THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF BAN CHAO'S GOVERNANCE OF THE WESTERN REGIONS

Annocation
This paper will analyze the historical significance of Ban Chao's governance of the Western Regions, including its impact on the exploration, rule, and cultural exchanges in the Western Regions.

Key words: Han Dynasty Ban Chao Western Regions Xiongnu Military Control Merits

Introduction: Ban Chao (3 A.D.-56 A.D.) was a famous statesman, militarist and explorer in the late Eastern Han Dynasty. He spent his life in the Western Regions militarily strengthening the northwest defense of the Western Han Dynasty, politically rallying the hearts of the people in the Western Regions and promoting the prestige of the Han Dynasty. Economically, he promoted the social development of the Western Regions, and culturally, he publicized the Han culture. His governance is of great historical significance to the rule and development of the Western Regions in ancient China. This paper will analyze the historical significance of Ban Chao's governance of the Western Regions, including the impact on the exploration, rule and cultural exchanges in the Western Regions.

Analysis and results.
1. Basic situation of Ban Chao managing the Western Regions.
   Ban Chao: (3 A.D.-56 A.D.) From Zhongsheng, a native of Pingling, Fufeng, he had great ambitions when he was a young man, modeling himself on Fu Jiezi and Zhang Qian, and wanting to make a mark in a foreign land in order to obtain a vassal[5]. In the sixteenth year, Dou Gu, the captain of the vehicle, attacked the Xiong Nu, with Ban Chao as the fake Sima[5]. Because of his valor in battle, he was recommended to go to the Western Regions after the war. From then on, Ban Chao began his career of operating the Western Regions. Ban Chao made outstanding historical contributions to the development and construction of the Western Regions, the consolidation of the northwestern border of the Han Dynasty and the maintenance of the Silk Road.

   The Western Regions, the traditional Chinese historical name for the vast area west of the Yumen Pass and south of Lake Balkhash from the east[7]. The geographic location of the Western Regions was recorded in the Book of Han as "the eastern part of the region was connected to Han, with the Yumen and Yangguan passes. In the west, it was limited to the Onion Mountains, and its southern mountains, east of Jincheng (present-day Lanzhou), belonged to the southern mountains of Han"[8]. The Han Dynasty developed land routes to the west through the Western Regions. The Western Region area is not only a channel for China to connect with the West, but also an important hub for economic and cultural exchanges between China and Central Asia, South Asia and other regions. Not only is the Central Asian countries and China for trade an important distribution center, but also India, Persia and other countries and China for cultural exchanges an important place, is located in the west of China, across the present-day Xinjiang, Tibet, etc., the stability and prosperity of the western region is not only related to China's western border security, but also has a direct impact on the economic exchanges and cultural exchanges between China and the West, Central Asia, South Asia and other regions.

   The historical background of Ban Chao's strategy in the Western Regions. First of all, at the end of the Western Han Dynasty, the border was rebellious and the situation was unstable. Wang Mang seized the rule of the Han Dynasty, "the west out, to the Western Regions, all change its king for the marquis", "the north out, to the Xiongnu court, awarded the monument to the seal, the change of the Han royal seal to go to 'seal' said Zhang", Xiongnu monu asked for (old) seal, Mang not with, then invaded the border counties, killing and plundering officials and people". Juting, the western region after this all rebelled in this
The conflict between Wuhuan and the Xinnang regime became more acute due to the loan of troops and hostages[10]. There was a shift from a lax border ethnic policy to a strong and depreciating one, and the northwestern border was gradually destabilized. Secondly, in the early years of the Eastern Han Dynasty, the strength of the Eastern Han Dynasty was weak, and it was unable to operate the Western Regions. Until the early years of the Eastern Han Dynasty, after the situation of turmoil, the strength of the Eastern Han Dynasty is far less than the Western Han Dynasty, unable to operate the Western Region, Li Zhengzhou said "the Eastern Han Dynasty, due to the country's power is not vibrant and the political center of the eastward shift, its Northwest Frontier Policy is also by the Western Han Dynasty Emperor Wu of positive attack, active aggression into a passive defense, passive retreat"[11]. Thirdly, the border crisis of the Eastern Han Dynasty was serious. Under the control of the Xiongnu, the countries of the Western Regions constantly invaded the Han Dynasty. As recorded in the Houhan Shu: "Guangwu early, Wuhuan and Xiongnu even soldiers for the invasion, east of Daqian County is especially victimized by it, living close to the plug, the dome of the morning hair, the evening to the city and castle, five counties of the people of the populace, the family suffered from its ku, to the damage to the counties, the people in exile" [12]. Solving the border crisis was again an imminent task for the Eastern Han to maintain its rule.

Ban Chao: (3 A.D.-56 A.D.) From Zhongsheng, a native of Pingling, Fufeng, he had great ambitions as a young man, following the example of Fu Jiezi and Zhang Qian, and wanted to make a mark in a foreign land in order to obtain a vassal[13]. In the sixteenth year (73 A.D.) of the Yongping, Dougu, the captain of the vehicle, attacked the Xiongnu, with Ban Chao as the false sifa[14]. After the war, he was recommended to go to the Western Regions because of his valor in battle. From then on, Ban Chao began his career of operating the Western Regions. Ban Chao stayed in the Western Regions for thirty-one years in his life, and his footprints were all over the Western Regions, and His greatness cause of his life was to run the Western Regions.

2. Ban Chao's actions and historical significance of the Western Regions.

Ban Chao consolidated the northwest frontier of the Han Dynasty. It is recorded in the Houhan Shu that Ban Chao recovered Shanshan in the 16th year of Yongping: pacified Shule and Cheshi in the 17th year of Yongping; recovered Shache twice in the 9th year of Emperor Zhangdi's Jianchu (84 A.D.) and the 2nd year of Zhanghe's Zhanghe (88 A.D.); and in 91 A.D. (the 3rd year of Emperor Zhangdi's Yongyuan), Guzhi, Gumo, and Wenshu took the initiative of sending envoys to claim the title of vassal. The Northwest Frontier was opened up and stabilized in spite of the weak power of the Eastern Han Dynasty. In the 17th year of Yongping (74 A.D.), Ban Chao cooperated with Dou Gu and Geng Bing to pacify Cheshi, Shanshan, Utian, and Shule, and the Eastern Han Dynasty was able to re-establish the Western Regions Capital in the Western Regions. In the third year of the Yongyuan era (91 A.D.), Ban Chao defeated the Xiongroun and the Dayuezhi with fewer troops, and the Eastern Han Dynasty re-established the Western Regions Capital. The Western Regions Prefecture was the administrative organization of the Han Dynasty in the Western Regions, and Ban Chao helped the Han Dynasty to re-establish the Western Regions Prefecture twice to strengthen the Han Dynasty's control over the northwestern borders.

Ban Chao strengthened the military and economic power of the Han Dynasty on the northwestern frontier. To ensure the military security of the western region, Ban Chao took measures to strengthen his military power. He built a series of fortified castles at key locations to serve as military defenses against foreign invasion. These castles not only strengthened the defense capability of the borders, but also provided bases for the Han army to respond quickly to dynamic changes in the border areas. Ban Chao said to the emperor, "I see that Shache and Shule have fertile fields and trees and grasses, which are not as idle as Dunhuang and Shanshan. Soldiers can be self-sufficient without the cost of Chinese grain", so the Eastern Han Dynasty tented the fields in Shache and Shule[15]. Xu Gan was the chief senior officer or official of Shule, echoing with Ban Chao, who was stationed in the Qiancheng city of Guzi, guarding the western region.

Ban Chao's actions also played a guardian and facilitator of the smooth flow of the Silk Road. The western region is the Silk Road must pass through the channel, the maintenance of the security and stability of the western region, for the smooth flow of the Silk Road provides a good environment. And in a safe and stable environment, more conducive to trade activities. A.D. 78 (Han Zhangdi Jianchu three years), Ban Chao led Shule, Kangju, Utian, Jumi and other countries more than 10,000 soldiers broke Gumo stone city. At this time, Ban Chao had already taken control of the Southwest Region, such as Utian and Shule, and led the troops to shake the North Road countries[16]. When the king of Douti built on the Xiongroun to occupy the Yumen Pass, Yangguan and the eastern part of the Western Regions along the northern road, broke the Shule to kill the king of Shule and set up another person from Douti, Touqi, to be the lord of Shule. Ban Chao ordered Tian Anxu to capture Touzhi and support Zhong as the King of Shule. When the king of Shule, Zhong, rebelled and obstructed the smooth flow of the Silk Road, Ban Chao first pretended to accept his fraudulent surrender, and then he beheaded his troops, so "the southern road was then opened"[17].

Ban Chao brought together the scattered hearts of the Western Regions and brought the Western Regions closer to the core of the Han Dynasty. In the seventh year of Emperor He Di of the Eastern Han Dynasty (95 A.D.), the emperor issued a decree praising Ban Chao for his "twenty-two years in and out of the Western Regions," and for the fact that the Western Regions were "all submissive to him"[18]. Ban Chao's application to leave the Western Regions and return to the Han Dynasty had this to say, "Marginally, Your Majesty has managed the world with filial piety to the point of winning the hearts of various political regimes nations, and has not left behind the ministers of small nations"[19]. Although there is an element of exaggeration here, and the credit for the return of the countries to the Western Regions to the Emperor, the real situation is summarized in the fact that the result of Ban Chao's many years of strategizing in the Western Regions was the "joyful hearts of ten thousand nations", and it is precisely because of that that It was for this reason that Ban Chao, as the representative of the Han Dynasty in the Western Regions, became a convincing ruler of the countries in the Western Regions. "When Emperor Suzong first succeeded to the throne, he was afraid that Chao powerless and weak would not be able to stand on his own because of the new disappearance of Chen Mu, so he issued an edict to requisition Chao." Upon hearing the news of Ban Chao's return, "Shule's whole country was worried". Its lieutenant, Li Yu, said, "If Han abandons me, I will be destroyed by Qiuci again", apparently taking Han Dynasty as his dependence. In the case of Utian, "The princes and lords below all cried and said: 'Depending on the Han envoys is like..."
of the Yuezhi to do the work of the king of Kangju[21], so that the different forces in the western region could restrain each other. In a specific historical context, Ban Chao also summarized the experience of governance of border ethnic groups within the principle of tolerance as the basis. When his successor, Ren Shang, asked for advice, Ban Chao warned: I am getting old and stupid, how can I, Ban Chao, compare with you when you take up important positions? I have no choice but to say a few words of great wisdom. The officials and soldiers outside of the city are not filial sons and daughters, and they are all migrated to fill the border with soldiers because of their sins. And the barbarians with animal heart, it is difficult to adopt and easy to do bad things. Now you are stern and a bit impatient. If the water is clear, there will be no big fishes, and if you are strict in monitoring, you will not be pleased with your subordinates. You should be tolerant and calm, easy to act, small faults from leniency, grasp the important links on the line”[22].

Ban Chao emphasized marriage and cultural exchanges with local peoples in the Western Regions. Ban Chao traveled between the various regimes in the Western Regions, further breaking down the conflicts between them and strengthening the ties and exchanges between them. In the third year of Jianchu, Ban Chao had integrated the armies of Shule, Kangju, Ütian and Jumi in the Western Region to deal with the common enemy, which gradually formed the idea of mutual assistance and watchfulness on a macro level. Ban Chao's various activities and achievements in the Western Regions were in themselves a kind of propaganda and maintenance of the image of the Han Dynasty, and the Han officials and ambassadors led by Ban Chao were also spreading the ideas and culture of the Han Dynasty to the Western Regions, which gradually made the countries in the Western Regions "Willing to serving the Han Dynasty”[23]. Ban Chao advocated intermarriages between the Han Chinese and various ethnic groups in the Western Regions, in order to deepen the blood ties between the Han Chinese and the Western Regions, and to strengthen the influence of the Han Chinese in the Western Regions. At the same time, Ban Chao also actively promoted the spread of Chinese culture in the Western Regions, facilitated the exchange and integration of Chinese and Western cultures, and built a bridge between the East and the West.

Conclusion. Ban Chao entered the Western Regions as an official of the Eastern Han Dynasty and devoted his life to the great cause of running the Western Regions. He participated militarily in the actions taken by the Eastern Han Dynasty against the Western Regions and gradually became a leader therein, and he strengthened the northwestern defense of the Eastern Han Dynasty. As an official of the Han Dynasty, Ban Chao represented the Han Dynasty politically to build up the image of the Han Dynasty and increase its prestige. Ban Chao's wise and responsible actions in the Western Regions won the admiration and trust of the people of the Western Regions, helped the Han Dynasty to unite the hearts of the people of the Western Regions, and promoted the Western Regions' identification with and yearning for the Han Dynasty. Ban Chao maintained the smooth flow of the Great Silk Road, communicated between the countries in the Western Regions, economically promoted the social development of the Western Regions, and culturally publicized Han culture. It can be said that Ban Chao carried out all-round governance in the Western Regions on behalf of the Han Dynasty, and his actions are of great historical significance to the rule and development of the Western Regions in ancient China.

REFERENCES

