

they were preferred by the people over cloth and grain as a means of exchange in the private sector.

In sum, what happened therefore was a substantial transformation from a Qin-Han monetary system consisting of state-issued coins functioning as the official means of settlement and exchange together with an auxiliary private sector-produced currency in cloth to a Three Dynasties system in which state-issued coins remained the means of exchange, while private sector-produced cloth became the official means of settlement.

Ming Dynasty Foreign Policy and Its Suzerain-Vassal Relationship  
with Ayutthaya: The Deployment of Siamese Troops in the  
Wangli Korean Campaign

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It has been the conventional opinion of historians studying with both China and Siam that although Ayutthaya, being a kingdom of Southeast Asia lying outside the Chinese linguistic and Confucian ideological sphere, had, nevertheless, been designated as a Vassal of the Ming, the relationship was different from the political order involving the Suzerain-Vassal relationships of East Asia. It is said that Ayutthaya became a vassal is because the Ming Dynasty limited foreign trade to the countries which they vassalized. However, a passage in Ming Shilu 明實錄 describing how the Siamese ambassador offered the Ming Dynasty to deploy troops in the campaign to defeat Toyotomi Hideyoshi's invasion of Korea would seem to cast doubt on the conventional wisdom. While this incident has drawn attention from Siam historians as one achievement of Naresuan, the liberator of Ayutthaya from Burma, it has not yet to be studied from the viewpoint of Chinese history. The aim of this article is to investigate the events surrounding the promise to deploy Siamese troops in the Wangli 万曆 Korean Campaign, in order to clarify political relations between Ayutthaya and the Ming Dynasty at that time.

To begin with, the author shows that 1) the assertion that it was Naresuan who suggested the deployment is untenable and 2) the offer was not a spontaneous response on the part of the Siamese, but rather part of a plan

engineered by the Chinese Minister of War, Shi Xing 石星. Next, the author turns to the backdrop against which Shi Xing planned to employ Siamese military resources, showing that Ayutthaya was not trusted as a Chinese vassal and that such contemporaries as Xiao Yuan 蕭彥, The Censor-in-Chief and Supreme commander of Lianguang provinces (總督兩廣都御史), as well as Yu Shenhang 于慎行, the former Minister of Rites, opposed to the Deployment of Siamese troops.

While it is true that until the Wangli Era (1573-1620), though Ayutthaya had been a vassal, the Ming Dynasty regarded little importance. That relationship would change within a dynamic milieu characterized by Burma's annexation of Ayutthaya and a weakening of the Ming Dynasty. As Ayutthaya rendered tribute and strengthened its independence from Burma by Ming making the state seal again which had been lost in battle, the Ming Dynasty welcomed Ayutthaya for the sake of bolstering its failing international order and attempted to employ Siamese military resources against threats posed to that order by pirates, Burma and Japan. From the Ming standpoint within its declining political power and changes occurring in the international environment, Ayutthaya suddenly increased its importance, even if only in a formal manner, as an adherent to the old order and a vassal willing to provide military cooperation. Here we can observe a period of transition in which an evolution in international relations was occurring that can not be understood by mere schematic methods of interpretation.

Changes in Local Society Caused by the Introduction of Self-Government in  
Late-Qing Period Suzhou:  
The Case of Baohuang Reports Related to Flood Damage

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Throughout the Qing Period prefectural (zhou-xian 州縣) administrators played a very important role in dynastic rule over the people. However, under the reforms instituted beginning in 1901 during the Guangxu 光緒 Era, drastic changes were implemented in the administration of the most basic echelons of society at the local level. In particular, in January 1909 the Constitution