The 'Taiping Tian Guo' (Taiping Heavenly Kingdom AD.1851-1864) established by Hong Xiuquan, lasted only 15 years. However, it was important in the history of modern China for its attempted introduction of various political, social and economic reforms.

The present study, unlike previous studies, attempts to examine the political ideas of the Taiping movement objectively through an overall evaluation from various perspectives. This will provide a better understanding of the real essence of the political ideas of the Taiping movement.

This thesis is divided into six chapters. The first chapter states the purpose and the approach of the study. Chapter two discusses briefly the background and the origin of the Taiping political ideas. Chapter three considers the ideal egalitarian society promoted by the 'Taiping Tian Guo', followed by an examination of " 天朝田亩制度 " and " 资政新篇 ", two documents which reflect the political ideas of two different periods in the history of the Taiping movement. Chapter four explores the structure and the system of the Taiping political power (Despotism and Theocracy) which is reflective of the political ideas of the leading group. Chapter five examines the racialism of the Taiping movement. The final chapter evaluates the nature of the Taiping movement.

An analysis of the political ideas of the Taiping movement reveals that the movement should not be viewed as an ethnic or a peasant revolution but simply as an anti-government uprising.