

## KOREAN STUDIES ON THE HISTORY OF MEDIEVAL CITIES

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### 1. Fields of Studies on the History of Medieval Cities

In 1962, professor Ko, Sung-hwan published a pioneer article on the history of medieval cities entitled "A Study on the Establishment of the Medieval German Cities". Since the publication of this article, there have been only 11 articles on this subject until the first part of 1987. Though we must take consideration into the fact that there are smaller number of scholars studying on the medieval history than in other fields and consequently meager academic accomplishment, we should admit that we have done very little in this field. The articles which have been already published are as follows;

1. Choi, Jin-han, "A Study on the Establishment and Self-Government of Medieval Cities"(1972)
2. Choi, Yong-rim, "A Study on the Origin of Commercial Cities in Flanders in the 11th Century Europe"(1985)
3. Hong, Sung-pyo, "The Development of Medieval Cities and Social Change"(1983)
4. Jung, Kwang-yong, "A Study on the Economic Relation between City and Country in Middle Ages"(1978)
5. Kwak, Jeung-seup, "A Research on the Structure of Town-Hanse"(1978)

6. Kang, Il-hyoo, "A Study on the France Commune in the 12th Century"(1983)
7. \_\_\_\_\_, "The Origin of the Frisian Town Patriciate"(1985)
8. Kim, Pyung-hun, "The Characteristics of Economic Organization of the Medieval Towns viewed from the Guild Organization and Economic Functions"(1967)
9. Koh, Sung-hwan, "On the Establishment of Medieval Cities in the West"(1974)
10. \_\_\_\_\_, "A Study on the Establishment of the Medieval German Cities"(1962)
11. \_\_\_\_\_, "Types of the City in Max Webers Sociology"(1986)

To classify above articles according to their subject;

- 1) The concept of medieval cities.....1
- 2) The establishment of medieval cities....5
- 3) The structure of medieval cities.....4
- 4) The relation between city and country...1

To classify them again according to the areas of the studies;

- 1) The whole Western Europe.....6
- 2) German area.....2
- 3) Northern France and Flanders...3

As we can see from the above classification, the studies on the history of medieval cities are not high levels. The subject of most articles has been centered on the most basic problems such

as the establishment, the concept and the structure of medieval cities, mainly due to the lack of continuous study on this subject. Also, more than half of those articles deal with the whole Western Europe, and there is not even one article which deals with the regions in England or Italy, set aside the Eastern Europe.

Such a phenomenon has been brought because those who had published articles on this subject either changed their academic concern later into other field or abandoned their studies. This has leded academic shallowness. Now let's see the present trend and problems of the studies on the history of medieval cities.

## 2.The trend of the studies on the history of medieval cities

Prof. Koh's article, "Types of the City in Max Webers Sociology", explains the defination of the city in connection with the question, "Why has the modern capitalism been established only in the West?", Which is the ultimate and fundamental concern of Max Weber's studies on city. Prof. Koh introduces the concept of city both of economic and of political. As he repeatedly emphasizes in his article that "the development of medieval cities in the West has significance as the factor in the establishment of modern capitalism", Max Weber's studies on cities is of great significance. Considering this fact, we can hardly underestimate the value of his article. The only defect, if any, that this article has is that it merely summarizes and introduces Max Weber's studies on cities.

Prof. Choi, Jin-han's article, "A Study on the Establishment and Self-Government of Medieval Cities", introduces the various views of scholars concerning the generation and movement for self-government of cities in connection with the socio-economic situation of Western Europe in the 11th and 12th centuries. But as the article covers too broad a subject, it becomes a superficial explanation.

We can say that two articles by prof. Koh, Sung-hwan are written on the same subject. "A Study on the Establishment of the Medieval Cities" is written on the establishment of the "northern type" cities, particularly in Germany, which, according to Max Weber, represents the most typical form of medieval cities. He sees that fully developed cities appeared after 13th century, and says that, in order to trace the growth of those cities after 13th century, we need to look into the fundamental character of the establishment period of the cities. Citing H. Mitteis' remark that "the old theories that ascribe to one cause the establishment of medieval cities have come to be accepted no longer", he presents new theory which was initiated by R. Rietsche, developed by H. Pirenne and synthesized by H. Planitz. He analyzes the establishment and types of the German medieval cities in connection with commune movement. This article is, first of all, a pioneer work in this field and must be estimated highly because it enhanced the academic interest in medieval cities.

His second article, "On the Establishment of the Medieval Cities in the West" treats wider regions than his former article. Following Planitz' theory, he explains that the establishment of medieval cities in legal sense is ascribed to the formation of the merchants'

residential districts due to the revival of commerce, the formation of Eidgenossenschaft by merchant guilds and their struggle for self-government against feudal lords. Accordingly, his article is the rearrangement of former theories on the establishment of medieval cities.

"The Growth of the Cities and Social Changes" by prof. Hong focuses mainly on how the feudal society was influenced by the growth of medieval cities. It concludes that the growth of medieval cities not only affected the whole Europe and consequently brought commutation, but caused the development of goods-monetary system in European economy.

"A Study on the Origin of the Commercial Cities in Flanders in the 11th Century Europe" by Choi, Yong-rim emphasizes the facts that the appearance of the commercial cities in Flanders was due to quite different factors, and also introduces various theories of scholars. In fact, the problem whether the medieval cities were constructed on the ancient foundation or built on purely new elements is still controversial and very important subject. As case studies on various cities are coming out, we are not to generalize too rashly but try to accept the recent works by western scholars.

"A Study on the France Commune in the 12th century" by Kang, Il-hyoo briefly introduces the studies on the appearance and organization of commune, and also discuss the positive role that commune played and its limit. He says that commune played significant role in the formation of capitalism and the citizenship.

Kim, Pyung-hun's article deals with guild system. He introduces various theories on not only the origin of the merchant guild, time of its appearance and its status in the feudal society, but the origin and policy of the craft guild. He concludes that both the merchant and craft guild came to be organized to prevent the competition at a time when demand is not big enough. This article includes very comprehensive contents and just introduces different theories. So the conclusion of it is made only on the level of common sense.

"A Research on the Structure of Town-Hanse" by Kwak explains whether Town-Hanse maintained its organization or not after the middle of 14th century. The appearance of German Hanse started in the middle of 12th century when the German medieval cities were formed and citizen were trading with outside regions. And dismantling of German Hanse occurred after the last Hanse Conference in late 17th century (1669). The German Hanse can be divided into two periods: Commercial Hanse and Town Hanse. Koppman, Rörig and Kallmerten view Town Hanse as city alliance in its nature. On the other hand, Bode and Dollinger claim that it was city community. But, analyzing the Hanse Assemblies in 1358, 1367, and 1428, he asserts that German Hanse was not alliance organization. What he is arguing about is that: as the numerous city alliances organized at that time did not lay foundation of Town-Hanse's leading idea. He tries to support his points by investigating the backgrounds of the establishment of German Hanse, its economic policies and the type of city alliance. However, his grounds are somewhat weak.

"The Origins of the Frisian Town Patriciate" by Kang is a preliminary study to understand the structure and character of medieval cities and specially the character of the movement for self-government. It explains the origin of the town patriciate who led economic activities and took charge of city administration. It states that the economic situations at that time were not unfavorable for the landlord and even the feudal nobles were not passive in commercial activities. Also by tracing family tree of some town patricians, he refutes those who claim that the origin of town patriciate are nouveau riches who came from the country and accumulated great wealth through commercial activities. He concludes that feudal nobles became town patricians.

### 3. Future Task of Studies on the History of Medieval Cities

The Studies on medieval cities holds a important part in the study of the medieval history. **However**, if we evaluate the total activities of the study of medieval cities in our country untill now, we should admit that we have accomplished very little. This phenomenon might be ascribed to the fact that, apart from the problem that there are only a few who study the medieval history, even those who had studied on urban history have made little progress in their academic activities or abandoned their interest in this subject for other fields. Even former studies were either mere introductions of the various theories of western scholars or

putting them together. So the present task we have to do is to secure more investigators in this field and to equip ourselves with Latin which will surely enable us to utilize the primary sources in our studies.

On the other hand, we will have to pay our attention to new methodology of urban study. To keep abreast with recent trends, it is very much desirable to have positive concern on the new methodology.

It may seem to be very hard to commence our study on medieval cities in Eastern Europe at the moment. Therefore we will first have to study on the urban history in the regions of England and Italy on which it is comparatively easy for us to get former works. Then, on the bases of those studies, we will be able to construct the synthetic image of medieval cities through comparative studies.