ABSTRACT

This study aims to provide an overview of the exploitation of the Christian belief by the Taiping troops as well as the rise and downfall of the Taiping Rebellion. Led by a dejected scholar Hong Xiu Quan (洪秀全) in 1850, the Taiping Rebellion finally culminated in a downfall after fourteen years of immense efforts to incorporate Christianity into the Chinese culture. Indeed, culture has often been regarded as the most important element in the history of China, especially when she was under foreign rule, such as during the Qing dynasty. Thus, when Hong Xiu Quan tried to break through this convention by introducing his own fabricated Christianity, he was met with unsympathetic opposition. This paper attempts to compare the misconstrued preaching of Christian belief pioneered by Hong Xiu Quan with the Christian doctrines.

The paper is divided into six chapters. The first chapter states the purpose and the approach of the topic. Chapter two analyses why religion was often used as a tool for revolutions in China. The third chapter spells out the differences between Hong Xiu Quan's interpretation of the Christian belief and the authentic one. Chapter four attempts to analyze the many cultural and ethnic conflicts in China, a long-standing problem. Chapter five evaluates the success and failure of the Taiping Rebellion. The concluding chapter explores Hong Xiu Quan's intentions in using a foreign religion and accounts for the failure of the rebellion.

This study would have achieved its objective if it has crystallized the differences between the true Christian belief and the one claimed by Hong Xiu Quan. It is also hoped that this study would provide further insights into the whys and wherefores of the initial success and subsequent failure of the rebellion.