

Research on the Development and Changes of Cities in the Fujiang River Basin during Historical Periods

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Abstract: The political interdependence, economic complementarity, and cultural integration among cities in the Fujiang River Basin during historical periods. Before the Song Dynasty, the political, economic, and cultural center of China was located in the Guanzhong Plain, and the Bashu region formed the "Jinniu Road" urban agglomeration in a northeast southwest direction. After the Song Dynasty, the political center of China moved eastward, the economic and cultural center moved southward, and the Fujiang River basin diagonally penetrated the Sichuan Basin. The convenient Fujiang waterway allowed the northwest southeast Fujiang River basin urban agglomeration to rise, forming several important cities such as Zhongba, Mianyang, Tongchuan, and Hechuan. Since modern times, waterways have gradually declined, and areas such as Tongchuan, Langzhong, and Hechuan have also declined. Mianyang, relying on the construction of the Sichuan Shaanxi Highway and Baocheng Railway, has always played a key role in the Fujiang River Basin.

1. Introduction

The Fujiang River, formerly known as Fushui, originates from the main peak of Xuebaoding in Sansheyi, located at the eastern foot of the Minshan Mountains between Songpan County and Pingwu County in Sichuan Province (with an elevation of 5555 meters). It has a drainage area of 36000 square kilometers and a dry river length of 670 kilometers. The Fujiang River is a secondary tributary of the Yangtze River and the largest primary tributary on the right bank of the Jialing River. It flows southeast through two provincial-level administrative regions in Sichuan and Chongqing, seven prefecture level administrative regions in Aba, Mianyang, Guangyuan, Deyang, Nanchong, Neijiang, and Suining, and 31 county-level administrative regions in Songpan, Pingwu, Fucheng, Santai, Chuanshan, Tongnan, and Hechuan.^[1] These include Songpan, Wenchuan, and Maoxian counties in Aba Prefecture, Fucheng, Youxian, Anzhou, Zitong, Santai, Yanting, Jiangyou, Beichuan, and Pingwu counties (cities) in Mianyang City, Qingchuan and Jiange counties in Guangyuan City, and Dechuan and Jiange counties in Guangyuan City. There are 10 main tributaries, including Pingtong River, Tongkou River, Anchang River, Kaijiang River, Zitong River, Anju River, Xiao'an River, etc., which flow into Jialing River in the south of Hechuan District, Chongqing. The Fujiang River Basin has had a prosperous and flourishing culture since ancient times. The colorful water flow of Huanglong Temple is like a jade pond in the human world. The sturdy defense of the Fishing City makes Mongolian Khan Mengge sigh with regret. Li Bai and Chen Zieng study here,

while Du Fu and Lu You fish here. From Pingwu onwards, there have been numerous cultural landscapes throughout the ages. From Pingwu onwards, the Qiang culture is rich and the natural scenery is beautiful. As an important carrier of urban transportation, economic exchange, cultural integration, and people's communication in the ancient Bashu region, the Fujiang River has outstanding significance. Strengthening the research on the development and changes of cities in the Fujiang River Basin during historical periods can help draw on historical experience and use the central city of the basin to radiate and drive the common development of cities in the basin.

2. The evolution and connection of political regions in the Fujiang River Basin during historical periods

River was the boundary between the Ba State and the Shu State. The Huayang Guozhi records that the Ba State "extends to Yufu in the east, Baidao in the west, Hanzhong in the north, and Qianfu in the south." [2]"Qianfu in the south" indicates that the southern border of the Ba State was roughly located in the Fu River area at that time, and further south was the ancient Shu Kingdom centered on Chengdu. In the autumn of the fifth year of King Shen of Zhou (316 BC), Qin officials Zhang Yi and Sima Cuo led their troops to attack Shu from the Zitong Shiniu Road (also known as the Jinniu Road). The Shu State was defeated and the King of Shu was killed. Subsequently, Qin marched eastward and destroyed the Ba State, setting up Ba County, Shu County and Hanzhong County in the Bashu land. This expedition established the first direct control of the Central Plains dynasty over the Bashu region, and also the first direct control of the Fu River Basin. The Qin Dynasty controlled this area for 110 years.

In the sixth year of Emperor Gao of the Western Han Dynasty (201 BC), Guanghan Commandery was established by dividing Shu Commandery. During this period, the Fu River Basin belonged to Ba Commandery and Guanghan Commandery. The upper reaches of the Fu River were divided into Gangdi Road and Yinping Road, which belonged to Guanghan Commandery and were inhabited by Qiang. The middle reaches of the Fu River were first centered around Chengxiang in Guanghan Commandery. During the reign of Emperor An of Han, it was relocated to Fu County (now Mianyang City), and later to Luo County (now Deyang Guanghan). The lower reaches of the Fu River were centered around Jiangzhou (now Chongqing City). In the late Eastern Han Dynasty, the two-level system of prefectures and counties was transformed into a three-level system of prefectures and counties, and the Fujiang River Basin belonged to Yizhou. In the 22nd year of Jian'an reign of Emperor Xian of the Eastern Han Dynasty (217 AD), Zitong Commandery was established in the eastern region of Guanghan Commandery. In the 4th year of Chuping reign of Emperor Xian (193 AD), Yongning Commandery and Guling Commandery were established in the southeast of Ba Commandery. During the Three Kingdoms period, the Fujiang River basin belonged to the Shu Han regime. In the third year of Jianxing (225 AD), the later ruler Liu Chan cut off the northern part of Guanghan Commandery to establish Yinping Commandery, and in the middle of Yanxi, Guanghan Commandery was divided to establish Dongguanghan Commandery. During this period, the upper reaches of the Fujiang River belonged to Yinping Commandery, the middle reaches belonged to Guanghan Commandery and Dongguanghan Commandery, and the lower reaches belonged to Ba Commandery. In the third year of Taishi reign of Emperor Wu of Western Jin, Yizhou was divided to establish Liangzhou, with its capital in Hanzhong. The Fujiang River basin belonged to Liangzhou and was divided into Zitong Commandery, Guanghan Commandery, Basi Commandery, and Bajun Commandery. After the Rebellion of the Eight Princes, Yongjia migrated south.[3] During the reign of General Huan Wen of the Eastern Jin Dynasty, he briefly controlled the Shu region, but for most of the time, it was successively controlled by the Chenghan regime and the Qiao regime. Zitong Commandery was divided into Jinshou

Commandery (now Guangyuan City) in the 15th year of Emperor Xiaowu's Taiyuan reign, and Guanghan Commandery was established in Suining Commandery in the southeast of the Deyang boundary after Huan Wen pacified Shu. It governed Baxing (now Pengxi), Deyang, Guanghan, Jinxing (now Tongnan), and Xiaoxi County (now Chuanshan District), with its capital in Baxing. During the reign of Emperor Jin'an, Baxi County was established as Xinba County, which governed Xinba (now Yanmenba in the northeast of Jiangyou City), Jincheng, and Jin'an counties. It is worth noting that during the Northern and Southern Dynasties period, there were frequent wars and a large number of northern immigrants migrated southward. In order to accommodate the immigrants, a large number of overseas Chinese prefectures and counties were established, and high-level political districts were excessively set up, resulting in chaotic management of political districts. This period is known as "a city with a hundred rooms, and the name of the prefecture was established; the people of three households, and the number of prefectures was empty." For example, the Fu River flow area increased from one prefecture and four counties in the Han Dynasty to more than forty prefectures in the Liang Dynasty of the Southern Dynasty.

In the early years of the Kaihuang reign of the Sui Dynasty, the administrative division system was changed from a three-level system to a two-level system, and all prefectures in the country were abolished. In the early years of Emperor Yang of Sui, prefectures were changed to prefectures, and provinces and counties were merged again. 121 prefectures and 216 counties were reduced nationwide, and the administrative division gradually became more reasonable. The Guangyuan area in the Fujiang River Basin was renamed as Yicheng County in Lizhou. Pingwu County in Longzhou was established in the upper reaches of the Fujiang River, while Jinshan County in Mianyang was established in the middle reaches of the Fujiang River. Xincheng County in Xinzhou was established in Santai and Yanting areas. Bazi County in Longzhou was established in Xichong and the southern areas. Fuling County in Hechuan and Tongnan was established in the lower reaches of the Fujiang River. In the first year of the Zhenguan reign of the Tang Dynasty, the country was divided into ten provinces based on its mountainous terrain, and in the thirteenth year of the Kaiyuan reign, it was divided into fifteen provinces. the world was divided into fifteen regions. Guangyuan, southern Nanchong, Xichong (Guozhou), Hechuan, Dazu, and Tongliang (Hezhou) belong to Shannan West Road, the upper reaches of the Fu River belong to Songzhou (Songpan), Maozhou (Maodian), Longzhou (Pingwu, Jiangyou), the middle reaches of the Fu River belong to Mianzhou (Mianyang), Jianzhou (Zitong, Jiange), Zizhou (Santai, Yanting, Shehong), Suizhou (Suining), and Puzhou (Lezhi, Anyue), and belong to Jiannan Road. After the An-Shi Rebellion, the power of local vassal states expanded. In the second year of Shangyuan (761 AD), the eight states of Mian, Long, Jian, Lang, Guo, He, Sui, and Zi were cut off from Jiannan Road to set up the Dongchuan Jiedushi. The main stream area of the Fu River was under the jurisdiction of the Dongchuan Jiedushi, who governed Mianzhou and later moved the government to Zizhou. In the fifteenth year of Yuanhe of Emperor Xianzong of the Tang Dynasty (821 AD), the Dongchuan Jiedushi led Zi, Mian, Long, Jian, Sui, He, Yu, Chang, and Pu, and governed Zizhou. ^[4]Most of the political areas in the Fu River basin were under the jurisdiction of the Dongchuan Jiedushi. In the Song Dynasty, the Bashu region developed and prospered. The high-level political areas were divided from the East and West Sichuan Jiedushi of the Tang Dynasty into the four routes of Sichuan and Xia, namely Chengdufu Road, Zizhou Road, Lizhou Road, and Kuizhou Road. This is the reason why Sichuan Province got its name today. Except for Kuizhou Road with Chongqing as the center, the political districts in the Fu River Basin belong to Chengdu Prefecture, Zizhou Road, and Lizhou Road. Among them, Pingwu and Jiangyou in the upper reaches of the Fu River belong to Lizhou Road, with Guangyuan as the administrative center. Mianyang in the middle reaches of the Fu River belongs to Chengdu Prefecture Road, with Chengdu as the administrative center. Santai, Suining, Hechuan and other places in the middle and lower reaches of the Fu River all

belong to Zizhou Road, with Zizhou (now Santai) as the administrative center. In the early Yuan Dynasty, Qinshu Province was established, and Shaanxi and Sichuan were connected. In the 23rd year of Zhiyuan (1286 AD), Sichuan Province was established with Chengdu as the administrative center. The Yuan Dynasty gradually refined the high-level political districts of the Song Dynasty, dividing the four Sichuan and Xia roads of the Song Dynasty into nine roads and five prefectures. The affiliation of each political district was not much different from that of the Song Dynasty, but there were still some changes in some parts. For example, Mianyang was transferred from Chengdu Prefecture Road, which belonged to the two Song Dynasties, to Tongchuan Prefecture in the 20th year of Zhiyuan in the Yuan Dynasty. Hechuan and Tongliang in the lower reaches of the Fu River were transferred from Tongchuan Prefecture to Chongqing Road. The road system was abolished in the Ming Dynasty, and the administrative divisions were divided into a three-level system of province-prefecture-county or a four-level system of province-prefecture-state-county. Maoxian and Wenchuan in the upper reaches of the Fu River and Anzhou, Beichuan and Mianyang in the middle reaches of the Fu River belonged to Chengdu Prefecture, Songpan, Pingwu and Qingchuan belonged to Long'an Prefecture, Zhaohua, Jiange, Zitong and Jiangyou in Guangyuan belonged to Baoning Prefecture, Nanbu County in today's Nanchong City belonged to Shunqing Prefecture, Santai, Yanting, Suining and Shehong in the middle reaches of the Fu River belonged to Tongchuan Prefecture, and Hechuan and Tongliang in the lower reaches still belonged to Chongqing Prefecture. The Qing Dynasty finally perfected the administrative division system, and the administrative division level was a typical three-level system of province-prefecture-county or province-directly-affiliated prefecture/directly-affiliated department-county. By the end of the Qing Dynasty, the Governor-General of Sichuan governed twelve prefectures, nine directly-affiliated prefectures², four directly-affiliated departments³, seven scattered departments, eleven scattered prefectures, and one hundred and fourteen counties, including Chengdu, Ningyuan, Baoning, Shunqing, Xuzhou, Chongqing, Kuizhou, Suiding, Long'an, Tongchuan, Jiading, and Yazhou⁴.

During the period of the Beiyang Government of the Republic of China, the unified county-level administrative hierarchy of prefectures, departments, and states was abolished, and a two-level system of provinces and counties was implemented.^[5] Although there was a "road" as an administrative system connecting provinces and counties, it still belonged to a virtual level administrative region. In the 24th year of the Republic of China (1935 AD), the Nationalist Government in Nanjing gradually took control of Sichuan and established administrative inspection areas in Sichuan, which served as substantive county-level administrative divisions. The administrative divisions presented a three-level administrative system of province administrative inspection area county. The province is divided into eighteen districts, among which the Fujiang River Basin belongs to the third, eleventh, twelfth, thirteenth, fourteenth, and sixteenth districts, with special administrative offices located in Baxian, Nanchong, Suining, Mianyang, Jiange, and Maoxian. It is worth noting that since the mid to late Tang Dynasty, the high-level political district of Dongchuan Jiedushi, located in Zizhou, experienced Tongchuan Zhili Prefecture and Tongchuan Prefecture during the Ming and Qing Dynasties. According to the "Record of Reading History and Geography", it was "rich in salt water and copper mountains, abundant in agriculture, mulberry, and fruit, with continuous mountains and rivers, and numerous figures. The shape of the prefecture was superior to that of the southwest." By the time of the Republic of China, its political status had

¹ They are Chengdu Prefecture Road, Jiading Prefecture Road (Leshan), Guangyuan Road, Shunqing Road (Nanchong), Tongchuan Prefecture (Santai), Yongning Road (Xuyong), Chongqing Road, Shaoqing Prefecture (Pengshui), Huaide Prefecture (Youyang), Kui Road (Fengjie), Xuzhou Road (Yibin), and Mahu Road (Suijiang, Yunnan).

² They are Zizhou (Ziyang), Mianzhou (Mianyang), Maozhou (Maoxian), Youyangzhou (Youyang, Chongqing), Zhongzhou (Zhongxian, Chongqing), Meizhou (Meishan), Qiongzhou (Qionglai), Luzhou (Luzhou), and Yongningzhou (Xuyong).

³ They are Songpan Zhili Hall (Songpan), Shizhu Zhili Hall (Shizhu), Lifan Zhili Hall (Lixian), and Maogong Zhili Hall (Xiaojin).

⁴ In the late Qing Dynasty, the Minister of Sichuan-Yunnan Border Affairs was established to directly manage the four prefectures of Kangding, Ba'an, Dengke and Chamdo, which cover the areas of Kangding and Liangshan in Sichuan today.

sharply declined and it had become a county-level political district. Its political resources were gradually divided between Mianyang in the upper reaches of the Fujiang River and Suining in the lower reaches.^[6] (sen Table 1)

Table 1: Prefectural-level administrative divisions and their subordinate counties in the Fu River Basin during the Qing Dynasty

	Prefecture Name	Administrative Center	County5
Upper Fujiang River	Songpan Zhili Hall	Songpan	-
	Maozhou Prefecture	-	Wenchuan
	Long An	Pingwu	Pingwu, Qingchuan, Jiangyou, Zhangming
Middle reaches of the Fu River	Baoning Prefecture	Langzhong	Jiange, South
	Mianzhou Prefecture	-	Luojiang, Anxian, Deyang, Zitong
	Tongchuan Prefecture	Santai	Santai, Zhongjiang, Yanting, Shehong, Suining, Lezhi, Anyue, Pengxi
	Shunqing Prefecture	Nanchong	Xichong
Lower reaches of the Fujiang River	Chongqing Prefecture	Ba County	Tongliang, Hezhou, Dazu

(Reference: Fu Linxiang, Lin Juan, Ren Yuxue, Wang Weidong: A General History of China's Administrative Divisions (Qing Dynasty Volume), Fudan University Press, 2017.)

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the adjustment of administrative regions in the Fu River Basin showed a trend of centralization and unification, which was mainly reflected in the expansion of Mianyang Prefecture. In 1950, Mianyang Prefecture was established, with its seat in Mianyang County, and it governed 10 counties including Mianyang, Zhangming, Zitong, Luojiang, Guanghan, Jintang, Shifang, Mianzhu, and Anxian. In 1953, Guanghan, Jintang, and Shifang were transferred to Wenjiang Prefecture, and Guangyuan Prefecture was abolished. The 8 counties under it, including Guangyuan, Wangcan, Jiange, Jiangyou, Beichuan, Pingwu, Qingchuan, and Zhaohua, were transferred to Mianyang.^[7] In 1958, Suining Prefecture was abolished, and the 7 counties under it, including Suining, Santai, Pengxi, Yanting, Tongnan, Shehong, and Zhongjiang, were transferred to Mianyang Prefecture. By 1970, Mianyang Prefecture governed 19 counties including Mianyang, Jiangyou, Qingchuan, Pingwu, etc. Except Songpan, Maoxian, Wenchuan at the source of the Fu River, which belonged to Aba Prefecture, and Hechuan, Dazu, Tongliang at the lower reaches of the Fu River, which belonged to Chongqing, the rest belonged to Mianyang Prefecture. In 1977, Tongnan County was transferred to Jiangjin Prefecture. In 1985, Mianyang Prefecture was abolished and three cities at prefecture level, Mianyang, Suining and Guangyuan, were established. Qingchuan and Wangcan counties of the former Mianyang Prefecture were transferred to Guangyuan City, and Pengxi and Shehong counties of the former Mianyang Prefecture were transferred to Suining City.^[8]

⁵ It is mainly a county-level administrative region in the Fu River Basin.

By combing through the evolution of the political divisions in the Fu River Basin during historical periods, the following characteristics can be found. First, the political divisions in the upper and middle reaches of the Fu River are relatively loosely connected, but the connections between the upper and middle reaches are close. The geomorphic units in the Fu River Basin are distributed in a stepped manner, with mountains, hills and plains in the upper, middle and lower reaches, respectively, accounting for 37.9%, 56.9% and 5.2% of the total area. Under the same natural regional unit, due to the economic development of the region reaching a certain level, new political divisions are often separated, and they are closely connected with each other. For example, during the Qin and Han Dynasties, the upper reaches were Gangdi Road and Yinping Road, the middle reaches were Guanghan County, and the lower reaches were Ba County. As the Jinniu Road connected Guanzhong and Bashu, the middle reaches of the Fu River developed rapidly, and Guanghan County was divided into Zitong County, Jinshou County, and Dongguanghan County. By the Sui and Tang Dynasties, due to the increasingly mature agricultural development in the middle and lower reaches and frequent economic and trade exchanges, Guanghan County in the middle reaches gradually formed Guangyuan, Langzhong, Mianyang, Zizhou and other regional central cities, and Ba County in the lower reaches also formed Chongqing, Fengjie, Hechuan and other regional central cities. During the Ming and Qing Dynasties, due to the influence of Huguang filling Sichuan, the population gradually migrated to the upper reaches of the Fu River. The originally sparsely populated ethnic minority settlements gradually set up Long'an Prefecture, Songpan Direct-Li Hall, Maozhou Direct-Li Prefecture and other political regions, indicating that the region has developed to a certain extent. Secondly, before the Song Dynasty, because China's political and economic center was in the Yellow River Basin in the north, especially during the Han and Tang Dynasties, China's political, economic and cultural center was in the Guanzhong Plain, the distribution of cities in the Bashu region was mainly concentrated on the "Jinniu Road" line, and the name of "Shu Road" was extremely prominent. After the Song Dynasty, China's political center gradually moved eastward, and the economic and cultural center increasingly moved southward. As a result, the pattern of the entire Bashu region also changed significantly. The overall status of the east-north Jinniu Road declined relatively, and the status of the southeastern waterway increased. Specifically, in the Fu River Basin, Tongchuan, Suizhou, Mianzhou, Hezhou and other places took advantage of the situation to form the Fu River Basin City Cluster. Third, in ancient China, Mianyang played a prominent role in the development of cities in the Fu River Basin because it was located on the Jinniu Road and the Fu River waterway. In modern times, water transportation has gradually declined, and with the rise of railways and highways, cities such as Tongchuan, Langzhong, and Hechuan have gradually declined.^[9] However, Mianyang, which is located on the Sichuan-Shaanxi Highway and the Baocheng Railway Hub, has played a huge role until the founding of New China.

3. Political, military, economic and cultural connections between cities in the Fu River Basin during historical periods

Although the political ties between the cities in the Fu River Basin are relatively loose, the Fu River's well-developed shipping, important military strategic position, and prominent geo- military location have driven the economic and cultural development and mutual connection between the cities in the Fu River Basin.

3.1 Prominent strategic location

In the history of Bashu, those who came to Shu from the east to take Chengdu either started from Guanzhong and took the Jinniu Road by land to enter Shu and take Chengdu, or went west along

the water from Chongqing in two ways: one way was to go along the Yangtze River and Minjiang River to the south of Chengdu, and the other way was to go up the Fu River to the northwest, passing through Mianyang and Guanghan to the north of Chengdu. In ancient times, water transportation was much faster than land transportation, and going north from the Minjiang River was far behind going up the Fu River. Therefore, there have always been frequent battles on the Fu River. For example, in the 11th year of Jianwu in the Eastern Han Dynasty (35 AD), Cen Peng attacked Gongsun Shu, and his general Zang Gong went up the Fu River to Pingqu. Shu's general Yan Cen stationed troops in Shenshui (shooting Hongyang Taoxi) to resist him.^[10] Gong marched on foot on the left and on horseback on the right, and advanced on both sides of the boat, greatly defeating Cen's troops. In the 16th year of Jian'an in the Eastern Han Dynasty (211 AD), Liu Bei arrived in Jiangzhou (Chongqing) and headed north to Fu via the Dianjiang waterway. In the 19th year of Jian'an (214 AD), Zhuge Liang sent Zhang Fei to conquer Baxi (Mianyang), Deyang (now Suining) and other places from Neishui (Fu River). In the 9th year of Yixi (413 AD) of the Eastern Jin Dynasty, Liu Yu attacked Shu from Hechuan to Suining from Neishui and finally conquered Shu.

It was in the strategic situation that the Fu River must be occupied to capture Chengdu that the Fu River was often heavily guarded, thus forming several important military towns such as Fucheng, Zizhou, Suining, and Hechuan. "Dushi Fangyu Jiyao" once clearly described the important military towns along the Fu River. The book said: "The Fu River is an inland water. If it enters Fucheng from the inland water, Chengdu will be taken away. Therefore, in the past, people stationed heavy troops in Fucheng to protect the upper reaches of the Fu River, and stationed heavy troops in Dianjiang (Hechuan) to protect the lower reaches of the Fu River. The Fu River actually divides the land of Yizhou, so can it be ignored?"

Fucheng, also known as Mianzhou, was stationed in Fucheng by Grand Marshal Jiang Wan from Hanzhong in the fourth year of Yanxi in the Shu Han Dynasty. Jiang Wan believed that "Fucheng is connected by land and water, and it can respond to emergencies. If there is danger in the east or west, it is not difficult to go there." In the fourth year of Tianjian in the Liang Dynasty of the Southern Dynasty (505 AD), Xing Luan, the governor of Wei, Liang and Qin, led his troops into Jiange, broke Zitong, and approached Fucheng. Luan said, "If Fucheng is captured, the land of Yizhou will be divided in half, and the water and land rush will be cut off." In the fourth year of Zhonghe in the Tang Dynasty (884 AD), Yang Shili stationed in Fucheng in Dongchuan to force Chengdu. In the third year of Qiande in the Northern Song Dynasty (965 AD), Wang Quanbin attacked Shu, and his troops arrived at Weicheng, and the emperor of the Later Shu, Meng Chang, surrendered. It can be seen that Fucheng directly affects the gains and losses of Chengdu, so it is often said in history that "the one who guards Xichuan must guard Fucheng."

Zizhou, also known as Tongchuan. Compared with Mianzhou, Zizhou's strategic position was not prominent during the Qin and Han Dynasties. In the middle and late Tang Dynasty, its status rose sharply. In the second year of Shangyuan in the Tang Dynasty (761 AD), Jiannan was divided into two rivers, and the governor of Dongchuan was stationed in Zizhou. The political resources of the high-level political region added many favorable factors to the development of Zizhou. Of course, the Tang Dynasty chose Zizhou as the station of the governor of Dongchuan, perhaps because of the two major advantages of Zizhou. One is that "the state is surrounded by the Fushui River, the Zhongjiang River is on the right, and it is located at the key point of the waterway," that is, the transportation location advantage; the second is that "the state is rich in salt water and copper mountains, and rich in agricultural and sericulture fruits," that is, the resource advantage. These two advantages made Zizhou play an important role as a commercial and trade hub in the Ming and Qing Dynasties.

Hezhou, also known as Hechuan, is named after the confluence of the Fu River and the Jialing

River. Hechuan is a military stronghold in the lower reaches of the Fu River. During the Three Kingdoms period, Liu Bei entered Shu through Hechuan and entered Fu County. "Since then, those who have affairs with Shu must go through Dianjiang from the Fu River, and Dianjiang is actually the place of control." During the Song-Yuan confrontation period, the Song Dynasty relied on the danger of Hechuan to fight against the Yuan Dynasty for nearly 40 years. The Battle of Diaoyucheng killed the Mongolian Khan Mengge on the spot. In addition to controlling the Fu River, Hechuan is also of strategic significance to Chongqing. "Dushi Fangyu Jiyao" stated that "Yu also relies on Dianjiang." ^[11]

In addition to these three important military towns in the Fu River Basin, there are some other important towns. For example, Pingwu "controls the Di and Qiang tribes, is blocked by mountains and rivers, and has cliffs and cliffs stretching for hundreds of miles", Zhongba "connects to Shaanxi and Gansu in the upper reaches, Fujian and Guangdong in the lower reaches, Songmao in the northwest, and Tongbao in the southeast", Suining "has mountains blocking the water, and fertile fields", Shehong "is blocked from top to bottom, and the Fu River runs through the middle", and the rest, such as Tongliang and Tongnan, are either located at the key points of water and land, or are prosperous because of the dangerous mountains and passes.

3.2 Frequent business exchanges

Among the rivers in the Sichuan Basin, only the Fu River runs diagonally through the entire basin, and its transportation efficiency has always been outstanding. In terms of commerce, mountain products, medicinal materials, and grains, tea, and oils from counties in the basin in northwest Sichuan are all transported here. Cotton, silk, and agricultural products from Santai and Suining, and well salt from Pengxi and Shehong are all transported to various places via the Fu River; transporting industrial products is also more convenient than going around the Min and Tuo Rivers. In particular, from Long to Shu, one can go from Wen County, Gansu, along the Fu River mountain road through Qingchuan, which was originally part of Pingwu, to Xindaokou, then through Nanba and Jiangyouguan to Zhongba, down to Fu County and reach Chengdu. Why did Cao Cao of the Three Kingdoms sigh, "Now that I have Long, do I want to look to Shu?" In fact, the connecting point between Long and Shu is the Fu River. At the same time, the Fu River accommodates various tributaries in the basin. The confluence of the two rivers promotes the development of shipping, and cities are formed accordingly. For example, the river section from Jiangyou to Santai has always had many shoals and shallow water. Ships had to unload and "move the beach" when they arrived at Changtanzi. After the Kaijiang River was injected, the boats could sail smoothly, so the ancient city of Tongchuan was formed between the Fu and Kaijiang Rivers. There are still many dangerous shoals from Santai to Shehong, and only wooden boats of 8 to 50 tons can pass through. However, wooden boats of 75 tons can pass through Hechuan, so only Taihe Town is the port for changing ships, thus forming the ancient city of Shehong. The following Suining, Tongnan, and Hechuan are not only important military locations, but also related to factors such as the distribution of regional commercial materials and the reasonable division of voyages. In the middle of the Republic of China, it was counted that there were more than 3,000 wooden boats in the Fu River Basin, with an annual transportation volume of more than 200,000 tons, of which more than 100,000 tons were transported. In 1941, Taihe Town, Shehong County, collected and distributed 239,000 shi of rice, 40,800 shi of wheat, and 25,500 shi of corn, which was equivalent to 68,700 tons. The annual transportation volume of salt was 37,900 tons, which was transported from Mianyang to Zhongba, and the rest of the counties were transported to Hechuan, Chongqing and other places. The annual transportation volume of coal was 50,000 tons, which was transported to the counties of Fu River. At the beginning of the founding of New China, there were still 2,530

wooden boats in the Fu River Basin, with a load capacity of 31,800 tons and more than 8,000 employees.

Among the port hubs along the Fu River, Mianyang is the waterway transportation hub in the Fu River Basin and the most important material distribution center. The maximum annual throughput is 387,400 tons, which are shipped downstream to Santai, Shehong, Suining, Tongnan, Hechuan and other places. Shehong is an important port in the middle reaches, shipping cotton, silk, salt and oil downstream, and coal, paper and daily groceries upstream. Hechuan is an important port in the lower reaches of the Fu River, with 515,000 tons of materials imported and 166,000 tons shipped out. Zhongba had three docks during the Republic of China period. Daheba Dock mainly shipped medicinal materials to Chongqing, Sanhe Dock mainly shipped grain to Mianyang, Shehong and other places, and Taiping Dock mainly shipped indigo to Suining, Tongnan and other places. The imported materials were mainly salt, and the division of labor in material transportation was clear. Santai Port is divided into upper and lower docks. The upper dock is an empty ship and raft berthing area, and it also ships coal, grain, oil and other materials; the lower dock is a coal dock, and it also ships cotton and straw, and it is a heavy-load ship berthing area. Others such as Pingwu, Suining, Tongnan, Pikou and Tongliang are all important commercial transit points.

3.3 Cultural integration

With the mutual development of politics, economy, transportation and shipping in the Fu River Basin, a distinctive Fu River culture was formed.

The Fujiang Haozi is the second batch of intangible cultural heritage in Sichuan Province. In the process of pulling the tow, rowing, pushing and shoaling in the historical period, the boatmen in the Fujiang River Basin shouted the haozi loudly to ensure the same pace, coordinated movements and exerted strength together. They mastered the marching rhythm in the sound of the haozi, coordinated their strength, inspired their emotions, or eliminated fatigue. Day after day, year after year, the Fujiang Haozi gradually formed. The Fujiang Haozi is both majestic and elegant, both charming and vulgar, and reveals rich historical and cultural values. There is a song "Running the Rivers and Lakes" in the Fujiang Haozi, which interestingly introduces the geographical environment and specialty distribution of the Fujiang River. The lyrics go: "I travel around the country with a handkerchief in hand, and I am familiar with every state and county. Songpan County produces potatoes, and Pingwu Mountain has many treasures, such as *Gastrodia elata*, *Cordyceps sinensis*, and *Fritillaria cirrhosa*. *Codonopsis pilosula* and *Angelica sinensis* are good for stewing chicken. There are abundant mineral resources, such as copper, iron, manganese, and coal hidden in the mountains. Mianyang is a good place, with Fenggu Daqu famous, and agriculture flourishing in Santai and Shehong, with wheat, sweet potatoes, and cotton. Suining is full of fragrant oil, and Hechuan peach slices and Baoning vinegar are also available."

The customs of the regions along the Fu River are also basically similar. The Huayang Guozhi records that "the people are honest and righteous, and the local customs are honest and kind, just like the ancestors." For example, Mianyang is "rich in population and land, with abundant wealth and goods, located between the East and West Rivers, and facing the Liangyong style in the north." Therefore, "the customs are elegant but not flashy, tough but not cruel, and gentle but not weak." Deyang "has a deep education and a mellow and beautiful customs." Anxian "many scholars recite and value diligence and thrift." Zitong "focuses on farming, abides by the law." Songpan "people are simple and hardworking, value trust and righteousness, follow etiquette, dress and eat, and do not value extravagance." Shehong "has a simple and thrifty style. For more than a hundred years, education has been implemented, and the people are content to farm and study, and they obey the teachings without changing their customs." Suining "people are diligent in farming and weaving,

scholars are courteous, people are rich, and the mountains and rivers are beautiful." Tongliang "has beautiful mountains and rivers, and many virtuous people are born. In the three hundred years of the Ming Dynasty, there were countless people who were recommended and ranked among the Yellow Armor, and their articles and careers were brilliant for thousands of years."

Dialects are a concentrated display of culture. The Fu River Basin generally belongs to the Chengdu-Chongqing area of the Southwest Mandarin area. On the one hand, it has developed and changed along the track of the Bashu language and the Chinese dialect of the Bashu area. On the other hand, it is also deeply influenced by immigration, geographical environment, and political system in historical periods. For example, the influence of immigration, the famous "Huguang Filling Sichuan" in the Ming and Qing Dynasties, the influx of a large number of immigrants from the two lakes, made today's Sichuan Mandarin also known as "Huguang dialect". There is "Henan dialect" in the urban area of Xichang, Liangshan Prefecture, and "Anhui dialect" in Yilong County, Nanchong City, both of which are the products of immigration in historical periods. For example, the influence of political regions, a proverb has long been popular in northern Sichuan Province: "Nanping (now Jiuzhaigou) is not surnamed Chuan, and Wenxian is not surnamed Gan." It means that the language spoken by people in Jiuzhaigou today has the characteristics of Gansu dialect, and the language spoken by people in Wenxian has the characteristics of Sichuan dialect. Why is this so? The reason is that Jiuzhaigou has long belonged to the same political region as Gansu, and Wenxian has long belonged to the same political region as Sichuan, which has caused the differences between the two counties and the province. As far as the Fu River Basin is concerned, the Mianyang dialect is similar to the Suining dialect, without the finals of e, uo, eng, in g, and ueng. In terms of tones, the dialects in the Fu River Basin are basically "equally divided into yin and yang, and the entering tone is divided into three tones", but there are some differences due to different geographical locations. For example, the entering tone in Guangyuan belongs to Yangping, but the rising tone and Yinping tone sound clear and gentle with less pauses, and some pronunciations are the same as those in southern Shaanxi. The Yinping tone in Mianyang is roughly the same as Mandarin, and the rising and falling tones are just the opposite of Mandarin. The Yinping tone in Suining is consistent with that in Mianyang, divided into four categories: Yinping, Yangping, Shangsheng, and Qusheng, and both have fewer erhua sounds, such as "here" and "there", and "pea tip, pepper noodles, chicken intestines" are also read as erhua sounds. Because Hechuan is close to the two lakes, the dialect is more inclined to the two lakes, and the tone categories are the same as Mandarin, both are divided into four tones of Yin, Yang, Shang, and Qusheng, but the specific pronunciation of the tones is different. In Tongliang dialect, all entering tones are classified as Yangping, and there is no entering tone. The linguistic characteristics of Tongnan dialect are heavy pronunciation and rising tone value, which are often mixed with Yangping. In Maoxian and Wenchuan in the upper reaches of the Fu River, most of the entering tone characters are classified as Yangping, which shows that the dialects of various cities in the Fu River basin are highly similar. It is worth noting that although the dialects of various cities in the Fu River basin are highly similar, Shehong, Yanting and Xichong in the middle reaches of the Fu River are dialect islands in the basin. The labiodental fricative f- and the root voiceless fricative x- of Yanting are partially mixed, such as: Hu Hu Hu Hu are both pronounced as fu. The "zhe" in Yanting, Shehong and Xichong is pronounced as -ai, the same as the second character of Xie She Kai Kou. There are five tones in terms of tone: Yinping, Yangping, Shangsheng, Qusheng and Rusheng. Ping is divided into Yin and Yang, and the voiced Shangsheng changes to Qusheng. Qusheng is not divided into Yin and Yang; the entering tone characters in the Middle Ages are now independent tones, which are obviously different from Chengdu and Mianyang. The formation of this dialect island has a lot to do with the fact that the immigration trend during the Ming and Qing dynasties did not completely cover the former dialects.

4. Mianyang's Status in the Fu River Basin in Historical Periods

Cities rise and fall. In different historical periods, there are many reasons for the rise and fall of cities, such as development mode, development process, war, ideology, natural disasters, etc. Looking at China, the rise and fall of cities is often affected by the change of transportation mode. For example, with the construction of modern railways and the rise of sea transportation, cities such as Linqing, Jining, and Huai'an along the canal are in a state of decline. In ancient times, Hunan was far inferior to Jiangxi. In the late Tang Dynasty, Hunan had its first imperial examination champion, which was called "unprecedented". In modern times, the Beijing-Guangzhou Railway went directly through Hunan instead of Jiangxi, resulting in Jiangxi not catching up with Hunan. Kaifeng, Henan was an important transit station of the Tang and Song Canal in ancient times. The capital of the Northern Song Dynasty was located in Kaifeng. The "Along the River During the Qingming Festival" can directly see the prosperous scene at that time, but in modern times, the Beijing-Guangzhou Railway did not pass through Kaifeng, but through Zhengxian (now Zhengzhou), resulting in the rise of Zhengzhou and the relative decline of Kaifeng. Looking at the cities in the Fu River Basin, Mianyang firmly occupies the position of a central city in the Fu River Basin because it is located on the Jinniu Road and the Fu River Road. In the New China period, it was also the hub of the Sichuan-Shaanxi Highway and the Baoji-Chengdu Railway.

During the Han and Tang Dynasties, the political, economic and cultural center was located in Chang'an, and Jiange, Zitong, Mianyang, Deyang and other places developed rapidly. Jiange "has mountains and steep cliffs, and flying pavilions are connected to the thoroughfare, so it is called Jiange." Zuo Si's "Three Capitals" said "blocked by Jiange." Yin Zhong of the Eastern Jin Dynasty said that "the narrow pass of Jiange is the key to Shu." Zitong "the danger of the Shu Road will end here." Therefore, some people say that Lizhou, where the two places are located, "controls the key to the two Shus, with insufficient farming and mulberry, but more than enough business." Deyang, which is close to the Chengdu Plain, "has the advantages of fertile land and no danger of cliffs and ravines." Among them, only Mianyang has both the danger of mountains and rivers and the advantages of land. It is located in "the four rushes of water and land, and is an important place in Shu." In the second year of Chengsheng, Yuwen Tai of the Western Wei Dynasty sent Yuchi Jiong to take Shu, entered Jiange and reached Fushui. Yang Qianyun, the governor of Tongzhou, surrendered the city, and Jiong divided his troops to guard it and attacked Chengdu. "Entering Shu from Jianmen and Yinping, Mianyang must be the place for the army to meet, control Xichuan, and be regarded as a key point." It is precisely because of the important military strategic location of Jinniu Road that Mianyang became the northeastern gateway of Chengdu and the city developed rapidly. In the Western Han Dynasty, the writer Si Yangxiong lived in Mianyang and devoted himself to studying. In the Three Kingdoms period, the Grand Marshal Jiang Wan stationed troops in Mianyang to defend Chengdu. During the reign of Emperor Gaozong of Tang Dynasty, King Yue Li Zhen built the King Yue Tower here. The city scale expanded day by day, attracting famous poets such as Wang Bo, Yang Jiong, Lu Zhaolin, and Li Shangyin to leave their footprints here. This shows that Mianyang had become an important political, military and cultural town in the Bashu region during the Han and Tang Dynasties. In the middle and late Tang Dynasty, the seat of the Dongchuan Jiedushi was first placed in Mianyang, and then moved to Zizhou. After the Song Dynasty, the political center gradually moved eastward, the economic and cultural center moved southward, and the transportation capacity of the Shu Road itself was limited. "The cliffs and valleys are steep and narrow, and there are hundreds of twists and turns every ten miles; carrying a heavy load is like walking on a sharp blade." During the Southern Song Dynasty, Wu Jie, the envoy of Sichuan and Shaanxi, transferred 150,000 hu of rice from Sichuan to Lizhou. Due to the difficult roads, one third of the laborers died on the road, and the people of Sichuan have been saddened ever since. The

difficulty of external transportation greatly restricted the further development of the cities on the Jinniu Shu Road. Although Mianyang could not rely on the Shu Road transportation, it could rely on the Fu River waterway and open up another way, and still played an important role in the Song, Yuan, Ming and Qing dynasties.

In modern times, shipping has been declining, and the Fu River urban agglomeration, which thrived on shipping, has been declining. The most typical example is that Zizhou, which was originally a high-level political district, fell to a county-level political district during the Republic of China, and Langzhong, which also thrived on shipping, was gradually surpassed by Nanchong. At this time, Chengmian Highway was built in 1927, and Sichuan-Shaanxi Highway was opened to traffic in 1936, starting from Baoji in the north and reaching Chengdu in the south. Mianyang still occupies a leading position in the Fu River Basin urban agglomeration, and the construction of Sichuan-Shaanxi Highway further paved the way for the construction of Baoji-Chengdu Railway in the new China period, thus establishing Mianyang's status as the central city of the Fu River Basin.

After the founding of the People's Republic of China, the Baoji-Chengdu Railway was started in 1952 and opened to traffic in July 1956, further improving the traffic conditions in Mianyang. Since the temporary operation of Mianyang Railway Station in October 1953, the passenger and freight transport volume of Mianyang Station has increased significantly every year. From 1953 to 1978, the annual passenger volume of Mianyang Railway Station increased by 41,000 people each year; in terms of freight transportation, in 1955, the freight shipment volume of Mianyang Station was 90,000 tons, of which 3,012 cars were loaded and 3,919 cars were unloaded; by 1975, the freight shipment volume of Mianyang Station increased to 120,000 tons, of which 4,320 cars were loaded and 24,084 cars were unloaded, making it an important railway hub in the Fu River Basin.

At the same time, the central government considered that Mianyang was located on the Baocheng Line and had important locational advantages, and regarded it as one of the key cities in the mainland for the development of modern industry. Heavyweight military industrial enterprises entered Mianyang. In 1956, the key projects assisted by the Soviet Union, Fujiang Machinery Factory and Changhong Machinery Factory, began to be built in Mianyang. In February 1959, the Fujiang Cable Power Plant, which was planned by the former First Ministry of Machinery Industry, also broke ground. After 1964, the Third Front Construction promoted the China Institute of Engineering Physics, China Gas Turbine Research Institute, Ministry of Commerce Grain Storage Science Institute, Southwest Institute of Applied Magnetism, China Gas Power Research and Development Center, Southwest Institute of Automation and a large number of first-class scientific research institutions in the country moved to Mianyang or built in Mianyang during this period, making Mianyang an important scientific research base. After the reform and opening up, the good development environment and strong technical strength accumulated during the Third Front Construction period, coupled with special policy opportunities, made Mianyang's electronic industry and other high-tech industries rise rapidly and become the pillar industries of Mianyang. In 2000, the total output value of Mianyang City was 31.535 billion yuan, 4.77 billion yuan more than the GDP of Deyang City, which ranked third. It is a veritable "Western Electronics City" and a veritable central city in the Fu River Basin.

5. Conclusion

Looking at the development and changes between cities in the Fu River Basin throughout the historical period, the cities in the Fu River Basin prospered with water and were driven by military forces. The cities in the Fu River Basin were politically dependent, economically complementary, and culturally integrated. Before the Song Dynasty, China's political, economic, and cultural center was located in the Guanzhong Plain, and the Bashu region formed a northeast-southwest land-based

"Jinniu Road" city cluster. After the Song Dynasty, China's political center moved eastward, and the economic and cultural center moved southward. The Fu River Basin obliquely ran through the Sichuan Basin. The convenient Fu River waterway enabled the northwest-southeast-oriented Fu River Basin city cluster to take advantage of the situation and form many important cities such as Zhongba, Mianyang, Tongchuan, Suining, and Hechuan. Since modern times, waterways have gradually declined, and cities in the Fu River Basin have shown a trend of decline. As the central city of the Fu River Basin, Mianyang is located at the intersection of water and land. It relied on the Jinniu Road during the Han and Tang Dynasties, relied on the Fu River shipping after the Song Dynasty, and relied on the Sichuan-Shaanxi Highway and Baocheng Railway in modern times. It has always played a key role in the Fu River Basin.

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