

## Xu Shuzheng and the Meeting of Military Governors at Tienjin

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### Abstract

After the restoration of the dethroned monarch—Puyi, Duan Qirui became the premier of the Beijing government again and decided to carry out the policy of the unification by force. His decision was in sharp contrast with the idea of the president—Feng Guo-zhang, who initiated a peaceful policy. Hence, the political situation was even more chaotic than before.

In order to carry out his policy of military unification, Duan assigned Pu Liang-tso as the military governor of Hunan, and Wu Guang-xin to preside over Szechwan. Later, as the battle at Hunan was in a complete failure, Duan can not but to give the positions of Chief of Army and Premier to Wang Shizhen.

Xu Shuzheng was a subordinate and closely right-hand man of Duan Qirui. After Duan was forced to leave, he started a series of political movements against Feng Guo-zhang, and the Tienjin Meeting of Military Commanders was one of his maneuvers. He became a great threat to Feng Guo-zhang, Wang Shizhen, and those who favored the peaceful measure.

The Tienjin Meeting of Military Commanders was a second meeting after the first one held at Hsuchow. It invited representatives of military commanders of 12 provinces and was presided over by Chao Kun. The meeting finally arrived at a decision to wage wars in the South, and successfully turned the table around, paving the way for a more drastic political strife between the Zhili and the Anhui cliques.

**Keywords:** Xu Shuzheng, Duan Qirui, the Tienjin Meeting of Military Commanders, the strife between the Zhili and the Anhui cliques.

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