

The Present Situation and Task in the Studies on the Western Medieval History in Korea

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I

It is necessary to examine the introduction and development process of Western history in Korea in order to study the present situation and task in the studies on Western medieval history in Korea. The reason is that the study of Western medieval history has constituted one part of the development of Western history in Korea.

The Western history is assumed to have been first introduced in Korea since 1920s, and the publication of the book about the West by the name of Man Kuk Sa(The History of the World) is traced back to the end of 19C. However academic theses on Western history began to be produced in Korea from 1948. In spite of this relatively late start the theses on medieval history was written in earnest from 1953.¹⁾ Taking into account these dates, the general study of Western history in Korea has developed for 40 years, and above all things, the study of Western medieval history has developed for 35 years.

To examine statistically the contents and tendency of the study of the Western history since(Korea's) liberation from the Japanese yoke helps understand the actual situation of the study of the Western history today and at the same time makes it possible to re-examine the phase of the study of the medieval history thereupon. The following table was made

1) Sang-sin Lee "The Meaning and Task of Western History in Korea today"
The Summary of National Conference for History(30th, 1987), p.61

by Prof. Sang-sin Lee(The statistics show the relatively accurate analysis of the theses before 1980s. However, Prof. Lee clarifies that this investigation is no more than an approximation due to the fact that the theses from 1981 to 1986 were not investigated accurately.)²⁾

1) Periodic Studies Since 1950s

	Ancient history	Medieval history	Modern history	Theory and others	Total
1950s	6	6	28	3	43
Early 1960s	11	6	27	3	47
Late 1960s	20	14	82	15	131
Early 1970s	15	12	100	31	158
Late 1970s	13	8	117	26	164
Early 1980s	47	22	186	45	300
Total	112	68	540	123	843

2) Field-Based Studies Since 1950s

	Politics	Economy	Society	Thought	Religion	Theory and others	Total
1950s	17	6	6	9	2	3	43
Early 1960s	24	1	4	13	2	3	47
Late 1960s	49	3	25	29	10	15	131
Early 1970s	54	13	18	37	2	31	159
Late 1970s	57	15	18	45	3	26	164
Early 1980s	109	15	60	56	15	45	300
Total	313	53	131	187	34	123	843

2) Ibid., p.63

3) Nation-Based Studies of Western Modern History

England	Germany	France	Italy	Russia	U.S.A.	Others	Total
170	125	50	15	27	140	13	540

Some characters appearing in the above-shown statistical materials are as follows ; First of all, in the aspect of quantitative development, table 1) shows that there are the first leap in the late 1960s and the second leap in the late 1970s. And the greatest concerns of study are focused on the modern history, and such a tendency has been continued until today and will be continued for the next few years.³⁾ Compared with this, the study of the medieval history is showing a backlog.

The 68 articles on medieval history account for only 8.7 percent of the total, which does not cover one-tenth of the total amount. Moreover, these figure show that the study of medieval period is far less than the studies on other areas, as compared to those on the ancient history(13.3%), the modern history(64.1%), and theory and others(15%).

The study of Western history in Korea is overwhelmingly concentrated on the modern history, and in the case of nation based studies, much of its interest is centered on England, the United States of America and Germany in order. in the case of field-based studies, politics, thought and society. Theses on political history in each period cover more than 30% of the total numbers of theses in the related period. It is also noticeable that the study on the historical theory and methodology became active in 1970s.⁴⁾

Though there are some imbalanced aspects in the research trend in period, region and area, fields of research relatively became balanced from the late '70s. The number of thesis published in the early 1980s

3) Ibid., p.65

4) Ibid.,

increased nearly twice as compared with that published in the late 1970s. It is also noticeable that the general interest in social history became increased. 5)

Analysing the areas covered by the theses on medieval history would be also meaningful. The following general table is prepared according to the classification based on articles mentioned in "Retrospect and Prospect" of YOKSA HAKBO(The Korean Historical Review).(For this reason, the statistics could be an approximation.)

Area-based Studies on Medieval History

Area	Number	Area	Number
City and Population	3	Development and Destruction of Manor	8
Foundation of Modern Nation	1	Parliamentarism	2
Norman Conquest	2	Thought	4
Frank Kingdom	2	Establishment of Feudalism	2
Dante	1	Society	2
Agricultural Structure	3	Augustine and Eusebius	5
National Movement	1	Papal History	2
		University and Its Value	3
Total			41

The table shows, when roughly analyzed, a) 18 articles(44%) on the area of economy and society, b) 15 articles(36.6%) on thought and church history, c) 4 articles(9.8%) on parliamentarism and monarch's right, and the rest(9.8%). The greatest concern of study is devoted to the field of economy and society, marking nearly half of the total amount of the study and then much interest is shown in the area of thought and church history

5) Ibid., p.66

with some 37% of the total.

II

The study of the Western history in Korea has been developed through some phases. The first group of Korean scholars majoring in the western history are the so-called "pioneer generation" of the 1950s who studied it under the Japanese colonial rule.

The second group includes 1960s' new scholars who were taught by the first group. Some of these new scholars had opportunity to study abroad in the U.S.A. and Europe in 1960s and 1970s, which brought into this country high and wide quality and range of knowledge of Western history.

Meanwhile, the so-called third group began to appear from the late 1970s, who were taught by the first group in part but mostly by the second group. The study of Western medieval history, explored at first by the second group, made a remarkable stride(progress) with the ardent and steady efforts of the third group. As a matter of fact, the third group has taken an important role in the study of Western medieval history until today.⁶⁾

When we consider the progress marked in the study of Western history, the year 1976 is the epoch-making year which could be said to have achieved the first quantum leap in the historical development of the research of Western history in Korea, and is now evaluated as a landmark in the study of the Western history in Korea. Much as it may be praised for its achievement, it can not be denied that it has some deficiencies: first, the lack of research personnel; second, the imbalance of the research fields;

6) Op. Cit., pp. 62-3

third, researchers' lack of scholarly inquiring consciousnesses.⁷⁾

With this positive, as well as negative aspects in mind which intersected each other in 1976, let us review in what situation the research of the Medieval Age is now and how it has been developed.

Prof. Sung-hwan Koh's "Study on the Establishment of Medieval City in Germany" is the first thesis written in this country on problems of Medieval Age cities, and Prof. Min-ho Lee's "The Origination of Power Structure in German Modern State", a research on legislative history and its objective, analyses the problem of the controlling power of the political system in that state.

The former, however, as it does not go beyond a superficial research, is in need of studying the structure, while the latter, lacks analysis of the social vitality and social structure. The year is also noteworthy for the issuing by Prof. Suk-hong Min of an article, "A Study on Disintegration of Feudal Society and Formation of Capitalism : An Intensive Study on the Debate between Dobb and Sweezy".

Of the 68 articles published in 1968 concerning the Western History, the most noted theses written on Middle Age are Man-duk Chung's "Norman Conquest Discontinuity and Continuity", Kun-sung Sun's "Frankish Kingdom and Significance of King Clovis' Conversion", and Sin-ja Lee's "A Study on Dante : A Study on Divine Comedy". Prof. Chung's treatise is on the effects of Norman Conquest on English society, and focuses heavily on its military hierarchy and structure, and the change in land-ownership. He examines validity of the theory of discontinuity, pointing out various factors in order to generalize theory of continuity. Prof. Sun's research on Frankish Kingdom fails to properly deal with the theme of the article. Sin-ja Lee's research on Dante emphasizes Dante's Medieval

7) Hyun-mo Kil, et. al., "Retrospect and Prospect of Occidental History-General" YUKSA HAKBO, (No. 39, 1968), pp. 133-4

character. But if the examination of Dante's modern character does not go side by side with this emphasis, her argument can hardly be persuasive.⁸⁾

The theses on medieval history out of the 65 theses on the Western history published in 1969 and 1970 are no more than four articles. The papers concerning Ancient Age are contained in only three. This means that most of the theses are overly concerned with the periods after Modern Age. At the same time it should be pointed out as serious problems that the papers are mostly concentrated on a few minor fields.⁹⁾

During this time the inactive studies of medieval history resulted in only four theses such as "Reorganization of Agricultural Structure in North Germany", and "Study of Agricultural Crisis in later Middle Ages by Min-ho Lee ; "Ostrogoth's Movement of Donaus River during the Great Volkerwanderung" by Jin-han Choi"; Norman Conquest and Medieval Basis of Central Government" by Se-hyun Lee.

Se-hyun Lee's thesis shows common, general explanations rather than an in-depth analysis and re-examination of various problems, which seems to be the result of lack of his own theory. Jin-han Choi's thesis is an attempt of great significance because it deals with a regional history of Eastern Europe which Western historians in Korea have neglected. But the vague distinction of result of the research by Lee himself and the theory of others may become a flaw.¹⁰⁾ On the other hand, Prof. Min-ho

8) Min-ho Lee, "Retrospect and Prospect of Occidental History-Medieval and Modern", YOKSA HAKBO(No. 39, 1968) p.143.

9) Hyun-mo Kil, "Retrospect and Prospect" YOKSA HAKBO(No. 44, 1979), p.148

10) Jong-yil Ra, "Retrospect and Prospect"-Medieval, YOKSA HAKBO(No. 49, 1971), p.137.

Lee's paper dealing with agricultural problem of Middle Ages introduces comprehensively the achievement of this field study, laying a firm ground for the future study of this field. Prof. Lee's paper deserves a high appraisal. In two theses Prof. Lee is interested in various facts concerning "Gutsherrschaft" formation in north-eastern part of German after 16C, especially concerning the changes of agricultural structure caused by the agricultural crisis of the latter part of the Middle Age.¹¹⁾ Prof. Lee has also studied the change of political power and agricultural structure around the Medieval Germany in the latter paper with a consistent concern since 1962, playing in this field a role of forerunner.

The study of medieval history between 1971 and 1972 seems to have been stagnant. In the column "Restrospect and Prospect" of YOKSA HAKBO(No. 60, 1973) the evaluation of the Western medieval history is referred to not as independent unit, but in the end of "Retrospect and Prospect-General". Prof. Hyun-mo Kil said, "In fact there are four papers in this area of Western medieval history, but among them three are not sufficient in their contents and research systems adopted. Only Prof. Sung-shik Kim's "Love of the Medieval Age" draws our attention"¹²⁾

However Prof. Kil seems to evaluate possitively the gap of a medieval history research like that as inevitable which comes from many limitations, and he does not necessarily think of this gap negatively. But, Prof. Kil in the same context suggests his own way of solution to overcome the difficulties which the study of Western history in Korea faces. As one of the ways of solution, he advocates that the first priority should be laid on

11) Ibid.

12) Hyun-mo Kil, "Retrospect and Prospect-General" YOKSA HAKBO(No. 60, 1973), p.133.

the introduction to the field of theory of history. It can be said that his observation sheds great light by suggesting the way a medieval history research should take.

The study of medieval history are revitalized between 1973 and 1975, after going through the stagnant period from 1971 to 1972. This opinion is supported by the fact that during this time five papers on medieval history were published and their contents are relatively fruitful.

Prof. Sung-hwan Koh, who has had a continuous interest in the city problem, published at this time a thesis entitled "On the Study of Establishment of the Western Medieval City". In short this paper is an outline of theoretical history concerning the causes of the establishment of medieval cities which are put in chronological order.

The two theses "On the Commutation Period in England" by Sung-pyo Hong and "On the Fixing of the Age of Maturity in the English Manor System and the Type of the Contemporary Regional Economic Structure" by Suk-yeon Lee share many similarities in their approximation of subject-'the collapse of manor system'- the identity of sources on which the two papers depend, and the style, merits, demerits.

Prof. Hong tried to explore the declining period of the manor system during the transformation of the labor rent to the monetary rent, whereas Lee tried to infer the declining period of the manor system by determining the peak point of maturity of the manor system.¹³⁾ Nonetheless, what interests me is that they make a lucid inference on the basis of similar materials, but reaching a different conclusion. Prof. Hong spots the commutation period approximately before the 13th century according to the theories of Kosminsky, Postan and so on, whereas Lee assumes the most mature period of the manor system to be after the 16th century even though he analyses

13) Ibid.

it in compliance with the theories of Kosminsky and Postan. The different conclusions are caused by the difference of ^{similar} materials quoted and this is a risky pitfall into which Western history researchers are most likely to fall. This fallacy is ascribed to the partial quotation without fully comprehending the entire context.¹⁴⁾

At any rate the Western medieval history study is allegedly said to get on the right track of a full-scale research through a preparation period with 1971-1972 as a turning point. Comparing with the research which has been conducted so far, this can be supported very well by the fact that the content of research paper during third period(73-'75) was advanced further than ever, and the study of the medieval history was revitalized during the period between 1976-78 and 1979-85.

It is necessary to look over the contemporary condition, in a general sense, of the Western history before we discuss medieval history during this period. The study of the Western history was advanced very highly in terms of quality and quantity during the period between '76 and '78. To begin with, the amount of researchers increased considerably and the inferior articles disappeared, thus the overall quality of articles was enhanced. At the same time the activities of young scholars was motivated. The increase of researchers necessarily brought about increasing of a separate volume on some specific issue and publishing of a translation.¹⁵⁾

What was the contemporary condition of the Western medieval history research like in this period('76-'78)? It is worthwhile to pay our attention to the fact that the quality of study was promoted greatly compared

14) Ibid.,

15) Myong-sik No, "Restrospect and Prospect-General" YOKSA HANBOO No. 84, 1976), pp.164-165

with the small amount of output in spite of the no more than five papers.

The five papers are as follows ; "The Development of Manor Ruled by Church in the Kingdom of Frank" by Ki-chul Song ; "On the Birth Procedure and the Characteristics of English Parliament in the Later Middle Ages" by Ho-soo Lim ; "On the Bastard Feudalism"(Western history XLX, 1978) by Dong-soon Kim ; "On the Causes of Feudal Reaction in England in the 13th Century" by Sung-pyo Hong ; "The Revolutionary Idea of J. Wyclif" by Eun-gu Park and so on.

Ki-chul Song's thesis on manor seeks for the confrontation between the regal power and the ecclesiastical authority in light of political history, focusing on how much feudal tenure was aggrandized rather than how the manorial economy developed.¹⁶⁾ Ho-soo Lim's study of English parliament laid its aims on explaining the appearance procedure of the English parliament and pursuing its characteristics.¹⁷⁾ "On the Bastard Feudalism" by Dong-soon Kim deals with the structural transformation of the Medieval Western feudalism. The thesis by Sung-pyo Hong illustrates in detail not only the economic boom of 13C and the recession of 14-15C by using statistical figures but it also argues intensively whether the cause of economic growth in 13C was due to the development of monetary economy or the population growth.¹⁸⁾ The thesis of Eun-gu Park introduces the religious and political thought of Wycliff which contains his revolutionary view point on church marked as heresy, the co-ownership of

16) Park Sung-soo, "Restrospect and Prospect-the medieval part", YOKSA

HAKBO, (No. 84, 1976) p. 174.

17) Ibid.,

18) Ibid.,

property and revolutionary attitude against the institutionalized church.¹⁹⁾

The rest of the four theses, except for one article which was published during this period, deal with the transformation of the late medieval age. In other words the focus of these papers was laid on the viewpoint of medieval age as a starting point of modern history instead of medieval age itself. But it should be pointed out that the theses are in lack of subjective attitude that can be derived from observing the medieval history in light of medieval situation.²⁰⁾

The period between 1979 and 1985, which constitutes the last part of chronological study, witnessed a rapid development in the study of a western medieval ages. This is the case in terms of the rapid growth in quantity and the diversification of research fields. While the number of theses issued between 1971 and 1978 amounts to no less than ten articles, that of theses between 1979 and 1985 approximately 22 articles which are more than two times that of the previous period. These theses can be arranged according to subjects as follows ;

A. Economy and Society

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hee-soo You | "On the Formation of the Feudal Society"(Sachong, 27, 1983) |
| Young-gu Lee | "The Establishment of the English Fedualism"(Busan woman Univ., 16, 1984) |
| Ki-young Lee | "The Social Status of the Roman in the Early French Society"(The study of Western history, 4, 1982) |
| ----- | "The Organization of the Farming Labors for the Feudal Territory of the Saint Bertent Monastery"(The Collection of historical theses in honor of Dr. Suk-hong Min's 60th birthday, 1985) |

20) Ibid.,

Won-keun Lee "On the Free-Citizenship of the Social Formation Period
in Merovingian Dynasty"(Sachong 26, 1982)

"On the Royal Authority of Merovingian Dynasty, concern-
ing around the Formation of Feudalism in the early 7C"(
The Sahakji in honor of Moo-sung Park's the 60th birth-
day, Vol. 16, 1982)

Sung-pyo Hong "On the Cause of Three Field System in 13C"(History Edu-
cation, 28, 1980)

"The Population Growth and the Change in the Peasant's
Standard of Living"(The Collection of historical thesis
in honor of Dr. Suk-hong Min's 60th birthday, 1985.

B. Augustine and Eusebius

Suk-woo Lee "The Characteristics of Two Cities in Augustinus"
(The Study of Western History, the combination of Vol.
21, 22, 1980, 1981)

"The War Theory of Augustine"(Kyung Hee History, the com-
bination of Vol. 6,7,8, 1982)

"A Study on Peace Theory of Augustine"(Kyung Hee History,
the combination Vol. of 8, 10, 1982)

In-hyung Jo "On the City of God" by St. Augustine(The Sahakji in honor
of Moo-sung Park's the 60th birthday, Vol. 16, 1982)

"On the Description of the Church History" of Eusebius
concerning around the Criticism of his Handling with His-
torical Materials(YUNSA HAKBO, Vol. 108, 1985)

C. Papal History

Chi-won Kang "On the Divine Right of a King and a Coronation in the 9-11C"(Sahakji Vol. 16, 1982)

Jun-chul Jang "The Thought of Gregory VII on the Establishment of Papal Ruling System"(Chungbook History Vol. 5, 1981)

D. The Change of Monarchical Right

Il-hyu Kang "On the Commune of North France in 12C"(Sachong 27, 1983)

Chul-hyun Park "A Thought on the Establishment of Common Law in the Age of Henry II"(History Education, 6, 1984)

E. University and Value

Myong-soo Ha "The Continuance of the Classical Learning in the Medieval France until the Emergence of University"(Sachong, 24, 1980)

Suk-woo Lee "The Origin and Establishment of the Medieval Univ."
(Kyung Hee History 12,13, 1986)

Hee-won Lim "The Seven Voices in the Western Medieval Ages and Social Change-concerning around Pride and Avarice"
(Jung Ang History Review, Vol. 3, 1980)

F. The Thoughts of Politics and History

Chan-moon Park "Erasmus' Thoughts of Policy", (The collection of historical theses in honor of Dr. Suk-hong Min's 60th birth, 1985)

Cha-seop Kwak "Machivelli's Thoughts of Politics", (Theory of western History, No. 24, 1983)

Eun-goo Park "Ockham's Thoughts of Politics, (theses collection for 60th birthday of Dr. Suk-hong Min's, 1985)

----- "William of Ockham's Theory of Secular Government", (Soong-

It seems that the volume of listing articles was, more or less, illustrated a lot, but it was selected so much for the convenience of research materials. In the classification according to fields, some inaccurate division were thought to occur.

It is assumed that a great change of thesis writers and an enlargement of the layer of writers were shown in the past 10 years. But only a few have continuously submitted the theses from 1973 to 1985. From 1980 to 1985 new persons participated in presenting the theses. Even if it is impossible to collect all the articles presented, it is needless to say that younger generation started to play a great role in studying.

considering the number of thesis according to sphere, the research on economy and society took the top, totaling 9 pieces, and it was followed by 5 pieces on Augustine and Eusebius, 2 pieces on papal history, 2 pieces on change of monarch's rights, and 3 pieces on policy and history thoughts respectively. The research on economy and society was treated so much enough to cover half of the number of all the fields, being followed by the research on Christianity and thoughts. This represents the trend of the research of the Middle Ages at the academic world.

Another apparent characteristic in 1980s is that the publication of translated editions was made in a large volume and a separate book was also printed. The following is a rough list of the translated editions;

Marc Bloch, La Soci t  F odale, I,II,(trans. by Jeong-sook Han), The Western Historians of the Middle Ages and the Theory of History Description I,II,III(ed. & trans. by the Center for Occidental History Study, Graduate School of Korea Univ.), B. Tierney, The Middle Ages ; Readings

of Medieval History(trans. by Eun-goo Park and others) E. Tierney & S. Painter, Western Europe in the Middle Ages, 300-1475(trans. by Yeon-gyu Lee), S. Painter, A History of the Middle Ages ; 284-1500(trans. by the Center for Occidental Middle Ages Study, Graduate School of Korea Univ.), W. Kirchner, Middle Ages ; 375-1492(trans. by the Center for Occidental Middle Ages Study, Graduate School of Korea Univ.), The Theory of Social and Economic Thoughts in the Western Middle Ages(ed. & trans. by the Center for Occidental Middle Ages Study, Graduate School of Korea Univ.), Christopher Dawson, The Making of Europe(trans. by Myung-bang Im), J.B. Morall, Political Thought in Medieval Times(trans. by Eun-goo Park), McGarry & Wahl, Outline History of the Middle Ages(trans. by Suk-woo Lee). For a separate book, Sung-pyo Hong wrote The Research on British Living Standard of the Middle Ages(published at the Tamgoodang) and it predicts the appearance of the writings relative to the history of the Middle ages.

III

Up to now, the development and state of the history study of the Middle Ages was roughly discussed. Then it is time to know what problems lie ahead in studying the history of the Middle Ages. The problems occurring in the study is not distinguished from those happening in the research of the comprehensive Western history. The problems ^{of} two area, speaking once again, contain many similar aspects.

When we study the Western history, we are sometimes faced with many difficulties owing to some factors such as the inefficient knowledges about foreign language and the lag of materials requisite for the study. What is worse is that these factors cause to double the difficulties in the study of the Middle Ages. So the study may be often deviated from the right path.

The lack of researchers is such another problem that an important part of the study will be left unstudied. This is more obvious phenomenon in the study of history of the Medieval Ages, most studies of which attach heavily weight to the fields of society, economy, and Christianity. In the meanwhile, the studies of customs, monastery, thought dispute, and capitalism are left untouched yet. It is true that there is little dispute worth being controversial and many fields are left as the state of unicellular and partial research because the research did not go further.

The awkwardness in the way approaching to the research is another obstacle we should surmount, along with the before-mentioned limitations. The poverty of the reference sources, as professor In-ho Lee indicates should be overcome. Furthermore, it should also be excluded such a foolish attitude to artificially assemble the sources as he pleases, going stray with out any classification between the primary and secondary sources.

The attitudes to the study show the tendency to only introduce, without any serious comprehension or analysis, the Occidental theories rather than to develop one's own theory subjectively in order to prove one's theme or hypothesis. It is true that the introduction of the Occidental advanced theories would play a significant role in raising our level and way of research. But we must not overlook the risk to mislead the direction and contents of research by incomplete or partial introduction.

Along with the risk, the non-subjecthood in selecting the research theme should also be excluded. The tendency to choose the research theme not by value and necessity but by the interest and the strong dispute in Europe and America should be swept off thoroughly.

These problems illustrate indirectly what objects we should, spontaneously, try to achieve. First of all, to escalate the level of academic research, the enlargement of realm using the primary sources is the basic

task given to the historians about the Middle Ages.²¹⁾ By progressing the peculiar study utilizing lots of original books and sources,²²⁾ the inexperience of research method or the problems resulted in the partial theory introduction can be gradually solved.

Making the research level better is also an urgent matter. The easy-going, quickly-completing, and scamping attitudes to the study should be excluded, but the researchers' scholaric honesty should be required for the development of the study. Furthermore, the academic and openward circumstances should be provided to discuss and exchange the opinions about the theses and publications.²³⁾ In result, it is assumed that high-level theses can appear in academic magazines.

The diversification of the research realm of Middle Ages' history is needed, as that much the writing of the introductory history of the Middle Ages is more urgent. In addition, It is recommendable that the issue of writing of the history of medieval feudal society begins to argue among Korean medievalists. As for me, I wish to write medieval historiography in the nearest future. For the escalation of research level, overseas study or short-term residence in Europe can also be recommendable. The study to the Middle ages could include the fields such as arts and language and it is now time to turn the attention on the Islamic and Byzantine culture. If the study of the Middle ages is, up to now, considered the preparation step, the forward step will be taken for developing the actual research.

21) Hyun-mo Kil, YOKSA HAKBO(No. 49) p.133

22) Suk-hong Min, YOKSA HAKBO(No. 112, 1986) pp.111-113

23) Ibid..