Abstract

"Romance of The Three Kingdoms" is one of the most enduring novel written during the Ming Dynasty. Based on historical accounts, the author Luo Guanzhong ( 罗贯中 ) interpreted the period from Eastern-Han ( 东汉 ) to the period of the Three Kingdoms ( 三国时期 ) through a novel.

Luo holds a different perspective from the historians who recorded San Guo Zhi ( 《三国志》 ). He portrays Liu Bei ( 刘备 ) as having the right to the throne. Armed with virtues more than military capacity, Liu Bei's popularity among the folklore earned him great respect and support.

The legitimacy of Liu Bei's leadership and the exposition of military literature made the generals of Shu-Han ( 蜀汉 ) the centre-piece of the novel. This study therefore aims to critically analyse the main characters within the militia of Shu-Han that personalised the battles fought.

Due to the limitation of space, only eighteen generals are analysed while the rest are listed in charts. The appearance, emotions and feelings built into each character as well as their unique contributions and thoughts are discussed.

The author centres the story on the real-life characters who serve to add moral strength to the cause of Shu-Han. The virtues and faults of the generals are therefore the ultimate reflection of Shu-Han's political
identity, power and status. Their deaths are symbolic of the eventual tragedy of Shu-Han.