

The Expansion of Northern Song Territory and the Evolution and Influence of Surrounding Ethnic Relations

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Keywords: Northern Song Dynasty; Northwest Frontier; Ethnic Relations

Abstract: The reign of Emperor Shenzong of the Northern Song Dynasty (1068-1085) was a crucial period for the expansion of the northwest border. The Northern Song government formulated certain policies for border expansion by reclaiming northern Shaanxi and Longyou. The author reveals the diversity of border politics, economy, military, and ethnic policies by analyzing the thoughts and policies of the Northern Song Dynasty, especially the evolution of the concept of "transforming into foreign states" in the southwest. The border issues of the Northern Song Dynasty not only involved ethnic relations with the outside world, but also reflected the internal rulers' understanding of the territorial boundaries. By examining documents such as "Yuanfeng Jiuyu Zhi", "Yundi Guangji", and "Map of the Transformation of Outer States and Counties in the Northern Song Dynasty", the author explores the environment of the debate on border issues in the Northern Song Dynasty, analyzes the strategies and challenges faced by the rulers of the Northern Song Dynasty when facing external ethnic regimes and border strategies.

1. Introduction

The reign of Emperor Shenzong of the Northern Song Dynasty (1068-1085) was one of the fastest periods of expansion in the northwest frontier. It successively recaptured large territories in northern Shaanxi and Longyou. 'Border' is a comprehensive concept, therefore border ideology also has political, economic, military, ethnic and other meanings. In addition to some frontier political, economic, and military thoughts involved in the research of the Northern Song Dynasty's politics, economy, and military affairs, the study of frontier ideological issues in the Northern Song Dynasty mainly focuses on frontier ethnic thoughts, ethnic views, and other aspects, and there is currently no monograph in this field. Therefore, in the study of the frontier thoughts of the rulers of the Northern Song Dynasty, in addition to the understanding of ethnic groups, ethnic views, and ethnic thoughts, the research on frontier thoughts such as the understanding of national territory, the understanding of gains and losses in frontier economy, and the understanding of internal and external relationships is still basically blank ^[1].

The research on border issues started earlier. In the past, in addition to discussing political, economic, and military issues related to border areas in chronological history, specialized history, and general history, research mainly focused on verifying the evolution of borders and cleaning up border policies. In recent years, the research on the establishment of the disciplinary system of border studies has been strengthened, and the study of border views and ideas is an important part

of it. At the beginning of the establishment of the Northern Song Dynasty, it inherited the chaos of the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms, with a relatively small national territory and facing internal and external threats: there were still separatist regimes in the south, while powerful foreign regimes such as the Liao and Western Xia existed in the north. The policy of territorial expansion and the evolution of relations with neighboring ethnic groups in the Northern Song Dynasty were not only key issues for the survival of the country, but also profoundly influenced the development process of Chinese history. In its relations with neighboring ethnic groups, the Northern Song Dynasty adopted various coping strategies, including military conquests, marriage alliances, and annual currency payments. However, these diplomatic and military measures not only brought short-term peace and conflict, but also had a long-term impact on the political landscape, economic development, and cultural exchanges of the Song Dynasty. Especially after the "Treaty of Chanyuan", the relationship between the Northern Song Dynasty and the Liao Dynasty tended to stabilize, and the two countries maintained long-term peaceful exchanges, forming a situation of "Song Liao peace talks". The formation of this situation, although to some extent alleviated external threats, also had a profound impact on the economy and finance of the Northern Song Dynasty. The author will delve into the territorial expansion of the Northern Song Dynasty and the evolution of relations between neighboring ethnic groups, analyzing the policies adopted, challenges faced, and their profound impact on Chinese history during this process ^[2-3].

2. Refers to foreign states

In the existing literature of the Song Dynasty, there are mainly three lists of foreign states. Two of them were respectively recorded in the geographical annals of the mid to late Northern Song Dynasty, namely "Yuanfeng Jiuyu Zhi" and "Yudi Guangji". The other one was found in a map named after Huawai Prefecture in the late Northern Song Dynasty, titled "Huawai Prefecture and Commandery Map of this Dynasty". By analyzing and comparing the history of the states listed in these three lists, we can roughly understand the basic meaning of states outside of China. As shown in Table 1:

Table 1: Huawai Prefectures in Southwest China in Song Dynasty Documents

<i>Yuanfeng Nine Domain Chronicles</i>	Kuizhou Road: Si, Fei, Bo, Yi, Xigao, Qun, Ye, Chong, Zhuang, Yan
<i>Yu Di Guang Ji</i>	Jinghu North Road: Jin, Award, Xi; Kuizhou Road: Fei, Xigao
<i>Map of Huazhou County in this Dynasty</i>	Si, Fei, Bo, Yi, Xi Gao

1) "Yuanfeng Nine Domain Chronicles"

The "Yuanfeng Nine Domain Chronicles" (hereinafter referred to as the "Nine Domain Chronicles") record many foreign states according to their routes, which can be roughly divided into two categories. One is the "lost territory" nature, that is, the area was part of the territory of the Central Plains Dynasty before the Song Dynasty, and was already occupied by surrounding regimes during the Song Dynasty, including Yanyun, Lingxia, Longyou, west of Chengdu, Jiaoxian, etc. Another type is the states recorded under the Kuizhou Road, including Si, Fei, Bo, Yi, Xigao, Ye, Qun, Chong, Zhuang, and Yanzhou. There were no large-scale settlements of other political powers in Kuizhou Road, and the nature of the aforementioned states is clearly different from the first category ^[4].

The so-called 'Tang Zhi' refers to the 'Geographical Records' in the New Book of Tang. It can be seen that these ten states are recorded in two batches at different locations in the "Geographical

Records" of the New Book of Tang, with Qun, Chong, Zhuang, and Yan in the frontier states; Si, Fei, Bo, Yi, Xun, and Zhen were located in Zhengzhou. After the third year of Zhongyuan He (808), Zhenzhou was abolished, but it was not reduced to a frontier state. Instead, it was recorded as a county under the jurisdiction of Qinzhou. In addition to the similarity between the county names and the "Tang Annals", it can be found that the four states of Sizhou, Feizhou, Bozhou, and Yizhou were still considered as Zhengzhou in the "Yuanhe County Gazetteer" (hereinafter referred to as "Yuanhe Gazetteer"); ④ Bozhou became a frontier controlled area in the late Tang Dynasty and was restored to Zhengzhou in the second year of Daguan (1108); ⑤ Yizhou also became a frontier controlled area in the late Tang Dynasty, and it was not until the third year of Daguan (1109) that it was recaptured and established as Zhengzhou. The states of Si and Fei also became areas under the rule of frontier tribes in the late Tang Dynasty. Sizhou was only recaptured in the eighth year of the Zhenghe reign (1118); There were Song and Dai dynasties in Feizhou, but none of them were recovered. According to Wang Wenchu's research, the political districts recorded in the "Nine Regions Chronicles" were actually established at the end of the eighth year of Yuanfeng (1085). It can be seen that at the time of writing the "Chou Yu Zhi", the four states mentioned above were all under the rule of frontier tribes. As for Yezhou, it was renamed as Baozhou in the fifth year of Dali (770), and was still Zhengzhou during the late Tang Yuanhe period. Later, it was occupied by local ethnic groups. In the seventh year of the Xining reign, 17 provinces including Xidong, Guizhou, and Heng were recaptured, and Tang Xu, Jin, and Baozhou were established as provinces. In Luyang County, Yuanzhou, there is also the place name of the prize state shop, which is called "Tang Prize State Land" ^[5]. During the Xining period of the Northern Song Dynasty (1068-1077), the border was opened and the state was recaptured, becoming a part of the official administrative system of the dynasty and incorporated into the territory of Yuanzhou. Zhenzhou was also downgraded from Zhengzhou to a frontier controlled area in the late Tang Dynasty, and later renamed Xigaozhou. In the second year of the Daguan reign of Emperor Huizong of Song (1108), ethnic groups in the region donated land and established Zhengzhou Zhenzhou, but it did not include all the areas of the original Xigaozhou. Only Leyuan County surrendered first, and most of the areas of the original Xigaozhou were still under the rule of the frontier.

According to the evolution of the four states that followed, the four states of Qun, Yan, Zhuang, and Chong were originally established as Zhengzhou by the leaders of the border ethnic groups after they surrendered their land during the early Tang Dynasty's strategic planning of the southwestern border. However, due to changes in the situation during the Kaiyuan and Tianbao periods, they were downgraded to Jimi states and are no longer seen as Zhengzhou in the Yuanhe Annals. Moreover, they remained Jimi states during the Song Dynasty. Therefore, it can be said that in the "Nine Domain Chronicles", the provinces of Si, Fei, Bo, Yi, Qun, Chong, Zhuang, and Yanzhou in Kuizhou were all former Zhengzhou during the Tang Dynasty, and the predecessor of Xigaozhou, Zhenzhou, was also Zhengzhou during the Tang Dynasty. Under the situation of the Central Plains turmoil in the mid to late Tang Dynasty, these Zhengzhou successively became areas under the rule of frontier tribes ^[6]. As of the time of writing the Nine Realms Chronicles, direct rule had not yet been restored. From the above, it can be seen that the vast majority of the names actually used in Huawai Prefecture were Tang Dynasty Zhengzhou. The Song Dynasty used the name "Huawai Prefecture" to refer to Tang Dynasty Zhengzhou, which had already been occupied or reduced to frontier rule by other regimes during the Song Dynasty. The only exception is Yezhou, which had already been recaptured when the Nine Realms Chronicles were written, but still appeared in Huawai Prefecture for some unknown reason. In the late Tang Dynasty, Yezhou had already been renamed as Wanzhou. From the record of Yezhou in the "Nine Domain Chronicles" without mentioning Wanzhou, it can be seen that the situation in this state may be quite special and cannot be generalized. It should be noted that the examples in the "Nine Domain Chronicles" are

quite strict. Similar to these Huawai Prefectures, there are some Tang Dynasty Zhengzhou, such as Qinzhou, which did not appear in the list of Huawai Prefectures listed in the "Nine Domain Chronicles" because it was recaptured by the imperial court as Zhengzhou during the Xining period [7].

2) "Yu Di Guang Ji"

Like the "Nine Realms Chronicles", the Huawai states recorded in the book can also be divided into two categories: one is "lost territory" and the other is the southwestern states. Unlike the "Nine Domain Chronicles" which recorded the southwestern states under Kuizhou Road, "Yudi Guangji" recorded them separately under Jinghu North Road and Kuizhou Road. Jinghu North Road Huawai Prefecture has three provinces: Jin, Award, and Xi, while Kuizhou Road Huawai Prefecture has two provinces: Fei and Xi. The names of these provinces overlap with the "Nine Domain Chronicles" but are not entirely the same. By tracing its history, it can be found that the three states of Xi, Xigao, and Fei are consistent with the concept of external states in the "Nine Domain Chronicles". Xizhou is still recorded as Zhengzhou in the Yuanhe Chronicle. At the end of the Tang Dynasty, it became a frontier region. In the sixth year of the Xining reign (1073), during the reign of Zhang Bianjing, it was recaptured in the north and south of Jiangxi Prefecture. However, due to the turbulent situation, the Xizhou region still maintained frontier rule. Therefore, Xizhou was mentioned in the "Geographical Records" as a foreign state, but not in the "Nine Domain Chronicles" as a foreign state. As mentioned above, in the late Northern Song Dynasty, only one county of Tang Dynasty's Xigaozhou was recaptured, so at that time, most of Xigaozhou should still be under the rule of frontier tribes. As for Feizhou, in various records of local ethnic groups offering land to establish prefectures and counties, there is no mention of the recovery of Tang Feizhou, indicating that it was not yet recovered at that time and was still under the rule of the frontier. As for the two states of Jin and Xun, the situation is quite unique. In the "Yuanhe Zhi", both states were designated as Zhengzhou, but later surrendered to the rule of Jimi. The incident mentioned earlier, in the seventh year of the Xining reign, of recapturing Jin and rewarding the two states, can serve as evidence. In this sense, the concept of classifying it as a foreign state in the "Yu Di Guang Ji" and the concept of a foreign state in the "Jiu Yu Zhi" are consistent. However, according to Li Yong's research, the final evolution of the "Yu Di Guang Ji" is recorded up to the fourth year of the Zhenghe era (1114), with some content indicating that it had already reached the eighth year of the Zhenghe era (1118). The "Yu Di Guang Ji", which recorded the geographical situation at the end of the Northern Song Dynasty, should not have recorded it as Huawaizhou anymore. The occurrence of this situation, in the author's opinion, is due to a compilation error in the book, rather than any other explanation of the connotation of Huawaizhou. This is because Jin and Xun provinces, as well as other Huawaizhou, have had a similar process of being governed by Zhengzhou since the end of the Tang Dynasty [8].

In addition, as mentioned in the "Nine Domain Chronicles", the two states of Bo and Yi, which were converted into foreign states, were successively recaptured and established as Zhengzhou during the Dagan period. Therefore, they are not included in the "Yu Di Guang Ji" but in its Zhengzhou. Weisi Prefecture was recaptured relatively late, not until the eighth year of the Zhenghe reign, which was very close to the deadline set in the "Yu Di Guang Ji". However, it is neither recorded in the book "Zhengzhou" nor listed as a foreign state. As for the four states of Huawaizhou, Chong, Zhuang, and Yan mentioned in the "Nine Realms Chronicles", they are not included in the "Geographical Records of Huawaizhou", which can be understood. There are significant differences between the four states mentioned above and other foreign states. They had already transformed from Zhengzhou to a frontier controlled area in the mid Tang Dynasty, and by the end of the Northern Song Dynasty, they were too far away. Other foreign states roughly did not undergo this transformation until the end of the Tang Dynasty.

3) "Map of Huazhou County in this Dynasty"

In addition to the two geographical chronicles mentioned above, there are also map records of Huawai Prefecture. On the "Map of Huawai Prefectures and Counties in the Current Dynasty" in the "Geographical Finger Map of Various Dynasties" of the Tax Safety Rites, symbols with circles are used to identify Huawai Prefectures. From this, it can be seen that there are also two types of foreign states mentioned in the above-mentioned books, belonging to the second category of the five states of Fei, Xi Gao, Si, Yi, and Bo. Considering the limitations of the map, Fei, Xi Gao, and Si provinces had not yet been recaptured and were still under the rule of frontier states, so they were still classified as external states, which is consistent with the concept of external states in the "Nine Domain Chronicles". The situation in Yizhou and Bozhou is relatively complex. Similar to other foreign states, from the late Tang Dynasty to the early Song Dynasty, these two states also underwent a transformation from Zhengzhou to Jimi rule. The inclusion of Yi and Bo states as foreign states in this map is also due to this concern. In his preface to the book, Tan Qixiang verified that the first edition of the book should have been published during the Zhenghe and Xuanhe periods of the Northern Song Dynasty, and the current photocopy of the Dongyang Bunko edition is already a carved version from the early Shaoxing period of the Southern Song Dynasty. ① Based on the partial indicators listed by Tan Shi to determine the limitation of the book, only the change of Lingjing Jian to Xianjing Jian in the third year of Zhenghe (1113) was reflected in the graph. However, many political changes in the other three years of Zhenghe and after were not reflected. Therefore, it is speculated that the drawing time of the "Map of Foreign Prefectures and Counties in this Dynasty" should be around the third year of Zhenghe. At this moment, Yi and Bo provinces were recaptured and established as Zhengzhou, strictly speaking, they should no longer be classified as Huawai provinces^[9].

As for the four states of Huawai, namely Qun, Chong, Zhuang, and Yan, in the "Nine Realms Chronicles", this map is similar to the "Yudi Guangji", without any representation, and the reasons are also similar. In the book "Yu Di Guang Ji", the three provinces of Jin, Xun, and Xi in the outer provinces appear as the non circled Zheng state in this picture. Although the two states of Jin and Xun were once recaptured, in the administrative system of the Song Dynasty, the two places were merged into Yuanzhou. However, this map mistakenly draws these two states with the symbol of Zhengzhou, which is incorrect. As for Xizhou, although it was once recaptured, it was later restored to frontier rule. This map does not list Xizhou as a frontier state, which is not accurate enough. By sorting out three different lists of Huawai Prefectures in the Song Dynasty, it can be seen that Huawai Prefectures in the Northern Song Dynasty not only referred to the Tang and Five Dynasties Zhengzhou that were still occupied by neighboring regimes, but also included the former dynasty Zhengzhou in the southwestern region that was still under frontier rule during the Song Dynasty.

3. The Environment of the Controversy over Border Issues in the Northern Song Dynasty

3.1 External Environment

The external environment of the debate on the border issues in the Northern Song Dynasty was mainly based on the external environment of the ruling regions of the Northern Song Dynasty. The debate on its border issues was more directly or indirectly caused by the changes in the relationship between the Northern Song Dynasty and the national political power, so the discussion is more from the perspective of this relationship. Although the establishment of the Northern Song Dynasty ended the fragmentation and separatism of the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms, it only achieved partial unity in China. The surrounding ethnic regimes of its ruling area are numerous. To the east, it is like Goryeo and Bohai, although they block the Liao territory, they sail far away and do not fear

trekking. In order to the west, it is like India, Khotan, Uyghurs, Dashi, Gaochang, Kucha, Fulin and other countries, although they are between Liao and Xia, they also come in baskets and frequently serve as officials. Dangxiang and Tubo Nansi Dong felt launched blind expeditions to various tribes, and the Xia army was the inevitable battleground. The Song Dynasty's power also extended to their territory, and they occasionally received their assistance. Jiaozhi, Champa, Zhenla, Pu'er, and the coastal tribes of Dali, from Liu Yin and Chen. Hongjin comes and goes, followed by Xiugong. Therefore, it can be seen that the proliferation of ethnic regimes was an important characteristic of the Northern Song Dynasty. It is precisely this characteristic that made the border issues of the Northern Song Dynasty prominent and became the external environment for its debates.

The relationship between the Northern Song Dynasty and neighboring ethnic regimes: The relationship between the Northern Song Dynasty and neighboring ethnic regimes is complex and diverse. Although there were numerous ethnic regimes in the surrounding areas, the relationship between the Northern Song Dynasty and each regime was different. Among these relationships, except for the Liao Dynasty, other ethnic regimes maintained some form of tribute relationship with the Northern Song Dynasty to varying degrees. For example, the relationship between Jiaozhi (now Vietnam) and the Northern Song Dynasty is reflected in the record of October 27th, the second year of the Yuanfeng reign of Emperor Shenzong in the "Changbian": "At the beginning, Li Qiande sent envoys to pay tribute, and invited Guangyuan and other states." This indicates that Jiaozhi maintained diplomatic relations with the Northern Song Dynasty through tribute, showing a relative dependence relationship under the tribute system. However, the relationship between the Northern Song Dynasty and the Liao Dynasty is a special example. The relationship between Song and Liao was not a typical feudal system under the tribute system, but underwent a complex transformation process. At first, the two sides were in a hostile military state, and the Northern Song Dynasty engaged in multiple conflicts with Liao Zhan to recover the sixteen states of Yanyun. For the Northern Song Dynasty, this hostile relationship was not only a military confrontation, but also an unequal relationship in terms of national strength and status, because the Liao Dynasty occupied an important territory that the Northern Song Dynasty had always wanted to recover.

Over time, after multiple battles and negotiations, especially after the Treaty of Chanyuan in 1005, a peace agreement was gradually reached between the Song and Liao dynasties. Although in the minds of the Song people, the Treaty of Chanyuan was still considered humiliating because the Northern Song Dynasty needed to pay a large amount of annual tribute to the Liao Dynasty in exchange for peace, politically speaking, the relationship between the Song and Liao gradually moved towards a relatively equal state. The two sides exchanged envoys and communicated with each other, establishing a long-term model of peaceful coexistence. Therefore, the relationship between the Northern Song Dynasty and the Liao Dynasty was not a typical feudal relationship, but went through a complex evolution from hostility to peace, from inequality to relative equality. This process reflects the flexibility of the Northern Song Dynasty in diplomacy and also reflects the particularity of the East Asian international relations pattern at that time ^[10].

3.2 Internal Environment

The frequency, content, and intensity of discussions on border issues during the Northern Song Dynasty were not only influenced by external factors such as the characteristics of the times, but also deeply constrained by internal factors such as the cognition and consistent policies of the rulers of the Northern Song Dynasty. The rulers' understanding of territory directly affects the viewpoints of both sides in the debate on border issues. Among them, the territorial concept of Emperor Zhenzong of Song has strong representativeness. For example, in October of the fourth year of Xianping (1001 AD), Emperor Zhenzong showed the maps of the 23 provinces in Shaanxi to the

auxiliary ministers, indicating the dangers of mountains, rivers, terrain, and the living conditions of various ethnic minority tribes one by one. Then he pointed to the Lingzhou map, claiming that it was drawn by Feng Ye and detailing the landscape of the mountains and rivers. Emperor Zhenzong exclaimed, "Why not send more warriors to guard such a dangerous place?" He also pointed to the Khitan map on the east wall of the palace and said, "The Khitan occupied 1500 miles north and south, and 900 miles east and west. Although the city was not wide, the fall of Yanji was truly regrettable.

From the words of Emperor Zhenzong, it can be seen that in his view, the northern territory should be bounded by the sixteen states of Youyun, while the northwest border should be bounded by the Qin Ling line, and then retreated to Fengzhou, Fuzhou, Linzhou, Huanzhou, Huizhou and other places. For the southern border areas, in July of the third year of Jingde, the coastal defense envoy Shao Ye presented the water and land transportation route from Yongzhou to Jiaozhou and the geographical map of Yizhou. Emperor Zhenzong showed it to the auxiliary ministers and said, "Jiaozhou is plagued by malaria, and Yizhou's terrain is dangerous. Our ancestors have already opened up a vast territory, so we only need to observe it carefully, and there is no need to expend troops to covet useless land. If there is rebellion in these places, all we need to do is eliminate the harm to the people. From the remarks of Emperor Zhenzong towards his vassals, it can be seen that the rulers' territorial concept was limited to the territory developed during the reigns of Emperor Taizu and Emperor Taizong, and the southern regions such as Jiaozhou and Yizhou were not considered as the core areas that the Northern Song Dynasty had to guard. The concept of "adhering to the territory established by our ancestors" ran through the entire Northern Song Dynasty, and even in Emperor Shenzong's expansion policy, this concept still existed, indicating that even during the expansion period, the rulers of the Northern Song Dynasty still had the core idea of safeguarding their existing territories.

4. The Influence of the Transformation of Emperor Taizong's Ethnic Relations Thought on the Formation of the Territory in the Early Song Dynasty

In ancient Chinese history, ethnic issues were closely related to border issues, and many politicians often associated their ideas on ethnic relations with border issues. The development and evolution of Emperor Taizong's ideas on ethnic relations also had a certain impact on the establishment of the territory of the early Northern Song Dynasty, especially the failure of his "unification of China" ideological practice, which resulted in different characteristics of the northern, northwestern, and southeastern territories of the Northern Song Dynasty compared to previous generations.

Firstly, the failure of Emperor Taizong's two expeditions against the Khitan led to the gradual abandonment of the Song court's sovereignty claims over the Youji region. The idea of neglecting sovereignty, emphasizing practical benefits, and maintaining border conditions gradually became popular among the ruling class of the Northern Song Dynasty. After the failure of Yongxi's Northern Expedition, although Emperor Taizong of Song was deeply concerned about the Song court's failure to recapture the Youji area and the strong desire of the literati class to do so, he had to accept the fact that the Khitan ruled Youji. After the rise of the pro peace faction, some people within the Song court suggested that Emperor Taizong of Song abandon his sovereignty claim over the ancient land of Youji and form a new alliance with the Khitan. For example, in the fourth year of Yongxi (987), Zhao Fu proposed to Emperor Taizong of Song the division of the territory between Song and Liao, and the establishment of a ceasefire with the Khitan: "If I foolishly believe that there is no need for war, no need for hard work, and that it is for the benefit of eternity, I dare to offer my words, but Ming Wang chooses it... I have stolen information that the enemy is exposed in the wilderness, and I am not willing to do so. Tigers and Pixiu are stationed on the border, so I am not suitable to recruit attendants and scholars, write a letter of national etiquette, describe the embankment of the border,

and restore the situation. I promise to bring good and bad, and understand the power of kindness. I have agreed on the territory of Huarong and will never fight again. I swear. Clearly, let's form a harmonious relationship. In the late period of Emperor Taizong's rule, although the alliance between Song and Liao could not be further established, Emperor Taizong's policy of maintaining a ceasefire with Liao while maintaining the northern situation was inherited by Song Zhenzong, laying the foundation for the final establishment of the border between Song and Liao during the Treaty of Chanyuan.

Secondly, the hasty handling of the internal attachment incident of Li Jipeng, the leader of the Dangxiang ethnic group, indirectly led to the rebellion of Li Jiqian's troops, causing the western territory of the Northern Song Dynasty to retreat to the Hengshan Line. In the seventh year of the Taiping Xingguo era (982), there were conflicts within the ruling class of the Dangxiang over the issue of inheritance rights. Its leader, Li Jipeng, offered all his territories in the five states to the Northern Song Dynasty. Emperor Taizong of Song accepted Li Jipeng's request, driven by his strong desire to achieve the "unification of China" ideology, and placed the five states of Yin, Xia, Sui, You, and Jing under the jurisdiction of the Northern Song Dynasty. However, Emperor Taizong of Song ignored the characteristics of the minority political power of Dangxiang and took the same measures as he did towards the leaders of the Han separatist regime, sending envoys to Xiazhou to personally visit the palace. ① Li Jiqian fled to Jinze and raised the banner of anti Song. After years of arduous struggle, Li Jiqian not only recaptured the territories of the five states, but also captured the military stronghold of Lingzhou in the northwest of the Northern Song Dynasty in the fifth year of Emperor Zhenzong's Xianping reign (1002), compressing the territory of the Northern Song Dynasty to the east of Hengshan.

Thirdly, recognizing the rule of Li Huan over Jiaozhi, the status of the Li regime as a vassal state was ultimately established. Jiaozhi originally belonged to China. After Emperor Wu of Han pacified Nanyue, he divided its territory into nine counties including Dan'erzhu Cliff, Nanhai, and Cangwu, and established Jiaozhi La Shi to govern its territory. Jiaozhou was established during the Eastern Han Dynasty and has since been inherited by various dynasties in the Central Plains. During the Five Dynasties and Ten Kingdoms period, Jiaozhi was occupied by the local tyrant Qu Chengmei and later captured by the Southern Han Dynasty. During the reign of Emperor Taizu of Song, Ding Bu Ling defeated Wu Chuping and others to become the ruler of Jiaozhi. After the Northern Song Dynasty pacified the Southern Han Dynasty, Ding Lian, the son of Ding Bu Ling, became a vassal of the Northern Song Dynasty and accepted the Song court's enfeoffment. He was praised by Emperor Taizu of Song as "a member of the Righteous Tribe", who has always admired the Chinese style and never forgotten his vassal status. ② When Emperor Taizong of Song ascended the throne, Ding Lian maintained close contact with the Northern Song Dynasty. But after the death of the father and son of Ding Bu Ling, the general Li Huan imprisoned the young master Ding Xuan, seized power, and caused internal turmoil in Jiaozhi. Emperor Taizong of Song was furious upon hearing this and decided to raise troops. Hou Renbao, the magistrate of Yongzhou in the Northern Song Dynasty, believed that if the commander-in-chief of Jiaozhou was killed and the country was in chaos, he could be taken from a different faction. ④He seized the opportunity to incite Emperor Taizong of Song to send troops. Upon hearing the news, Emperor Taizong of Song was overjoyed and ordered Hou Renbao, Sun Quanxing, Liu Cheng, and others to lead troops to attack Jiaozhi, attempting to restore control over the Jiaozhi region. In the early stages of the war, the Song army made smooth progress, defeating over ten thousand bandits and beheading more than two thousand levels. However, due to Sun Quanxing's failure to advance, Liu Cheng's untimely departure, and Hou Renbao being lured and killed by Li Huan, the Song army suffered a major defeat and returned without any achievements. Afterwards, due to the opposition of Tian Xi and others, as well as the need to prepare for the Khitan War, Emperor Taizong of Song did not continue to use troops against Jiaozhou. Although Li Huan has been paying tribute and pleading guilty for years, Emperor Taizong of Song has never recognized Li Huan's legal status. Until the third year of Yongxi (986), Emperor

Taizong of Song lost confidence in managing the Four Barbarians due to the failure of the Northern Expedition. In the autumn of that year, Li Huan sent envoys to present tribute items. The Song court then issued an edict to confer upon Li Huan the titles of "Inspector of the Imperial Guard, Envoy of the Imperial Guards, Commander in Chief of the Military Affairs of Jiaozhou, Protector of Annam, Commander in Chief of the Navy, and Commander in Chief of the Jiaozhou Administration". In the fourth year of Chunhua (993), Li Huan was conferred the title of Prince of Jiaozhi County, officially recognizing the status of the Li family's Jiaozhi regime as a vassal state and abandoning the attempt to recapture Jiaozhi. Li Huan gradually lost his vassal status due to his negative obstruction of mountains and seas, repeated attacks by bandits. Emperor Taizong of Song, under the mindset of "Huaiyuan", aimed to pacify the wilderness and avoid questioning.

5. Conclusion

The expansion of border areas and the evolution of relations with neighboring ethnic regimes during the Northern Song Dynasty reflected its unique historical background and complex international environment. The Northern Song Dynasty gradually stabilized its relations with neighboring ethnic regimes through methods such as marriage alliances, currency exchange, and military campaigns, especially through the "Treaty of Chanyuan" and the establishment of a long-term peaceful situation with the Liao Dynasty. However, although the implementation of these policies reduced external threats, they had a long-term impact on the economy and finances of the Northern Song Dynasty. In addition, the rule of the Northern Song Dynasty over the Southwest Huawai Prefectures reflected the complexity of its border management. Many Huawai Prefectures were originally Zhengzhou in the Tang Dynasty, but later became frontier controlled areas due to changes in the situation. Although some were partially recovered during the Northern Song Dynasty, most of them were still in a frontier state. Overall, the frontier ideology and policies of the Northern Song Dynasty not only influenced ethnic relations at that time, but also profoundly influenced the development process of Chinese history.

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