

On Link-up of *The Great Qing Code* and The Codes (*zeli*) of the Ministries in the Qing Dynasty

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Abstract

The Great Qing Code and The Codes (*zeli*) of the Ministries were complimentary and constituted the core of the law of the Qing Dynasty, they were the most important tools for the ruler to rule the Empire. Because the activities of various departments had a cross relationship, the rules had a common source and *The Great Qing Code* mainly existed as a criminal code, *The Great Qing Code* and The Codes (*zeli*) of the Ministries thus were linked. By absorbing the essence of the Codes (*zeli*) of the Ministries, Referring to them, and as the standard of them, *The Great Qing Code* and the Codes (*zeli*) of the Ministries were closely connected. Broadly speaking, in the early period of the Qing Dynasty, they connected to a relatively high degree, thus promoted the unification of the legal system, Simplified the length of the code and strengthened the generality of the code, at last constructed a strict legal system. But in the late Qing Dynasty, *The Great Qing Code* and the Codes (*zeli*) of the Ministries were not close enough, thus caused the contradiction between the two types of law and brought great difficulties to the application of law. So at the time of legal reform in the late Qing dynasty, people of vision reemphasized the unification of the two types of law. Of course, this legal tradition may also make the transformation of the legal system of *The Great Qing Code* and

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the Codes (zeli) of the Ministries to the modern department law system less difficult.

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