

Comment of “Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research”

Jiapeng Liu

School of History, Culture and Tourism, Sichuan Normal University, Chengdu 610000, China

924752075@qq.com

Abstract

"Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research" is the result of Japanese historian Kazuo Kubota's research on the city of Kaifeng in the Song Dynasty. The book uses novel research theories and research objects to describe the city of Kaifeng in the Song Dynasty in depth and detail, presenting a vibrant ancient Kaifeng The image of the capital. This article is an academic comment after reading "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research", mainly to describe the merits and deficiencies of the book and its value in the study of Kaifeng city history in the Song Dynasty.

Keywords

"Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research"; Kaifeng; City; Comment.

1. Introduction

The book *"Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research"* was written by Japanese scholar Kubota Kazuo. It was included in the *"Collection of six people in the study of Song Dynasty studies in Japan. Second series"* edited by Wang Yongzhao, and was published by Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House in April 2010. Reprinted and published again in April 2020, translated by Guo Wanping and proofreading by Dong Kexiao. The book mainly describes the process and reasons of Kaifeng as the capital in the Five Dynasties and Northern Song Dynasty, and the course of Kaifeng's change after becoming the capital in the Song Dynasty. Taking the concepts of "capital function", "sacred" and "secular" capital facilities as the research theory, that is, the "capital" proposed in the book is the most special city among all urban agglomerations in the country, because the country needs to reflect the various capital facilities in the capital. This is the function of maintaining state rule, which is not seen in ordinary cities. This is the so-called "capital function" in this book." [1]. And "the two functions of the capital of 'authority' and 'power' as well as the two concepts of 'sacred' and 'secular' capital facilities that carry these functions to analyze changes in the capital's space"[2]. Taking the military camps of the Northern Song Dynasty, the urban space and time law of Kaifeng in the Northern Song Dynasty, and the reform and politics of the Northern Song Dynasty as the research objects, a detailed and in-depth study of the entire Kaifeng has been carried out, giving people a different view of the Kaifeng city from the previous research perspective. The content of this article is mainly divided into four sections. The first section provides a concise and concise summary of the content of the "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research". The second and third sections respectively study the novelty and shortcomings of "Song Kaifeng Research". Description, the fourth section reviews the academic research value of "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research" in Song Dynasty cities.

2. Brief Description of "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research"

The book *"Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research"* is structured into four series and ten chapters. The first part of the article firstly analyzes the reasons and process of the capital of Kaifeng during the Five Dynasties and the Northern Song Dynasty, and uses the concept and perspective of national authority and power. The reason why the Five Dynasties and the Northern Song

Dynasty set the capital of Kaifeng was described in detail. Use the dynasties of the Later Liang, Later Tang, Later Jin, Later Han, and Later Zhou dynasties as the timeline. Taking the ceremonial function and water transport function of the capital as the starting point, the reasons for the evolution of the capital and Kaifeng as the capital in various periods are analyzed and described in detail. And it is concluded that the reason for the opening of the capital is the result of historical development.

The second part of the article takes the Forbidden Army barracks and the Forbidden Army groups in the Northern Song Dynasty as the research object. Through the development of the Forbidden Army and the research description of the changes in the capital space and urban structure, the configuration of the Forbidden Army in the Northern Song Dynasty and the capital's political space and city system, as well as the capital city population changes are carried out in detail. Textual research and analysis of the changes and evolution of Kaifeng's Forbidden Army in Kaifeng during the Northern Song Dynasty.

The third part of the article takes the night ban and the urban security system as the research object, and gives a detailed description of the changes in Kaifeng's Fangxiang, Kaifeng Prefecture's east-west changes and Kaifeng's legal morning time, and the internal structure and management of Kaifeng's capital. The model, the capital's public security system, is analyzed and described.

The fourth part of the article takes the changes of Kaifeng city in the late Northern Song Dynasty as research, respectively describes the influence of Wang Anshi and the City Yifa on Kaifeng Mansion, the purpose of Song Shenzong to build Kaifeng Outer City, and the transformation process of Kaifeng by Emperor Weizong of Song Dynasty. Once again, it analyzes and introduces the power and authority of Kaifeng in the late Northern Song Dynasty in detail.

3. Novelty

3.1. New Research Theory

The use of the concept of "capital function". Kubota Kazuo inspected the prologue of *"Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research"* Duanxu pointed out that "First of all, in the prologue, I want to find out what kind of viewpoint to adopt to engage in urban research." [3] That is, the author described the theory needed by the object he will study before the study. The theory adopted by Kubota Kazuo is "capital function" [4] Kubota Kazuo defined the concept as "The so-called capital is the most special city among all the city clusters in the country, because the country has to reflect various functions of maintaining national rule in the capital, which is not seen in ordinary cities. Yes, this is the so-called 'capital function' in this book" [5] and "The capital is given a certain role in establishing the national security order, which itself is called the capital function." [6] Later, the author extended the concept of "capital function" and further divided it into "authoritative capital function" [7] and "Power Capital Function" [8]. Author's comment on "authoritative capital function" [9]

And "Power Capital Function" [10] the two are defined separately. "The so-called authority is different from the 'power' that uses violence and coercive force to make people obey. It is the force that people obey spontaneously." [11], "In contrast to the 'authority' that makes people obey spontaneously, the political force that makes people obey compulsively is 'power'. 'Authority' is irrational to some extent, while 'power' is Realistic and reasonable organizational power" [12]. The author's research theory in the book is based on the "authority" and "power" of the function of the capital as a starting point, and describes the evolution of the city of Kaifeng in the Northern Song Dynasty from the Five Dynasties to the Jingkang Period of the Northern Song Dynasty.

The use of the concept of "capital facilities". The use of the concept of "capital function" is to grasp the overall nature of Kaifeng. For example, the author puts forward that "the capital is

given a certain role in establishing the national security order, which itself is called the capital function." The specific component of the capital function, It is also the author's research object, so the author uses the concept of "capital facilities" while using the concept of "capital function". The author describes the concept of "capital facilities" as "in contrast to the 'authority' that spontaneously obeys people, the political force that makes people obey compulsorily, that is, 'power', and 'authority' to some extent has Irrationality, and 'power' is realistic and reasonable organizational power. Therefore, military power, administrative bureaucratic drumming, police institutions and other capital facilities are deployed in the capital to create power." [13] That is, "capital facilities" are compulsory and political power facilities set up to realize the authority of the capital's functions. At the same time, the author divides the "capital facilities" into two categories. "The capital facilities can be divided into two categories: 'sacred' and 'secular'. The 'sacred' capital facilities have religious supernatural powers, the capital's function is manifested as an authoritative function, and the 'secular' capital facilities are manifested as non-religious." [14] The above two concepts of "capital function" and "capital facilities" laid the theoretical foundation for the study of the whole book. The author described it as "this book refers to the two functions of the capital's above-mentioned 'authority' and 'power', as well as the 'sacred' that carries these functions. Two concepts of 'secular' capital facilities to analyze changes in the capital's space" [15] the above two concepts were not cited by relevant scholars before the publication of the Chinese translation and publication of the book *"Song Kaifeng Research"*. As a theory of urban history research, Mr. Kubota Kazuo used this theory to study the city of Kaifeng in the Song Dynasty, which can be said to provide new research. Theories and methods are also one of the highlights of the book.

3.2. New Research Objects

Among the domestic researches of Kaifeng Urban Studies, the first two books, Zhou Baozhu's *"Song Dynasty Tokyo Study"* [16] and Mr. Wu Tao's *"Northern Song Dynasty City Tokyo"* [17]. The two book's research on the city of Kaifeng is more comprehensive and detailed. Kubota Kazuo also paid attention to the academic achievements of the above two. For example, in the section of the book on the change of urban population, Kubota Kazuo pointed out that "the most representative theory is the view of Wu Tao and Zhou Baozhu." [18] Therefore, in the book *"Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research"*, Kubota Kazuo's research objects are somewhat different from those of the previous two books.

Object 1: The Forbidden Army Barracks. Although the Forbidden Army group has been researched and described in the previous Kaifeng Research, but the Forbidden Army Barracks where the Forbidden Army Group lives are not involved. Kubota Kazuo pointed out in the book *"Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research"*, the original text is as follows: "On the question of the Forbidden Army barracks, there is no research result based on it." Therefore, the author refers to the changes, construction, management, abolition, and functions of the Forbidden Army barracks in Kaifeng (mainly referring to the author's "authority" and "power", The two concepts of "sacred" and "secular") and other situations are studied, and then came to the relevant conclusions about the spatial changes of the city of Kaifeng, that is, what the author said, "discuss the reorganization of the Forbidden Army barracks in the later Zhou and the early Song Dynasty and its impact on the urban space of Kaifeng. Then examine the changes in the Forbidden Army barracks in the reform of the Forbidden Army in the Shenzong Dynasty, and then discuss the changes in the barracks as a side of the transformation of Kaifeng, the capital of Song Dynasty." [19] The objects of academic urban research and the research objects of urban internal spatial changes mostly revolve around urban systems such as Fangshi, and the author's selection of the carrier within the city, the Forbidden Army Barracks, is obviously a unique research object. As the author himself said, "Kaifeng is an all-round three-dimensional city. Only

by discussing its changes from different perspectives and integrating them can we grasp the full picture of Kaifeng." [20]

Object 2: Time and Law, What is the time law? Kubota Kazuo did not clearly point out in the book *"Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research"*, but through the author's description in the book, it can still be roughly defined. The author describes it as "The lives of urban residents have been dominated by moments since ancient times. In the former modern capital of China, competent personnel proficient in precision water timepieces controlled the timepieces, told the time accurately, and controlled the actions of urban residents according to the time." [21] The real-time method is a kind of guidance and control of urban military and civilian actions, and there are moments controlled by professionals. When the author takes time as the research object, he points out that "urban society is inseparable from time. this perspective is very important to explore urban society, but in the Song Dynasty urban research, scholars have so far rarely discussed this issue." [22]

Therefore, the author took the time law as the starting point, and conducted a detailed study and description of Kaifeng's social life (such as bureaucratic attendance time and people's living time) and urban structure (such as the closure of city gates). Furthermore, the dynamic image of the changes in the internal structure of Kaifeng city is displayed.

Object 3: Historical figures, describing the influence of historical figures such as Song Shenzong, Song Huizong, Wang Anshi, and Cai Jing on Kaifeng as the research objects. The fourth part of *"Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research"* describes the influence of the political activities of the above figures on Kaifeng. The previous studies on urban history in the academic circle were mostly based on the changes in the city itself and the changes in the internal space of urban history, or describe some well-known buildings in the city as changes. For example, Mr. Zhou Baozhu's *"Song Dynasty Tokyo Research"* is a detailed description of the changes in space and urban system in Kaifeng, Tokyo. However, it seems that the scholars who study the influence of historical figures' political activities on Kaifeng have not paid enough attention. Kazuo Kubota "discussed Wang Anshi's relationship with Kaifeng and Wang Anshi during the Xining period when the Shiyi Fa was implemented." [23] As an entry point. That is to explore the impact of certain policies in the Wang Anshi Reform on Kaifeng Mansion and then describe the city appearance of Kaifeng Mansion during the Wang Anshi Reform. The author also studied the political activities of Song Shenzong's construction of Kaifeng's outer city. It is necessary to point out that the second chapter of the book *"Song Dynasty Tokyo Research"* by Mr. Zhou Baozhu has detailed descriptions of Kaifeng's palace, inner city, and outer city. Kubota Kazuo also mentions this in the book, "There are also many scholars who are engaged in research from the perspective of philology, especially Mr. Zhou Baozhu's research is the most detailed." [24] However, the author adopts a different concept to study this issue, that is, "seeing the cause of Xiucheng as a symbolic civil engineering of Shenzong's new legal politics." This makes it worthwhile to study the political activities of Song Shenzong's outer city.

Finally, the author uses the political activities of Song Huizong and Cai Jing as the starting point to explore the appearance of Kaifeng city in the late Northern Song Dynasty. Although the author's book describes Qingbaolu Palace and Genyue and other facilities, Mr. Zhou Baozhu described it in Chapter 3, Section 4 of the article *"Kaifeng Mansion in Tokyo in the Song Dynasty"* [25], but the content of this section is mostly introductory description, and he has not studied Gen Yue in depth. and Kubota Kazuo conducted a detailed and in-depth discussion on the purpose of Song Huizong's construction of the above facilities. It was pointed out that the purpose of Song Huizong was "caused by the political activities of Cai Jing and his faction who wanted to expand the authority of the Emperor Huizong and strengthen his own power base." That is, the author's theory of "authority", "power", "sacred", and "secular" two concepts.

4. Shortcomings

Compared with domestic scholars, foreign scholars in historical research have the advantage of foreign scholars in their different thinking models and theories, as well as their research methods. the book "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research" by Kazuo Kubota is also not listed. This is their advantage, but the same book "just as everything has two sides" also has its shortcomings.

4.1. Research Methods

The research theory of "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research" is the "authority" and "power" of the "capital function". The author put forward the two concepts of 'sacred' and 'secular' of 'capital facilities' in the preface. The theory is novel; However, the author used this theory to study the city of Kaifeng, and the argumentation and research in each link of the book revolved around this theory, which seems a bit overwhelming.

These two concepts should have provided theoretical services for the evolution of Kaifeng city. in the whole book, the author seems to be using the evolution of Kaifeng city to prove the "authority" and "power" of the "capital function". The two concepts of 'sacred' and 'secular' of 'capital facilities', rather than using theory to prove the evolution of Kaifeng, the arguments and arguments seem to go the other way.

Secondly, the method used by the author in the book "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research" should be a forward inspection, "a forward inspection is to look at history along the way, focusing on the cause and motivation." [26]

When the author conducts research on Kaifeng, he mostly uses the historical time context as the main line, describing the city of Kaifeng in various periods. However, most of the historical materials used by the author are conclusive historical materials. That is to say, using historical conclusions to find the reason for the historical results may be a bit contrary to the research method of forward inspection.

4.2. Selected Objects

The research object selected by Mr. Kubota in the book "*Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research*" is relatively new, that is, the forbidden army barracks pointed out above. The political activities of Wang Anshi, Song Shenzong, Song Huizong, etc. in the Song Dynasty are indeed weak links in the study of Kaifeng's city. However, as the national capital, Kaifeng has a unique urban geography with other cities. The author only selects the above several researches on Kaifeng. I am afraid that it may not be true that a city like Kaifeng has been thoroughly and comprehensively studied. Indeed, the author has studied meticulously and in-depth in the above several links, Undoubtedly, the above is only part of the space and links in the city of Kaifeng after all.

Secondly, Mr. Zhou Baozhu's "*Song Dynasty Tokyo Studies*" has a wide range of research objects. Mr. Zhang Qifan commented on "*Song Dynasty Tokyo Research*" as "As a work on the study of Song Dynasty cities, this book can be described as a masterpiece." [27] The book "*Song Dynasty Tokyo Studies*" not only has a wide range of research objects, but also has detailed and in-depth research on all aspects of the city of Kaifeng. Mr. Zhang Qifan commented that "it involves all aspects of Tokyo in the Song Dynasty, and it is quite comprehensive and specific." [28] It can be seen that the book's status in the academic world.

However, "*Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research*", "The Japanese version of this book was published after the 'Research Achievement Disclosure Promotion Fee' (General Academic Book) funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan in 2006." [29] It was published in 2006, the book "*Song Dynasty Tokyo Studies*" was published in 1992, "*Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research*" was written nearly 14 years later than "*Song Dynasty Tokyo Research*".

As far as the research content of the overall book is concerned, it does not go beyond the large scope of "*Song Dynasty Tokyo Research*", but it is in-depth and supplemented in the book "*Song Dynasty Tokyo Research*".

5. Concluding Remarks

Mr. Kubota's book "*Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research*" adopts a novel research theory, namely, the "authority" and "power" of the "capital function". The two concepts of 'sacred' and 'secular' of 'capital facilities'" and different research objects, namely "the political activities of the imperial army barracks, Shifa, Wang Anshi, Song Shenzong, etc.," studied the city of Kaifeng in the Song Dynasty. The research is meticulous and in-depth, bringing new research theories and research perspectives to urban history, which is certainly the biggest highlight of the book.

However, the book "*Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research*" may not surpass the "*Song Dynasty Tokyo Research*", which is known as the "song dynasty", in terms of the historical status of Kaifeng city research in the Song Dynasty. Although the research object of the book "*Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research*" is a relatively weak or untouched range in the academic world, this book gives readers a new feeling. But it can be said that success and failure are also failures. This also causes the study of the book to only study part of the specifics of Kaifeng, but does not fully describe the city of Kaifeng.

Although the book "*Song Dynasty Tokyo Studies*" has a wide range of research objects and detailed descriptions, However, there are also some individuals who have not been meticulous and in-depth, so that there is still room for in-depth research on the city of Kaifeng. And Mr. Kubota's "*Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research*" can make up to a certain extent.

Generally speaking, although the book "*Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research*" did not open the academic era of the link between Kaifeng city research in Song Dynasty, but its academic value is also obvious, at least two points are more obvious. The first is to make the study of Kaifeng city in Song Dynasty more comprehensive and in-depth. The second is to provide reference research methods and research perspectives for the study of Kaifeng city in Song Dynasty.

References

- [1] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "*Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research*", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.7.
- [2] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "*Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research*", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.10.
- [3] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "*Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research*", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p. 3.
- [4] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "*Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research*", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.7.
- [5] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "*Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research*", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.7.
- [6] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "*Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research*", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.8.
- [7] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "*Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research*", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.8.
- [8] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "*Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research*", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.8.
- [9] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "*Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research*", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.8.

- [10] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.8.
- [11] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.9.
- [12] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.9.
- [13] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.9.
- [14] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.9.
- [15] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.9.
- [16] Zhou Baozhu: "Song Dynasty Tokyo Studies", Kaifeng, Henan University Press, 1992.
- [17] Wu Tao: "Tokyo, the Capital of the Northern Song Dynasty", Zhengzhou, Henan People's Publishing House, 1984.
- [18] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.87.
- [19] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.60.
- [20] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.83.
- [21] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.163.
- [22] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.163.
- [23] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.187.
- [24] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.202.
- [25] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.218.
- [26] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.218.
- [27] Zhang Qifan: "A Powerful Work on Urban Studies in the Song Dynasty: A Review of "Tokyo Studies in the Song Dynasty"", "History Monthly", Issue 6, 1993.
- [28] Zhang Qifan: "A Powerful Work on Urban Studies in the Song Dynasty: A Review of "Tokyo Studies in the Song Dynasty"", "History Monthly", Issue 6, 1993.
- [29] (Japanese) Kubota Kazuo, translated by Guo Wanping, translated by Dong Kexiao: "Song Dynasty Kaifeng Research", Shanghai: Shanghai Ancient Books Publishing House, 2010, p.292.