

Master's Thesis Abstract

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Name:

The Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences
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• Modern Inter-Cultural Studies Course

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Title

Research on Material Supplies During the Imjin War (Wanli Korean War)

This research delves into the Imjin War (1592-1598), focusing on the military strategies and logistical complexities of the Ming Dynasty and the Korean Peninsula, with a particular emphasis on maritime transportation strategies and their impacts. The study reveals how the Ming Dynasty's maritime transport strategies, under the stewardship of officials like Song Yingchang, Xing Jie, and Zhang Yangmeng, played a central role in addressing the critical issue of food supply during the war.

Song Yingchang's era marked the expansion and strengthening of maritime transportation, initially enabling large-scale food transport to Uiju in Korea. However, the system during this period was still imperfect, and internal transport and distribution within Korea posed significant challenges. Later reforms by Xing Jie and Zhang Yangmeng significantly enhanced the effectiveness of maritime transport in the latter part of the war. They reorganized the grain transport system, reducing transportation pressure from Liaodong and Shandong, expanded the maritime transport hub at Tianjin, and achieved direct transport to Guangliang in Korea. These efforts significantly alleviated food shortages on the frontline, playing a pivotal role during the war.

The study also delves into the impact of food supply shortages during the war on both military morale and civilian life. The burden of Ming army's food supply issues on Korean civilians led to increased hardships and contributed to civilian rebellions. These findings highlight the complex aspects of material transportation and supply during wartime, emphasizing the importance of logistics and supply in strategy and tactical planning.

Moreover, the research thoroughly analyzes the historical significance and strategic value of maritime transportation during the Imjin War, suggesting further exploration in the study of military history. The study of the successes and failures of maritime transportation not only deepens understanding of military strategies but also provides valuable insights into modern logistics and supply chain management. These findings underscore the importance of comprehending history from both a military-strategic and socio-economic perspective.

The research reveals the intricacies of Ming Dynasty's military strategies and material transportation during the Imjin War, offering valuable insights into how these strategies influenced contemporary military strategy and logistics management. The innovative efforts by Ming officials in overcoming the limitations of military material transportation at the time formed a crucial strategy to cope with the protracted nature of the war. The study of material transportation during the war and its impact, both on the battlefield and in a broader socio-political context, highlights the essential role of logistics in wartime efforts.

In conclusion, this study highlights the strategic importance of maritime transportation during the Imjin War, opening avenues for further exploration in military history. The research contributes not only to military history but also to the study of socio-economic history and logistics, providing a foundation for future investigations. By examining the historical significance of maritime transportation during the Imjin War, the study sheds light on the interconnectedness of historical military strategies and modern logistics management, emphasizing the importance of comprehensive understanding in historical military endeavors.