Abstract

This honours thesis looks into the requirements of kingship in ancient China. The thesis examines the qualifications of kings and the historical development of kingship theories from the viewpoint of ancient Chinese.

The purpose of this paper is to establish the relationship between these criteria for kingship and the thoughts in ancient China.

Each kingship requirement is discussed in detail, first by examining the circumstances that conditioned the requirement, for example, how and why the theory emerged in the specific period of history. Then the development of each theory is traced to the history of Chinese thoughts.

Theories are quoted based on both first-hand and secondary sources. The study covers the periods of Shang, Chou to Han.

This study concludes that theories of kingship are closely related to the main thoughts in ancient times. The findings of the study might be useful for further studies in the areas of historical development of kingship theories and the history of thoughts in ancient China.