

Research on the MuPingChih (募兵制) in the Song (宋) Dynasty

ただかず さいとう
Tadakazu Saito

The MupingChih (募兵制) in the Song (宋) Dynasty was “in a form of eating a meal as a military man.” However, when we go one step further to find out how it was specifically, we cannot but find the previous studies not sufficient enough to answer the question to the full extent.

In order to answer the fundamental question of “what the MuPingChih (募兵制) was,” this dissertation argues about the exit of the flow of those who were concerned with military laws and military society as follows:

The first part is a study of military laws. In the previous studies, the whole picture of the military laws was not shown, and the relationship between the criminal law and the military laws has not been explained, either. This dissertation presents a complete picture of the Song (宋) Dynasty military laws, and makes it clear how military society was related to the society of the general public as well as how the two were different.

The second part is a study of the fate of the soldiers. As for the fate of the soldiers, based on the studies of the ShengYuan (剩員) system by Mr. Wang TsengYu (王曾瑜) and Hiromitsu Koiwai, I describe ShenYuan (剩員)・TaiChiaShenYuan (帶甲剩員) system which ensured a reserve force and social stability of the Song (宋) Dynasty. In addition, the system could secure the soldiers what-if happened. Therefore, the system was essential to support the root of the MuPingChih (募兵制).

The third part is a study of the comprehensive security system. Here I argue the comprehensive security system, including the ShenYuan (剩員) system. And it is then that I concretely show the answer to the question of “what the MuPingChih (募兵制) was.” In addition, I also show the possibilities of the Song (宋) Dynasty history research, focusing on LouTseYuan (漏沢園) and using a book on military science called “ShouChengLu (守城録),” as an example.

In the fourth part of the dissertation, I have summarized “what the MuPingChih (募兵制) was” based on the three aforementioned arguments. Moreover,

I have confirmed the modernity of the NorthernSong (北宋) Dynasty ChinChun (禁軍).

Through this dissertation, it is shown that the Song (宋) Dynasty MuPingChih (募兵制) was a complex system composed of various systems such as insurance system, which soldiers could rely upon in order to lead their lives as soldiers for a lifetime. It also comprised of laws for the Song (宋) Dynasty to unify its administration. And in the Song (宋) Dynasty, a profession as a soldier was established for the first time in Chinese history. Especially, the NorthernSong (北宋) Dynasty ChinChun (禁軍) was the regular army, “The National Guard”, which could be considered as a modern military. Therefore, it is shown that they must be clearly differentiated from those in the earlier days. (Change from Tang (唐) to Song (宋) in the Chinese military system.) Accordingly, China’s Song (宋) Dynasty was not like a society where wars were caused by economic reasons, or Monarchs with little economic power gathering part-time soldiers to fight, nor were there poor people gathering around wars in search of chances of accumulation wealth.