

The Influence of Mongol Invasion in the Kamakura Period on the Recession of the Kamakura Shogunate

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Abstract

This paper takes the two attempted invasions by the Yuan Dynasty (Mongol) during the Kamakura period as an example to analyze the influence of the invasion on the Kamakura Shogunate and the contradictions between the two sides. In the history of Mongol invasion of Japan, although the Kamakura Shogunate won in the war, it turned out to recession, the author wanted to explore the causes of its decline through the research and was interested in the Mongolia strikes may lead to Kamakura Shogunate recession this view, taking this opportunity to seek the Mongol strikes cause deterioration of the Kamakura Shogunate regime. At present, there are many studies on the war process in the academic circle, but there are still insufficient studies on the relationship between the Mongol attack and the decline of the Kamakura Shogunate. Therefore, this paper has certain research value. The influence of Mongol attack on the decline of Kamakura Shogunate was analyzed by reference and Internet. This paper first sorts out the background of the Mongol attack, and then briefly describes the process of the Mongol attack, namely the Bunei War and the Koan War. Finally, the influence of Mongol invasion on the collapse of Kamakura Shogunate is discussed from both political and economic aspects.

Keywords: Kamakura Shogunate, the government of Shogunate, the Bunei War, the Koan War, Gokenin

1. Introduction

In Japanese history, the Kamakura Shogunate was the first samurai government, existed for 148 years, opened the rule of the samurai class in Japan, and was a representative period. In ancient history, the war between the Yuan dynasty and Japan was one of the three wars between China and Japan, and the only invasion of ancient Japan by foreign enemies, especially the Koan War happened at the third year after Southern Song Dynasty was ruined, at the same time, large-scale winning in a battle of the Yuan dynasty was coming to an end. Japan played a role in stopping the expansion of the Mongol empire and the Yuan dynasty, which was called the Mongol invasion in the Kamakura period and the Yuan military invasion in the Edo period. Both of these invasions took Kitakyushu as the main battleground, and many novels refer to this event repeatedly, hence the word “Gad Storm” was born. The Mongol incursion had a profound influence on the history of China, Japan and Korea. China and Japan, in particular, broke off diplomatic relations in the 4th century due to the deterioration of Sino-Japanese relations. Why is this problem important?

How does the study relate to previous work in the area? If other aspects of this study have been reported previously, how does this report differ from, and build on, the earlier report?

What are the primary and secondary hypotheses and objectives of the study, and what, if any, are the links to theory?

2. Japanese Social State of the Thirteenth Century

2.1 Military and Government Affairs Politics of the Kamakura Shogunate

Taking the misgovernment of Taira No Kiyomori as an example, Minamoto No Yoritomo invented a method to secure the interests of samurai without being assimilated into the court nobles. This is called “government by the shogunate”. In July 1192, the emperor appointed Minamoto No Yoritomo as a “Barbarian-subduing Great General”, using the absolute authority of the emperor to grant the legitimacy of the Kamakura military regime of Minamoto No Yoritomo, and formally established a military government with militarism as the main body, and Japan formally followed the path of militarism.

Samurai changed Japanese society and Japanese system with military power, and samurai government opened up a new political situation with bushido as the guiding thought, a political system with militarism as the main body and a strategy to promote development through war.

After Yoritomo's death in 1199, his bloodline died out in a political struggle, from that moment on, a fierce internal struggle to seize the real power of the shogunate began.

In 1221, the Jokyu War broke out. When Sanetomo (Yoritomo's son), the third shogun, was assassinated and the lineage of the Minamoto clan was severed, the Retired Emperor Gotoba saw an excellent opportunity to eradicate the shogunate. This was because samurai groups that had lost the core of the bloodline of the Minamoto clan were expected to become unorganized. So, the emperor took the shogunate's dying samurai group in western part of Japan as the center, launching the soldiers to topple the shogunate.

In 1221, the Kamakura Shogunate established Rokuhara Tandai (an administrative and judicial agency in Rokuhara, Kyoto) in Kyoto. In 1224, Yoshitoki Hojo died and his eldest son Yasutoki Hojo assumed the position of regent. In 1225, Kamakura Shogunate established the Hyojoshu (council of state), the supreme council of the shogunate's politics and trials. Tokifusa Hojo assumed Rensho (assistant to the Regent). Oe No Hiromoto died. In 1226, Fujiwara (Kujo) Yoritsune became the fourth shogun. In 1232, the Kamakura Shogunate established The Goseibai shikimoku (Formulary of Adjudications). In 1247, Yasumura Miura was defeated by Tokiyori Hojo, the fifth regent, and died in battle (the battle of Hoji). In 1249, Imperial Prince Munetaka became shogun.

As a result of the drastic collapse of the balance, wars between the Northern and Southern Courts and the Muromachi period occurred.

Yoritomo himself assumed the rank of "Barbarian-subduing Great General" and used it as the basis for governing the shogunate. In other words, the Kamakura Shogunate was nothing more than "the headquarters of the expeditionary force to the eastern part of Japan located in Kamakura" in the legal system. However, samurai groups in various places were able to secure a certain amount of police power and jurisdiction within the manor.

In this way, two power centers were formed in Japan. Legally, the emperor and nobles in Kyoto were the sovereign in Japan, but in reality, the shogunate located in Kamakura controlled the center of national politics. This strange double structure, while maintaining an unstable balance, continued for more than 700 years until the Meiji Restoration.

In short, the Kamakura government was originally based on a very unstable foundation.

2.2 Living Condition of General Public

The Kamakura period is the period that agricultural technology progressed for the start of a double cropping, the spread of iron farming tools and the spread of farm work using cattle and horses, and gokenin (immediate vassals of the shogunate of the Kamakura and the Muromachi periods) actively developed the fields of their territory, thereby raising agricultural productivity and enriching the lives of the common people, in terms of economy. In addition, with the rapid development of the permeated monetary economy and the credit economy based on it, lenders appeared in full scale, regular markets appeared, and especially in Kyoto, Nara and Kamakura, permanent shops appeared, and a large amount of Song currency was imported, and the appearance of Bashaku (delivery using horses) also appeared, and civilian life is very convenient. The monetary economy permeated into the economy, and borrowing, currency, exchange and Tanomoshi (mutual credit associations) and so on were born.

In terms of culture, it was divided into three categories: religion, entertainment, and literature.

In terms of religious life, it seems that the religious view that new Buddhist sects such as Jodo sect, Jodo Shinshu sect, ji sect, Nichiren sect, Rinzai sect and Soto sect were born in the Kamakura period and the religious views of "Mappo no Yo" (the age of the final dharma) made people's minds free. This was the beginning of the Buddhist reformation. By the power of zazen, it tried to stabilize the spiritual life of the people and lead them to the Land of Happiness. Buddhism became popular in this way.

In the 13th century, Dengaku (ritual music and dancing performed in shrines and temples) and Sarugaku (form of theatre popular in Japan during the 11th to 14th centuries) became popular in manor. Dengaku was originally developed from ritual performance to pray for a good harvest during rice planting, and gradually it was carried by professional people. Sarugaku is the so-called theatrical performance. This culture gradually developed into Noh and kyogen.

Literature also adds color to the river of Japanese history. Since samurai appeared in the Kamakura period, a samurai culture was formed in addition to the court noble culture. It was a time when masterpieces such as

Shinkokin Wakashu (New Collection of Ancient and Modern Japanese Poetry), Kinkai Wakashu (The Golden Pagoda-Tree Collection of Japanese Poetry), war tales such as “the Tale of the Heike” and “the Tale of Heiji” by biwa-playing minstrel, “Essays in Idleness” by Kenkou Houshi, and “An Account of My Hut” (an essay by KAMO no Chomei) were produced one after another.

3. Chinese Social State of the Thirteenth Century

3.1 Politics of the Yuan Dynasty

In the early 13th century, Genghis Khan appeared on the Mongolian plateau. In 1206, he united the Mongols and established a great empire that extended from central Asia to northwest India and southern Russia.

The son of Genghis Khan, Ogedei Khan (Yuan emperor taizong, 1186~1241) established the capital of Karakorum. In 1234, he destroyed the Jin Dynasty and sent an expeditionary force to Europe to take control of the Russian principalities and defeat the German-polish armies.

Kublai, the fifth emperor of the Yuan Dynasty, moved the capital to the great capital (Beijing), changed the name of the country to Yuan (Da Yuan) in 1271, and promoted the overthrow of the Southern Song Dynasty with the aim of ruling the mainland. Then, he repeatedly sent troops to the surrounding areas which had tributary and trade relations with the Southern Song Dynasty and conquered them one after another. The possible alliance with the Southern Song Dynasty was thus eliminated.

The entire country was under the unified rule of the Yuan dynasty, which lasted for about 90 years. It was a “conquered dynasty” in which the Mongols, who were a different race from the Han people, ruled China by adopting the unique form of governance of the Han people.

The government of the Yuan dynasty adopted the organizations of the Han people such as the central book department, the privy council, and the imperial history bureau, and the administrative organization of the central book department was established, but the actual ruling was by the Mongols.

3.2 Living Condition of General Public

Economically, Kublai Khan focused on agriculture. The Courier system and the preparation of the Grand Canal made the transportation network developed. The Yuan Dynasty inherited the industry and commerce of the former Southern Song Dynasty and prospered economy, and Banknote was circulated as paper money. In the countryside, Han people landowners grew up in the villages.

In terms of culture, Mongolian culture is less and less unique, and Tibetan Buddhism was protected at the imperial court, and the Phags-pa script was used in official documents. Due to the decline of Confucianism and the suspension of the imperial civil service, Confucianism and Chinese literature declined, but Yuan Qu and popular literature were popular among the people. A major feature of the culture of this period is the influx of Christian and Islamic culture as a result of east-west exchange that flourished with the establishment of the Mongol empire.

4. The Mongol Invasion Processes

4.1 The Bunei War

In 1259, when Korea became a vassal state, Kublai Khan frequently sent envoys to Japan to demand tribute. The Mongols had a diplomatic policy of sending imperial rescript to invite various countries and ethnic groups to pay tributes, and subjugating them if they refused. The dispatch of the imperial rescript to Japan was also part of the strategy to capture the Southern Song Dynasty.

After the end of the Sambyeolsho War in 1273, the Bunei War began. Following this, the Koan War was carried out in light of the fall of the Southern Song Dynasty in 1276. Among the Mongolian army that attacked Japan, many Korean people who surrendered to the Mongols and Jiangnan people (from regions south of the Yangtze River) in the Southern Song Dynasty were included, and their morale was not high naturally, and the constant internal conflicts among commanders of different races had a great influence on the battles. Kublai had planned a third expedition, but it was not realized due to the rebellion of the Jiangnan people against Mongolian rule and the resistance of Koch (now Vietnam). Thus, the Mongol invasion was an incident that should be understood in the context of the trends in Asia. Faced with the collective tactics and firearms of the Yuan army, the Japanese army, which mainly used single-combat tactics, had a hard time and retreated to Mizu-shiro (castles on lakes or marshes for defensive reasons) near the Dazaifu. The Yuan army returned to their ships at sundown, but that night there was a heavy storm and many of the ships sank. The heavily damaged Yuan army retreated to Gappo.

4.2 The Koan War

Kublai Khan, who destroyed the Southern Song Dynasty in 1276, ordered a second expedition to Japan in 1281.

The eastern route army set sail from Gappo, Korea in May, invaded Tsushima and Iki, and invaded Hakata Bay in June. The well-prepared Japanese samurai fought bravely to prevent the enemy from landing, and the eastern route army retreated to Takashima in Hizen and waited for the arrival of the Jiangnan army.

The Jiangnan army, which started from Ningbo, appeared in the sea near Japan in July, and joined the eastern route army to prepare for an all-out attack. Just then, a large storm struck the original large fleet.

Most of the 4,000 Yuan ships were sunk, and the soldiers drowned. The Japanese attacked Takashima, waiting for the typhoon to subside, and took many prisoners.

5. The Influence of Mongol Invasion on Collapse of Kamakura Shogunate

5.1 Political Aspects

In fact, the Kamakura Shogunate gained nothing in this battle, and the financial situation of the shogunate became difficult, and as a result, the gokenin who went to the front did not receive much reward, the trust relationship of favor and service between the shogunate and gokenin was broken. The politics of the Hojo clan began to waver.

Although Japan repulsed two Mongol attacks, it could not predict when a third attack would occur. The shogunate continued to impose *Ikokukeigobanyaku* (military service imposed on gokenin) on gokenin to guard the coast. Taking this opportunity, the political center of Kyushu was shifted from Dazaifu to Hakata. Since the shogunate acquired from the imperial court the right to mobilize even non-gokenin samurai in manors and public lands throughout the country, the shogunate's power had spread to the western part of Japan where the shogunate's power was difficult to reach up to now. As the ruling power of the shogunate was strengthened nationwide, the power of the Hojo clan in the shogunate was further strengthened. As a result, the Tokuso (the patrimonial head of the main branch of the Hojo clan) who succeeded the family estate became autocratic, and Miuchibito took the lead in the shogunate administration under the absolute power of the Tokuso. The Hojo clan monopolized more than half of the provincial constable throughout the country, and most of the posts of Jito (manager and Lord of manor) in various places were returned to the Hojo clan. The conflict between Uchibito and Tozama gokenin became more serious.

For the anxiety of Mongol invasion unprecedented of handling, 34 years old Tokimune Hojo died in 1285, the Shimotsuki incident occurred. In 1293, there was the Heizenmon rebellion. In 1318, after emperor Godaigo ascended the throne, he tried to establish a political system led by the imperial court, and in 1324, the plot to overthrow the shogunate was exposed and court nobles who were close to him were punished. In 1331, the overthrow of the shogunate was exposed again and he was exiled. However, as a result of this incident, Akuto (a villain in the medieval times) who were dissatisfied with the regent politics of the Hojo clan rose in arms to overthrow the shogunate. On May 7, 1333, Takauji ASHIKAGA, a powerful gokenin, went up to Kyoto to suppress the forces to overthrow the shogunate by order of the shogunate, but on the contrary, he defeated Rokuhara Tandai (local commissioner in Rokuhara, located in Kyoto), an institution of the shogunate. Seeing the death of Takatoki Hojo in battle, Takauji changed his position. The army to overthrow the shogunate brought the Hojo clan and Kamakura under its control. The Kamakura shogunate fell.

5.2 Economic Aspects

Gokenin, who had been economically based on local products for a long time, could not cope with the monetary economy that had spread rapidly in each region. They were unable to keep up with the acceleration of the economic flow. As a result, many people suffered great losses and were in dire need. They tried to earn a living by pawning or selling their most important estates.

Gokenin undertook the work of defending their *kokushu* (provincial governor) and building stone mounds against the invasion of Yuan. However, since *genko* was a defense war and did not acquire new lands, the shogunate was not able to give sufficient rewards to the gokenin, and as a result, the gokenin became impoverished.

In 1297, he issued a debt cancellation order in the Einin era to cancel the debts of the gokenin. Although the purpose of the order was to save the gokenin's poverty, it did not stop the decline of the gokenin. This also caused economic chaos.

5.3 The Reason of the Recession of Kamakura Shogunate After the Mongol Invasion

The reason why the shogunate fell into decline after the Mongol invasion was that the reward for the gokenin was not enough, and the gokenin who were sent to Kyushu (southernmost of the four main islands of Japan) to prepare for the third Mongol invasion were exhausted and the power of the shogunate became weak. One of the reasons why the life of gokenin became difficult was that they did not receive enough rewards for fighting in the

Mongol invasion attempts against Japan. Another reason was that the territory was divided, so the territory of gokenin became smaller.

The Einin Order for Benevolent Rule issued in 1297 aimed to save the struggling gokenin. The contents were to cancel a debt and to recover the land lost by gokenin for free. As a result, the economy became confused and dissatisfaction with the shogunate increased. In addition, a group of emerging samurai called “Akuto” who did not pay land tax to the Lord of the manor and did not obey the shogunate appeared.

In this context, gokenin became dissatisfied with and opposed the shogunate, and the shogunate went into decline.

6. Conclusion

This paper analyzes the influence of the Mongol invasion on the Kamakura Shogunate, taking the two attempted invasions by the Yuan Dynasty (Mongol) during the Kamakura period as an example.

The Mongol invasion was divided into the Bunei War and the Koan War, and although the Mongols were defeated due to divine wind, Japan, as the victorious country, did not gain any substantial profit. The Kamakura government was originally based on a very unstable foundation. Therefore, the influence of the Mongol invasion on the Japanese politics intensified the contradiction of the regime, damaged the trust relationship of favor and service, the politics of the Hojo clan began to fluctuate, and accelerated the decline of the shogunate. In addition, the economic impact was that the shogunate was not able to give sufficient rewards to gokenin, which led to poverty and economic chaos. Therefore, although the Kamakura Shogunate was not defeated by the Mongol invasion, it gradually declined after that. From this point of view, I think both the winning and the losing countries lost much more in the war. Through the research of this paper, I once again feel the importance of peace.

Because there are many shortcomings in this paper, I would like to analyze the wars between China and Japan in other times if I have the opportunity in the future.

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