

近代中國知識分子的人道關懷 —以婢女解放爲例的探討

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摘要

蓄婢習俗源自奴婢制度，只要淪為婢女，就無自由與平等可言，有時還像商品般用來賞賜或輾轉販賣為娼妓、侍妾，無絲毫自主權，其悲慘無助遠較男奴為甚，也備受關注。晚清修改法令，禁止人口買賣，改奴婢為雇工後，男奴問題漸少，而蓄婢惡俗仍然相襲成風，婢女受虐，時有所聞，頗引起人道主義者的關懷，禁蓄之聲四起，經多年的努力，直到一九五〇年代，才告功德圓滿。其間新文化運動前後知識分子的人道關懷，影響尤大，南方政府即下禁婢令以呼應，國民政府時期更一再從事取締。然而國事蝸蝕，經濟蕭條，貧民賣兒鬻女重以求生，婢女來源不絕；且社會配套措施不足，婢女縱獲解放，何去何從仍成問題。因此，除了立法以外，顯然還需在政治經濟社會整個配套措施中求得之。

關鍵詞：蓄婢、禁婢、人道主義、無政府主義、五四運動、國民政府。

Humanitarianism of Modern Intellectuals in China

—A Case of Maiden Emancipation

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Abstract

The custom of keeping maids as home servants dates back to the ancient system of slavery. Once girls are made a home servant, they enjoy no sense of equality and freedom at all. They are sometime taken as commercial materials or gifts-or even traded to be prostitutes or home slaves. Without any ability to become independent, the maids lead a far more miserable life than male slaves. Thanks to the laws made in late Qing Dynasty, when no population trade is since allowed, the problem of keeping male slaves is getting insignificant. But on the other hand, the custom of keeping home female servants ensues. Cases are often heard where female home servants are harshly and cruelly treated Humanitarian intellectuals thus start to show their concern, requesting to forbid keeping female home servants. The mission is not completed until 1950's when the new cultural movement is on the way, with the humanitarian concern by the intellectuals playing an important role. The government in the South makes a strict rule against home female slavery; moreover, the nationalist government tries its best to clamp down on maiden slavery. But due to the impoverished social conditions and slump economy, poor families keep trading their daughters for a living, which leads to an endless source of maiden slaves. In addition, without a complete set of measures to the issue, the female slaves find no place to go—even if they are emancipated. The conclusion is clear : in addition to legal approaches, it takes political, economic and social reformation to reach the good end to the problem of female slavery.

Keywords: Keep Maids As Servant, Forbid Female Home Servant, Humanitarian, Anarchism, May 4th Movement, Nationalist Government.