

HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF THE 13TH CENTURY – PREMISES FOR THE BIRTH OF THE BELIEF IN THE WORSHIP OF GRAND PRINCE TRAN (VIETNAM)

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ABSTRACT

Times create heroes, but heroes also create times. The historical context of the 13th century created the great Tran Hung Dao, but if he hadn't lived in a period with so many political upheavals, he would have had the opportunity to fully reveal his talent and temperament. Therefore, this article will not research the entire history of the 13th century, but will only sketch out the main features of politics, economics, culture, and society under the Tran dynasty... so that readers can imagine that Tran Hung Dao was born, lived and contributed in such a society. That is a favorable condition and premise for the worship of Grand Prince Tran to exist and develop brilliantly in the future.

Keywords: Worship, Grand Prince Tran, Tran Dynasty.

1. INTRODUCTION

In Vietnamese folklore, the song still circulates today:

“During the reign of Thai To and Thai Tong
Rice grows all over the fields and buffaloes don't need to eat.”

Those verses implicitly affirm that the lives of Dai Viet people under the Tran kings had a prosperous and prosperous life. To achieve that, the Tran Dynasty implemented policies on politics, economics, culture, society...

Regarding politics, the Tran Dynasty built a strong, unified central apparatus from the center to the villages, eliminating feudal forces. In the years 1258, 1285, 1288, the Mongol army attacked Dai Viet three times, with a strong, invincible force, conquering from Asia to Europe. But the most powerful army at that time suffered defeat before the solidarity and unanimity of Dong A's spirit and the person who had great contributions in defeating the Mongol army was Tran Hung Dao.

Regarding economics, Tran kings attached great importance to agriculture. Although the policy of favoring agriculture had existed since the Ly dynasty, during the Tran dynasty that policy was especially emphasized, which not only showed that it was maintained in some aspects but also developed into a separate major policy, a function of the state.

The Tran Dynasty was interested in building dikes and water management. Since 1248, all roads throughout the country were ordered to be diked and all diked from the source to the coast. Dykes are considered a task set and borne by the state. The State established some positions to oversee dike work. Besides, the court also focused on land reclamation. In 1266, the king ordered "the dynasties, princesses and concubines to gather scattered people who have no career as slaves to clear deserted fields and establish them as estates. The prince's real estate started from there." Later, in a decree dated 1397, it was mentioned that the reclamation was "In the past, the nobles often ordered slaves to build dikes on the beach to prevent salt water. Two or three years later, the reclamation was successful, allowing them to marry each other, establishing a lot of private land."

In addition, the Tran Dynasty also accepted a multi-ownership economy. In addition to the ownership of the state and temples, there are also small ownerships of farmers (in 1254 selling public fields to farmers at cheap prices), large ownerships of landlords and estates of noble princes.

Regarding society, implementing the policy of being pro-people and relying on the people may partly also stem from the rustic origins of the Tran Dynasty: "The king's previous generation was from the Man land, a man named Kinh came to Tuc Mac village in Thien Truong district, gave birth to Ham, and Ham gave birth to Ly, Ly gave birth to Thua, and forever worked as a fisherman. The king is Thua's second son, his mother's family name is Le.

During the Dien Hong Conference event, the king invited the country's elders to meet, ask about plans to defend the country and give their opinions on the policy of fighting or surrendering to the enemy. The elders all said in unison that we should fight, everyone spoke as one. Therefore, it can be said that the Tran Dynasty is an era that represents the spirit of national solidarity and harmony. That was the era when, as Tran Hung Dao said: "The king and mandarin are united, brothers are in harmony, and the whole country contributes."

Before Tran Hung Dao died, King Tran Nhan Tong visited and asked him about his plan to preserve the country. Tran Hung Dao emphasized, "Taking advantage of the people's strength to make a deep-rooted plan, that is the strategy to preserve the country". That ideology of the Tran Dynasty was thoroughly applied and is still valid today.

Regarding culture and ideology, the state advocates entertaining scholars, the Tran Dynasty attaches great importance to learning and selecting talented people. Using people based on talent does not limit people from outside the royal family such as Doan Nhu Hai, Do Khac Chung, Pham Ngu Lao, Truong Han Sieu or people from the lower class such as Yet Kieu and Da Tuong. Or like the case of the court appreciating Tran Hung Dao's talent, even though he was the son of Tran Lieu, who had animosity and opposition to King Tran. But under Tran Nhan Tong's reign, he soon recognized his talent and assigned Tran Hung Dao the position of National Duke of moderation, commanding the three armies. Not betraying the trust of his superiors, Tran Hung Dao defeated the Yuan-Mongol invaders, further proving the Tran Dynasty's use of people based on talent.

Besides, the respectful and open attitude of the dynasty towards folk cultural activities not only shows respect for the people but also represents the "close to the people" lifestyle of the Tran dynasty's king and subordinates. In the Complete Annals of Dai Viet, it is recorded that Tran Anh Tong's way of life was no different from ordinary people: "The king liked to travel, every night, he would get on a palanquin, along with more than a dozen guards to go around during the new cock crow period. One night, when he went to the military ward, scoundrels threw a brick and hit the king in the head. The attendant shouted, "It's the king's palanquin!". They know that the king has just fled." Or like when King Tran Nhan Tong passed away, it was necessary to bring out the coffin but people still crowded the palace and could not move... These events invisibly reflect a harmonious life between the king and the people.

King Tran Nhan Tong and the birth of the Truc Lam meditation were also a cultural and ideological mark of this period. At the same time, we must mention the phenomenon of the Tran Dynasty accepting activities with Taoist colors in addition to Buddhism and Confucianism. The Complete Book also records that "Dinh Hoi, third year 1277, Thi was the son of the three religions (meaning the successors of the Confucianists, Taoism and Buddhism)". On the other hand, this was also the first dynasty to deify the gods worshiped among the people, and later Ly Te Xuyen could confirm the existence of a "Viet Realm."

One of the prominent ideas of this period is the spirit of Dong A's pride, which affirms the sense of national independence, self-reliance, creativity, and liberality, without self-indulgence, without exaggeration. The artist in the hero and the hero in the artist are always intertwined. Historian Ngo Sy Lien once said: "I see that good generals of the Tran Dynasty like Tran Hung Dao had their education shown in their poems, Pham Ngu Lao showed them in their verses, not only specializing in martial arts, but if you use a skillful army, you will definitely win in battle, if you fight, you will definitely get something, no one in the past is superior. Le Phu Tran was stronger than the three soldiers, single-handedly going in and out of the enemy's battle lines, supporting the lord in times of danger, and literature was enough to teach the crown prince.

2.CONCLUSION

During its 175 years of existence, the Tran Dynasty implemented many important policies in the fields of politics, culture, society,... In particular, the tolerance and sociability of ideas helped the Tran Dynasty gain the strength to unite and win people's hearts during difficult times. That worked to help the Tran Dynasty become the most prosperous dynasty, producing many talented heroes who made an important contribution to the development of the nation's history. People are products of history and Tran Hung Dao was born, lived and fully devoted his intelligence and talent in such a society.

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