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## Han dynasty women rights

The roles of men, women and children varied. In ancient China, the men ruled the house and had full control over his wife. The wife's only function was to be a servant of their husbands and to produce children of them so that the children could bear the surname. Ancient Chinese society practiced Confucius's ideas extensively. Under the belief of Confucianism, each has its role in society and had to behave accordingly. The main duty of women was to have male offspring for her husband, it was reasonable for a husband to marry again if his first wife cannot have a child. Obey your husband even your child when he grows up. There were limited occupations or jobs for women. Education for women was not popular or sometimes not allowed, but they could receive limited education to allow them to cross out their children. However, the textile industry often employed numerous workers. Women were experts in Chinese silk weaving. Other occupations include sales in traditional markets or artists. Women were often not respected if they were not married, it is extremely difficult for a woman to be self-reliant in ancient China. There were exceptions in ancient China, numerous notable Chinese women broke the traditional social norm and came to fame. For example, Empree Lu of the Han dynasty, Empree Wu Zetian of the Tang dynasty, Ban Zhao: the well-known female historian, etc. Because women should only produce male offspring, children would learn the duties of a woman's men when they were young and then, when they grew up, their father was changed to learn from the practical experience with their parents. Family was always more important than friends. by Patricia Ebrey in China since very early times, men have been seen as the core of the family. The ancestors to which a king of the Shang or Zhou dynasty made sacrifices were his patrilineal ancestors, that is, his ancestors linked exclusively through men (his father's father, his father's father, etc.). When women enter the historical record early, it is often because they caused trouble for men. Some women planned to promote their own children when their husband had children for several women. Women's loyalties were often in between. In 697 a. C., for example, the daughter of one of the most powerful ministers Zheng State learned from her husband that the ruler had ordered her to kill her father. After his mother warned her that all men are potential husbands, but you only have one father, she told her father of the plot, and he quickly killed her husband. Zheng's ruler blamed the husband for foolishly entrusting his wife. Taken together, such stories present a mixed picture of the women and the problems they presented men in nobility. Women in their lives were capable of loyalty, courage and devotion, but also of intrigue, manipulation and selfishness. Confucius probably took for granted these kinds of attitudes towards women, common in their society. To a large extent ancestral rites and related family virtues such as filial piety. He hoped that through the practice of ritual all men and women, tall and low, old and young, would learn to fulfill the duties of their duties. Women's roles were primarily kinship roles: daughter, sister, wife, daughter-in-law and mother-in-law. In all these roles, it was up to women to agree with the desires and needs of closely related men: their parents when they were young, their husbands when they married, their children when they were widowers. Confucius' follower, Mencio, stated that the worst of non-affiliated acts was the lack of descendants (Mencio 4A.26). In later centuries this emphasis on the need for children led many to be disappointed by the birth of a daughter. In the centuries after Confucius, it became common for writers to discuss the genre in terms of yin and yang. The women were yin, the men were yang. Yin was soft, produced, responsive, passive, reflective and calm, while yang was hard, active, assertive and dominant. Day and night, winter and summer, birth and death, in fact all natural processes occur through yin and yang interaction processes. Conceptualizing the differences between men and women in terms of yin and yang underscores that these differences are part of the natural order of the universe, not part of social institutions artificially created by human beings. In yin yang theory the two forces complement each other, but not in strictly equal ways. The natural relationship between yin and yang is the reason men carry and women follow. If yin unnaturally gains the advantage, order at both the cosmic and social level is in danger. Maintaining a physical separation between the worlds of men and women's worlds was seen as an important first step in ensuring that yin would not dominate yang. The classic Confucian book of Rites tensions cultivated the value of segregation even within the home; the houses must be divided into an interior and external section, with the women remaining inside. A poem from the Book of Poetry concluded: Women should not participate in public affairs; should be dedicated to caring for silkworms and weaving. A similar sentiment was expressed in the Book of Documents proverbially: When the hen announces the dawn, it points to the disappearance of the family. During the time they have (202 BC – 220 AD), both the administrative structure of the centralized state and the success of Confucianism helped shape the Chinese family system and the place of women in it. Han laws supported the authority of heads of households over other members of their families. The head of the family was usually the eldest man, but if a man died before his children grew up, his widow as head of the family until they were old. Imperial period law codes applied monogamy and provided a variety of punishments for bigamy and to promote a concubine to wife status. Men could divorce their wives for any of the seven reasons, which included sterility, jealousy and talkative, but he could only do so if there was a family to return to. There was no reason why a woman could divorce her husband, but divorce by mutual agreement was possible. Much was written in Han times about the virtues that women must cultivate. The Biographies of Exemplary Women told the stories of women from China's past who had given their husbands good advice, sacrificed themselves when they were forced to choose between their parents and husbands, or had performed other heroic acts. It also contained cautious tales of intriguing, jealous and manipulative women who brought destruction to all around them. Another highly influential book was written by Ban Zhao, a well-educated woman from a prominent family. Her warnings to women urged girls to master the seven appropriate virtues for women: humility, resignation, submission, self-abandonment, obedience, cleanliness, and industry. At the end of the Han period, the Confucian vocabulary to talk about women, their nature, their weaknesses and their proper roles and virtues were largely established. The durability of these ways of thinking certainly owes much to continuities in the family system, which from Han's time was patrilineal, patriarchal and allowed concubine. In marriage, a woman had to move from her father's house to her husband's parents. Given the importance assigned to continuing ancestral sacrifices through patrilineal descendants, a wife's position within her married family depended on the birth of male heirs. However, due to the practice of concubine, even if a wife gave birth to children, her position could be undermined if her husband took concubines that also had children. Therefore, as long as the family system continued unchanged, women would continue to resort to strategies that seemed petty or threatening to men, and not until a woman became a grandmother, she is likely to see the interests of the family in the same way that men in the family did. For most of those who left written record, however, the problem lay not in the family system, but in the moral lapses. Thus, moralists held models of selfless women for emulation, women who adhered to the principles of loyalty, chastity, and fidelity, often at great personal cost. By song (960-1279) times, historical sources are diverse enough to see that women undertook a wide range of activities never prescribed in Confucian didactic texts. There were widows who ran inns, midwives giving birth to babies, pious women who spent their days singing sutras, nuns who asked these women to explain Buddhist doctrine, girls who learned to read with their daughters of farmers earning money by weaving mats, unsmaughter widows accusing their nephews of seized their property, wives who were jealous of the concubines their husbands took home, and the women they extracted from her gifts to help her husband's sisters marry well. It is often said that the condition of women began to decline in the Song period, just as neo-Confucianism was gaining. The two signs of the most frequently mentioned decrease are the pressure on widows not to re-marry and the practice of joining girls' feet to prevent them from growing more than a few centimeters long. Foot binding seems to have steadily spread throughout Song's time, and explanations for it should be sought in Song's circumstances, but Chastity had very little specific connection to the Song, the idea before the Song and the exaggerated emphasis on it developing much later. Foot fixing was never recommended by Confucian teachers; rather, she partnered with the pleasure rooms and women's efforts to beautify the the most. The mothers tied the girls' feet for five to eight years, using long strips of cloth. The goal was to prevent his feet from growing and bending the four smaller fingers down to make the foot narrow and arched. The foot join gradually spread during Song's time, but probably remained largely an elite practice. In later centuries, it became extremely common in northern and central China, eventually spreading to all classes. Women with tied feet were less mobile than women with natural feet, but only those allowed by servants tied their feet more mobile than women with natural feet, but only those allowed by servants tied their feet so tight that walking was difficult. On the contrary, the idea of the widow's chastity was not new in Song's time. Ban Zhao had written: According to the ritual, husbands have a duty to marry again, but there is no text authorizing a woman to re-marry. The greatest emphasis on widow chastity has generally been blamed on the neo-Confucian philosopher Cheng Yi, who once told a follower that it would be better for a widow to starve to death than to lose her virtue when she re-married. In later centuries, this saying was often cited to justify presy pressing widows, even very young people, to stay with her husband's family and not marry someone else. One reason widows in Yuan (Mongolian) (1215-1368) and Ming (1368-1644) times might have wanted to stay with their husbands' families is that they could no longer take their gifts into a new marriage. When the husband's family did not want to support a child's widow, moral stenosis against the new marriage would have helped the widow insist that she be allowed to stay and adopt a child. In the early Qing period (1644–1911), the cult of widow chastity had gained significantly strong power, especially in the educated class. Widows without children could even kill themselves. Young women whose weddings had not yet taken place sometimes refused to enter into another engagement after the death of their fiancé. Instead, they moved into their fiancé's house and served their parents as daughters-in-law. Although most Confucian government scholars and officials disapproved of the suicide of widows and chaste brides, they often expressed great admiration for the determination of private women they knew, thus helping to spread the custom. At the same time that widows' chastity was becoming more frequent, more and more women were learning to read and write. In the 17th and 18th centuries, a surprising poetry. Women with poetic talents are prominent in the great 18th-century novel, The Dream of Red Mansions (also called History of the Stone). Although the male hero, Baoyu, is a very sensitive young man, several of his female cousins are even more talented as poets. Some in this great fictional family have considerable power, especially grandma who can force her children and nephews to do whatever she wants, and the daughter-in-law who manages the family finances. Young single women, however, may have been able to acquire literary education as good as children, but they had even less control over their destinies than he did. Like much of the rest of the world, in 20th-century China, intellectuals and social activists leveled much criticism of the old family system and especially the ways in which it limited women's possibilities. The tying of the feet, the chastity of widows, parental control of marriage and the concubine have been removed. It should always be noted, however, that many women were able to fashion satisfactory lives under the old system. Page 2 by Patricia Ebrey in China since very soon, men have been seen as the core of the family. The ancestors to which a king of the Shang or Zhou dynasty made sacrifices were his patrilineal ancestors, that is, his ancestors linked exclusively through men (his father's father, his father's father, etc.). 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When the husband's family did not want to support a child's widow, moral stenosis against the new marriage would have helped the widow insist that she be allowed to stay and adopt a child. In the early Qing period (1644–1911), the cult of widow chastity had gained significantly strong power, especially in the educated class. Widows without children could even kill themselves. Young women whose weddings had not yet taken place sometimes refused to enter into another engagement after the death of their fiancé. Instead, they moved into their fiancé's house and served their parents as daughters-in-law. Although most Confucian government scholars and officials disapproved of the suicide of widows and chaste brides, they often expressed great admiration for the determination of private women they knew, thus helping to spread the custom. At the same time that widows' chastity was becoming more frequent, more and more women were learning to read and write. 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several women. Women's loyalties were often in between. In 697 a. C., for example, the daughter of one of the most powerful ministers in Zheng State learned from her husband that the ruler had ordered her to kill her father. After his mother warned her that all men are potential husbands, but you only have one father, she told her father of the plot, and he quickly killed her husband. Zheng's ruler blamed the husband for foolishly entrusting his wife. Taken together, such stories present a mixed picture of the women and the problems they presented for men in nobility. Women in their lives were capable of loyalty, courage and devotion, but also of intrigue, manipulation and selfishness. Confucius probably took for granted these kinds of attitudes towards women, common in their society. He greatly esteemed ancestral rites and related family virtues, such as filial piety. He hoped that through the practice of ritual all men and women, tall and low, old and young, would learn to fulfill the duties of their duties. Women's roles were primarily kinship roles: daughter, sister, wife, daughter-in-law, mother-in-law and mother-in-law. In all these roles, it was up to women to agree with the desires and needs of closely related men: their parents when they were young, their husbands when they married, their children when they were widowers. Confucius' follower, Mencio, stated that the worst of non-affiliated acts was the lack of descendants (Mencio 4A.26). In later centuries this emphasis on the need for children led many to be disappointed by the birth of a daughter. In the centuries after Confucius, it became common for writers to discuss the genre in terms of yin and yang. The women were yin, the men were yang. Yin was soft, produced, responsive, passive, reflective and calm, while yang was hard, active, assertive and dominant. Day and night, winter and summer, birth and death, in fact all natural processes occur through yin and yang interaction processes. Conceptualizing the differences between men and women in terms of yin and yang underscores that these differences are part of the natural order of the universe, not part of social institutions artificially created by human beings. In yin yang theory the two forces complement each other, but not in strictly equal ways. The natural relationship between yin and yang is the reason men carry and women follow. If yin unnaturally gains the advantage, order at both the cosmic and social level is in danger. Maintaining a physical separation between of men and women's worlds was seen as an important first step towards ensuring that the yin would not dominate the yang. The classic Confucian book of Rites tensions cultivated the value of segregation even within the home; the houses must be divided into an interior and external section, with the women remaining inside. A poem from the Book of Poetry concluded: Women should not participate in public affairs; should be dedicated to caring for silkworms and weaving. A similar sentiment was expressed in the Book of Documents proverbially. When the hen announces the dawn, it points to the disappearance of the family. During the time they have (202 BC – 220 AD), both the administrative structure of the centralized state and the success of Confucianism helped shape the Chinese family system and the place of women in it. Han laws supported the authority of heads of households over other members of their families. The head of the family was usually the eldest man, but if a man died before his children grew up, his widow would serve as head of the family until they were old. Imperial period law codes applied monogamy and provided a variety of punishments for bigamy and to promote a concubine to wife status. Men could divorce their wives for any of the seven reasons, which included sterility, jealousy, and speaking, but they could only do so if there was a family she returned to. There was no reason why a woman could divorce her husband, but divorce by mutual agreement was possible. Much was written in Han times about the virtues that women must cultivate. The Biographies of Exemplary Women told the stories of women from China's past who had given their husbands good advice, sacrificed themselves when they were forced to choose between their parents and husbands, or had performed other heroic acts. It also contained cautious tales of intriguing, jealous and manipulative women who brought destruction to all around them. Another highly influential book was written by Ban Zhao, a well-educated woman from a prominent family. Her warnings to women urged girls to master the seven appropriate virtues for women: humility, resignation, submission, self-abandonment, obedience, cleanliness, and industry. At the end of the Han period, the Confucian vocabulary to talk about women, their nature, their weaknesses and their proper roles and virtues were largely established. The durability of these ways of thinking certainly owes much to continuities in the family system, which from Han's time was patrilineal, patrilocal and patriarchal, and allowed concubine. In marriage, a woman had to move from her father's house to her husband's parents. Given the importance attached to continuing ancestral through patrilineal descendants, a wife's position within her married family depended on the birth of male heirs. However, due to the practice of concubine, even if a wife gave birth to children, her position could be undermined if her husband took concubines that also had children. Therefore, as long as the family system continued unchanged, women would continue to resort to strategies that seemed petty or threatening to men, and not until a woman became a grandmother, she is likely to see the interests of the family in the same way that men in the family did. For most of those who left written record, however, the problem lay not in the family system, but in the moral lapses. Thus, moralists held models of selfless women for emulation, women who adhered to the principles of loyalty, chastity and fidelity, often at great personal cost. By song (960-1279) times, historical sources are diverse enough to see that women undertook a wide range of activities never prescribed in Confucian didactic texts. There were widows who ran inns, midwives giving birth to babies, pious women who spent their days singing sutras, nuns who asked these women to explain Buddhist doctrine, girls who learned to read with their brothers, daughters of farmers who made money weaving mats, widows without children accusing their nephews of seized their property, wives who were jealous of the concubines their husbands wore home , and the women she extracted from her gifts to help her husband's sisters marry well. It is often said that the condition of women began to decline in the Song period, just as neo-Confucianism was gaining influence. The two signs of this most frequently mentioned decrease are the pressure on widows not to re-marry and the practice of joining girls' feet to prevent them from growing more than a few centimeters long. Foot binding seems to have steadily spread throughout Song's time, and explanations for it should be sought in Song's circumstances, but the widow's chastity had very little specific connection to the Song, the idea before the Song, and the exaggerated emphasis on it developing much later. Foot fixing was never recommended by Confucian teachers; rather, she partnered with the pleasure rooms and women's efforts to beautify the the most. The mothers tied the girls' feet for five to eight years, using long strips of cloth. The goal was to prevent his feet from growing and bending the four smaller fingers down to make the foot narrow and arched. The foot join gradually spread during Song's time, but probably remained largely an elite practice. In later centuries, it became extremely common in northern and central China, eventually spreading to all classes. Women with tied feet were less mobile than women with natural feet, but only those allowed by servants tied their feet so tight that walking was difficult. On the contrary, the idea of the widow's chastity was not new in Song's time. Ban Zhao had written: According to the ritual, husbands have a duty to marry again, but there is no text authorizing a woman to re-marry. The greatest emphasis on widow chastity has generally been blamed on the neo-Confucian philosopher Cheng Yi, who once told a follower that it would be better for a widow to starve to death than to his virtue by re-marrying. In later centuries, this saying was often cited to justify pres presying widows, even very young people, to stay with her husband's family and not marry someone else. One reason widows in Yuan (Mongolian) (1215-1368) and Ming (1368-1644) times might have wanted to stay with their husbands' families is that they could no longer take their gifts into a new marriage. When the husband's family husband they wanted to support a son's widow, moral stenosis against the new marriage would have helped the widow insist that she be allowed to stay and adopt a child. In the early Qing period (1644-1911), the cult of widow chastity had gained significantly strong power, especially in the educated class. Widows without children could even kill themselves. Young women whose weddings had not yet taken place sometimes refused to enter into another engagement after the death of their fiancé. Instead, they moved into their fiancé's house and served their parents as daughters-in-law. Although most Confucian government scholars and officials disapproved of the suicide of widows and chaste brides, they often expressed great admiration for the determination of private women they knew, thus helping to spread the custom. At the same time that widows' chastity was becoming more frequent, more and more women were learning to read and write. In the 17th and 18th centuries a surprising number of poetry was published. Women with poetic talents are prominent in the great 18th-century novel, The Dream of Red Mansions (also called History of the Stone). Although the male hero, Baoyu, is a very sensitive young man, several of his female cousins are even more talented as poets. Some women in this large fictional family have considerable power, especially grandma who can force her children and nephews to do whatever she wants, and the daughter-in-law who runs the family finances. Young single women, however, may have been able to acquire literary education as good as children, but they had even less control over their destinies than he did. Like much of the rest of the world, in 20th-century China, intellectuals and social activists leveled much criticism of the old family system and especially the ways in which it limited women's possibilities. 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