

## **On Liu Cheng-yun's *History in Archives: Politics and Society in the Qing Dynasty***

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*History in Archives: Politics and Society in the Qing Dynasty*, written by Prof. Liu Cheng-yun, presents the author's fruitful achievements in collecting archives and studying Qing history over the past 30 years. This book discusses a wide range of topics, including political institutions, economic institutions, and social organizations as well as the life of ordinary people in the Qing Dynasty. It attempts to combine traditional historical materials and newly emerging archival records, in order to provide a much broader picture of Qing history. By means of several case studies, the book provides new perspectives from which to examine the politics and society of the Qing Dynasty. It indicates that there was always a tension among the central government, local government and local society. In the progress of decision making and institutional implementation, elite politics and ordinary life interacted with each other. In addition, from the mid-Qing Dynasty, due to social upheavals as well as political and moral disorder, the political competition between the central and local governments was gradually intensified, resulting in a new round of power restructuring.

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