

Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is to describe murder attempts and personalities of assassins in Early China, mainly focusing on the most famous cases described in *Shiji*. Beside the description of cases, main goal of this thesis is to find out, whether there is any connection between described cases and what is the overall tone of them. Another goal is to compare assassins' personalities and put their characteristic into the context of historical and social changes which took place in Early China society. In addition, small part of this work is dedicated to the influence that assassins and their stories had in Chinese culture, philosophy and history.

The thesis consists of three main chapters. First one is a brief introduction into the historical and social background of Early China period. Second one is a description of each case with further analysis. Last one focuses on the overall characteristic of assassins and finds out the points of contact and differences between component cases.

The conclusion summarizes opinions and results of analysis made in previous chapters and put them into the final statements. Also points out another problems bound up with this topic.

Key words: China, Antiquity, methods of political struggle, assassins