



東海大學學生報告 ePaper

報告題名：

Comparison between Western and Eastern Female Emperors—

Elizabeth I vs Wu Zetian

東西方女皇的比較—伊莉莎白一世及武則天

作者：鄭以琳、楊沛霖、張雅筑、黃郁婷

系級：外文系

學號：S03120139, S03120142, S03120145, S03120150

開課老師：陳玫樺

課程名稱：研究方法

開課系所：外文系

開課學年：104 學年度 第 2 學期

中文摘要

東西方著名女權武則天與伊莉莎白一世，他們的崛起並不只單純是運氣，治理國家的手段和功績引起後世不斷的研究及討論，他們所創造出的盛世使我們感到驚奇，因此在本篇論文中，參考各式論文、期刊、文書和網路資料，我們列舉兩項題目進行兩位著名人物的比較，一為兩位女皇是如何在父系國家中嶄露頭角，另一則為兩方女皇治理國家的異同之處，並在文末給予結論。透過這兩個問題，我們可以更深入的了解這兩位女皇。

關鍵字：武則天、伊莉莎白一世、女皇

Abstract

Wu Zetian and Elizabeth I are famous female emperors in eastern and western countries. Their rising up is not only due to good luck. It was mainly because of their methods to deal with countries. In addition, their contributions are continually studied and discussed. We are amazed by the prosperous dynasties they created. Thus, we proposed two questions to conduct the report by comparison and contrast with reference of thesis, journals, books and internet resources. One question is that how did Wu Zetian and Elizabeth I rise from the dynasties dominated by men; the other one is that what are the similarities and differences between their ways of governance. Through these questions, we can know more deeply about these two empresses.

Keyword : Elizabeth I, Wu Zetian, Female emperors

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Introduction

Provide background information

As English majors, we studied British Literature and hence got to know more about Elizabeth I. Her reign was referred to as The Golden Age of English history. Thus, she inspired us to make a connection of the only female emperor in Chinese history, Wu Zetian, who started the flourishing age of Tang Dynasty. We were amazed by the accomplishments they had made and curious about their successes.

In the Western world, British Queen Elizabeth I consolidated her political power and approached moderately to conflicts between Catholics and Protestants simultaneously. Additionally, she established British East India Company in order to boost the domestic economy and international trade. As for Wu Zetian, the only female emperor in Chinese history, she maintained the order of her country by repelling the barbarians. She also set up military administration in the northwest area in which the Silk Road was opened again after a period of interruption. As we probe into the history of these two female emperors, two main questions arose. The first question is “how did they rise from the dynasties dominated by men?” and we are going to analyze them through four various points, including education and backgrounds, women’s position in the society, governance methods and religion. The other question is “what are the similarities and differences between their ways of governance?” In order to reach the answers, we divide their contributions into four different abstracts, including religion, military strategies, economy, and internal affairs. These questions will be discussed in our study.

Body

| |
|----------------------|
| Compare and contrast |
|----------------------|

Method

Two questions are proposed and responded by the comparison and contrast of the information we have found. We surveyed journals, papers and theses, online resources and so on. The information in the sources has been categorized and gives us many aspects of the two empresses, including education and background, women's position in society, governance method and religion as well as their ways of administering the countries in terms of religion, military strategies, economy, and internal affairs.

Results

Question 1: How did Wu Zetian and Elizabeth I rise from the dynasties dominated by men?

Rising from the dynasties dominated by men, both female emperors must have some outstanding abilities and the help of the trend in the society. In order to answer this question, we explored four major issues, including education and background, women's position in society, governance method, and religion. We use these four main classifications that affected Wu Zetian and Elizabeth I of becoming the rulers of the countries to make a comparison. (See Table 1 on next page)

| | Wu Zetian | Elizabeth I |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| Education & background | Highly educated & Family of functionary | Highly educated & Daughter of a king |
| Women's position in society | High (compared to other dynasties) | Low |
| Governance method | Cruel & Recruiting talented people | Tolerant |
| Religion | Buddhism | X |

Table1: Comparison and contrast from four aspects of Wu Zetian and Elizabeth I, including education and backgrounds, women's position in society, governance method and religion.

Education and Background

Wu Zetian

Born in a family of a functionary, Wu Zetian wasn't valued by her parents. [1] According to 武則天破天規的九九加一法則, her position in her family was raised when a fortune teller visited her father. The fortune teller was amazed by Wu Zetian's facial features and prophesied that she could be the king of the country. Since then, Wu Zetian was able to study with her elder brothers instead of learning feminine arts. She was talented in all kinds of verse, calligraphy and so on. Furthermore, she had the opportunity to access with some global events after she entered the court. Experiencing all these public affairs expanded her horizons and understood the political tricks which gave her great advantages on future dominations.

Elizabeth I

Elizabeth I is the daughter of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. Elizabeth I was born after their parents had been getting married for three months, so she was considered an illegitimate daughter. According to the Catholic canon, she cannot be baptized to be a Catholic which made her become a Protestant later. Since she was a child, she was smart and received very good education [2](林盈君. 2015.); one of her tutor is a famous humanist during Renaissance called Roger Ascham. Elizabeth I could speak and write six languages including English, French, Italian, Spanish, Latin and Greek. Later, Britain was ruled by Mary and became a Catholic country. She forced Elizabeth I to change her religion. Ostensibly she promised the request of her sister, she was still a pious Protestant. Mary was so dissatisfied that she imprisoned Elizabeth I for almost one year in the Tower to Woodstock. Finally, after Mary was dead, Elizabeth I was crowned as the British Queen.

Women's Position in Society

Wu Zetian

In the tradition of China, women are not supposed to have a higher position than men do. Their rights such as being an administrator, taking the imperial examination are being oppressed by the patriarchy in society. All the rules set up on the basic of the pecking order and male superiority. For female, obeying male is as a matter of course. Not to mention women would get a crueler punishment if they disobey men. [3] According to 《唐律通論》《唐律》〈鬪訟律〉, women will be put in prison for a year and be beat with wooden slaves for several times higher than normal people if they

beat up their husbands. On the other hand, men would reduce penalty if they beat up their wives. In addition, the treating between male and female was inequality. [4] In 《傳統個人、家庭、社會》《唐律》〈鬪訟律〉, it is pointed out that if the denunciation of the husband accused by wife was a truth, the wife would also be put in prison for two years, which is obviously ridiculous nowadays. Even though, the laws were strict and unfair. The position of women in Tang Dynasty was much higher compared to the other dynasties due to the atmosphere brought by the western regions and notions of matching family backgrounds for marriage which hand down from Northern and Southern dynasty.

During the time emperor Taizong of Tang dominated the country, he defeated Turkic Khaganate and was named Tian Kehan by the rest of the nomad. [5] The fact that the western regions started to pay tribute to Tang Dynasty and trade in order to earn more money was recorded 隋唐帝國的興盛與衰落. Influenced by the western regions, the ideology of Confucianism gradually started flagging. The position of women continued to rise. Unlike the delicate manners in Southern Dynasty or graceful manners in Han Dynasty, the most obvious change in Tang Dynasty would be the brisk, energetic social value system. Women were able to go out without covering their faces. Moreover, the clothing for women was opened up little by little and they were also allowed to wear men's clothing and boots. Having sexual behavior before marriage and extramarital affairs were commonly seen in the society. Additionally, people were all open-minded to divorcing or remarrying to another husband. Consequently, the event that Wu Zetian became the concubine of Emperor Gaozong of Tang after Taizong's death wasn't a marvel. Her plan of ascending onto the highest place in palace had started to work out. Women's position also began struggling free from the past restrictions and gained a higher status in Tang dynasty compared with others.

Since Southern and Northern Dynasty, the notions of matching family backgrounds had lasted for years till Tang Dynasty. Although the emperor Taizong of Tang repressed the spreading of the thought that could elevate the social status, it still weakened the concept that women had fewer rights. People emphasized more on family backgrounds while arranging marriages. Therefore, money and power played more important roles in the society. The leadership of men inevitably fell off.

Elizabeth I

Even in the western countries, the position of women in the society was virtually the same as Eastern countries. Both cultures had the notions of men are superior to women. However, compared to Wu Zetian, Elizabeth I ascended the throne through the legitimate procedure. In Tudor Dynasty, the eldest son had the priority to inherit the royalty then being followed by other sons of present monarch. The last place of inheriting the royalty would be daughters. Superordinate concept of Elizabeth I was both legal in law and social traditional thoughts which was totally different from social atmosphere in Tang Dynasty.

Governance Method

Wu Zetian

After she lived in the palace, she stayed aside Tang Taizong. Although she didn't intervene in political issues, she still learned some approaches to handle affairs. She learned that she had to use extreme or struggling approaches when she treated others in the palace. [6] (李元皓, 曾沛筠, 蔡弘凱.2010.3) For example, in 665, Wu Zetian was competing with Queen Wang for the queen's position. She killed her daughter by

her own and pretended that it was Queen Wang who killed her daughter. In order to be the queen, she would rather to sacrifice her own child. [7] (陳于安, 李宜捷, 劉怡 彰.2016.3)

Besides, Wu Zetian put oppressive officials in an important position which was in order to fight with political opponents and consolidate her own political power. She asked oppressive officials using cruel tortures to kill dissidents. However, after her power was steady enough, she decides to kill the oppressive officials. The reason was that she already used them up. She thought that those oppressive officials had finished their mission for her; it was unnecessary for them to live. Another reason was that those people would harm her image of being a king. If she had allowed them to live, it might enhance people to think that she was a licentious and brutal emperor. In order to prevent potential threats posed by these oppressive officials, she made up her mind to kill them. [8] (鄧晨曦. 2013)

Additionally, in order to recruit talented people into aides and staffs, she improved the Imperial Examination System. Not only by the Imperial Examination System but also other approaches did she use to recruit outstanding people. These are the foundation to make Tang dynasty become prosperous. In order to consolidate her governance from a patriarchy country, she had to take both brutal ways and Imperial Examination System to reach her goal.

Elizabeth I

Elizabeth I is smart, strong and smooth; she is also famous for her enlightened political. She dealt with relations with Parliament cautiously and flexibly. She respected the traditional power of Parliament and also maintained the power of king toward Parliament which made both sides in peace. At the same time, she took

flexible means to deal with contradictions and conflicts occurring between Parliament and her. Additionally, she even compromised to the cooperation of the royal family with the Parliament to maintain the stable development of British politics.

Additionally, religious beliefs were also a difficulty for her governance. Queen Mary, who ruled British before Elizabeth I, had different religion from her; therefore, Britain was a Catholic country under Queen Mary's ruling. On the contrary, Elizabeth I believed in Protestantism. However, she didn't force people to change their belief immediately; instead, her policies of religious tolerance made her to be loved and respected by her people. Her femininity makes her successfully stand out from men, which is quite different from Wu Zetian.

Religion

Wu Zetian

The center of the political and literature in Tang Dynasty was Chang'an where Buddhism had great development. Due to the promotion of scholars such as Ba Juyi and Han Yu, Buddhism had spread through the whole society and even got a higher position than Confucianism. Nearly all of the emperors in Tang Dynasty advocated Buddhism and it was quickly accepted by people because it satisfied the needs of every stratum.

[9]According to 唐代長安佛教文學, Wu Zetian took advantage of Buddhism and handed down an imperial edict that Buddhism was above Taoism, which used to be the major religion among society. This edict made Buddhism doctrine authoritative and trust worthy. In 689, several monks offered her Dayunjing《大雲經》and explained the part about a woman being an emperor. In the scripture, it said that people should display utter loyalty to the emperor to gain peace and happiness or else they were on

their way to be destroyed. This gave Wu Zetian more sufficient reasons to ascend the throne.

Question 2: What are the similarities and differences between their ways of governance?

Wu Zetian and Elizabeth I established powerful and prosperous dynasties. Behind the fancy accomplishments they had made, hardships certainly existed. We would like to know the comparison and contrast between the two empresses' ways of administering countries in terms of religion, military strategy, economy, and internal affairs, which would deeply influence a country. (See Table2 below)

| | Wu Zetian | Elizabeth I |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Religion | Consolidating her power | |
| Military strategy | No particular policy | Remaining peace |
| Economy | Agricultural development | The Poor Laws |
| Internal affairs | Good talent acquisition | |

Table2: Comparison and contrast between Wu Zetian's and Elizabeth I's ways of administering countries in terms of religion, military strategy, economy, and internal affairs.

Religion

Wu Zetian

Both Wu Zetian and Elizabeth I used religion as a means of consolidating their power as empresses. Wu Zetian falsified auspicious signs, wrongly annotated the Dayunjing (大雲經) and changed her name to “曩 (zhào)” in order to confirm the validity of her position. “The accession of Wu Zetian was considered to violate the natural law that only males could succeed to the throne. Therefore, the conservatives believed that God would punish the nation with natural calamity such as earthquakes or flood. ([10] Shih, Yung Dong 51)”. After a severe storm struck the Xinfeng county (新豐縣) in 686 A.D., a hill was emerged. The hill was named “Mount Qing (慶山)” by Wu which means celebration. She thought the emergence of this hill was worth celebrating. Wu refuted the saying that this storm was the wrath of heaven because a female succeeded to the throne; instead, she interpreted the emergence of this hill as the proof and auspicious sign, of her divine power empowered by God. In addition, Wu Zetian convened the scholars and monks to distort the meaning of Dayunjing. According to the Dayunjing, it predicted that “the laksmi (天女), namely Buddha, would be born to be a female and rule the nation” ([11] Dharmakṣema 1098). “At that time, the sinicization of Buddhism made more and more government officials and citizens believe in this religion. In this case, Wu knew that the Dayunjing was the best evidence to support her monarchy” ([12] Shih, Yung Dong 55). As a result, Wu claimed that she was the Buddha to govern the nation with the support of Dayunjing, the scholars, and the monks. Furthermore, “she ordered that all the temples should reserve the Dayunjing, and the sermons of monks must center for this scripture” ([13] Jonathan Clements 203). Moreover, Wu changed her name into “曩(zhào).” She compared herself to the “sun(日)” and “moon(月)” shine in the “sky(空).” Also,

“implying herself as a Buddha, saving masses in her previous live, and brought hope and happiness to the citizens in this present life as a empress” ([14]Shih, Yung Dong 18).

Through the misinterpreting auspicious signs and doctrine of Buddhism, Wu Zetian fortified her position against those voices opposing her. In addition, confirming her divine right dominating the government officials and citizens.

Elizabeth I

Elizabeth I, on the other hand, adopted the policy of religious tolerance by restoring the Church of England, and visiting the Catholic-oriented hosts to ensure her political status. She feared the Catholic power in the Europe would isolate or even attack England if she declared England as a Protestant country. However, she could not let the Catholic power persecute the Protestants. Therefore, she reestablished the Church of England. Paul Vanderbroeck points out that:

Elizabeth did her best to become queen of the English rather than queen of the Protestants. The religious divide was deep when Elizabeth inherited the crown. To create a unifying value system, she decided to restore the Church of England, treading carefully to avoid offending Catholics too much.

Elizabeth was more tolerant of differing religious beliefs than many of her contemporaries.... She believed that the Church of England should be an independent institution governed by the monarch, and she wanted to retain many Catholic elements. So while she was preparing to reestablish a state religion, she would not go so far as to allow an inquisition

([15] 52)

Elizabeth modified the Articles of *The Book of Common Prayer* which states the Protestant ritual and doctrines. She, for example, deleted the articles and prayers which explicitly opposed the right of the pope written in the time of Henry VIII. Moreover, she revised the way of partaking the Holy Communion. The merge of partaking holy bread and wine solved the controversy concerning the different definitions of this ritual between the Protestantism and Catholicism. ([16] Zhu, Xiaoyuan 112) As a result, both the two religious sect would obey her religious settlement: the Church of England. Elizabeth also realized that her restoration of the Church of England “ultimately depended on the host’s public conformity, obedience to the laws of her religious settlement and commitment to her monarchy.” ([17] Cole 65) Therefore, she often visited church papist and Protestant hosts to further claim her policy of religious tolerance so that the hosts of both sides should abide rather than rebel against her monarch. However,

Parliament in 1581 passed several measures designed to constrain the threat to the state religion and to Elizabeth’s authority.... Many priests still faced imprisonment, torture, banishment, and even execution. In total, 183 Catholics were executed during the last 25 years of Elizabeth’s reign but nowhere near the magnitude of atrocity that Bloody Mary sanctioned: 280 religious victims in just 5 years. ([18] Vanderbroeck 53)

Although Catholicism posed a threat to her authority, Elizabeth still tended to tolerate the recusants which would reduce the rate of fierce rebellions against the Church of England. The reestablishment of the Church of England, and the visits showed the moderate approach to lean on neither Catholicism nor Protestantism consolidating her

power as an empress.

Military Strategy

Wu Zetian

As for the military strategies defended against foreign enemies performed by the two empresses, Wu Zetian did not have a clear and definite strategy; Elizabeth, on the contrary, her military strategy was explicit to maintain peace. During the ruling of Wu, the Vassal states of Qidan (契丹), Tibet (吐蕃), and Turkic(突厥) from the west to the north posed a threat to the frontier of Tang. Wu wanted to implement the Mollification Policy (羈縻政策). “Mollification Policy was an ethnic policy carried out by the previous emperor which assigned the leaders of these foreign tribes to deal with their own internal affairs.” ([19] Bo Guan Feng, Wang Xiang Peng, and Liu Jing) However, these Vassal states were not the force to be neglected because their intention was not only regional autonomy but also territorial expansion. Therefore, during the 680 to 700 A.D., these Vassal states kept attacking and tried to across the border of Tang to ransack the territories. What’s worse, the Tang suffered repeated defeats. When Wu Zetian was worried about the invasion of the foreign tribes, two strategies were proposed. The first one claimed that

1. Permit the Turkic people to establish their own countries, and appoint the Turkic leader to fight against those tribes who want to invade the Tang.
2. Do not easily start a war to take the land which no longer belongs to the Tang.
3. Bring the battlefield to the border of the Tang so that the war would not imperil the interest of citizens. ([20] Lei

470)

The purpose of this strategy was to maintain the national strength rather than being hegemony to control the foreign tribes and Vassal states.

Another strategy proclaimed that

1. These Vassal states and foreign tribes has been a threat for the Tang for a long time. Therefore, it is necessary to wipe out them.
2. It is crucial to take back the lands which originally belong to the Tang because these lands are important regions to defend the border of the country. ([21] 471)

The intention of this strategy was to persuade Wu to centralize military fighting against the rebellious foreign tribes so that the country could be free from wars as soon as possible. Nevertheless, Wu Zetian implemented neither of the military strategies. Apparently, she did not want to choose either losing the hegemonic status amid the foreign tribes or abandoning her Mollification Policy to centralize the force against the rebellious foreign tribes. In this case, Wu lacked a clear military strategy. So, she dispatched the troops whenever the invasion occurred and suffered repeated defeats. Also, the citizens living in the border of western and northern regions were often deteriorated into wars and heavy tax rate to support the battles. It was not until the son of Wu succeeded the throne did the problem of invasion from the foreign tribes improve.

Elizabeth I

Elizabeth I remained the defensive military strategy to develop diplomatic relations with the power of European Catholicism. In 1572, the St. Bartholomew's

Day massacre caused three thousand dead Protestant Parisians. Elizabeth was shocked and sorrowful. “Elizabeth recognized the necessity for continued goodwill with France. Notwithstanding her immediate criticism of the massacre and her skepticism of Charles’s justification for the killings, Elizabeth desperately needed to stave off diplomatic isolation and maintain amicable relations with her lone Catholic ally.”([22] Beem 102) At that time, England’s force was weak and could not compete with the armed forces of Europe. Additionally, she realized that Spain and France would take the religion differences as an excuse to overthrow her power; therefore, only through remaining peaceful and defensive could England survive.

The months following the massacre also marked a watershed for the English military, as Elizabeth and her government revamped their militia to make it comparable to the increasingly professionalized armies of continental Europe. From late 1572 to early 1573, they instituted the “trained bands” system nationwide with the purpose of molding a proficient, defensive militia. Rather than mustering inexperienced men for this unit, as was customary, the government began recruiting an elite group of soldiers with prior combat training. They intended to create a militia whose success rested on the skill of the men rather than sheer numbers, which makes sense considering England’s relatively small population in comparison to other late sixteenth-century European powers.... Each county gathered their own men, who began learning how to wield both pikes and firearms, which were fairly new phenomena in England. By instituting the regular training of soldiers for the first time and

incorporating new weapons into their arsenal in early 1573, Elizabeth modernized her army to meet the standards of continental Europe. ([23]107)

Still, Spain and France constituted a significant threat to England. Spain, for example, egged the Queen of Scots, Mary, to usurp the throne and reestablished the Catholicism of the England with an aid of Spanish force; however, this action failed in the end.

France, on the other hand, signed the Treaty of Blois with England before the massacre. “The treaty also clearly favored militarily weak England, which was isolated and dwarfed by the great Catholic domains. Maintaining an ally with the military capability of France would not only be vital in case of war, but would also likely deter warmongers from engaging England. ” ([24] 112) The action of killing thousands of Protestant in France made Elizabeth worried that whether this treaty could secure England. Nevertheless, she knew the position of England and the national capacity were not strong enough. So, “Elizabeth and her government feared a rift in the league with France and hoped that a trade reconciliation would mend relations with England’s former Catholic ally.”([25] 108) The queen “also called off her privateers, who had frustrated Spanish merchants...” ([26] 108) and “repaid Philip, Spanish King, for losses incurred due to her seizure of Alba’s treasure ships, which amounted to £15,600 and trade with Spain finally resumed after much negotiation during the spring of 1573.” ([27] 108) She seldom initiated a war.

“Elizabeth tried to avoid full-scale war. She preferred to support the Protestant cause with money, sending troops only occasionally.” ([28] Vanderbroeck 47) It was not unless the Spanish Armada in 1588 tried to invade England did Elizabeth defend her country with her modernized army. Thus, England defeated the Spanish Armada, the most powerful and strongest fleets, and became a major power in Europe. The victory of this battle approved of her successful military strategy: remain peace, and prevent

wars.

Economy

Wu Zetian

In terms of economy, Wu Zetian's development of agriculture is highly appreciated. According to [29] 隋唐歷史人物武則天評傳, Wu Zetian implemented some measures for agricultural production. Firstly, in the twelve suggestions (建言十二事) she submitted to Gaozung, one of the ordinances was “encouraging the development of agriculture and reducing taxes.” She understood that farming was the key element to build a country. After reigning for two years, Wu wrote an agriculture book (兆人本業記) and issued it in every state. It became the guideline for farming and was followed by the later emperors. In order to enhance the development of agriculture, Wu even used the status of the farms as the criterion to reward or punish officials. Secondly, Wu kept an eye on water conservancy because hydraulic engineering was inseparable with farming. Thus, Wu built over 19 water channels, irrigating large areas of land with rivers. With gorgeous water conservancy construction, the development of agriculture thrived undoubtedly. Thirdly, Wu maintained equal-field system. It was a historical system of land ownership and distribution in China used from the Six Dynasties. The system worked on the basis that all land was owned by the government. The government would then assign it to individual families. Every individual, including slaves, was entitled to a certain amount of land. The system was intended to foster the development of land and to ensure that no agricultural land was neglected. This prevented patricians from developing large power bases by monopolizing the fields, and allowed the common

people to partake of the land and ensure their livelihood. From these, the government was able to develop a tax base and to slow the accumulation of land by vast, untaxable estates. In Tang Dynasty, men above 18 could own 1 hectare of land, old men 40 acreages, and wives and concubines 30 acreages. With this clear equal-field system, Wu could manage every single inch of land very well. The development of agriculture consequently thrived due to her wise policies.

Elizabeth I

When it comes to the economy in Elizabeth I's time, the Poor Laws were a high spot, for they were a significant milestone on both economy and social welfare. According to [30] 都鐸王朝－英國史實全記錄, in fact, in 1558, when Elizabeth just ascended the throne, civil wars were ongoing, religions were separated, the treasury was empty, and the currency devaluation was serious. The political and economic situation of England was not steady. However, under Elizabeth's leadership, England gradually changed. [31] According to 伊利莎白女王時期的英國, the Poor Laws were just parts of the numerous policies that advanced the economy. The laws made every local parish responsible for its own poor, create workhouses, and punish the homeless. Children were required to be apprenticed. Those who were physical challenged would be certainly taken care of. Every parish provided materials and tools for those who were capable of working. For people who had no inclination for working, they would be sent to a reformatory school for servitude. It was forbidden to beg or loaf around on streets. When plague occurred, the government would isolate the patients. It was banned to help or visit them. When food was deficient, the government would adjust prices. Donation was not allowed. The concept of "loving others as self" faded little by little, while the social welfare policy advanced. People

led a greater life and the economic development was taking a turn for the better.

Internal Affairs

Wu Zetian

As for internal affairs, Wu Zetian is famous for her talent acquisition. According to [32] 帝王用人的學問, there are two major advantages of Wu Zetian's talent acquisition. First, she didn't care about people's family status, nor did she avoid enemies. One of her subordinates was the daughter of a minister killed by Wu, but Wu found that she had a great literary talent. Hence, she was not afraid of being retaliated against. Keeping her boldly, she trusted and put her in an important position. She assigned many important things to her, including approving of memorials to the throne and drafting edicts. In Wu's reign, she appointed numerous distinguished people, such as Hao Chujun (郝處俊), Du Jingjian (杜景儉), Di Renjie (狄仁傑), Zhu Jingze (朱敬則), Wang Jishan (王及善), Wang Xiaojie (王孝傑), Wei Xuanton (魏玄同), Wei Yuanzhong (魏元忠), Yao Chong (姚崇), Pei Xingjian (裴行儉), Lou Shide (婁師德) and so on. Many of them were lowborn yet well trusted with great responsibility. Second, she provided wide opportunities for airing views and condescended to listen to advice. Wu took Taizung, who was a broad-minded emperor, as a model. She let the ministers voice their opinions which were either positive or negative, and speak out freely to pool the wisdom of the masses. Paying attention to common people's thoughts, she even set four boxes in front of the palace to adopt different people's suggestions. Thereby, she could understand people's ideas and administrate the country better.

Elizabeth I

On the subject of the internal affairs in Elizabeth I's time, just like Wu Zetian, Elizabeth's meritocracy was a highlight as well. She had great wisdom on appointing people to be her subordinates. [33] According to the essay, 伊莉莎白一世 逆境中領導的典範, knowing that in order to make more achievements, she had to bind herself with her people and soldiers. She was good at listening attentively to others. She knew her subordinates well enough to assign them jobs commensurate with their abilities. She hired people only based on their talents. William Cecil once said Elizabeth was the smartest woman because she was clear to everyone's opinion about her. What's more, when the Spanish Armada attacked England, she put on armor and personally went to the forefront. She said, "I have the body of a weak, feeble woman; but I have the heart and stomach of a king, and of a King of England too." We can see her ambition and perseverance evidently. These were undoubtedly the key elements of her success. She took good care of her people as well as armies and she always stood with them. With excellent talent acquisition, she had the best soldiers and subordinates, who helped her lead England to prosperity.

To sum up, through the above compared information, we can see both Elizabeth's and Wu Zetian's wisdom and perseverance. In terms of religion, both of them used it to consolidate their power; in terms of military strategies, Wu Zetian had no particular policy, while Elizabeth tried to remain peace and prevent wars. As for internal affairs, both of them had good talent acquisition; in terms of economy, Wu Zetian's agricultural development was a highlight, while Elizabeth was famous for the Poor Laws. There are both similarities and differences between two empresses' ways of

administering countries. Their intelligence and courage are the key elements of their success without a doubt.

Conclusion

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|--------------------|
| Restate the thesis |
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In conclusion, through the above compared information, we can see there are both similarities and differences in these two empresses' ways of administering countries. Elizabeth ascended the throne through a legal procedure, while in Wu Zetian's time, some religions and social atmosphere were power that pushed her to sit enthroned as queen. They made different achievements in the administration of religion, military strategies, and economy. However, in terms of internal affairs, they were both famous for their talent acquisition. We can see how important it is to national leaders. Elizabeth I and Wu Zetian were indeed powerful empresses in Eastern and Western countries. After knowing more about them, we are convinced that the reputation of the Golden Age and the Flourishing Age is indeed well supported by facts.

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