

English Abstract

This M.A. thesis analyses the politics of indirect rule within the peripheral area of Liangshan in southern Sichuan, which the imperial court tried to implement thru appointment of hereditary offices of indigenous chieftains (ch. *tusi* or *tuguan*). It uses primary sources in classical Chinese from official histories, local gazetteers, ethnographic studies and other documents, as well as secondary literature in Czech, English, French, German and Chinese. This thesis is divided into three interrelated chapters. The first chapter outlines the origin, changes and development of systems of indirect rule in Southwest China. The final stage of the development this political mechanism was a so-called “native chieftain system” (ch. *tusi zhidu*), through which the central court managed peripheral regions of its empire during Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties. This chapter focuses on the development of these systems of indirect rule from the Warring States era (5th century BC) to the beginning of 20th century. The second chapter explores ethnographic, historico-political and ethnohistorical descriptions of Liangshan region. This chapter will then define the Liangshan region through geographical, political (the imperial court), and indigenous (ethnic) perspectives and therefore finalizes a theoretical framework for the final part of this thesis. The final chapter analyzes the roles of a typical native chieftain’s offices and the genealogies of clans that ruled them. This thesis illustrates status of these indigenous rulers within and stance towards the Wuman ethnic traditional society in the Liangshan region. It further describes the relationship of indigenous chieftains with the central court, the discrepancies between the theoretical design of the native chieftain system and how it functioned in reality, as well as the relationships between indigenous rulers and local “black bone“ aristocrats within the Liangshan region and beyond. The thesis concludes, that in Liangshan there were significant differences between theory and praxis in terms of following regulations defined by the central court. This situation stemmed from the different nature of social order within Chinese and Wuman societies. Therefore, the central court had to modify the rules according to these differences. This M.A. thesis is a pioneering project within Czech academia and has translated relevant terminology into Czech for future research.