Summary

Hong Xiuquan played an important role in the history of China. In 1851, he led in a famous rebellion known as "Taiping Rebellion", which had affected the Chinese history. Many scholars have studied on Hong Xiuquan and the Taiping Rebellion. Hong Xiuquan and the Taiping Rebellion is a popular study field because Hong Xiuquan formed a special religion named "God worship religion", which was different from Christianity and Traditional Chinese Culture.

Many scholars in the west have studied on such field from the Christian perspective, so some of them concluded that "God Worship Religion" was not Christianity while some others thought it was a branch of Christianity in China. Many Chinese scholars pointed out that "Taiping Rebellion" was a popular Chinese rebellion and Hong Xiuquan just used "God Worship Religion" as a political tool. From my point of view, I would argue that Hong Xiuquan did not use his religion as a political tool, instead, his belief was sincere, which is the main point of this dissertation.

First of all, we may learn that Hong Xiuquan's religious thoughts were derived from a book titled Quanshi lianyan. This book was written by a Chinese missionary whose name is Liang Fa. It introduces the creeds of Christianity and I would call it "the Chinese Bible". Through the analysis of Hong Xiuquan's behaviors after he had read that book, we found that Hong Xiuquan had accepted the thoughts of Christianity in Quanshi lianyan.

Secondly, this dissertation discusses Hong Xiuquan's belief. Hong Xiuquan had set up a new religion named "God worship religion". It was different from all existing religions. This new religion though based on Christianity also comprised some Chinese traditional thoughts. Among the creeds of "God worship religion", most of them were his interpretations of Quanshi lianyan.
He also insisted that there was only one God in the world like the Christians and rejected idol worshipping. But through comparing "God worship religion" and Christianity, we know that the God of "God worship religion" has a family like the human families. Therefore, his God resembles that of a Chinese traditional idol. Nevertheless, Hong Xiuquan has his own belief and he remained faithfully to the end.

Thirdly, this dissertation points out that Tai Ping Rebellion is different from the Chinese traditional rebellions. Hong Xiuquan who is the leader is a traditional Chinese scholar while he also had been affected by Christianity. Another difference is that he had not given up the religion after he established a political power, which is "Tai Ping Heavenly Kingdom". Through his words and deeds, we may know that he want to establish not only a political power but also a religious power.

Finally, I discuss the religious belief. I use such discussion to support my points. I drew a conclusion that Hong Xiuquan has his own special belief and the "Tai Ping Heavenly Kingdom" is not purely political power, so we cannot simply say that the "God worship religion" is only a tool for Hong Xiuquan's political purpose. In addition, I have also discussed the religious phenomenon in the recent China.