

At the behest of the mountain: clan territory in post-Imperial Tibet

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In much the same manner that the twelve minor kingdoms (*rgyal-phran*) represent the chaos of regionalism prior to the order created by the descent of the first Tibetan Btsan-po and the consolidation of the Tibetan empire, the regional principalities (*rje-dpon-tshan*) represent a return to regionalism after the empire's collapse. Located after the disintegration of centralised authority and after the Revolt (*kheng-log*), the narrative of the regional principalities presents a resolution to the social and political upheaval in post-imperial Tibet. Three sources for this narrative, the Chos 'byung chen po bstan pa'i rgyal mtshan of Lde'u Jo-sras (Jo-Sras), the Rgya bod kyi chos 'byung rgyas pa of Mkhas pa lde'u Lde'u (Lde'u) and the Mkhas pa'i dga' ston by Dpa'-bo Gtsug-lag Phreng-ba (KhG), all stem from the Lo rgyus chen mo of Khu-ston Brtson-'grus g.yung-drung (1011–1075), though only Dpa'-bo Gtsug-lag explicitly cites his source. The three versions are nearly identical, but the most detailed and complete recension is found in KhG. In this paper a translation of this passage is offered along with an analysis of its contents, particularly as they relate to clan territory.