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On the Ranking of Meritorious Vassals under the Early Former  
Han Dynasty: Ancestral Temples and Changes in the Privileges of  
Adjunct Marquises Appointed by the Founder

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It has been frequently pointed out that vassals who had rendered distinguished service in the founding of the Former Han 漢 dynasty were given privileged positions and took control of its political nerve centre during the first half of its existence. However, there has been little research on just what kind of privileges were obtained and how they were enjoyed. This article examines the historical significance of ranking meritorious vassals by the Dynasty Founder (Liu Bang 劉邦), and in doing so, reexamine historical developments during the period from the perspective of institutional history. The findings may be summarized as follows.

(1) Those vassals who served in Liu Bang's army and were enfeoffed as adjunct marquises (*liehou* 列侯) had by the second year of the rule of empress dowager Lü 呂 all been given a rank commensurate with their achievements.

(2) On the occasion of the annual offering of wine in the eighth month, subsequent emperors reconfirmed the documents recording the ranking of meritorious vassals kept in the founder's mausoleum, and also whenever any of the adjunct marquises enfeoffed by Liu Bang were divested of their lands, they always sought to reinstate them out of memory for Liu Bang and empress dowager Lü.

(3) It was during the first year of the reign of Emperor Jing 景 that the mausoleum of Gucheng 顧成 came to be honored on a par with that of the founder, and all adjunct marquises were obligated to attend all services performed there. Consequently, it became possible for the emperor to manipulate the

titular rank of "adjunct marquis" based on whether or not vassals were "respectful and punctilious" towards the ancestral temples, regardless of whether or not they had been meritorious vassals of the founder.

(4) This change of attitude towards the meritorious vassals of the founder meant that during the reigns of Emperors Jing and Wu 武, the special privileges held by them were negated in favor of a system that required all adjunct marquises to loyally serve the reigning emperor.

*Xingtai*: Regional Offices of the Ministry of State Under the  
Western Wei Dynasty

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Under the Northern Wei 魏 Dynasty, *xingtai* 行台, which were regional branch offices of Ministry of State (Shangshu Sheng 尚書省), became wide-ranging and powerful administrative agencies and continued to play an important role in regional governance under the Eastern Wei and Northern Qi 齊 Dynasties. However, since the institution has been thought to have fallen into decline under the Western Wei Dynasty, it ceased to be the subject of interest to historians of ancient China.

During that time, *xingtai* assumed a variety of forms. One was the conventional agency located in the provinces, another the *da xingtai* of Yuwen Tai 宇文泰 located in the central of government. Furthermore, regional *xingtai* were subdivided into (1) those located in already pacified areas, (2) those in war zones, and (3) those which local power-holders were permitted to establish. Type (1) were established in areas under the rule of the Western Wei and are seen on the front line facing the Eastern Wei. Many of them were established and then abolished during a short period during the first half of the Dynasty's existence. Type (2) were established throughout the Dynasty's history in conjunction with military campaigns against neighboring powers or during the pacification of internal rebellions. That is to say, when military action was being taken in areas where Dynasty rule had not yet been established. All of them were abolished as soon as military action came to an end. Type (3) were assigned to powerful clans and other local power-

holders during the first half of the Dynasty's reign in the forward area facing the Eastern Wei. Here we find local power-holders being vested with considerable authority as an expedient to win them over to the Western Wei.

A feature common to all *xingtai* during that time is a lack of permanency. In this respect they differed markedly from their permanent counterparts that existed from the late Northern Wei through to the Eastern Wei and Northern Qi Period, when they turned into permanent institutions. One could say that the Western Wei *xintang* had returned to the original form as a temporary office of the Ministry of State.

The *da xingtai* of Yuwen Tai was, along with the Office of the Councilor-in-chief (Chengxiang Fu 丞相府), the most important government agency under the Western Wei Dynasty. It was not a full-fledged administrative agency, but functioned more like an office for accommodating Yuwen Tai's personal staff, involved in deciding on policy and government institutions. Whenever Yuwen Tai set out on a military campaign, it would be invested with the powers of the Ministry of State in the field, with no particular restrictions on its area of jurisdiction, and was also involved in managing the campaign in conjunction with the Chengxiang Fu.

It was in this way that the Western Wei Dynasty made flexible use of *xingtai*, by adjusting the scale of its area of jurisdiction and its powers to suit the circumstances. In addition, although the relationship of the *xingtai* to the Commander-in-chief (Dudu 都督) has hitherto been regarded as a subordinate relationship, since in actuality their respective areas of expertise differed, they should to be considered to have stood in a parallel, mutually complementary relationship to each other.

Rethinking the Foundation of the "Qazaq Khanate":  
From the Left Hand of the *Ulūs-i Jūchī* to the "Qazaq Khanate"

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The so-called "Qazaq khanate" was founded around the late 15th century by Jani Beg and Giray, who claimed descent from Oros of the left hand of the *ulūs-i Jūchī*. The foundation of the "Qazaq khanate" has been the subject

of animated discussion, which, unfortunately, has been marred by a historical view about the ethnic origins of the present "Kazakh nation." The aims of this article are 1) to reconstruct the historical record from the time of the left hand of the *ulūs-i Jūchī* to the foundation of the "Qazaq khanate," based mainly on Qādir 'Alī Beg's *Jāmi'al-Tawārīkh* written at the beginning of the 17th century as a historical account of the successive polities of the *ulūs-i Jūchī*, and 2) to reconsider the foundation of the "Qazaq khanate" in relation to the disintegration and reorganization of the *ulūs-i Jūchī*.

The left hand of the *ulūs-i Jūchī* was revived by Oros of the Tuqa Timurids in its disintegration and reorganization of whole *ulūs-i Jūchī*, which began in the late 14th century, and proceeded to dominate the eastern *Dasht-i Qipchāq* again during the time of Baraq in the early 15th century. Although it is said that the "Qazaq khanate" was founded as a new polity during the time of Jani Beg and Giray in the late 15th century, it was actually a nomadic polity which succeeded to the left hand of the *ulūs-i Jūchī* revived by Oros. According to the sources, Jani Beg and Giray acted like "qazāq"s in their rivalries with the Shibanids, and therefore came to be called "qazāq." However, the descriptions in "*Jāmi'al-Tawārīkh*" and other sources reveal that they were historically identified as the Orosids who succeeded to the left hand of the *ulūs-i Jūchī*, rather than as "qazāq"s, and thus within the Juchids. Therefore, the "Qazaq khanate" should be considered as a nomadic polity with Orosids taking over the left hand of the *ulūs-i Jūchī* at its core, in the process of the disintegration and reorganization of the *ulūs-i Jūchī*.

Regional Prosopography of the "Biographical Local Histories" Compiled  
in the Medieval Islamic World: Its Character and Purpose

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The many Arabic local histories compiled between the latter part of the 10th and the first half of the 13th century AD throughout the Islamic World mainly consist of "who's whos" among 'ulamā' (especially ḥadīth scholars) associated with the regions concerned. This article calls these histories "biographical local histories." The research to date has discussed the biographical