ABSTRACT

In the views of some scholars, the political thought of Mencius is regarded conducive in consolidating the feudal autocratic government, and therefore, it has nothing to do with the democratic ideology; in fact it is not a democratic political thought at all. Apparently, there is a misunderstanding of the real essence of Mencius' political ideas.

In this academic exercise, it is hoped that through an analysis of the political thoughts of Mencius, the misconception that Mencius was not in favour of democratic government would be dispelled.

This exercise is structurally divided into six chapters. Chapter One begins with the purpose of writing. Chapter Two reveals the specific characteristics of the Warring States during Mencius' time, which stimulated him to develop his political ideas. Chapter Three discusses the ideological basis of his political thought which is his theory of Innate Human Goodness (性善说). Chapter Four highlights the democratic spirit in his political thought. The fifth chapter criticises his failure to institutionalise his democratic ideas, and how later on Zhang Junmai (张君劢), one of the modern confucianists, was able to fulfil his ideals. The final chapter evaluates and concludes Mencius' democratic ideas.