

The Guangdong's Policies to Yao at the Beginning of the Ming Dynasty

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ABSTRACT

In the early Ming Dynasty, Yao in Guangdong were revolted, which seriously threatened the rule of the Ming Dynasty in Guangdong. During the Hongwu period of the Ming Dynasty (1368-1398), following the policy of governing Yao in the previous generation, the policy of suppressing and appropriating Yao was adopted. Later, during the Yongle period (1403-1424), the policy of comprehensively appeasing Yao was adopted. The implementation of the Policies to Yao in the early Ming Dynasty maintained the peace and stability of Guangdong, and was of great significance to the exchanges and integration between Han and Yao.

KEYWORDS

Early Ming Dynasty; Guangdong Province; Guangdong; Yao

1 Introduction

The Yao are one of the major ethnic minorities in China, now mainly distributed in Hunan, Guangdong, Guangxi, Yunnan and other provinces and regions. During the Ming Dynasty, Yao people spread all over Guangdong, and their activities were unprecedented in terms of geographical coverage.^[1] At the beginning of the Ming Dynasty, the Yao people in Guangdong often started rebellions, and both Zhu Yuanzhang (14th century A), the first emperor of the Ming Dynasty, and Zhu Di, the first emperor of the Ming Dynasty, adopted proactive measures to pacify them. As the main policy of the Ming dynasty's rule in the Yao people of Guangdong, it was of great significance to the peace and stability of the Guangdong, and promoted the exchange and communication between the Han and Yao sides, but it has been little studied in the academic world. According to Yan Guangwen, the policy of Yao rule in the Ming Dynasty went through three processes, namely, "caressing", "suppression", and "focusing on the socio-economic development of the ethnic areas", but no specific discussion has been made.^[2] Li Mo,^[3] Pan Honggang,^[4] Wu Yongzhang,^[5] and Song Yongzhi,^[6] and others have examined and analyzed some of the pacification measures carried out in Guangdong in the early Ming Dynasty. This paper tries to take the policy of ruling Yao in Guangdong at the beginning of the Ming Dynasty as the research object, to sort out the content of the policy of ruling Yao at the beginning of the Ming Dynasty and its influence.

Since the Song and Yuan dynasties, the Yao people in the Guangdong area were often rebellious, and the Song and Yuan dynasties often adopted the policy of "using the barbarians to control the barbarians" in the governance of the Yao people by appointing Yao leaders to govern the Yao people under their jurisdiction, and carried out tie-up rule. Besides, for the rebellious Yao people, Song and Yuan dynasties often set up native soldiers to carry out military conquest and suppression. This series of Yao policy was mostly borrowed by the Yao policy in the early Ming Dynasty. Since the Yuan Dynasty, the Yao people in the Guangdong area multiplied and occupied the mountains and

forests, and centered on the area of Takishui (泷水) in the lower reaches of the Xijiang River, a large number of active Yao forces were created, which were always ready to rob and make trouble. In the area of Southern China, Song Dynasty implemented tie-up system, set up tie-up prefectures and counties, appointed Yao leaders as local officials to rule and adopted isolation policy of "setting up sealing throats", forbidding encroachment of provincial land and forbidding transportation between Han and Yao. ^{[7] 138-174} The Yuan Dynasty implemented the Tusi system, appointed Yao chiefs as local officials, and implemented the garrison system in the Yao area, recruiting Yao soldiers as a policy to rule the Yao. ^{[7] 269-273} Generally speaking, the Song and Yuan Dynasties often adopted the policy of "using the barbarians to control the barbarians" in the governance of the Yao people by appointing Yao leaders to govern their subordinate Yao people and practicing tie-up rule. In addition, for the rebellious Yao people, the Song and Yuan Dynasties set up many native soldiers to carry out military conquests. This series of Yao rule policies were mostly borrowed by the Yao rule policies in the early Ming Dynasty.

2 The policy of Yao control during the Hongwu period

In the second month of the first year of Hongwu (1368), General Liao Yongzhong (廖永镇) went south to Lingnan to carry out the unification war of the Ming Dynasty. In the process of going south, the local forces in Guangdong, such as He Zhen (何真) and Li Zhi (李质), came to the side one after another, realizing the unification of Guangdong as a whole. ^[8] However, the active Yao forces in Guangdong could not be pacified, and Zhu Yuanzhang (朱元璋) wanted to follow the example of his predecessors to pacify the Yao people. Secondly, in the early years of the Hongwu Dynasty, the Ming Dynasty focused on the pacification and elimination of the remnants of the Yuan Dynasty, and had no time to pay attention to the Yao people in Guangdong. Therefore, the emphasis on pacification became the basic policy and value orientation of the Yao rule in the early Ming Dynasty.

However, in the early period of Hongwu Dynasty, local Yao rebellions were frequent, and the Ming Dynasty, in order to quickly realize the stability in the Yao area, took a resolute stance to suppress the Yao rebellions, and carried out large-scale military conquests and suppression. Through many large-scale military conquests, it basically suppressed the Yao rebellions. military conquests, basically eliminated the Yao rebellion. At the same time of conquest, the policy of pacification was also carried out. As early as in the first year of Hongwu (1368), "Yao plagiarized the villages in Yangshan and sought to surrender. When Yao Pang Yige, Zhou Yige and so on, live in the north and south, water west and other places, plagiarizing the countryside", Zhu Yuanzhang "ordered Ben list to recruit Chen Yangman and other three hundred and eighty-six households into the registration as a businessman". ^[9] The stability of Yao district was basically maintained. In the late Hongwu dynasty, the Ming court in Guangdong has established a more stable rule, the place still have Yao rebellion from time to time, the Ming court more to a passive role to cope with Yao rebellion, when the enemy is suppressed, when the chaos is leveled. For the rebellious Yao people, it often used both suppression and pacification, with suppression as the first policy to pacify the Yao rebellion, and pacification as the core content of the governance of the Yao people. Hongwu thirty-one years (1398), Xishan Yao rebels, the Ming court ordered the commander Wang Jun after the leveling, "the establishment of the Yao head, Yao town, the total A, every year to the court, give the money!" ^[10] The Ming court enlisted the Yao people by appointing their leaders and giving them money, this strategy actually relied on the status of the Yao leaders in their original social organization to implement the rule, which was the strategy of "using the barbarians to control the barbarians". During this period, the Ming court realized its rule over the Yao area by adopting a series of means, such as naturalization and the establishment of Yao chiefs, after pacifying the Yao

Rebellion.

Generally speaking, during the Hongwu period, the policy of governing Yao was based on the use of both suppression and pacification. At the beginning of the Ming Dynasty, Zhu Yuanzhang carried out a large-scale campaign to conquer the Yao region in order to quickly unify the Guangdong area. With the completion of the unification, his policy towards Yao gradually shifted from an "annihilation" based to a "pacification" based appeasement policy, such as "registering as an official" and appointing Yao leaders to be included in the dynastic ruling sequence, which objectively maintained the rule of Yao. Dynasty ruling sequence, objectively maintain the local peace situation. The implementation of the Yao policy provided a peaceful environment for the development of the Yao policy of comprehensive pacification during the Yongle period, and its thoughts on the Yao rule and pacification measures provided valuable experience and had a far-reaching influence on the development of the Yao policy during the Yongle period.

3 The Development of Yao Control Policies during the Yongle Period

After the accession of Emperor Zhu Di (朱棣) (14th-15th centuries AD) of the Ming Dynasty, the Yao policy of the previous dynasty was improved, and the Yao policy of appeasement was adopted. The main manifestation of this is that the Yongle period rarely launched military campaigns against the Yao people, but took more active measures to pacify them, setting up a large number of Fuyao officials to carry out large-scale pacification of the Yao people in the Guangdong area, and also through the Royal Decree on the Yao chief, the tribute to give money to give economic benefits to the form of enlisting the Yao people, so that during the Yongle period there was a situation in which the Yao chiefs of Guangdong paid tribute to the Yao people in a continuous stream. Through the above means, the Yongle Dynasty brought a large number of Yao people in Guangdong into the ruling system of the dynasty. It mainly included three aspects, establishment of Fuyao officials, ordaining Yao chiefs and paying tribute to Yao chiefs.

3.1 Establishment of Fuyao officials

During the Yongle period, a large number of people and officials were set up in Guangdong to be responsible for the recruitment and management of the Yao people. As mentioned above, in the early Hongwu period, during the unification of Guangdong, Emperor Taizu of the Ming Dynasty appointed a group of "Yao chiefs" as officials and ordered them to take charge of the subordinate Yao people. During the Yongle period, the Guangdong region had set up the post of Fuyao Councillor to supervise the affairs of the Yao people, but the number of such posts was relatively small. In addition, a large number of Fuyao people were set up in the Yao area of Guangdong to carry out pacification activities, and local officials were encouraged to pacify the Yao people. By Recruitment According to the number of the Yao people, the local officials were encouraged to recruit the Yao people, and they were authorized to be officials according to the number of the Yao people, such as the county minister, the chief bookkeeper, the inspector, and the chief historian.

The Fuyao officials were originally modeled after the Fu Li officials, who were mostly Li leaders except for a few Han Chinese. On the other hand, the setup of Fuyao officials was just the opposite, most of them were Han officials, but there were also a few Yao people serving as Fuyao officials, such as Liao Yi, the newly-emerged historian, who is very likely to have a Yao identity, as mentioned in the previous article.^{[7] 321} When appointing Han Chinese as Fuyao officials, they cooperated with local powerful clans and ordered them to recruit Yao people under the condition of political upward mobility. The positions of the officials were hereditary, such as Feng Yuantai's son, Feng Shu, who was the judge of official, Liao Ji, who was the son of Liao Qian, a newly-emerging official, and Liang

Banshan, who was the son of Liang Run, who succeeded to the official positions, which are all examples. During the Yongle period, the Ming court set up officials who were familiar with the Yao situation, so as to persuade the local Yao people to submit to the government, and governed the affairs of the local Yao area, which played an important role in stabilizing the Yao area.

3.2 Setting up a Yao chiefs

In addition to the establishment of the Fuyao officials, the Yongle Dynasty continued to adopt the ruling policy of "using the barbarians to control the barbarians", and set up a large number of "Yao chiefs". As early as in the thirty-first year of the Hongwu era (1398), Chen Mangyan of the Damushan Yao, and Ma Yiliang Huang of the White Bow Mountain Yao were appointed as the heads of the Yao. Lian In the thirty-first year of Hongwu (1398), Chen Mangyan of Damushan Yao, Ma Yiliang Huang of Baigongshan Yao, and Qi Youshan of Huanglianshan Yao were set up as the chiefs of Yao, and the chiefs of Yao were set up as the chiefs of the general armor of Fuyao in order to appease them, which was the beginning of appeasement.^[10] During the Yongle period, a large number of Yao chiefs expressed their submission to the government, and the local government appointed the leaders of the Yao people in each region as Yao chiefs, recognizing their status as chiefs.

Through the imperial edicts, the social leadership of the Yao chiefs gained the legitimacy recognized by the imperial court, and their subordinate Yao people also gained the identity of the Ming government, and were no longer labeled as "Yao thieves" or "robbers" or "bandits" and were given the status of "bandits". They were no longer labeled as "Yao thieves" or "robbers" or "bandits," and were granted exempted from They were no longer labeled as "thieves" or "robbers" or "bandits" and were given the economic privilege of being exempted from the payment of taxes. The duty of the Yao chiefs was to control their subordinates and ensure the stability of the Yao areas. Although he was appointed by the imperial court and permitted to be hereditary, he did not belong to the state and county governments and did not have to go to the feudal official to do his work. The imperial court appointed him to rule the Yao people under his supervision by using his original social and political organization.^{[11] 368}

3.3 tribute from the Yao chiefs

The tribute reward for Yao leaders was an important part of the policy of Yao rule during the Yongle period. When dealing with the neighboring ethnic minorities, Ming Emperor Chengzu adopted a soft approach, giving more than the tribute to the heads of the ethnic minorities who paid tribute to the imperial court, so as to achieve the purpose of appeasement. In addition to the establishment of Fuyao officials and Yao chiefs as agents responsible for dealing with the affairs of the local government and the Yao people, the most important point of the policy of Yao-suppression during the Yongle period was to recognize the rights of the mountains and forests where they were located, to pardon them of their duties, and to maintain the policy of Yao-suppression with the link of economic benefits, and the tribute was an important way to accomplish the above policy. Since the Yongle years, a large number of Yao heads in Guangdong who expressed their submission went to Beijing to pay tribute, and there were about ten times recorded in the history books, which created a new situation of Yao heads submitting to pay tribute, for example, "In the fourth month of the summer of the sixth year of the Yongle era (1408), the head of the Yao in the Deqing prefecture, Pan Yong used to go to the court."^{[12] 1830} Yongle eight years (1410) in February, Deqing state Xin Luo mountain Yao chief Luo Dier to the dynasty.^{[12] 1830} Records such as these are commonplace. Under the leadership of the Fuyao officials, the Yao chiefs went to the capital to pay

tribute in horses and goods, and the Ming rulers gave money, colorful silks and coins. silk The Ming rulers gave money, colored silk and other things. Tribute activities were an important part of Yongle's policy. Under this policy, the Yao officials invited the Yao chiefs to pay tribute to the Ming dynasty as a sign of submission, and the Ming dynasty returned the favor, the Ming dynasty recognized them by giving them gifts, exempting them from imperial edicts, and exempting them from The Ming dynasty also recognized this by giving gifts back and exempting them from government service, thus maintaining peaceful exchanges between Han and Yao under the policy of ruling Yao in an economically mutually beneficial way.

4 The Impact of Yao Rule Policies in the Early Ming Dynasty

The implementation of the Yao policy since the beginning of the Ming Dynasty played an important role in the governance of Yao areas in Guangdong during the Ming Dynasty.

4.1 Achieved peace and stability in the Guangdong area

The Yao policy of the early Ming Dynasty was progressive, and its implementation over the centuries had a far-reaching influence on the rule of the Yao area in Guangdong, and made outstanding contributions to the interaction and exchange between the Han and Yao peoples. First of all, since the beginning of the Ming Dynasty, the Yao people in Guangdong had been "cutting themselves off from the mountains and forests" and rebelling against the government, which was a problem that had not been solved since the Song and Yuan Dynasties.

The implementation of the policy of ruling Yao in the early Ming Dynasty, through the setting up of Yao officials and Yao chiefs to rule the Yao people according to their customs, realized the appeasement of the majority of Yao groups and incorporated them into the national ruling system, maintaining the stability of the Guangdong area for hundreds of years, which played an important role in the deepening of the national rule over the Yao area.

More importantly, the Yao policy since the early Ming Dynasty was centered on appeasement, incorporating the Yao people into the category of dynastic subjects, and was full of the idea that there was no gap between China and the Yao people, which maintained an amicable and stable relationship between Han and Yao, and laid a solid foundation for friendly exchanges between the two sides.

4.2 Realised ethnic communication in the Guangdong area

Secondly, the policy of ruling Yao in the early Ming Dynasty promoted exchanges between the Yao and Han ethnic groups. After the Yongle years, the influence of the Yao policy expanded continuously. To the early years of Zhengtong, the court increased the efforts to pacify, not only the bottom officials to join the pacification ranks, and even some students also joined the ranks of the pacification of Yao people. Yingzong was very dissatisfied with this, and thought that "students should live in the school to Undergraduate and tend to dry Office, its ambition is ugly", and then ordered "the Yao bureaucratic state and county, do not have to make students to recruit and pacify".

^[13] But in any case, the efforts of this period to become larger and larger, the number of yao head of the Beijing tribute is endless, tribute to the yao head of the geographic scope of the two Prefecture by Zhaoqing Gaozhou, expanding to Huizhou Prefecture, Guangzhou Prefecture, Lianzhou Prefecture and other states and counties, the Zhengtong years of the geographic scope of its almost throughout the entire Guangdong Prefecture.

4.3 Realised the intermingling of ethnic groups in Guangdong

Furthermore, the implementation of the policy of ruling Yao in the early Ming Dynasty promoted the intermingling of the Yao and Han ethnic groups. During the implementation of the Yao policy in the early Ming Dynasty, a large number of officials were set up to pacify the Yao people. The number of Yao people were appointed as officials according to the number of Yao people they pacified. The number of Yao people were granted with a certain amount of authority, and some Yao people became subordinate in the process of pacification.

Under the pacification of the Fuyao officials, a number of Yao people were able to enter the prefectural and county areas to become "codified citizens" under the control of the local government, obtaining official legal status and gradually integrating into Han Chinese society. In addition, some Yao people gradually migrated from the Yao mountains to the plains under the pacification of the Yao-addressing officials, such as the Deqing Prefecture Records during the Jiajing period, which reads, "The capital city of Jinkang is located in the southern part of the Deqing River, and there are Yao and Yi living in various places In the first year of Yongle's reign, the imperial court granted the imperial edicts to contribute to the chemicalization. Since then, they all share the land of the people, and pay rent and rice. " [10] 122 The Yao people who migrated to the plains made their living by sharecropping Han land. In the process, the Yao and Han communities lived in mixed communities, interacted with each other in production and life, developed the land together, and continuously improved their production techniques. During this period, a large number of "Pingdi Yao" began to appear, and the socio-economic level continued to develop. More importantly, the connection between the Yao and Han groups became closer and closer, gradually realizing the integration of ethnic groups.

To sum up, the policy of ruling Yao since the beginning of the Ming Dynasty not only maintained peace and stability in the Yao areas of Guangdong, but also promoted the exchanges and communication between Yao and Han, and played an important role in the social development of the Yao people in Guangdong.

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