

The Law of Feudal Lords in Western Jin Dynasty

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Abstract

The feudalism of Western Zhou was an important ideal in political system of Medieval China. Although feudal lords were restricted by many legal provisions in Han and Wei Dynasty, but the specialized law of feudal lords did not come into being until Western Jin Dynasty.

A transcript of Jin Lü Zhu (notes of laws in Western Jin Dynasty) was found from a burial at Bijiatan site in Yumen, Gansu during 2002. This document, which was excerpted to feudal lords, not only showed that Western Jin government tried to “rebuilding” the feudal system of Western Zhou, but also constrained the power of the emperor.

Keywords: Han Lü, Wei Lü, Jin Lü, Law of Feudal Lord, Feudal Lord, Five Orders of Feudal Nobility