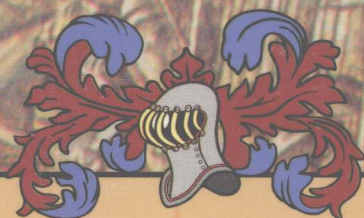


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A Study
of Medieval Chivalry in Western Europe



中世纪 骑士制度探究

A Study of Medieval Chivalry in Western Europe

倪世光 著



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概 要

骑士制度研究在我国学术界刚刚起步,但已经引起越来越多学者的兴趣和关注。骑士制度不仅有着丰富的内涵,也是西欧中世纪社会的重要组成部分,并对西欧的历史产生了重大影响。以往我们在观察和研究西欧中世纪的历史时,更多是着眼于经济状况、阶级关系、政治结构等问题,而对骑士集团的研究却重视不够,造成这种状况的原因有多方面,其中重要原因之一是没能对“骑士”和“骑士制度”概念做出较为清楚的认识,甚至把骑士与贵族混为一谈,觉得贵族问题即为骑士问题,解决了贵族问题,骑士问题便迎刃而解,因而,研究贵族者多,关注骑士者少。实际上,“骑士”与“贵族”是两个不同的概念,尽管双方人员成分大多重叠,但两者并不完全相同,应区别对待。骑士在西欧中世纪社会舞台上扮演着重要角色,大体说来,他们集军人、贵族、官吏于一身,上自国王,下至低级骑士构成相对独立的社会集团,他们的存在形成了骑士制度,骑士制度是西欧中世纪社会特有的内容。

骑士大体生活于公元8世纪前半叶至17世纪初叶左右,在近900年的时间里,骑士制度历经了产生、发展和衰亡的过程。骑士制度的存在以骑士的生活过程为前提,骑士的生活过程不只是这段历史过程中的横向线索,还包括骑士生活中广泛的纵向联系。关于“骑士制度”,学术界仍未形成多数人的一致结论,我们依据历史唯物主义的观点考察并总结认为:骑士制度是骑士在中世纪社

会生活过程中,以军事为核心所形成的经济、相互关系、行为准则、思想观念等内容的综合体系。它涉及西欧中世纪社会的经济、政治、军事、司法、生活、思想文化等各个方面。骑士制度是我们认识西欧中世纪社会的另一条途径。

骑士的生活不仅包括他们的日常生活,还包括他们的军事生活、政治生活、思想文化生活等。骑士有着自己独特的生活方式,军事是其中的核心内容和最大特征。生活关系到骑士的行为,骑士的行为与社会广泛地连在一起,骑士制度中的诸多方面以骑士的实际生活贯穿其中。骑士的生活方式对西欧中世纪整个社会的生活方式起到了限定和影响作用。

骑士的生活离不开经济,甚至骑士制度的兴亡都与经济密切相关。军队建设的需要,是中世纪采邑改革的主要原因,采邑是支撑骑士生活的主体经济来源。采邑并非是骑士经济来源的全部,领主的豢养、雇佣、自主地等也是一部分骑士存在的条件。骑士与经济的关系决定了西欧中世纪经济诸多方面的特征。

采邑分封构建起骑士内部关系的框架,骑士集团内部由此结成军事组织关系、行政司法关系、主从关系、私人关系等。骑士内部的人际关系,不仅是西欧中世纪社会关系的重要组成部分,也是当时军事、行政、司法体系的核心环节。西欧中世纪的政治由此具有浓厚的军事特征。

骑士形成了共同认可的行为准则,其中既有宗教信仰的规定,又有军事义务的要求,还有道德行为的规范。军事义务方面的要求是骑士行为准则的核心内容,而行为准则的各个方面无不带有基督教思想特征。骑士集团在中世纪具有移风易俗的能力,他们的行为准则影响到整个社会的风尚。

骑士拥有自己的文化,骑士文学是其中的主要方面,而骑士精

神则充分反映在骑士文学当中,成为骑士思想观念的精华。勇敢、忠诚是骑士精神的突出表现,骑士文化是骑士精神的载体,骑士精神对西方后来的思想文化产生了深远影响。

骑士制度使西欧中世纪社会具有明显的军事特征和军人气质,这与我国古代士大夫文人政治社会形成鲜明对照,中、西方历史发展途径和文化内涵的诸多差异,能从骑士制度与士大夫政治的比较中得到许多解释。

关键词 西欧 中世纪 骑士 骑士制度

Abstract

The research of chivalry has just started in China, and more and more scholars are getting interested in this field. Not only did chivalry contain rich contents, but it was also an important part of the society in the Middle Ages, and it had great impact on the history of Western Europe. In the past, we were used to observing the Western history from theoretical perspective with a focus on the economic status, the relationship of class, and the structure of government and so on, but not enough attention was given to the study of the group of knight. There are many reasons for this academic phenomenon, but the most important one was that we did not clarify the conception of the *knight* and *chivalry* and mistook *knight* for *aristocrat*, so we were apt to think that accounting for the aristocrat we could understand the problem of knight. This is why we can find many people study aristocrat and few regard knight. Actually, *knight* and *aristocrat* are different conception, and though main member of knights were aristocrats in the Middle Ages, they were two different social groups. We ought to make the distinction since knights played an important role on the medieval stage. Generally speaking, knights including many members from the king to common lord, were swordsmen, lords, bureaucracies, and they constructed the

knightly system—chivalry, which was an important part of medieval society of Western Europe.

Knights lived approximately from the early eighth century through the early seventeenth century which witnessed the birth, development and decline of chivalry in a course of 900 years. The precondition of chivalry was life of knights that included both the history of knights and the extensive spectrum of their life. As for the question “what is chivalry?” we have not found an identical answer yet in academe. From the stance of historic materialism, however, I see that chivalry is a complex wherein the entire life experience of a knight interweaved the economic system, individual relationship, moral code, and ideas with military achievements. Chivalry consisted of the economy, politics, military affairs, judicature, social life, ideas and culture and it offers us a perspective to review Western medieval society.

The life of knights refers not only to their daily life, but also to their life of the army, politics, mentality and culture. Knights lived by a special life style in which the military affairs played a central role. This life was related to knights' behavior that was extensively engaged in social activities. The great many contents of chivalry depended on the life of knights that limited and affected the entire medieval social life style.

The existence of knights had a close relation with the economy, and so was the rise and fall of chivalry. Military demand gave rise to the establishment of fief system which was the major economic source of chivalry though some knights lived on patron-

age of their lords, some on mercenary and some others on allodium. The relationship between knights and economy exerted important effects on medieval economic development.

The fief system constructed the internal relationship of chivalry, which determined the military relation, administrative and judicatory relation, principal and subordinate relation, and personal relation among knights. These relations were an important part of medieval society, and were the kernel content of army, government, and judicatory. The medieval politics had thus strong military colors.

Recognized by all knights were some common codes that consisted of restricted religious faith, disciplined military service and controlled moral behavior. Discipline required in military service was the primary matter for knights' behavior though the codes were imbued with Christian ideas. Knights had the ability to transform social conventions, and their moral codes had strong impact on the social fashion in the Middle Ages.

Knights had created their own culture and chivalry literature was a major part of it. The chivalrous spirit as a soul of their idea was fully presented in the chivalrous literature. The prowess and loyalty were the quality of being prominent in the soul. The chivalrous culture was a carrier of the spirit, and the spirit had been affecting Western culture for a long time.

Chivalry characterized the medieval society with obvious military quality and serviceman's temperament, which made a sharp contrast to the scholar-bureaucrats in Chinese ancient his-

tory. This contrast will provide us explanations to the great many differences existed in the courses of historical development and cultural contents.

Key Words Western Europe The Middle Ages Knight
Chivalry

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第一部分

研究概况与概念

第一章 研究概况

骑士是西欧中世纪社会的重要成员,骑士集团的存在形成了骑士制度,骑士与骑士制度不仅在中世纪西欧的经济、政治、军事、社会生活、思想文化中发挥了重要作用,而且,骑士制度中的许多内容对西欧后来的社会影响深远。关于西欧骑士及其制度的研究,近些年得到国内学术界越来越多人的重视,并且已有一些著作和文章得以出版和发表^①。然而,与西方的研究相比,我国的研究可谓刚刚起步,西方学者对骑士制度的研究不仅历史长硕果丰,而且对资料的拥有以及对其祖先文化精深之处得天独厚的感悟,我们无法企及。尽管如此,我们仍需从自己的基点出发对西方历史进行观察,做出适合我们自己需要的研究和认识。为了有目的地开展骑士制度研究,有必要首先对西方学术界的相关概况进行了解和分析,并就国内的研究状况做初步总结。

一、中世纪时期

关于骑士和骑士制度研究最早可追溯到中世纪时期,当时关于骑士方面的著作和论述多出自两方面,一是教会人士充满宗教思想的指导和说教,一是骑士文学以及围绕骑士文学的论著。在为数不多的世俗性研究著作中,雷蒙·劳(Ramon Lull)写成于13世纪的

^① 见刘秋香:“近几年国内中世纪骑士研究综述”,《世界历史》2006年第4期。