

The Secret to Feudal Landlord Economy's Longevity in China

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ABSTRACT. *The essay mainly focuses on the relevant reasons that may contribute to the longevity of feudal landlord economy in China that concerns systematic, economic, cultural and locational factors in contrast to those of the western countries, and what kind of lesson it could give us.*

KEYWORDS: *The Secret; Feudal Landlord; Longevity*

1. Historical background of landlord economy

The longevity of the feudalism in China has always been a controversial issue of relevant history studies, so is the landlord economy that comes with it. Compared with that in Europe, the landlord economy in China survived much longer as well as leaving more profound impacts on contemporary society. Though the birth of capitalism germination in China and Europe were almost simultaneous, they still endured entirely different fate. Feudalism in Europe was put an end to soon enough, while China, for some specific reasons, failed to break it through.

2. A few reasons to explains the longevity of the feudal economy in China

The most conspicuous reason may have something to do with Chinese system. During that particular era, the emperor rules the enormous realm and citizens in a tyrannical way, and there was no council nor any institution possess actual power to vote against him. To secure his position, the leading role of natural economy is asked. Many regulations were made to ban individuals from trading freely, which decreased the speed of the developing of capitalism. Also the government that was in serious corruption established some regulations using various complicated reasons to raise tax revenue, contributing to the fact that a large proportion of countrymen could not even afford the manufactures they made. The market stood depressed. There was no so much need nor supply, so basically everyone was taking the traditional method to achieve mere autarky.

Therefore, no matter how advanced the producing technology was in China, the form of a system that might provide a positive environment for capitalism germination to be actual capitalism was not available back then. In contrast, some

European countries had inherited democracy and mercantilism from ancient Greece to which the western culture dates back.

What's more, the physiocracy retained its place as a radical economic idea of China throughout the history of feudalism. That means, the rich at that time would prefer to spend their money on lands than merchandising, to which the lack of accumulation of capital could be attributed.

Last but not the least, the location China stands in geographically was less than beneficial. It was adjacent to the sealed countries that were no more developed than it was, such as Mongolia and Korea, instead of the countries in which capitalism was strong enough to assimilate the others. It is two hundred years later than America to be colonized and permeated by the western capitalism countries[1]. It was way too late and the capitalist germination had already missed its chance. Since the speculation policy was made, China had been more isolated from the world than ever. In this way, the feudalism in China could go without any distribution from outside and paces at its own regular patterns.

3. We enumerate aforesaid reasons to learn from history

We can tell after having those possible reasons presented above that the longevity of feudal landlord economy in China was not achieved by some random chance or someone, instead, the formation was the result of multiple factors, and certainly was not to be duplicated. It was an educational lesson for not only Chinese, but for all residents of the world, suggesting how freakishly strong an older system could be, or how unbelievably an inveterate notion could trap a nation in for more than a century, which makes people rethink their notions and decisions, to believe in our democracy, and to solve the problems more effectually when history repeats itself in the future, transmuted perhaps, but always vincible.

Reference

- [1] Max Weber(2018). Outline of World Economic History, Lixin Accounting Publishing House .