 樞密使), and their deputies often received the title 同知樞密院事 (and not 樞密副使); however, I converted both titles to 樞密使 or 樞密副使, respectively. Note also that if an individual concurrently held two of the aforementioned offices, I only listed the primary office. Finally, note that the office field does not distinguish between different ranks of chief and deputy chief ministers (e.g. "of the left" or "of the right"), as these hierarchies were not consistently used throughout the dynasty.

notes: In a few cases, this field contains an additional note describing the office.