

The Study on Refugee from Shanshan Based on Kharoṣṭhi Documents

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Abstract. Most of Kharosthi documents unearthed in Xinjiang help to show the general political and economic picture in Shanshan. Until now, more than seven hundred pieces of these documents have been translated, some of which are about refugee. The refugee issue in Shanshan was caused by war, land annexation and the exodus of slaves. And the refugee population can be divided into two parts based on area --- one is those from Shanshan, and the other is those from other countries. So, there were different settlement policies towards different kinds of refugee accordingly --- those fleeing from other countries could enjoy more preferential policies. Above all, it is helpful to study Kharosthi documents to analyze the Xiyu society from the third century to the fifth century.

1. Introduction

Shanshan was originally called Loulan, which is one of the Xiyu ancient states and lived for more than six hundred years. Its capital was Yuni city, near Ruoqiang, Xinjiang now. Shanshan was a strategic choke point of the Silk Road and was famous for “the military and economic heavyweight in the Silk Road”, which played a crucial part in the Xiyu area. During Wei and Jin dynasties, caused by many factors, all countries and regions were faced with refugee issues with different degrees, including Shanshan, whose political and economic conditions can be found in Most of Kharosthi documents unearthed in Xinjiang. Until now, more than seven hundred pieces of these documents have been translated, some of which are about refugee. It is helpful to study these Kharosthi documents to analyze the development and decline of Shanshan, as well as the Xiyu society from the third century to the fifth century. Through the Western Jin Dynasty, especially in the latter period, social contradictions were intensified, as a result, the refugee problem were increasingly serious. People became destitute and homeless, “more than eighty percent people died, and so many refugees crowding the roads, including the aged and the kids.” Until the Eastern Jin Dynasty, People turned pale at the mere mention of refugee, thought “from the beginning of the world, through all the books, there is no disaster worse than this.” In the Western Jin Dynasty, the country was divided into twenty-one states, twenty of which had refugee appearing except for Guangzhou that is too far away to be recorded. The refugee problem is quite complicated indeed, however, there is no doubt that war is a significant cause of it.

2. Source of Refugee in Shanshan

2.1. Refugee in War

Under the background of many wars in the Wei and Jin dynasties, wars in the southern Xinjiang region also took place from time to time, the kingdom of Shanshan government should guard against the invasion of foreign enemies at any time. This is reflected in the Kharoṣṭhi documents, In 86[3]22 that the local people are often attacked by the Supis people and there is also a border dispute between the Kingdom of Khotan and Shanshan. In 119[3]27 mentioned a letter, it is heard here now that the Supis are coming down on the people of Calmadana in April. In 123[3]28, Kalyanadhama brought news of the army from Saca and on the day of return, the officer who heard the news of the army immediately sent a man named Yitaka to ride to Sāca to alert the enemy. In

addition, such as document 88[3]23, 139[3]32, 183[3]44, 399[3]104-105, and 578[3]152-153 that reflect roughly the same content.

If there is an attack and there is defence. There are also a number of documents reflecting the prepare for war of the country at any time. For example, document 133[3]31 and 126[3]29 refers to the fact that it is their duty as always to prevent the Supis from invading. document 283[3]66, 351[3]88 and 515[3]131-132 also reflect that the Supis have always been a persistent nightmare of the Shanshan. In addition, document 494 also reflects that Khotan also invades the country from time to time.

In the face of the invasion, Shanshan has taken many preventive measures, Referring to 518[3]132 and 367[3]94-95, it can be seen that the State has a strict selection system for frontier-guard and if the soldiers are not suitable for fighting, the king will punish those responsible. On the other hand, in document 367, the State has certain selection measures even for war horses. A bridge referred to in document 639[3]171 should belong to the main road of traffic, If a foreign enemy invades, the king of Shanshan clearly stipulates a blockade of the bridge in order to defend against the foreign enemy. Document 722[3]185-186 states that “By all means this bow is to be sent here. Also ten arrows are to be sent.” This shows that the country is ready for war in the face of the invasion.

Despite the necessary defend by the Shanshan resident, but people and property continue to be looted during the war, document 376[3]97-98 and 415[3]108-109 reflect the invasion of Shanshan in Khotan, which caused the displacement of a large number of people. Document 212[3]51 also reflects the frequent invasion of Shanshan and the looting of horses by the Supis. In document 324[3]78-79, the Supeis came to Calmadana, they plundered the kingdom and carried off the inhabitants. The invasion of the foreign enemy and the restlessness of the road have a great impact on the lives of the country and its inhabitants and even affected the normal judicial activities, this is reflected in document 423[3]112-113. In document 357[3]89-90, the invasion of the foreign enemy not only prevented normal interrogation but also had to be supervised and escorted to the treasury. War is a double-edged sword, while the invasion of Supis brought suffering to Shanshan, its own inhabitants are also displaced. Document 675[3]177 reflects that a Supis was displaced as a result of the war, he became a displaced person. Therefore, the exiled population in the war is an important source of the displaced people in the Kingdom of Shanshan.

2.2. Refugee Caused by Land Annexation

During the Wei and Jin dynasties, on the basis of the privatization of a large number of state-owned land, Powerful landlords continue to land annexation. According to historical records, from the forth years of Jingyuan (AD 263) to the first year of Taikang (AD 280) in the Western Jin Dynasty, the number of households increased by nearly one million in Wei and Shu, with a population of 8.4 million, the population of area is growing rapidly[4]73-74. On the one hand, the growth of households is the performance of the country's prosperity and strength in ancient times, but on the other hand, it inevitably leads to the competition for labor and cultivated land, this kind of land annexation is no exception in the kingdom of Shanshan. At that time, there were a lot of Kharoṣṭhi documents involved in the sale of land, the sale of land has been confirmed by law in the kingdom of Shanshan, the private ownership of land owner has been guaranteed to a great extent, which is well illustrated by the seal of local officials in many land purchase contracts. At that time, there were some large landowners, such as Ramsotsa, who had repeatedly appeared in Kharoṣṭhi documents, he represents the landowners.

Businessmen are also an important force in the annexation of land, According to the Book of Former Han, the merchants of the Han Dynasty “Small businessmen sit in a row that they sell goods, manipulate the market for extremely short goods and obtain profiteering profits.” Large businessmen with strong financial resources not only bribed the princes and marquises, but also annex the property of farmers[5]1132, which has become a major social problem. During this period, the king of Shanshan held a large population, which were usually used as prizes to reward those who had contributed, such as 24[3]7-8 , the document reflects on one side that the king is the country's

largest land annexer, he has large amounts of land and a bountiful population. In such a background, the emergence of a large land merger such as Ramsotsa is natural. The annexation of land by large landowners resulted in the displacement of a large number of people, they became fugitive man in society. The term “fugitive” is often seen in Kharoṣṭhi documents, and T·Barrow writes “fugitive man”. There are also a number of documents relating to fugitives, such as 136[3]32, 149[3]34-35, 161[3]38, 217[3]55, 292[3]68, 296[3]69, 333[3]81-82, 355 [3]89 and so on. These related documents demonstrate the fact undoubtedly, while large landowners buy and sell and annex land, a group of people are displaced and became fugitive man .

2.3. Exodus of Slaves

The last years of the Western Jin Dynasty, “the continuous famine caused difficulties for the country, Because of unable to give relief to the victims, the country was allowing Population sale. ” [2]839 “Many of the children of the Central Plains are sold to the east of the Yangtze River.” [2]2193 As a result, this period is full of people who are slaves. The cruel exploitation caused the escape of slaves and the successful slaves had great influence on other slaves, which provided a model for the new escape. As the slave owners of Georgia put it after the escape of the slaves, “every free slave.....attracts his companions to escape like him. ” [7]50 Fugitive slaves are undoubtedly also a major source of exiled people. The situation in the kingdom of Shanshan is roughly the same as that in the Central Plains. In document 310[3]73-74, the treasurer Kuvineya reports that two men belong to him escaped, the escape site has been found. The king ordered local officials “when this sealed wedge-tablet reaches you, forthwith these men are to be carefully searched for.” In addition, in document 506 [3]127-128, slave Srasdha took another slave called Sanamma belonging to Tatiga and handed him over to Samca to work for him. This Srasdha along with a slave of Samca fled to Khema. The slaves in document 506 also fled. Therefore, it can be assumed that there would have been other slaves who had not been found by their masters in time, they will be also displaced.

Although it is mentioned in document 589 [3]125, there is a woman called Lyipimtsae and her son called Pgita, they arose and sold to the scribe Ramsotsa in time of famine a girl called Smitsae. This indicates that there was also a famine in the kingdom of Shanshan, famine may also lead to exiles. But looking at more than 700 Kharoṣṭhi documents, there is only one document refers to “famine” and nothing else, so I don't dare to guess at will. As a result, the war and the annexation of land and the escape of slaves led to the exiled population in the kingdom of Shanshan.

3. Classification and Settlement Policy towards Refugee in Shanshan

3.1. Classification of Refugee in Shanshan

Shanshan for displaced people in general is unified resettlement, unified management. The displaced people can be divided into two categories according to their region: the first is internally, that is, Shanshan's own displaced people. This kind can be divided into two categories: Exiles without their masters, they could be free people or slaves before they became homeless. As far as the exiles with masters are concerned, the slaves have completely lost contact with their masters after they became displaced. Exiles with masters refer to these people who had a master before he became a displaced person and whose master can be found and whose identity is the equivalent of a slave and the country through various channels can find their master. The second category is that the displaced persons from outside the kingdom of Shanshan, that is, exiles from other city-state. According to different forms of exiled population, the kingdom of Shanshan have different resettlement policies.

3.2. Settlement Policy towards Refugee in Shanshan

3.2.1. Settlement Policy towards Domestic Refugee without Owner

One way is to reclaim the wasteland together;

In order to bind the displaced people to the land, exiles without their masters were uniformly resettled and and development the waste land. such as 136 [3]32, 217[3]53 and 248[3]58-59,these documents are a reflection of such problems. Once the displaced are found, the state asks the messenger to send them to a unified place to be dealt with by the government, that is unified resettlement and development of waste land. As to how to manage and relocate, document 292 provides an explanation: National unified resettlement of displaced persons, farmland and house must be given to those fugitives and seed is to be given to them, so that they can make copious and plentiful cultivation. There is no doubt that displaced people without their masters have become farming for the country, belonging to the entire population of the country.

The other way is to be given to meritorious statesmen as a reward.

The King has not only the land but also the population which can be awarded, a large part of this reward comes from the exiled population, This is reflected in documents 161 [3]38 and 355[3]89. For example, one of the male fugitives in document 161 was given to his subjects by the king. In document 355, it is mentioned one fugitive man has been granted to Sujada by the King, that is, the king has given to his subjects the displaced people who belong to the state. The exiles granted by the king are private property protected by the law, in documents 375 [3]97, the king ordered the local government, if it's true, these people were to be handed over to Dmusvamta. This fully demonstrates that the population granted by the King is private property protected by law.

Therefore, for exiles without masters, one way is unified resettlement and development of waste land, and the other way is to reward the minister and serving the landlords for planting.

3.2.2. Settlement Policy towards Domestic Refugee with an Owner

In the kingdom of Shanshan, the displaced persons who can verify their master are returned to the original place once the master is identified. Document 216[3]53 means that for the people with the owner, the local government's approach is to allow the people to return to their original work and to continue to serve their owners. In document 491 [3]124, after the Supis invasion, slaves were looted, and if they escaped, they would be displaced. This part of the displaced people, if they have a master, they should go back to their place of origin. If the master is not found, the slaves will become reward.

3.2.3. Settlement Policy towards Refugee from Other Countries

The kingdom has different resettlement policies for displaced persons between outside and the city-state, and seems to be more favorable and looser for the displaced people from outside than to the internally displaced persons from the city-state. In 471[3]119-120 document, the State protects the property of refugees in Khotan and does not dispose of their property and freedom at will. Document 333[3]81-82 mentioned that the displaced people on the bridge should be managed by special personnel, and then unified resettlement. The issue of displaced persons in Khotan is also dealt with in document 622[3]167 almost at the same time, about how to place, in document 629[3]168 and 471 are all emphasize that it is not to take possession. This shows that it is more relaxed to resettle displaced people from foreign countries than internally displaced people in the kingdom of Shanshan.

4. Summary

All in all, because of war, land annexation, the exodus of slaves and other factors, there were plenty of refugee in Shanshan, and the government made different settlement policies towards different kinds of refugee accordingly. To the domestic refugee, once their owner was verified, they were sent back immediately; if their owner couldn't be found, they were given to meritorious statesmen as a reward; if the refugee were originally free men, they would be settled by the government to reclaim the wasteland together, whose identities were changed, in fact, from free men to dependent peasants of the government. At the same time, the settlement policy towards refugee from other countries were looser. It was forbidden to possess their property, and they would be settled by the government together. Owing to lack of certain description from documents, whether the foreign

refugee would be settled back to their own country is uncertain. However, one thing is clear: those fleeing from other countries could enjoy more preferential policies compared with domestic refugee, which perhaps is last ditch to avoid another war.

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