The reigns of emperors Wen and Jing of the Western Han dynasty have always been associated together and referred to as "Wen Jing zhizhi" 文景之治. It is well known that the two emperors had created a peaceful and prosperous era for their successor emperor Wu. The latter then worked on this foundation and further developed the Han dynasty into a mighty empire. However, we do not seem to know much about this abounding inheritance emperors Wen and Jing had left for their successor, especially regarding the aspect of political development. For example, we do know that the political ideology prevailed during the time of emperors Wen and Jing was the so called "Huanglao wuwei sixiang" 黄老无为思想 or the "non-active" philosophy of the Huanglao school. But how did this idea come into place and in what way did it shape the political landscape of the early Western Han dynasty? These are significant yet relatively unexplored questions which will shed new light on our understanding of the Wen-Jing Era upon careful study. This academic exercise attempts to explore these issues. I shall exemplify that the contribution of emperors Wen and Jing did not lie only in building a prosperous empire, they had also initiated and completed a schema which empowered the monarch with predominating power. The reigns of emperors Wen and Jing thus left to emperor Wu a legacy which enabled him to put his political talents and ambitions into full display. With references to journals and books, through a close and comparative study of the materials and comments made by contemporary scholars, this thesis endeavors to throw new light on the appraisal of the reigns of
emperor Wen and Jing, to restore the much-neglected "Wen Jing Era" its rightful magnificence with this reassessment.