

Abstract of Doctoral Thesis

Title: Research on Jiao Hong's thought

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This study focuses on the background and development of the intellectual world of the late Ming scholar Jiao Hong. By positioning Jiao Hong in the context of the intellectual milieu of the late Ming, with seeks to trace the most crucial factors that shaped the map of scholarship during the late Ming era. More specifically, this study tries to clarify the scope, form and characteristics of the intellectual milieu of late Ming and redefine the problems relating to this field. In order to unveil the above-mentioned question, This study takes the following concrete approaches: firstly, to define the scope of late Ming's world of thought by differentiating between "intellectual history of late Ming" and "late Ming as intellectual legacy"; secondly, to clarify the forms of the late Ming thought, using theories of "persistent bass" and "dissipating echo"; and last, to characterized the nature of the late Ming thought by focusing respectively on individuality and collectiveness. Through the examination of the aforementioned three clusters of questions, this study confirms that these questions are determining issues that shaped the context of the late Ming thought. In addition, this study reconsiders questions such as the clarification and definition of the late Ming thought, the continuities of late Ming and early Qing thought, also the origin of the late Ming thought. By doing so, this study discussed in the overarching context of the late Ming intellectual world.

In the previous scholarship on the intellectual history of late Ming period, the crucial role of Jiao Hong in his time had been on the spotlight for a long time. However, most previous studies shed light on certain perspective of his thought. The complete intellectual world of Jiao Hong still remains underdeveloped. Moreover, the question of how this individual scholar should be positioned in the context of the late Ming thought, is unknown. In fact, Jiao Hong's scholarship was groundbreaking for his time. It is no exaggeration to assert that Jiao Hong laid the cornerstone for the entire late Ming intellectual world.

The chapters of this dissertation unfold in chronological order. In each chapter, the life story and intellectual development of Jiao Hong is examined against the background of his contemporary scholarly circumstances.

Chapter 1 sheds light on Jiao Hong's life until he became sixteen. Based on studies of Jiao Hong's family status and the enlightenment education he received on his personal development, this chapter examines the ideology of Ming's military personnel and the role of family status as well as enlightenment education during this time.

Chapter 2 zooms in on Jiao Hong from sixteen to twenty-three, as he was studying in the temples in Nanjing. By analyzing his initial understanding of Buddhism and Taoism, this chapter comes to the conclusion that Buddhism and Taoism were coexisting in temples of late Ming.

Chapter 3 focuses on Jiao Hong from age of twenty-three to fifty, as he was preparing for state

examination and studying Yangmingism in Nanjing. It comes to the conclusion that the Shu Yuan created the genesis of late Ming's scholarly world. In the context of late Ming, Shu Yuan played the role of knowledge hub for various kinds of communication.

Chapter 4 examines the political activities and thoughts of Jiao Hong during his career as official in Beijing from the age of fifty to sixty to see how the thought of the late Ming scholar became secularized. It argues that the trend of secularization was visible in the late Ming world of thought.

Chapter 5 sheds light on late Jiao Hong between the age of sixty to the end of his life. It traces his thoughts on the unification of the three religions and his reception of Western scholarship. This chapter showcases the flexibility and creativity individual thinkers in late Ming and their active reception of Western learning.

Chapter 6 investigates the posthumous legacy and reception history of Jiao Hong. Meanwhile, it examines the problem of genealogical division of thought in the study of the history of late Ming thought. It discusses the genealogical problem of thought in the context of late Ming thought, and the state of the existence of individualistic thought in late Ming.

To sum up, this study provides an overall picture of Jiao Hong's life and thought in the context of late Ming's intellectual realm.