

Three Dimensions of Research on "The Reformer China" of Macao in the Late Qing Dynasty

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Abstract. "The Reformer China" of Macao in the late Qing Dynasty aggregates rich historical data, whose research has become a striking topic in recent years. As a descriptive study of aggregation of historical materials, the academic connotation of this research topic has not been fully explored, and the academic foundation based on research has not been clarified. The current research expands the research topic in three dimensions: social change, ideological evolution and media development, this research involves many disciplines such as history; politics, sociology and communication, and these expand research horizons and academic discussion space for research under this topic. The implications of multidimensional research perspective under this topic, under the overall social, cultural and historical background, and the construction of the new research paradigm are full of opportunities and challenges.

Keywords: The Reformer China, social change, ideological evolution, media development.

1. The Aggregation of Historical Materials on the Study of the Reformer China

In 1897, The Reformer China is established by Kang Youwei and Liang Qichao of the Reformists in Macau, it is a paper which aims to publicize political reform, promote Western learning and enlighten the people. At the beginning of the publication, it is an era of drastic changes in social history, ideology and culture, and political structure, the main contents of The Reformer China are propaganda of the theory of reform and modernization, imperial edict of reform promulgated by the emperor, the domestic recent events of New Deal, the news of various countries in the world and the introduction of new Western knowledge. Among them, The Reformer China pay special attention to the translation of foreign affairs and the introduction of new knowledge, which has become the characteristics of its newspaper. With the support of Ho Tingguang, a Chinese baron in Macau, The Reformer China formed a strong translation team, newspapers were translated into Portuguese, Japanese, English and German languages, etc., sold well in domestic and overseas market, and it was welcomed by progressives and became the longest-selling and most widely-selling newspaper in the new period of reform. The Reformer China started publication in 1897 and stopped publication in 2001, which published 134 copies.

Based on the current research situation of The Reformer China, this paper believes that the research of The Reformer China has been meaningfully expanded and deepened in three dimensions: social change, ideological evolution and media development.

2. Research on the Reformer China under the Dimension of Social Change

It is the political motive for the reformists to establish The Reformer China to propagate the thought of reform, save the nation from subjugation and ensure its survival, promote Western learning, profoundly reveal the current situation of China's passive backwardness and beating, and hope to walk a new development road to save the backward China. Therefore, as an important speech base and mouthpiece of the reformists, The Reformer China has always been a hot topic in the academic circles on the reformists' the Constitutional Reform and Modernization of 1898 movement and its influence on the political and social changes in China in the late Qing Dynasty, at present, the research on this aspect is also fruitful.

Qiu Yongqiang's article "Propaganda Fronts of the Reform--Macao The Reformer China" mainly expounds the contribution of The Reformer China in propaganda of the bourgeois reform movement,

before the coup, it broke through the silence of the feudal rulers, promoted the development of the reform movement and the ideological emancipation of intellectuals, and stick to the reform direction after the coup, it was the most important speech base of the reformists and made positive contributions to the propaganda of bourgeois political and social theory at that time.

Yu Dingbang's article "defend the emperor" activity of Southeast Asian Chinese Businessmen in 1899-1900- the Relevant Report of The Reformer China in Macao" started from the perspective of "defend the emperor" of Southeast Asian Chinese businessmen, Southeast Asia is close to China, there are a large number of overseas Chinese, which has become the key area of overseas activities of the Reformists. The "defend the emperor" activities of Chinese businessmen in Southeast Asia are the first important activity of overseas Chinese concerned about domestic politics in history, so it is worth studying. Yu Dingbang's research perspective had made the academic community to expand the research field of The Reformer China to overseas and enriched the research results of The Reformer China.

Feng Weixun's article "The Reformer China in Guangdong Province during the New Period of Reform" is the earliest available article studying The Reformer China, he preliminarily expound the effect and influence of The Reformer China after publication, which provided a reference for later scholars' research. Guo Mingrong Guo Mingrong expounded the progressive role of The Reformer China in the article "Discussion on the role of The Reformer China in Macao", namely it propagandize that reform thought promotes the development of reform movement, it input western knowledge and advanced western ideas, enlightened Chinese people, profoundly revealed the status quo where the great powers divided and invaded China and the fact that the feudal ruler of Qing Dynasty oppressed and persecuted the reformists; in addition, there are also articles elaborating the promotion of The Reformer China on reform, such as Xi Yandi' The Reformer China: public opinion front of reformists, Tang Renze's The Reformer China of Macao during the reform movement, Hu Jieren's "The Reformer China", a famous publication during the Constitutional Reform and Modernization of 1898, etc., these article affirmed the progressive significance of The Reformer China in promoting social change in China.

3. Research on the Reformer China under the Dimension of Ideological Evolution

The reformists sought a new development way of for China in the future from the ideological and cultural fields, which was an important transitional stage in the history of modern Chinese ideology and culture. Shen Xiaomin' Brief Comments on the Thought of The Reformer China and Lin Kaixin's The Reformer China and the Development of Chinese Culture in Guangdong and Southeast Asia (1897-1901). Shen Xiaomin's article mainly elaborated that The Reformer China had a close relationship with Kang Youwei, which basically adhered to Kang Youwei's views on Chinese and Western culture, and had a unique perspective. Kang Youwei vigorously advocated Western learning, advocated learning the latest and the most advanced culture in the west, and he translated a large number of articles introducing Western politics, Western learning and Western art, the achievement was brilliant, meanwhile he pointed out that Chinese culture contained its own essence and interpreted Western learning as Chinese inherent culture, he believed that Chinese and Western cultures share mutual properties, and Chinese and Western cultures will inevitably lead to the integration road. Shen Xiaomin pointed out that the reformists had always adhered to the idea of "Western civilization originated from China", he believed that the reformists had not abandoned their own culture while trying to reform.

Lin Kaixin's article "The Reformer China of Macao and the development of Chinese culture in Guangdong and Southeast Asia (1897-1901) proposed that the study of the development of modern Chinese culture should not only focus on the important academic, political and cultural tasks of different times, but also paid attention to the fact that different regions have different cultural evolution processes, the author took The Reformer China as the center, deconstructed the evolution of Chinese culture in Lingnan area in the late Qing Dynasty from the perspective of regional culture,

and explored how the Chinese culture and ideology advocated by the reformists and the royalists influenced the cultural development of modern Guangdong and Southeast Asia.

Some scholars also discussed the influence of The Reformer China on education, literature, science and technology in modern China from the special topics in The Reformer China, such as education, literature, science and technology. Among them, Ye Nong's "Macao The Reformer China and the modernization of China's education" was representative work, this article elaborates on the new measures of educational reform published in The Reformer China, focused on introducing the new features of "advocating women's studies" at that time, Ye Nong believed that The Reformer China played a great propaganda role in the modernization of China's education and promoted the modernization of Chinese education, Lu Juan of Jinan University, published her master's thesis "Study on The Reformer China in Macao in the Late Qing Dynasty", this paper mainly expounded the founding of The Reformer China and the educational situation recorded in it, and explored the course of educational modernization; Dong Guicheng's publicity of science and technology of The Reformer China mainly introduced the publicity contents of The Reformer China for modern science and technology and its contribution to the dissemination of science and technology, and pointed out that The Reformer China followed the development trend of world science and technology, introduced the latest scientific and technological achievements, and expounded the driving effect of scientific and technological progress on society, Zuo Pengjun wrote poems and comments of Macao The Reformer China, he believed that the poems published by Macao The Reformer China had prominent realistic political content, which deeply reflected the great changes in modern China, it showed the fierce conflict in the depth of modern writers' ideology and their concern for the future and destiny of the nation.

4. Research on the Reformer China under the Dimension of Media Development

The Reformer China is the first Chinese newspaper founded by Chinese people in Macao, the research on The Reformer China and the development of Chinese media industry is also worth exploring. At present, the representative works of this research dimension include Deng Yaorong's The Reformer China: Publicize Scientific and Technological Knowledge by the Attached Drawings of Newspapers, his monograph "The Reformer China-Macao Reformists' Political Commentary Newspaper", Shi Xin's "Historical Significance and Realistic View of The Reformer China, the Second Speech Base of Reformists", and Xu Xin's The Pioneer of Chinese Newspapers and Periodicals: The Achievements of "The Reformer China" in Macao and the Contributions of Kang Guangren and He Tingguang.

In "The Reformer China": Publicize Scientific and Technological Knowledge by the Attached Drawings of Newspapers, Deng Yaorong classified 122 drawings in The Reformer China from the perspective of news dissemination, explored the characteristics, functions and relationship between drawings and texts, and pointed out that the publicity method of newspaper attached drawings can better achieve the goals of introduction of scientific knowledge. The author believed that The Reformer China attaches great importance to attached drawings of the newspaper, attached drawing of newspapers and magazines never appeared in Chinese newspapers and magazines in Macao before; at the same time, the pictures quoted by Zhixin newspaper also had photograph, thus reflecting the transition from the attached drawings to news photographs. Shi Xin pointed out that the special founding background and relaxed social environment of The Reformer China in Macao were the main reasons for its development in his article "Historical Significance and Realistic View of The Reformer China, the Second Speech Base of Reformists". Xu Xin's article "The Pioneer of Chinese Newspapers and Periodicals: The Achievements of "The Reformer China" in Macao and the Contributions of Kang Guangren and He Tingguang" expounded the important position of The Reformer China in the history of Chinese newspapers and periodicals from the perspective of journalism history, and thought that its contribution to China's modernization is pioneering. In the aspect of news propaganda, it

reflected the style of public opinion, it was undoubtedly a democratic thought with advanced quality in feudal autocratic China at that time, today, and it is still worth learning by Chinese journalists.

5. Conclusion and Prospect

Restricted by the descriptive study of collected historical data, it laid the most basic part for the emergence of research topic of The Reformer China, but if that is the case, it is only the aggregation of historical data. Such a study itself cannot explain its research significance, properly explaining its research significance is that it not only constructs the historical basis of this research topic, but also promotes the multi-dimensional research horizon which combines the social, ideological and cultural background of the times by taking such historical materials as the research objects. The emergence of this multi-dimensional research highlights the research significance of the initial founding process of The Reformer China and the convergence of the founder's historical data.

Looking forward to the future, comprehensive, in-depth and systematic research theme of The Reformer China, besides the existing research dimensions, it also contains richer possible dimensions:

The first is the dimension of globalization. Looking from a global perspective, we can view the influence of the input of western substance and thought on Chinese society in the Late Qing Dynasty on Chinese society in the late Qing Dynasty from the perspective of global history, which made the Chinese nation join the globalization process slowly. China has made great progress in the past hundred years, due to the large-scale collision and exchange between Chinese and foreign cultures (mainly Chinese and Western cultures). The large-scale introduction of Western politics, education, science, technology and art into China in the late Qing Dynasty not only posed great challenges to Chinese traditional culture, but also brought unprecedented opportunities for transformation. The Reformer China was founded in Macao with special social environment. Macao is the earliest intersection of Chinese and Western cultures, which provides unique advantages for the study of cultural exchanges between China and the West; therefore, it is worthwhile to study the cultural exchanges between China and the West in the late Qing Dynasty from the perspective of globalization with the guidance of The Reformer China.

The second is the dimension of cultural communication. The researches on the dimension of cultural communication can more profoundly analyze the historical significance and reality of The Reformer China. The founding of The Reformer China created the non-governmental newspapers in China, broken the ill-informed condition of the whole country and opened up people's horizons, it is an epoch-making event with great significance and far-reaching impact, and therefore, it is necessary to study the dissemination effect of The Reformer China. For example, dissemination effects of The Reformer China on science and technology dissemination, education, agriculture, medicine, literature, etc. and as a political tool of the reformists. The Reformer China is a valuable document for studying the spread of Western science and technology in China at the end of the 19th century, its dissemination of Western science and technology and advanced scientific ideas promoted the development of modern science and technology and social progress in China.

The third is the dimension of international relations. The construction and evolution of international relations always take place in specific political, economic or cultural exchanges, it is impossible to study international relations in a specific period, which cannot be divorced from political, economic or cultural exchanges in a specific historical period. The publication of modern Chinese periodicals is the result of the interaction of social politics, economy, ideology and culture at that time and so on; it can best reflect the social situation at that time and the status of international cultural exchanges. The Reformer China is an important historical document for studying social politics, economy, ideology and culture in the late Qing Dynasty, exploring the influence of The Reformer China on Chinese social thoughts in the late Qing Dynasty and the role of its internal mechanism, constructing a unique framework for international relations research and analysis, enriching the academic horizon of international relations research, innovating the research approach of international relations, these all have unique academic values.

In short, the research of The Reformer China has increasingly become a unique research topic under the impetus of many scholars. Under this theme, the basic historical materials are gathered, multi-dimensional research horizons are being formed, and the more inclusive research dimension contains rich academic potential. Eventually, what marks the substantial improvement of the development level of this research topic is the formation of a new research paradigm contained in this research topic.

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