

Analysis on the Causes of Sun Yat-sen, Huang Xing and Zhang Taiyan Being Reputed as "Three Masters of Xinhai"

Lei Wang

Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences, Jiaying University, Jiaying, 314001, China

Keywords: Sun Yat-sen, Huang Xing, Zhang Taiyan, "Three Masters of Xinhai"

Abstract: "The Three Masters of Xinhai" refers to the outstanding persons who made great contributions to the Revolution of 1911, and the number of them is limited to three. "The three masters of Xinhai refer to a wide range of characters. They are divided into different combinations according to the factors such as region, contribution and gender. Among them, Sun Yat-sen, Huang Xing and Zhang Taiyan are the most frequent in the academic circle, which objectively reflects their contributions to the Revolution of 1911. In the academic circles, the reference to Sun Yat-sen, Huang Xing and Zhang Taiyan by "Three Masters of Xinhai" appeared about 2000 years later, which is mainly related to the scholars who studied Zhang Taiyan trying to evaluate Zhang Taiyan's contribution to the Revolution of 1911 more fairly. In addition, this is also a result of the later generations of scholars standing in the revolutionary perspective."

1. Introduction

In view of the historical expression of "Three Heroes of Xinhai", there is no article specifically researching its origin in the field of historiography, probably because it is too difficult. The author searched the literature databases of newspapers and books of the Republic of China period, including the database of newspapers and periodicals of the late Qing Dynasty and the Republic of China, Erudition Database of Modern Newspapers and Periodicals, the Da Cheng database, and the document data platform of the War of Resistance against Japan and Contemporary Sino-Japanese Relations. There were no results. All kinds of databases do provide the convenience for information retrieval. However, the defect of literature databases is that it is difficult to collect all literature (works, newspapers and periodicals, archives, etc.) completely, and it is impossible to achieve full text retrieval of all contents. Therefore, it is naturally too difficult to retrieve all the documents by manpower. Later, the author uses the entry of "Three Masters of Xinhai" to search in "Duxiu Academic Search", "Chaoxing Discovery System" and "Baidu Academic"(including Baidu web search), and finds that the phrase "Three Masters of Xinhai" all appeared in the expressions of contemporary scholars, which prompted the author to explore who the "Three Masters of Xinhai" refers to and when the expression came into being. Furthermore, the author focuses on the analysis of Sun Zhongshan, Huang Xing, Zhang Taiyan was praised as the cause of "Three Masters of Xinhai".

2. “Three Masters of Xinhai” is Widely Referred To

From the literal meaning, the "Three Masters of Xinhai" refers to the outstanding persons who made great contributions to the Revolution of 1911, and the number is limited to three. Through the search of the above-mentioned three academic retrieval systems, it can be found that the expression of "Three Masters of Xinhai" appeared in the articles and works all after 2000, and most of them were published after 2010. Through the search, we can also find that the expression of "Three Masters of Xinhai" has different reference figures in the process of use because of the different regions and the different focus of contribution. First of all, the "Three Masters of Xinhai" referred to by different regions are different. At present, it can be seen from the academic search that the expressions of “Three Masters of Xinhai” in Shaoxing appears most frequent, which is mainly reflected in the writings and articles related to the history and culture of Shaoxing. The “Three Masters of Xinhai” in Shaoxing refer to Xu Xilin, Qiu Jin and Tao Chengzhang, who are not only the local but also the outstanding figures of the Revolution of 1911 with national influence. In addition, there are Wu Yuzhang, Xie Fengqi and Lei Tiewa among the regional “Three Masters of Xinhai” in Gongjing, Sichuan; [1] Zhou Zhongkui, Zhu Tengfen and Pan Yufeng, “Three Masters of Xinhai” in Fuding of Fujian Province. [2] Of course, there should be a lot of local "Three Masters in Xinhai" character combinations, but the three academic retrieval systems are not included. Secondly, according to the division of labor of the contributions of outstanding figures to the Revolution of 1911, there are also different combinations of the "Three Masters of Xinhai", one is Sun Yat-sen, Huang Xing and Song Jiaoren, focusing on their influence in the revolutionary faction, the other is Sun Yat-sen, Huang Xing and Zhang Taiyan, focusing on their respective political factions, the three representing Xingzhong Society, Huaxing Society and Guangfu Society. These two divisions can be seen in "Baidu know", and quite a lot of people agree. Finally, because of the special contribution of women to the Revolution of 1911, the "Three Masters of Xinhai" also refers to the combination of women, namely, Yin Weijun, Yin Ruizhi and Qiu Jin. [3] In addition to the above listed on the "Three Masters of Xinhai"; there is a rare combination of characters. At the 2012 spring auction in Hanhai, Beijing, there was a group of ancient manuscripts named "Three Masters of Xinhai". The so-called "Three Masters of Xinhai" here refers to Youren, Zhang Mojun and Fei Jingde. It can be seen that as long as historical figures that have made great contributions to the Revolution of 1911 have had influence in the whole country or locally, they can be called "Three Masters of Xinhai"; the regional "Three Masters of Xinhai" can be called "Three Masters of Xinhai" in front of their expressions to show the difference.

Through the analysis of the previous article, it is impossible to determine whether the expression of "Three Masters of Xinhai" appeared in the Republic of China because of the defects in the literature database and retrieval, but it is found through the academic retrieval system that the expression did not appear until 2000. If we ignore the time when the expression of "Three Masters of Xinhai" appeared, but only consider the actual contribution of historical figures to the Revolution of 1911, from the perspective of the revolutionaries, the combination of Sun Yat-sen, Huang Xing, Zhang Taiyan and Sun Yat-sen, Huang Xing and Song Jiaoren, the two groups of three can best embody the characteristics summarized by "Three Masters of Xinhai". Of course, the first combination occurs more frequently in the academic world.

3. Formation of Sun Yat-sen, Huang Xing and Zhang Taiyan, the "Three Masters of Xinhai"

The academic circle called Sun Yat-sen, Huang Xing and Zhang Taiyan “Three Masters of Xinhai” in the related works on Zhang Taiyan. In the preface of My Grandfather Zhang Taiyan, Zhang Nianchi said: “Grandfather, as a learned revolutionary, was honored as ‘Three Masters of Xinhai’—Sun Yat-sen, Huang Xing and Zhang Taiyan in the Revolution of 1911 one hundred years

ago". [4] Hua Qiang described in Zhang Taiyan's Great Biography: "Zhang Taiyan, Sun Yat-sen and Huang Xing are called 'Three Masters of Xinhai'. It was recognized that Sun Yat-sen was a revolutionary, Huang Xing was a militarist and Zhang Taiyan was a propagandist". [5] Lin Shaoyang further explained why Zhang Taiyan, as a scholar, was known as the "Three Masters of Xinhai". He pointed out that Zhang Taiyan was the revolutionary of "literature" and a revolutionary tutor of "literature". Zhang Taiyan's articles not only promoted the role of armed uprising, but also triggered an ideological revolution. [6] Through the interpretation of Hua Qiang and Lin Shaoyang, we can see that the scholars believe that Zhang Taiyan's contribution to the Revolution of 1911 was in the revolutionary propaganda and the people's ideological enlightenment, which is also the place where he is different from Sun Yat-sen and Huang Xing. Inspired and influenced by the academic circles, Zhang Taiyan Memorial Hall and Zhang Taiyan's former residence show reliefs and sculptures of the "Three Masters of Xinhai" respectively. The statues of the three great masters are presented with Sun Yat-sen in the center, Huang Xing on the left and Zhang Taiyan on the right. In the academic circles, Sun Yat-sen, Huang Xing and Zhang Taiyan were referred to as "Three Masters of Xinhai" about 2000 years later. The reason for this kind of occurrence is probably related to Zhang Taiyan's scholar's attempt to evaluate Zhang Taiyan's contribution to the Revolution of 1911 more fairly. Due to the interference and restriction of many factors in the evaluation of Zhang Taiyan in the history of the 20th century, in terms of the contribution of revolutionary leaders to the Revolution of 1911, it is natural for the folk historical works and the public to form a different evaluation from the official evaluation. Through research, it can be found that during the period of the Republic of China, there were records in the folk scholars and in the folk historical works that Zhang Taiyan was called together with Sun Yat-sen and Huang Xing. As will be described in more detail later."

As we all know, in the history of the revolution of 1911 Sun Yat-sen and Huang Xing as revolutionary leaders are always called "Sun Huang", in the Republic of China after the news and public opinion and people records are also common "Sun Huang" title, it can be seen that people are fully positive to their revolutionary achievements. However, people have different views on Zhang Taiyan's achievements in the Revolution of 1911. Zhang Taiyan commented on his own role in the propaganda process of the Revolution of 1911. He recorded in his *Chronicles of Self-Dating*: "Chinese students were lucky to have won the People's Newspaper, and they were forbidden by teachers, and turned to cherish it, and spread all over, the elders would like to be pioneers". [7] At the end of 1912, the government had a "honor" proposal. Zhang Taiyan was very confident about his contribution to the Revolution of 1911. In his letter to Wang Tang Yi, he said that he would not accept the second-class medal, and believed that "Zhongshan was awarded a great honor by advocating. Although I am cowardly, I will be far from Zhongshan." Zhang Taiyan put himself side by side with Huang Xing, Sun Wu, Duan Qirui and Wang Jingwei, believing that although the achievements of these five people are not comparable to Li Yuanhong, they still surpass Sun Zhongshan. [8] It can be seen from Zhang Taiyan's statement of his active struggle for the first-class title that he thinks that his contributions to the Revolution of 1911 and the founding of the Republic of China are no better than Sun Yat-sen and Huang Xingxian. However, because of his upright character, Zhang Taiyan had accumulated a lot of old grievances within the revolutionaries for a long time. In the early years of the Republic of China, Yuan Shi-kai's government was dissatisfied with his comments on the current politics by taking supervising the government as his official career. In May 1913, Yuan Shikai gave Zhang Taiyan a second-class medal to show his popularity, but this second-class medal has become a chicken for Zhang Taiyan. It can be seen that Zhang Taiyan's contribution to the Revolution of 1911 and the founding of the People's Republic was not as great as Zhang himself. After the establishment of the Nanjing National Government in April 1927, from May to June, Zhang Taiyan was accused of being the first scholar who was wanted by

the headquarters of the Kuomintang Shanghai Special City. Zhang Taiyan lived in his home as a survivor of the Republic of China. Due to Zhang Taiyan's old grievances with the Kuomintang, coupled with his criticism and uncooperative attitude toward the national government, the revolutionary elder Zhang Taiyan was more marginalized. In 1928, Yu Muren wrote the book "Biography of the Kuomintang and the State", which listed Sun Yat-sen, Lu Haodong, Hu Hanmin, Wang Jingwei and other 93 celebrities who made contributions to the revolution. So naturally it is not included in the book. Therefore, during the Republic of China, Zhang Taiyan's contribution to the Revolution of 1911 could not be evaluated objectively because of his personal reasons. Therefore, in the period of the Republic of China, it was difficult to regard Zhang Taiyan's achievements with Sun Yat-sen and Huang Xing in the official discourse system. It was unlikely that Zhang Taiyan, Sun Yat-sen and Huang Xing would be called "Three Masters of Xinhai" in the official historical writing. That's understandable. For example, in the compilation and review committee of the General Administration of Education in 1939, the High School History of the country did not record the history of the revolution in the late Qing Dynasty, there was no record of the full revolution of the late Qing Dynasty, but only explained the process of the initiation of the Revolution of 1911 in a narrow sense. Except for Sun Yat-sen, the names of Huang Xing and Zhang Taiyan did not appear. [9] Similarly, in the section of "The Rise of Revolutionary Thoughts and Mr. Sun Yat-sen" in the New History of High School approved by the Ministry of Education in 1945, it mentioned that the Huaxing Society organized by Huang Xing et al. and the Guangfu Society organized by Zhang Taiyan and others were revolutionary groups, pointing out that Sun Yat-sen and Huang Xing and others planned to concentrate the revolutionary forces and set up the Chinese League in Tokyo, Japan. [10] Obviously, the author mainly highlights Sun Yat-sen's leading role in the Revolution of 1911, and does not regard Zhang Taiyan's revolutionary propaganda achievements with Sun Yat-sen's meaning."

However, in the eyes of folk scholars and folk historical works, we can see Zhang Taiyan's juxtaposition with Sun Yat-sen and Huang Xing. In the elegiac couplet that Yu Weinong wrote to Zhang Taiyan, he described, "After the rise of Huang Lizhou and Gu Yanwu to write self-sufficient books, spread through the ages, to Sun Yat-sen Huang Keqiang founding the nation, who has no great merit". [11] In Zhou Yutong's National History (published in 1947), when describing the contemporary history in the chapter "Mr. Sun Yat-sen and the Revolutionary Movement", he lists the portraits of Sun Yat-sen, Huang Xing and Zhang Taiyan respectively to express that the League was formed by three forces. Sun Yat-sen, Huang Xing and Zhang Taiyan represented Xingzhong, Huaxing and Guangfu respectively. This arrangement expressed the author's affirmation to the three leaders of the revolutionary camp. [12] The expression of Zhou Yu and his "National History of China" is consistent with Zhang Nianchi's memory when he was studying in primary school. According to Zhang Taiyan's direct grandson Zhang Nianchi's recollections, "I knew from childhood that Grandpa, Sun Yat-sen and Huang Xing were the 'Three Masters of Xinhai' in parallel. Until I went to primary school, the textbook still said so, and printed three portraits of them. They're all about the same size. Later, somehow, Sun Yat-sen was left alone". [13]

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, due to various reasons, the evaluation of the Revolution of 1911 in the academic circles has gone up and down, and the evaluation of the historical figures has been paid more attention to the class attributes, etc., and the study and evaluation of Zhang Taiyan was limited by many restrictions, failing to show the objective features of his life, thought and scholarship. It was not until 1978 that Li Zehou wrote Zhang Taiyan's Analects to reflect on the research of Zhang Taiyan's thought. In 1979, Tang Zhijun published Long Edition of Zhang Taiyan's Chronology, which created a new chapter of Zhang Taiyan's thought and academic research. The academic circles gradually expanded the research field and scope of Zhang Taiyan's research, and deepened the understanding of Zhang Taiyan's life, thought and academic

problems. It lays a foundation for more objective evaluation of Zhang Taiyan. Since the new century, the expression of "Three Masters of Xinhai" has frequently appeared in the academic circles, and then some scholars who studied Zhang Taiyan put forward the expression that Sun Yat-sen, Huang Xing and Zhang Taiyan are called "Three Masters of Xinhai", which is an objective evaluation of Zhang Taiyan's contribution in the Revolution of 1911 and the founding of the Republic of China, affirming Zhang Taiyan's role in the revolutionary propaganda and the founding of the Republic of China is not inferior to Sun Yat-sen and Huang Xing.

4. Conclusions

Today, the academic circle has realized that not only revolutionaries, but also some officials, generals of the uprising and constitutionalists of the former Qing Dynasty have made their due contributions to the Revolution of 1911. Zhang Taiyan once acknowledged the contributions of Li Yuanhong and Duan Qirui. Before the outbreak of the second revolution, he also approved Yuan Shikai's contribution to the Revolution of 1911 and the establishment of the Republic of China, which was the reason why he once liked Yuan Shikai in the early years of the Republic of China. Therefore, the expression of "Three Masters of Xinhai" we see today is a phrase constructed from the perspective of revolutionaries. In fact, according to Zhang Taiyan and some scholars, it is natural that there is nothing wrong with using "Three Masters of Xinhai" to refer to Yuan Shikai, Duan Qirui and others before the revolutionaries and the Beiyang government became hostile. Of course, one thing is certain that the appearance of the "name" of the expression of "the three Heroes of 1911" is certainly later than the "reality" of the contributions of outstanding historical figures to the Revolution of 1911. People of different time, different factions and different preferences should have different understandings of the "Three Masters of Xinhai", which is probably similar to Gu Jiegang's theory that "the layers of ancient Chinese history were created." Contemporary scholars put forward that Sun Yat-sen, Huang Xing and Zhang Taiyan constituted the expression of "Three Masters of Xinhai", which can be described as an effort made by them to restore the historical truth and historical memory.

Acknowledgements

This article is the research progress and outcomes of the professional development project of domestic visiting scholars teachers in Zhejiang Province in 2021, "Zhang Taiyan's late years newspaper practice and research on the dissemination of traditional Chinese culture" (FX2021056).

References

- [1] Hu Zhaoxi. *Xushuizhai's manuscript*. Chengdu: Sichuan University Press, 2012: 283.
- [2] Bai Rongmin. *The Immortal Capital on the Sea: Taimu Mountain in the Writer's Work*. Fuzhou: The Straits Publishing and Distributing House, 2018: 48.
- [3] Dong Yaokui. *The 70th anniversary of the victory of the Second World War "series books: history of Baoding anti-japanese war*. Beijing: Xinhua Press, 2015: 271."
- [4] Zhang Nianchi. *My grandfather Zhang Taiyan*. Shanghai: Shanghai People's Publishing House, Jan. 1, 2011
- [5] Hua Qiang. *Zhang Taiyan Great Biography*. Shanghai: Shanghai Jiaotong University Press, 2011: 346.
- [6] Lin Shaoyang. *The Revolution of the Qing Dynasty and Zhang Taiyan's New Cultural Movement*. Shanghai: Shanghai People's Publishing House, 2018: 54.
- [7] Zhang Binglin. *Mr. Taiyan Self-assumed Chronology*. Taipei: Wenhai Publishing House, 1966: 11
- [8] Zhang Taiyan. *Talks to Wang Jitang/Ma Yong. A collection of letters from Zhang Taiyan*. Shijiazhuang: Hebei People's Publishing House, 2003: 494.
- [9] Editorial Board of the Education Department. *High school's national history*. Issued by the Editorial Board of the Education Department, 1939: 311-314.

- [10] Jin Zhaozi. *Newly organized high school national history*. Shanghai: Zhonghua Bookstore, 1945: 198.
- [11] Mr. Taiyan's elegiac couplet. *Zhiyan (Bimonthly)*. 1936-10-1 (26).
- [12] Zhou Yutong. *National history Shanghai: Kaiming Bookstore*, 1948: 2-5.
- [13] Zhang Nianchi. *Responsibility for later death: my grandfather Zhang Taiyan and I*. Shanghai: Shanghai People's publishing House, 2019: 2.