Yüan Government Armies in Shensi at the Outbreak of the Red Turban Rebellions

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This article reconstructs and analyzes the contents of a stele inscription which recounts the activities of the Red Turban armies and the response of the Yüan government armies in the Han River valley in the last years of the Yüan dynasty. The stele celebrates the rebuilding of the Niuan T'ü-chu Chung-hui-wang temple, located in Chin-chou 金州 (in western Shensi branch secretariat), which was burned down by rebel forces. At the same time, the stele also asserts that the Yüan armies were aided in defeating the rebels at Chin-chou by the god of the temple；Ts'ui Yao-feng, who was the governor of Chin-chou and deified as Chung-hui-wang, had effectively fought against Huang Ch'ao's rebels near the end of the T'ang dynasty.

The inscription lists numerous officials. Their home areas or bases were not only in Chin-chou but spread throughout Shensi, Szechwan, Kansu and Tibet. In other words, government forces were drawn from a wide area to the north, west, and south of Chin-chou to meet the rebels approaching from the Ho-nan Chiangpei region in the southeast. The combined forces were under the overall command of the tsung-p'ing-kuan 總兵官 of Shensi, who was given extraordinary authority over all the mobilized forces. The subordinate officers are listed on the stele under their commanders. Due to the "Chung-hui-wang" stele we can analyze the organization and strategy of the Yüan military forces mobilized in the west to suppress the rebellion.