

## **Thesis Abstract**

The paper discusses the significance of food and eating habits of aristocrats in Early China, particularly during the Spring and Autumn and Warring States periods (771–221 B.C.). The dominant part of the paper introduces major foodstuffs and the function of food in both the social intercourse and as a part of feasts and festivities. The importance of food is stressed in its relation to sacrifice and references are made about activities and rules regarding dietary issues of members of the highest social class. The focus on cultural viewpoints deals mainly with references regarding food in connection with events of that period in surviving texts and primary sources.

### **Key words:**

China, antiquity, Eastern Zhou Dynasty, agricultural crop, meat, alcohol, ritual, ancestors, sacrifice, feasts, surviving texts.